



EUTOPIA PhD Co-tutelle Program 2023

Call Guidelines

Call Opens: 17 February 2023

Call Closes: 9 May 2023

Contents

Contents	2
1. Background and Overview	3
2. Jointly operated application and selection process	4
a. Application	4
b. Evaluation and selection	5
3. Conditions and modalities of the PhD co-tutelle fellowships.....	5
a. Funding.....	6
b. Eligibility criteria (supervisors / PhD students).....	6
c. Project endorsement	6
d. Reporting	6
e. Defense and diplomas	7
f. Training program	7

1. Background and Overview

The EUTOPIA European University is an ambitious alliance of ten like-minded European universities: [the Babes-Bolyai University](#) (Romania), [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#) (Belgium), the [Ca'Foscari University of Venice](#) (Italy), [CY Cergy Paris Université](#) (France), the [Technische Universität Dresden](#) (Germany), the [Göteborgs Universitet](#) (Sweden), the [Univerza v Ljubljani](#) (Slovenia), [the Nova University Lisbon](#) (Portugal), the [Universitat Pompeu Fabra](#) (Spain) and the [University of Warwick](#) (United Kingdom). It was selected as one of the first Erasmus+ 'European Universities' pilot projects. The core mission of EUTOPIA is to promote a connected and inclusive academic community, addressing global and local challenges, advancing excellence, inclusion, impact and innovation.

Following on from the success to the Erasmus+ pilot program in 2020 and to subsequent bids (EUTOPIA-TRAIN, EUTOPIA-Science and Innovation Fellowships), the partner universities have decided to open the PhD co-tutelle program again this year. This call description details the program's functioning, funding scheme and practical modalities.

The EUTOPIA PhD co-tutelle program supports high-quality PhD projects **in all research areas** co-supervised by academics of the EUTOPIA member universities. It offers PhD fellowships for 3 to 4 years, depending on the length of doctoral studies in the partner universities. It is expected to lead to high-quality research projects with global impact, providing exciting research opportunities for PhD or doctoral candidates. They shall take full advantage of the vibrant scientific environment of the EUTOPIA alliance (the following links give access the research pages of the seven EUTOPIA partner universities active in the 2023 program):

- [Babes-Bulyai University](#)
- [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)
- [Ca'Foscari University of Venice](#)
- [CY Cergy Paris Université](#)
- [Technische Universität Dresden](#)
- [Nova University Lisbon](#)
- [University of Warwick](#)

The participating EUTOPIA universities will jointly operate the call. This document describes the application procedure and requirements, the evaluation process and gives details about the funding conditions, operational modalities and implementation of the PhD fellowships. Depending on the universities' national systems these will be governed by bilateral agreements between the partner universities. Successful candidates will enter into an agreement governing the joint supervision of their PhD and obtain funding for the entire duration of their PhD according to the national legal frameworks. An example of such an agreement can be provided upon request.

The present call offers PhD fellowships funding for combinations of home and host institutions. The numbers of positions offered for each home/host combination will result from the selection process.

- 26 PhD fellowships may be allocated by Home institutions (table below)

Home institution	UBB	VUB	UNIVE	CY	TUD	UNL	UW
Number of positions offered	3 full positions to be completed by Host institutions CYU, VUB, UW	4 +UBB	1 CY / 1UW	3 1/ UNIVE +UBB	1 1/female	6	4 1/ UNIVE +UBB

The fellowships will start between October 2023 and January 2024.

2. Jointly operated application and selection process

a. Application

Applications are **to be submitted by the prospective supervisors** of the project.

The deadline for submission of applications to the present call is: **9 May 2023, 13:00 (Central European Time / CET)**. **The same project can only be submitted once, regardless of the Home or Host institution.** Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Submissions should include:

- Completed application form
- Detailed description of the research project
- Academic CVs of both co-supervisors and CV of the PhD candidate(s)
- Letter of motivation from the PhD candidate(s)
- Letters/emails of support from Head of School/Department/Research Center/Doctoral School/Academic Unit, depending on each university (a support letter from the Head of Department is compulsory at University of Warwick)
- A scanned copy of the PhD candidate's Master's degree certificate and academic transcript (or highest degree obtained + Master's degree underway).

Applications where the PhD candidate has not yet been identified may be considered but *strong priority in the selection will be given to complete projects having already identified a PhD candidate* or a short

list of PhD candidates. Applicants must explain their motivation for the choice of the proposed candidate(s) and indicate their ranking of the potential candidates, if more than one has been identified.

To be eligible, **submissions must be made via the online application platform:**

www.eutopia.smapply.io

Application materials will be made available on the platform.

The application platform opens 17 February 2023

b. Evaluation and selection

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of the proposed research project:
 - relevance to the discipline(s)
 - topicality and originality
 - suitable methods, and feasibility
- Qualifications of the researchers:
 - track record of the co-supervisors
 - track record of PhD candidate
 - track record of past collaborations of the co-supervisors (if applicable)
- Complementarity of the two research environments, additionality for student of being co-supervised

The proposals will go through a peer review process and be submitted to a joint panel including all participating institutions for final decisions. The evaluation of the researchers' qualification will include an assessment against each partner university's *eligibility criteria* (see parts 3 and 4).

In the case of applications where a PhD candidate has not been identified yet, funding decisions will be conditional on the validation of suitable candidate(s), in accordance with the *eligibility criteria* (see parts 3 and 4).

Application results are expected to be released on **12 June 2023**.

3. Conditions and modalities of the PhD co-tutelle fellowships

Each PhD co-tutelle fellowship will be hosted by two EUTOPIA partner universities. The students will enroll in both partner universities each year during the whole duration of the PhD co-tutelle program.

For the implementation of the PhD fellowships and other practical modalities, applicants are expected to **indicate a Home and a Host Institution** in their application. **The same project can only be submitted once, regardless of the Home or Host institution.** These indications will be considered by the evaluation committees and, if possible, confirmed during the selection process, but may be modified if necessary.

Candidates are expected to spend a significant amount of time at both partner institutions (at least 12 months in each) and at least 50% of their time at their Home Institution. In general, it is strongly advised that candidates start their PhD in their Home institution.

Enrollment in the two partner universities opens numerous opportunities to the PhD candidates in the scope of the PhD co-tutelle program. They access all services and support from both universities including doctoral training programs, professional orientation, libraries, student life services etc. They are fully integrated in the two research environments of their co-supervisors: research centers, scientific networks etc.

The implementation of the PhD co-tutelle program will be governed by bilateral agreements (see part 1) taking into account national and local regulations of each university. The following sections gather general information relevant for the agreements.

a. Funding

Funding for the PhD fellowships offered in the present call comes from the partner universities. Financial support for the PhD or doctoral candidates therefore follows the national rules and standards of each university.

Financial support for the PhD or doctoral candidates covers, for all universities, a 3 to 4-year PhD fellowship/stipend. According to the universities' practices, it may be complemented by a travel/research allowance and the payment/exemption of tuition fees by the university. All co-tutelle PhD fellowships in this call are jointly financed by the partner institutions, according to processes outlined in the bilateral agreements.

In the case of full financing of the student's fellowship by one university, this university will be the student's Home Institution. The student will receive funding for the duration of the PhD co-tutelle program according to the practices of their Home Institution, either by being employed by the university and receiving a salary or by receiving a stipend.

b. Eligibility criteria (supervisors / PhD students)

All co-tutelle PhD projects will be jointly supervised by permanent researchers from the candidate's Home and Host Institutions. The proposed PhD projects should be anchored in the scientific collaboration between the supervisors.

The eligibility for students and supervisors to the co-tutelle PhD programs of this call is governed by the partner universities rules and shall be defined in the bilateral co-tutelle agreements. PhD or doctoral candidates must meet the minimum entry requirements for PhD programs at each partner university involved in his / her co-tutelle PhD programs. Supervisors in both the home and host institution should meet local and/or national regulations defining the minimum requirements for PhD supervision (see below for details).

c. Project endorsement

According to each university's rules, applications to this call will be endorsed by the Head of School / Department / Faculty / Research Center / Doctoral School etc. to which the supervisors and PhD candidates are affiliated in order to ensure activities align with their priorities. Additional constraints can be integrated in the endorsement request, such as the availability of sufficient resourcing within the entities to which the co-tutelle PhD program is affiliated, as well as health, safety and ethical requirements. Endorsement can be optional or compulsory depending on each university's rules and will be part of the application documents.

d. Reporting

Annual reporting will be compulsory for each PhD co-tutelle program.

Students and supervisors will be subject to the standard reporting requirements of their Home and Host Institution. Modalities of the reporting shall be defined by the partner universities and it is possible that students/supervisors will have to comply to the reporting modalities of both partner universities.

Information gathered through the reports will be shared between all EUTOPIA universities.

e. Defense and diplomas

All PhD co-tutelle fellows will be eligible to receive a double diploma, one from each partner university.

Defense rules of both partner universities shall apply to each PhD co-tutelle defense. Rules and modalities shall be defined in the bilateral agreement.

f. Training program

PhD students participating in this co-tutelle program will have the opportunity to follow a training program during their doctoral studies in both universities, jointly defined by the partner institutions on the basis of their standard doctoral training programs.

The contribution of each university to the PhD student's training program will be defined in their bilateral agreement, taking into account the duration of the student's stay in each institution. The courses delivered by one university to the student will, as far as possible, be recognized by the other institution. The requirements of each university with regard to the PhD student's training program will, as far as possible, not be additional but complementary and take into account the duration of the PhD student's stay in each university.