



Brussels, 28 February 2024

2023 Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme Main Results Overview

A total of **879 candidates (+24%)** applied for the 2023 edition of the Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme for young professors and researchers from Africa, the European Neighbourhood and Latin America, among which 721 were declared eligible (+18%).

After the selection process, **CG participating universities awarded for the academic year 2023-2024 a total number of 74 scholarships for short research stays in Europe.**

The number of CG Universities offering scholarships remains stable at **19 institutions**. The Coimbra Group is very grateful to all of them for their kind contributions and for enhancing the visibility of the association globally, and more specifically in these three geographical areas.

As in the past, the number of applications received largely exceeds the grants available (10% selection rate overall). This scholarship programme has been, and remains, **one of the most popular and successful CG activities**. This is reflected in the continuously rising interest for the programme, both at institution and applicant level, as well as in qualitative terms.

The benefits of these research grants for the participants are regularly evidenced by **alumni testimonials of gratitude or mentions of the strong academic ties they have built up with their European hosts**. Similarly, the added value brought by the scholars to the host institutions is reflected in the decision frequently made by CG participating universities to open extra scholarships at the end of the selection process, in light of the high quality of the applications submitted.

Since 1999 the Coimbra Group has offered young researchers from outside the EU the opportunity to carry out part of their research for a period of one to three months at a Coimbra Group University.

While this [scholarship programme](#) was initially established to assist scholars from disadvantaged areas in Central and Eastern Europe (modelled on the Oxford Colleges Hospitality Scheme for Polish Scholars), it was later expanded and consolidated into a set of three programmes for young researchers from the [European Neighbourhood](#); young researchers from [Sub-Saharan Africa](#); and young professors and researchers from [Latin America](#).



2023 Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme

The 23rd edition of the CG Scholarship programme has received 717 eligible applications from researchers from 59 countries

19 CG universities

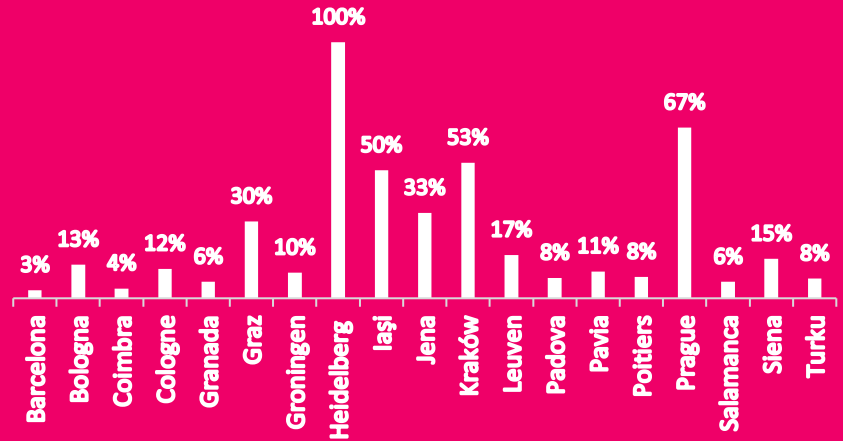
74 awarded scholarships

33 women

41 men

Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE): 21
 Life Sciences (LS): 18
 Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH): 35

Success rate by CG university

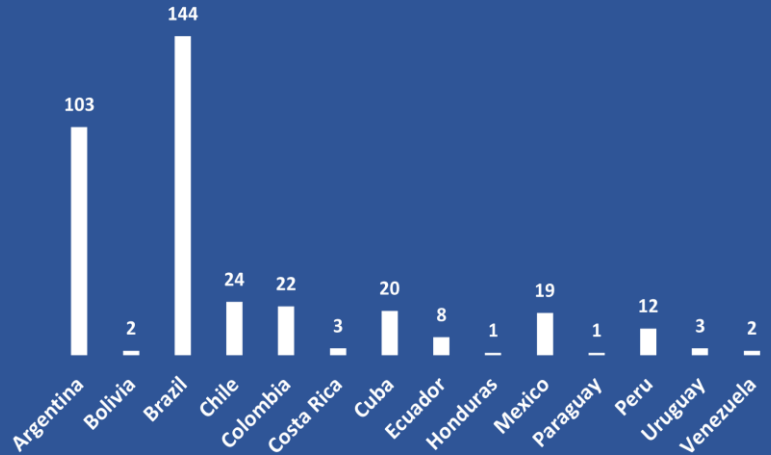


Latin America

364 applications

30 scholarships

Success rate: 8%

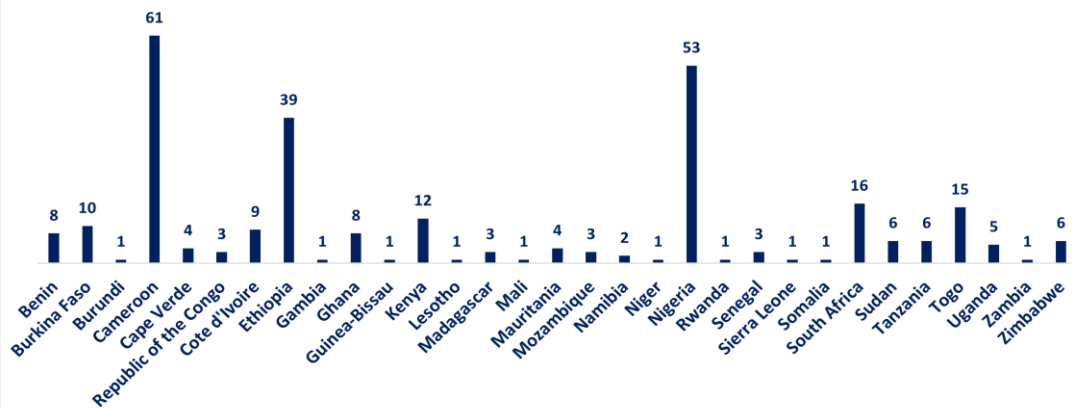


Sub-Saharan Africa

286 applications

30 scholarships

Success rate: 10%

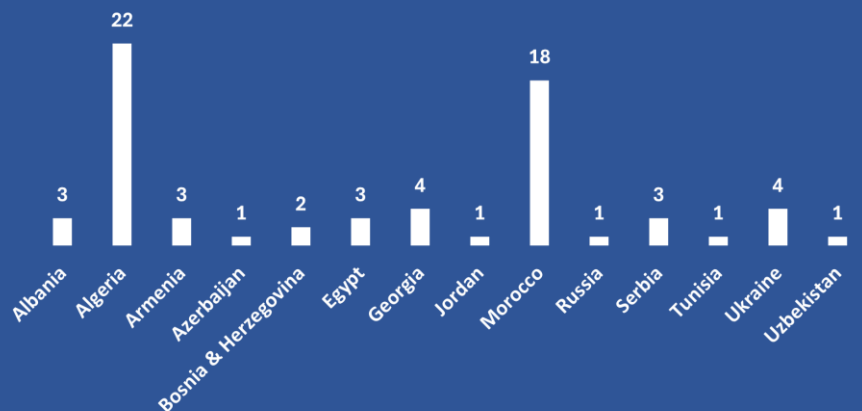


European Neighbourhood

67 applications

14 scholarships

Success rate: 21%



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

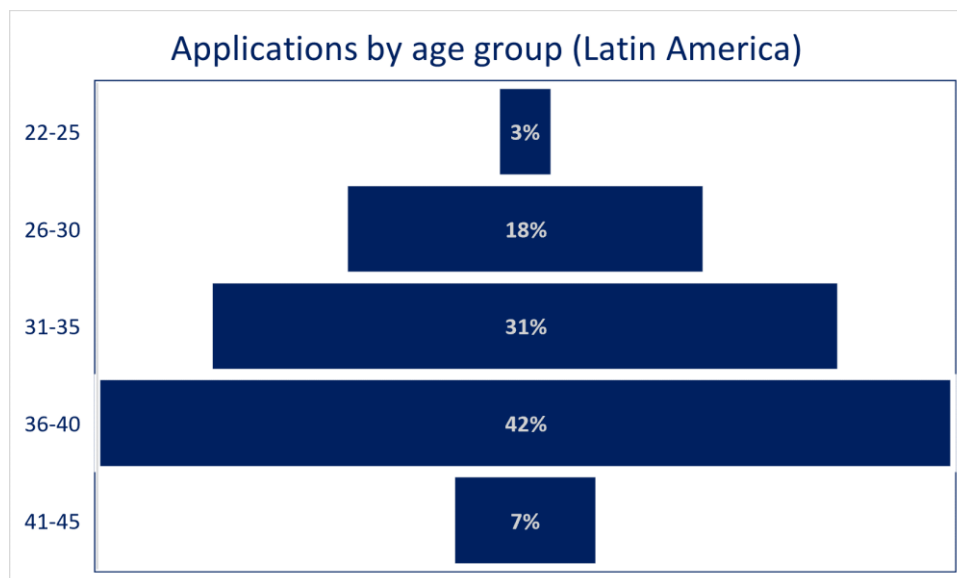
- ***Latin America***

The number of **eligible applications (364)** received from young researchers and professors from **Latin America rose by 11%** compared with the previous year, but the total number of scholarships awarded by CG Universities under this programme remained unchanged at 30.

Like in 2022, **15 CG Universities were offering short-term research stays** to scholars from the Latin American continent. With 72 applications, **the University of Barcelona** alone received 20% of all submissions from that region, followed by the Universities of **Granada (16%)** and **Coimbra (15%)**.

Overall, the candidates represented **14 different Latin American nationalities**. This year again, **Brazilians** counted for almost 40% of the applicants, followed by **Argentiniens (28%)**.

As in the past, this programme saw a **majority of female applicants (52%)** and a **majority of scholars in the 36-40 age group:**



After selection by CG host universities:

- **63%** of the 30 CG grantees were doing their research in the **Social Sciences and Humanities**.
- **57%** of the 30 CG grantees were **women**.

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**

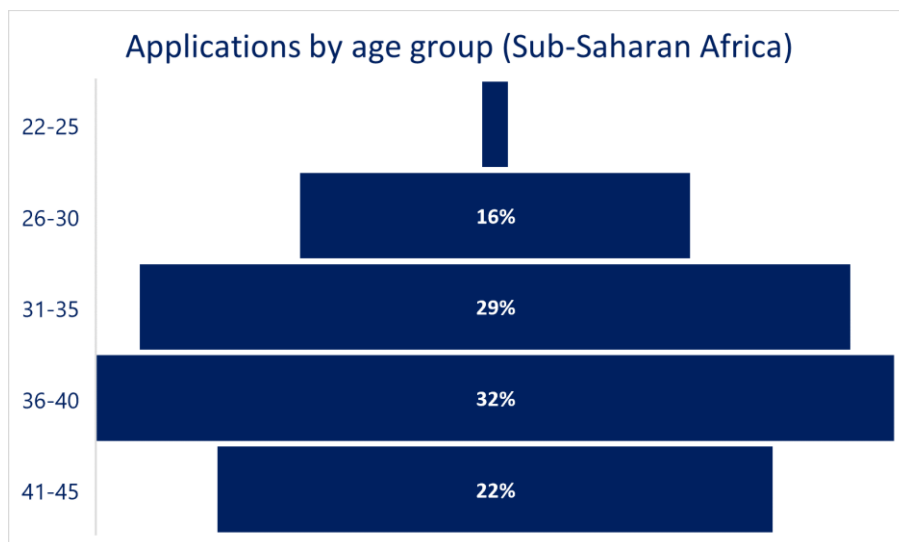
2023 saw a **significant increase in the quantity (+51% overall) and quality of applications (+34% eligible applications)** submitted by young African researchers. This positive evolution occurred for both men and women candidates, but **for women it was even more important (+37% eligible applications)**. Despite this, a strong **gender imbalance** has persisted among applicants (**71% of men**).

It is noteworthy that **2023 set a record for the highest number of eligible applicants** ever received from Sub-Saharan Africa since the start of this programme.

The number of scholarships awarded by CG Universities under this programme remained unchanged at 30. **15 CG Universities** were offering short-term research stays to scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa, one more than in 2022. **The Universities of Granada, Padova, and Groningen** were the most demanded institutions, with 33, 31 and 30 applications respectively.

The programme also recorded a **broader cultural diversity than the previous year (+15%)**. Eligible candidates represented **31 different nationalities** in total. **Cameroonians (21%), Nigerians (18%) and Ethiopians (13%)** continued to be the top three nationalities, although their relative share among all Sub-Saharan candidates diminished compared to the previous year.

The **distribution across age groups was slightly more uniform** in 2023 than it used to be:



After selection by CG host universities:

- **40%** of the 30 CG grantees were doing their research in fields related to **Physics and Engineering**, followed by Life Sciences (30%) and Social Sciences and Humanities (30%).
- **13 Sub-Saharan nationalities** were represented among the 30 CG grantees.

- **European Neighbourhood**

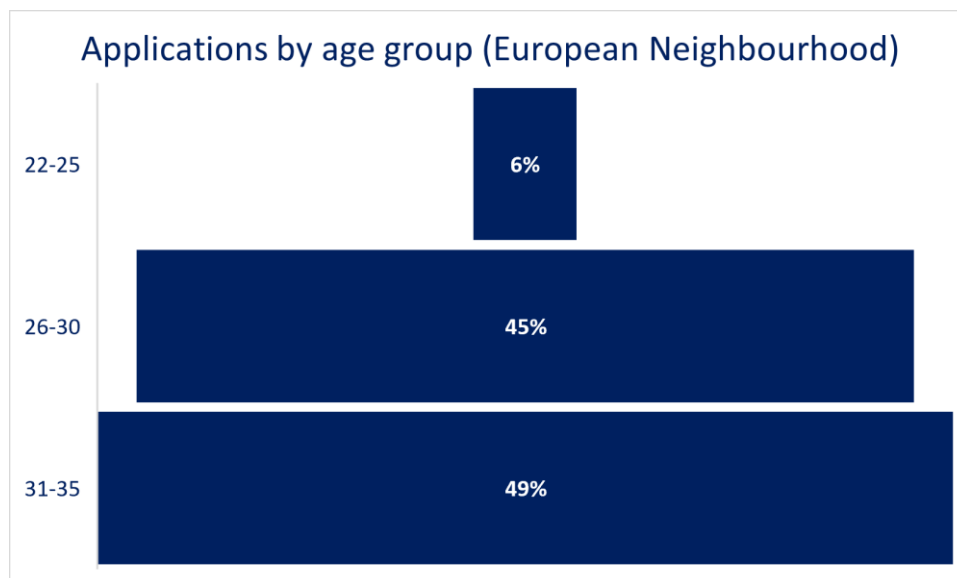
Eligible applications from the European Neighbourhood remained almost at the same level as in 2022 (67). There were slightly less scholarships awarded by CG Universities to scholars from this region compared to the previous year (-12,5%).

The number of CG Universities offering short research stay scholarships under this programme remained stable at 9. **The University of Granada** was recipient of a quarter of the applications from young researchers in the European Neighbourhood, followed by the **Universities of Padova (21%) and Graz (13%)**.

This year's applications came from **14 different countries** in total. Maghreb countries **Algeria (33%) and Morocco (27%)** were the top two countries of origin of the 67 eligible candidates.

Women were predominant (54%) among eligible applicants, although in slight decrease compared to 2022 (-10%).

Candidates were mostly represented in the **age groups 26-30 and 31-35**:



After selection by CG host universities:

- there was an **equal balance between men and women** awarded a scholarship.
- **Half** of the 14 CG grantees were doing their research in fields related to the **Social Sciences and Humanities**.