ACADEMY

UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant





A research costs grant designed for PhD researchers working on medical and anti-doping research in European football

Foreword

The UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme, launched in 2023, continues to evolve in response to the community's call for targeted research in football medicine and anti-doping.

Designed to tackle current and emerging issues in football, the programme aims to make a meaningful impact across various facets of the game. For the 2027 call, the programme is offered as two distinct funding streams: a PhD Research Costs Grant, which supports doctoral researchers with equipment, travel and participant incentive costs for research on any medical or anti-doping topic relevant to European football, and a Post-Doctoral Fellowship, which enables early-career researchers to lead a one- or two-year project.

With the programme, we strive to advance the understanding and care of football-related health issues, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the well-being of players. Our commitment extends beyond academic pursuits; we aspire to deliver practical value, fostering tangible improvements in football medicine and anti-doping that directly benefit players and the sport.



Giorgio Marchetti
UEFA Deputy General Secretary

Programme overview



WHO

Doctoral researchers enrolled on a full-time or part-time PhD programme, with expected thesis submission no earlier than 1 July 2028



WHEN

Once a year

Call opens: 16 November 2026
Application deadline:
11 January 2027, 17:00 CET



HOW LONG

Funding available from 1 July 2027; funds must be spent before the PhD viva



WHERE

Based at a football club, national association, university or other research institute in a UEFA nation



TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

€20,000



GRANT

Up to €10,000 for equipment or travel costs associated with a PhD-related research study on a medical or anti-doping topic relevant to European football (participant incentives up to €2,000)



LANGUAGE

English

UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant

The UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant supports doctoral researchers by covering equipment or travel costs associated with a PhD-related research study on a medical or anti-doping topic relevant to European football.

The UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant is developed to facilitate impactful doctoral research. The overarching aim is to create impactful and translatable knowledge, which will help improve evidence-based decision-making in European football.

Grants of up to €10,000 are awarded, covering equipment or travel costs (including participant incentives of up to €2,000) associated with a PhD-related research study. Projects must address a medical or anti-doping topic relevant to European football. The Grant is open to any medical or anti-doping topic relevant to European football.

The Grant does not cover salary, conference or seminar attendance, open access publication fees or overheads.

Main takeaways

- A funding opportunity covering equipment, travel and participant incentive (up to €2,000) costs for PhD research on medical and anti-doping topics in European football
- Paid to the host institution in a single instalment



Structure

2026

November 16th — Call opens

2027

January 11th — Application deadline (17:00 CET)

February

March

April 1st — Scores, feedback and offers emailed to applicants

April 30th — Deadline for accepting offers

May

June

July 1st — Funding period starts; host institution may invoice UEFA

Funds must be spent before the PhD viva. Proof of spending must be sent to UEFA within three months of spending.

Programme overview

Application process

The official application form, the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant Regulations, the Declaration to UEFA and the evaluation sheet are available online. Applications must be submitted via the UEFA online portal by 11 January 2027, 17:00 CET, to be considered. Applications that meet the requirements of the Regulations are reviewed by the jury.

Jury members are selected on the basis of their individual expertise and a declaration of no conflict of interest. Where a conflict of interest exists, the jury member concerned will be replaced for the review and scoring of that application.

Each application is scored by two members of the jury, and the ten highest-scoring applications are additionally scored by a member of the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping unit. These ten applications and their scores are then presented at a meeting of the jury, where a consensus decision on grant allocation is reached. Up to two Grants are awarded. All relevant deadlines are presented in the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping PhD Research Costs Grant Regulations.



About the UEFA Academy

Building on the professional expertise that UEFA has established in the course of its history and the learning initiatives that it has created over the last decade, the UEFA Academy provides educational programmes for individuals and organisations alike with a view to constantly elevating the game of football. The UEFA Academy is LIFT certified, recognising the impact of its programmes on people, their organisations and society at large. For details of all our courses, visit UEFAacademy.com.

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 (open to any topic within these areas);
- **Host:** be based at a football club, national association, university or other research institute in a UEFA nation.
- A maximum of one application per candidate is permitted per Grant cycle.

Still have questions?

Should you have any question on the application process, please contact medicalresearch@uefa.ch and antidoping@uefa.ch.





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Contact us: medicalresearch@uefa.ch and antidoping@uefa.ch
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