

MEDICAL

UEFA MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING PHD RESEARCH COSTS GRANT

Regulations 2027/28

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

1. Purpose and scope

The UEFA Medical and Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant (the "Grant") supports doctoral researchers by covering equipment, travel costs and participant incentives or reimbursement associated with a PhD-related research study on a medical or anti-doping topic relevant to European football. These Regulations govern the 2027/28 call.

It is imperative that all applicants read these Regulations, the Declaration to UEFA, the application form and the published evaluation sheet before completing their application.

1.1 Funding

Up to two Grants are awarded per Grant cycle. Each Grant covers **up to €10,000 for equipment or travel costs associated with a PhD-related research study**.

The Grant does not cover salary, costs related to conference or seminar attendance, open access publication fees, or overheads. Participant incentives or reimbursement can be a maximum of €2,000 of the request. Ownership of any equipment purchased rests with the host institution.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- **Enrolment:** be enrolled on a full-time or part-time PhD programme, with at least 12 months remaining before thesis submission at the start of the funding period (i.e., expected thesis submission no earlier than 1 July 2028).
- **Topic:** conduct a medical or anti-doping research project relevant to European football.
- **Host:** be based at a football club, national association, university or other research institute in the territory of a UEFA member association.
- **Language:** have an excellent command of English.

A maximum of one application per applicant is permitted per Grant cycle.

3. Application requirements and procedure

3.1 Application dossier

Applications must be submitted via the UEFA online portal (https://uefaacademy.com/courses/mrgp/) and must include:

- the PhD Research Costs Grant application form, completed in accordance with its instructions and word limits;
- an academic CV of no more than two pages;
- evidence of PhD enrolment;
- a letter of support from each PhD supervisor, confirming the applicant's good standing on the PhD programme;
- a letter of support from the host institution(s);
- the Declaration to UEFA, signed by the applicant, the host institution and each supervisor (Annex 2);
- ethical approval (if already available).

Incomplete applications will be rejected at the completeness check. The entire application dossier must be written in English.

3.2 Application form

The application form comprises: A – Project overview; B – PhD status and supervision; C – Justification of the request (including relevance for European football, ethical considerations, and the research integrity and conflict-of-interest declaration); D – Budget and timeline; E – References; and F – Supporting documents. Word limits are strict maximums; text beyond the limit will not be read by the jury.

3.3 Submission

Applications must be submitted by **11 January 2027, 17:00 CET**. UEFA will acknowledge receipt of all applications by email.

To help UEFA process applications, each file must be named as follows: Year_SurnameFirstname_Document name. For example, for the fictional applicant Albert Einstein:

- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_Application form
- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_CV
- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_PhD enrolment
- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_Supervisor letter_SurnameFirstname (one per supervisor)
- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_Host institution letter
- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_Declaration to UEFA
- 2027_EinsteinAlbert_Ethical approval (if available)

Applications that do not conform to these naming conventions will not be considered.

4. Selection procedure

Jury members are selected on the basis of their individual expertise and must declare any conflict of interest with individual applications. Where a conflict of interest exists, the jury member concerned will be replaced for the review and scoring of that application. Applications are scored in accordance with the published evaluation sheet, which sets out the criteria and weightings applied at each stage.

The selection procedure is as follows:

- **Round 0 – completeness check (11–17 January 2027):** a member of UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping checks all applications for completeness and eligibility. Incomplete or ineligible applications are rejected, and the applicants concerned are notified within one week of the end of Round 0.
- **Round 1 (18 January – 22 February 2027):** each application is scored by at least two members of the jury using the evaluation sheet; the Round 1 score is the mean of the reviewers' scores.
- **Round 1b (23 February – 1 March 2027):** the ten highest-scoring applications are additionally scored by a member of the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Unit.
- **Round 1c – selection (March 2027):** the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping member presents the ten applications and their scores at a meeting of the jury, where a consensus decision on grant allocation is reached.
- **1 April 2027:** scores and feedback are emailed to all applicants, and offers to successful applicants.
- **30 April 2027:** deadline for accepting an offer. If an offer is declined, UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping reserves the right to offer the Grant to the next-ranked applicant.
- **1 July 2027:** the funding period starts.

The jury's decisions are final, and no appeals will be considered.

5. Payment procedure

By submitting the application, the applicant, the host institution and each supervisor accept the terms of the Declaration to UEFA, including those on confidentiality, data protection and the conditions of payment and possible repayment of the Grant. An application that does not include a duly signed Declaration will be considered invalid.

The Grant is paid to the host institution in a single instalment, within three months of receipt of an invoice. The host institution may invoice UEFA from 1 July 2027.

6. Recipient obligations

- Funds must be spent within the duration of the PhD, i.e., before the PhD viva.
- Proof of spending (receipts, invoices or an institutional finance statement) must be sent to UEFA within three months of spending. Failure to do so will trigger a refund request.
- If the PhD is terminated or completed before the Grant has been used, the unspent funds must be refunded to UEFA.
- UEFA's support must be acknowledged in any publication or presentation arising from the research funded by the Grant, and a copy of any resulting publication must be shared with UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping.
- UEFA must be informed promptly if the PhD is suspended, terminated or completed before the Grant has been used.

7. Contact details

UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Unit

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Email: medicalresearch@uefa.ch or antidoping@uefa.ch



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