Call – EC3R national and international outgoing lab visit program

Travel reimbursements of up to € 3.000 will be provided to enable Berlin graduates to visit national and international 3R laboratories of excellence.

With this program, the EC3R aims to allow young berlin scientists to learn about innovative technologies and applications of 3R research which are complementary to Berlin's scientific strengths and will therefore enhance local projects and enable graduates to start building their own international scientific network. Members of the EC3R will decide on the application based on the project description and receptiveness of the host group.

The Einstein Center 3R (EC3R) is a joint initiative of currently eight biomedical research institutions in Berlin (Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin Institute of Health, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Robert Koch Institute) with the objective to further their 3R (*Replace*, Reduce, Refine) activities in an integrated approach. The EC3R, funded by the Einstein Foundation Berlin, started in July 2021 and aims to improve the development of alternative methods and their corresponding dissemination and knowledge transfer to the public. **Learn more about the EC3R on our website https://www.ec3r.org/de/.**

With this call, EC3R offers a **national and international outgoing lab visit program** for graduates and early career researchers who want to learn about innovative technologies and applications of 3R research, which are complementary to Berlin's scientific strengths. This refers to all the three Rs – not to replacement or alternatives to animal models only.

Eligible applicants are Berlin doctoral students and early-career researchers* from the institutions involved in EC3R exclusively. (*This refers to researchers currently within their first five years of academic or other research-related employment following completion of their postgraduate research training and all members of the EC3R Juniors program.)

Requested reimbursement per person **should not exceed € 3.000** and is intended to cover travel expenses as well as accommodation costs. The visit has to take place **within the year 2022.**

In a letter of motivation and a project description, the applicant should state their own objectives and expectations, scientific objectives, as well as a description of the excellence and receptiveness of the host group. Applicants should describe convincingly why the technology or application is complementary and of high relevance for a broader community of Berlin scientists. A letter of support from the head of the host group is required, stating the feasibility of the suggested stay. Additionally, applicants need to provide a letter of support from their supervisor.

After the lab visit, the applicants are obliged to provide a short non-technical project summary in English and German that will be published on the EC3R website. They will also be requested to present their new insights and knowledge in a seminar format. All publications with contributions from this program must acknowledge the Einstein Foundation Berlin as a funding source. A final project report must be submitted three months after the end of the visit.

Structure of the proposal

Project proposals shall not exceed 2 pages excluding Annexes and CV (failure to do so may result in formal rejection) (Arial, font 10pt, line spacing 1.15) and consist of the following structure:

1. **Project title; name, position, affiliation and e-mail address of the applicant**

2. **Lab to be visited (Country, institution, name of research group and research group leader)**

3. **Nature of the project/technology**
   Please specify in one sentence the field of the innovative technology to be acquired, for example: *in vivo, in vitro, in silico, 3D tissue models, refinement of animal experimentation, etc*.
4. **Abstract** (max. 100 words)

5. In a **letter of motivation and project description** (max. 600 words), the applicants should state their expectations and objectives. The project description should include
   - the scientific objectives
   - a description of the excellence and receptiveness of the host group
   - why the technology or application is complementary and of high relevance for a broader community of Berlin scientists.

6. **Timing**
   Please indicate the duration and approximately estimated date of your planned guest stay in 2022.

7. **Required budget/resources and justification**
   Indicate the budget. Eligible costs include travel expenses and accommodation.

8. **Knowledge transfer plan**
   Please explain briefly which measures you will take to transfer the new technology to the relevant target groups beyond the above-mentioned seminar format and possibly peer-reviewed journal publications (e.g. lecture). The EC3R office can support you with the corresponding implementation. Please note that reporting about the implementation of the knowledge transfer plan is part of the final project report.

9. **Appendix**
   - CV (maximum 2 pages) including a list of up to **5 publications**
   - short support letter from the supervisor
   - short support letter from the head of the host group, confirming the feasibility of the suggested stay

Submission deadline

Please submit your complete proposal including Appendix **in one pdf document** in **English** via email to **ec3r@charite.de** by **April 24th, 2022, 23:59 CEST**.

In case of questions, please do not hesitate to contact the EC3R office (contact person for this call: Angelique Wolter, a.wolter@fu-berlin.de, phone - 030 / 838 60147).

Evaluation process

Proposals will be evaluated by selected members of the EC3R. Reviewers are requested to
1) Submit a score and
2) Grade the projects in terms of priority for funding.

Projects with the top average score within the total available budget will qualify for funding. In the case of equal final scores among the proposals, the priority list submitted by the reviewers is decisive.

Expected timeframe for evaluation: 6 weeks (approx.: May 2nd – June 10th)

Criteria for the evaluation of the projects
Please consider the scoring criteria of the table below, each project will be graded with scores from "excellent" (5) to "not eligible" (0). The maximum achievable score is 15. Scores must be whole numbers, 0.5 points are not applicable.

Scoring Criteria	**Score**	**Comments**
Potential of the complementary technology/application • Novelty • Added value for the EC3R		
Potential 3R relevance and impact • Visible progress concerning the application of the 3Rs		
Implementation/Transferability • Could be applicable to other models or disciplines • Dissemination is supported by a reasonable knowledge transfer plan		
Total Score		

The application/guest stay is considered ineligible when:
- The applicants are not doctorate students or early career researchers according to the definition above or not sufficiently qualified to conduct the project.
- Formal criteria of the proposal structure were not met.
- The guest stay does not cover a complimentary technology/application.
- The guest stay has no or very low impact on the 3Rs.
- The guest stay is not feasible within the suggested time.