# EU-FORA Fellowship Programme 2026-2027

Frequent Asked Questions[1]

## ABOUT THE APPLICANTS

### At whom is the EU-FORA fellowship addressed?

It is addressed at competent organisations under Art. 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation from different MS, Norway or Iceland interested in applying as a consortium, where one of them will act as fellow sending organisation responsible for the identification of a suitable fellow to be trained. The other organisation will act as hosting site, responsible for the design of the work programme and training of the fellow.

### What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible, the applicant and the partner must be on the list of competent organisations designated by the Member States in accordance with Article 36 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004. This list is regularly updated: https://efsa.my.site.com/competentorganisations/s/.

Identified fellows must be professionals in food safety working at a competent organisation (Art. 36 organisation) for a minimum of 12 months, with a full university degree in a relevant area and a good knowledge of English language (at least B2 level according to CEFR), and a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of 15 years of experience in performing scientific work or tasks related to food safety[2] before their fellowship.

### What is it understood as a mid-career professional in this Call?

A professional with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 years of experience in performing scientific work or tasks related to food safety (including risk assessment, risk communication and risk management).

### What are the criteria to be awarded a grant under EU-FORA?

[1] This document has been developed for information purposes only. The only document of reference for this call is the Call for proposals and guide for applicants, available under the following link: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/art36grants/article36/euba-efsa-2024-enrel-01-selection-hosting-sites-and-fellows-efsas-european.

For all the selection, exclusion and award criteria, please refer to the Call in place: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/euba-efsa-2026-enrel-01.

### Are the projects listed under Appendix A mandatory?

The call includes a table of "mini-projects", each with a brief description and some desirable key deliverables, which can become part of the fellow's placement project. The projects correspond to ongoing work in various preparedness topics.

Selecting one of the mini-projects is optional. Opting to do so or not does not carry any special weight in the evaluation of their proposal.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

### What are the steps of the application process?

*Please refer to Call text and the document Steps and Timelines.*

### What is meant by 'food safety' in this call?

'Food safety' encompasses risk assessment, risk communication and risk management in any of the fields under EFSA's remit.

### Should the fellow have knowledge in food safety risk assessment to be identified as suitable for the fellowship?

Fellows should have a solid understanding of the basic aspects of food safety, but not necessarily of food safety risk assessment. The three-week induction training will provide them with the basis for the subsequent performance of the work programme under the supervision of the hosting site.

### Can a fellow participate in the programme for less than 12 months?

No. This is a full-time 12-month programme designed to meet specific objectives.

### Do fellows need to speak the language of the hosting country?

No. The working language is English.

### What type of scientific report are fellows expected to prepare for publication in the EFSA Journal at the end of the fellowship?

Fellows, jointly with their supervisor(s) at the hosting site, are expected to produce a technical and/or scientific report explaining the activities they were engaged in during the fellowship and outlining findings and results.

In addition, fellows are expected to prepare a brief slide show with narration and notes.

### Are the complementary trainings mandatory?

Yes. Attendance to the trainings is mandatory.

## ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS

### Will fellows remain staff members of their sending organisation?

Yes. Fellows remain staff members of their organisation throughout the fellowship. The fellow's employer must continue to pay their salary and to maintain his administrative status throughout the period of fellowship.

The sending organisation shall ensure that the appointed fellow be released from their regular duties to perform the work programme, including participation in the common scheduled training activities. The fellow sending organisation will ensure that any activity performed by the fellow will not prevent him/her from performing the work programme and following the mandatory trainings.

### Who arranges and pays for traveling expenses and accommodation during the training modules?

All travel to and from the training sites, as well as the accommodation of fellows in hotels, when applicable, will be arranged and paid for under the programme.

### Does the hosting site arrange and pay for the fellows' accommodation during the short stay?

The fellow's employer must also pay all travel and accommodation expenses related to their physical presence at the hosting site and participation in the work programme in line with the travel and accommodation reimbursement rules of the sending institution.

The hosting site may support the fellow and the fellow sending institution in finding suitable accommodation.

### What's the duration of the stay at the hosting site?

While the fellowship and the work programme are meant for 12 months, the majority of which can be performed remotely, the fellowship foresees a stay at the hosting site of **minimum 3 months**. No maximum prescribed.

### Who pays for other travelling expenses?

The fellow's employer must also pay all travel and accommodation expenses related to their physical presence at the hosting site and participation in the work programme in line with the travel and accommodation reimbursement rules of the sending institution.

## ABOUT THE GRANT

### What does the grant amount intend to cover?

EFSA will contribute with a total amount per grant (for each fellow) of € 55,000. The total amount of the EFSA grant intends to support the costs incurred by the

fellow sending organisation by releasing an employee of their tasks while they remain a staff member of the institution, as well as the costs derived from the payment of fellow expenses for physical attendance at hosting site. Moreover, the sum is intended to compensate the costs of supervision by the hosting site. Finally, the sum will serve to contribute to the administrative costs associated to the signature and implementation of the Programme by both organisations.

The amount is paid to the consortium (concretely to the coordinator (hosting site)) and **EFSA does not prescribe how the grant should be divided between the two organisations**.

Evidence of actual costs incurred by both parties in the consortium are not required.