



Brussels, 30 September 2025

2025 Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme Main results Overview

The **25th edition** of the Coimbra Group (CG) Scholarship Programme for young professors and researchers from Africa, the European Neighbourhood, and Latin America marked a year of **consolidation and strategic growth**, despite a notable decline in application numbers - except from the countries in the European Neighbourhood where numbers increased.

A total of **440 applications** were received, of which **368 were eligible**, representing a 38% and 34% decrease, respectively, compared to 2024. This contraction, however, resulted in a **higher selection rate of 20.6%**. This selection rate remains highly competitive, reflecting the programme's sustained prestige and relevance.

Encouragingly, **the number of CG universities participating as host institutions increased to 21 (+10%)**, illustrating the network's **growing commitment to international academic collaboration**. CG warmly thanks these universities for their continued support, which not only sustains the programme but also enhances the network's **global visibility**, particularly in the three target regions.

In 2025, participating universities collectively made **80 scholarships available**. Despite lower application numbers, the **quality and diversity** of submissions remained strong, with candidates representing **51 nationalities**. Gender and disciplinary patterns differ significantly by region: Latin America is balanced, Sub-Saharan Africa is male-dominated, and the European Neighbourhood shows strong female participation.

Following the selection process, **76 scholarships were awarded** for short-term research stays at participating institutions during the 2025–2026 academic year. The programme's high selectivity sustains its status as a highly competitive international scheme.

The **impact** of the scholarship programme is consistently evidenced by **alumni testimonials**, which highlight **the career benefits, the strong academic ties formed with European host institutions, and deep appreciation for the opportunities provided**. Host universities similarly note the benefits of welcoming international visiting scholars, often extending further opportunities to exceptional candidates beyond their initial offers.

About the Programme

Since **1999**, the Coimbra Group has offered young researchers from outside the EU the opportunity to **conduct part of their research at a CG host university for a period of one to three months**.

Originally inspired by the Oxford Colleges Hospitality Scheme for Polish Scholars, this CG programme was designed to support scholars from disadvantaged areas in Central and Eastern Europe. Over time, it has developed into a consolidated initiative covering **three regional strands**:

- Young researchers from the [European Neighbourhood](#)
- Young researchers from [Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- Young professors and researchers from [Latin America](#)

The programme's **longevity and adaptability** are testament to its sustained value and the commitment of CG member universities. It remains one of the network's most successful initiatives, supported by **strong engagement from member universities, steady applicants' interest of, and consistently high quality submissions**.



2025 Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme

The 25th edition of the CG Scholarship programme has received 368 eligible applications from researchers from 51 countries

21 CG universities

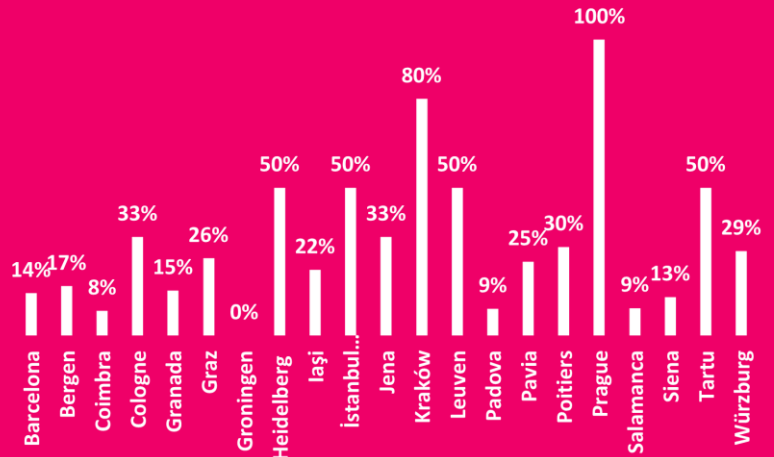
76 awarded scholarships

31 women

45 men

Social Sciences & Humanities (SSH): 30
Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 23
Life Sciences (LS): 23

Success rate by CG university

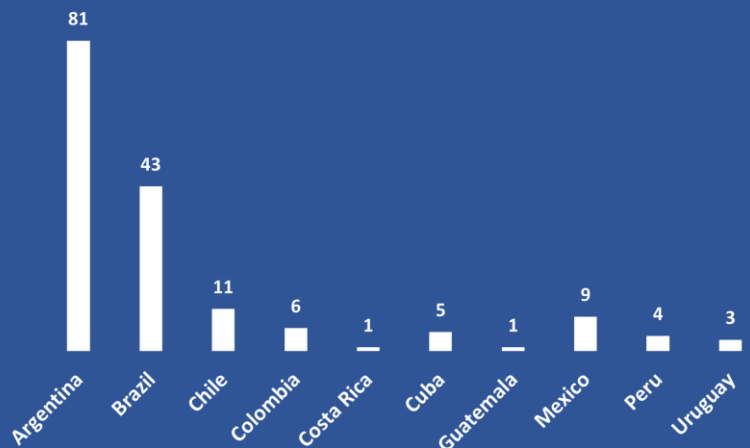


Latin America

164 applications

30 scholarships

Success rate: 18%

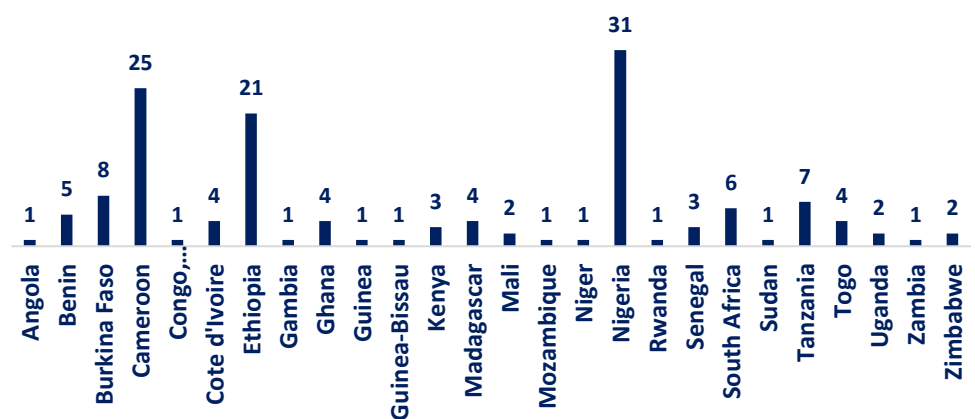


Sub-Saharan Africa

141 applications

31 scholarships

Success rate: 22%

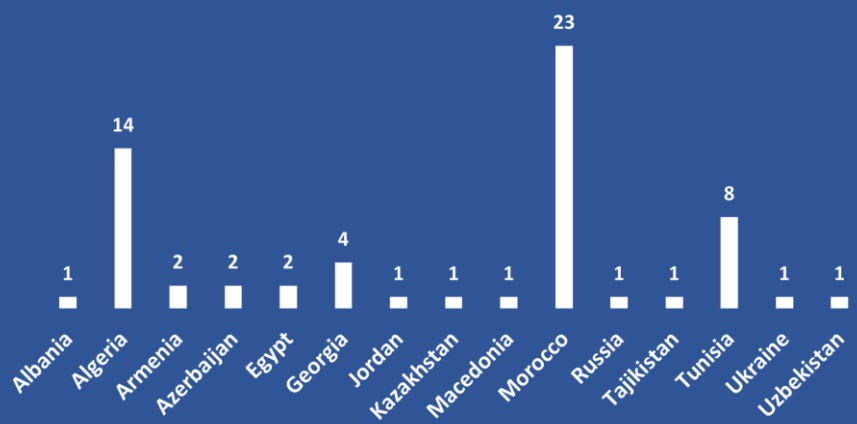


European Neighbourhood

63 applications

15 scholarships

Success rate: 24%



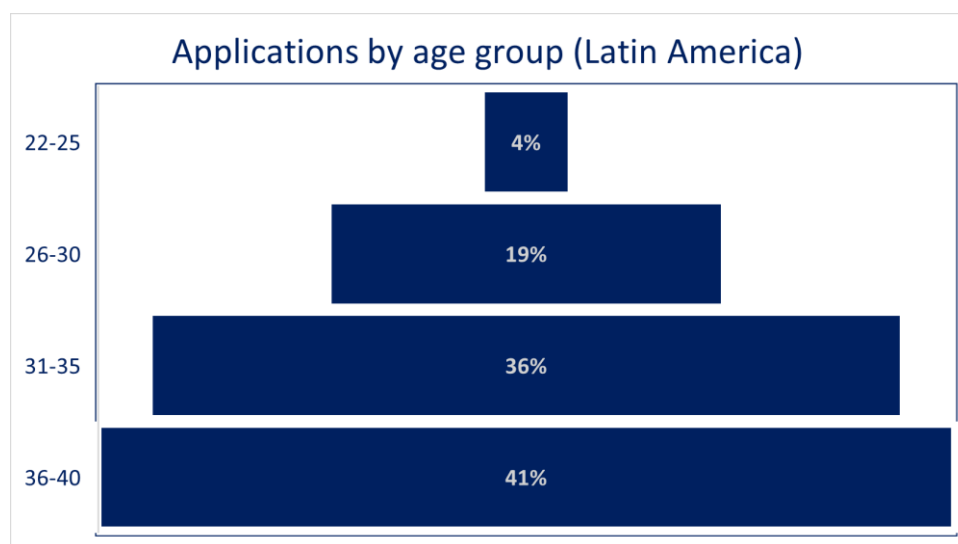
If we zoom into each of the three geographical areas covered by the programme:

- **Latin America**

In 2025, the programme received **164 eligible applications** from early-career researchers and professors in Latin America, representing a 48% decline from the previous year. **Scholarships** offered and awarded by CG universities also declined slightly (-12%), totaling **30**.

A steady number of **16 CG universities** offered short-term research stay opportunities to scholars from this region. Among them, the most sought-after destinations were the **University of Salamanca** (24% of all eligible submissions), followed by the **University of Padova** (18%), and the **University of Coimbra** (13%).

Applicants represented **10 nationalities**, with **Argentina** accounting for nearly half of the submissions, followed by **Brazil** (26%). The gender distribution showed a **slight male majority (52%)**, and the largest age group was **36-40 years (41%)**.



Following the selection process by CG host universities, the **grantees' profile** is as follows:

- **63% men, 37% women.**
- **67% conducting research in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).**
- Selected scholars come from **30 different home institutions across 5 LA countries.**

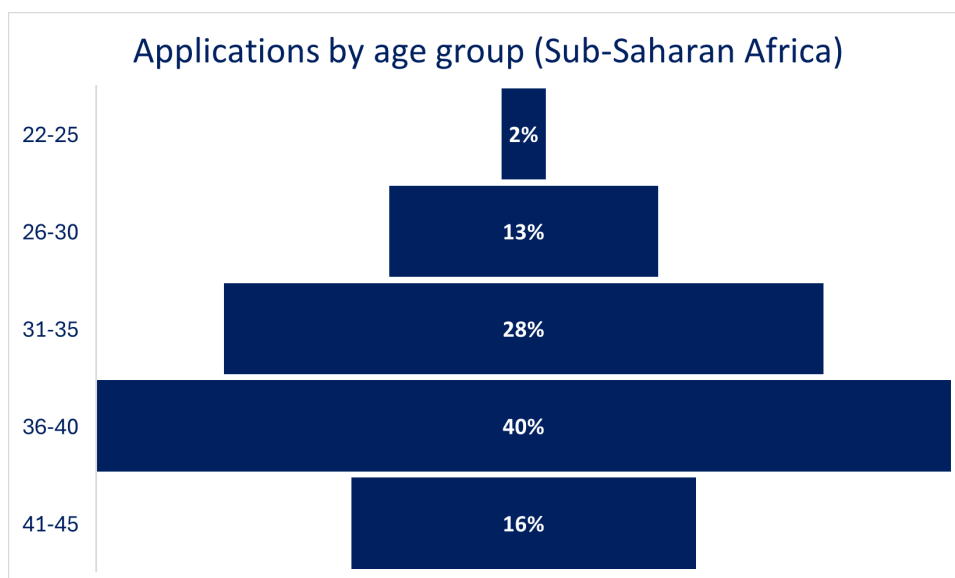
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**

A total of **141 eligible applications** were received from Sub-Saharan Africa, marking a 28% decline compared to the previous year. The number of scholarships offered and awarded by CG universities also saw a modest decrease of 14%, with **31 grants distributed**.

Notably, this year witnessed a **rise in the number of CG universities** providing short-term research stay opportunities to scholars from this region: **19 institutions participated**, reflecting a 6% increase. The most sought-after destinations included the Universities of Padova (21%), Granada (13%), Coimbra (10%), Graz (9%), and Bergen (9%).

Applicants hailed from **26 different nationalities**, with **Nigeria (22%)**, **Cameroon (18%)**, and **Ethiopia (15%)** collectively accounting for **more than half of all eligible submissions**.

The applicant pool was **predominantly male**, with men representing **73% of submissions**, while women accounted for just 27%. Age-wise, most candidates fell within the **31–35 and 36–40 brackets**.



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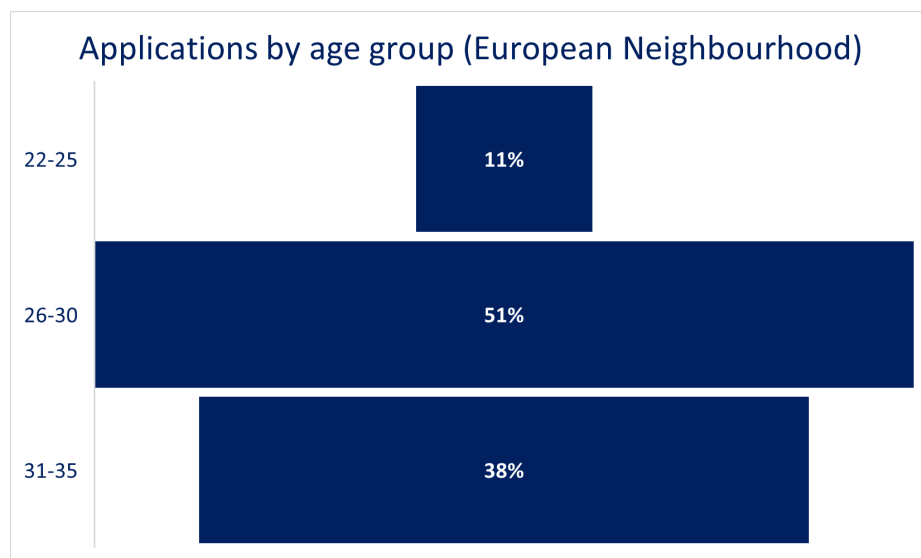
- **65% men, 35% women**
- **55% conducting research in the Life Sciences**, followed by the Physical Sciences & Engineering (29%) and the SSH (16%).
- Selected scholars came from **30 different home institutions in 11 Sub-Saharan countries**.

• *European Neighbourhood*

In 2025, applications from the European Neighbourhood increased by 19% compared to 2024, accompanied by a significant improvement in submission quality, as evidenced by a 37% rise in eligible applications, reaching 65. This suggests growing awareness of the programme in the region and an increasingly competitive applicant pool.

Slightly more scholarships were offered to this region (+6%), although not all could be awarded following the selection process. A steady number of **twelve CG universities** continued to provide opportunities to scholars from this region, with the **University of Granada** receiving the largest share of applications (30%), followed by the Universities of **Siena** (14%), **Iași** (14%), and **Padova** (13%).

Applicants represented **15 countries**, with **Morocco** (37%) and **Algeria** (22%) remaining the most represented nationalities. **Women made up the majority of applicants (68%)** and **over half of all candidates were aged between 26 and 30**, indicating strong participation from early-career researchers.



Following the selection process by CG host universities, the **grantees' profile** is as follows:

- 60% of the 15 CG grantees were men, 40% women.
- Half of them were doing their research in fields related to **Physical Sciences and Engineering**.
- Selected scholars came from **14 different home institutions** in 7 countries.