



Funded by
the European Union



CENTRAL PROJECT
MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

**Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students
at EU higher education and research institutions 2024
EU4Belarus - SALT II**

Questions and Answers

Question 1:

Do I understand correctly that under the current call the location of the fellowship could be any EU country/city, including the current place of residence of the applicant?

Answer 1

Yes, the fellowship call allows for a fellowship in any EU country/city, including the applicant's current place of residence.

However, the fellowship call has a requirement of institutional mobility. According to the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2), applicants may not receive grant assistance for “*fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been an employee, a doctoral student, or a research fellow (regardless of its funding source) since August 2020.*” Therefore, if you plan to apply for a fellowship in your current place of residence, you must not have had any prior working or academic relationship with the proposed host institution since August 2020.

Question 2:

- a) *Can the National Museum in Warsaw be the host organization?***
- b) *Can I, living in Poland, apply to a Polish institution?***

Answer 2

- a) The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) require that actions take place “*in one of the accredited European higher education institutions and/or research institutions with an evidence-based track of academic history in the EU member states.*” If the National Museum has a research centre or a research department, which would meet the aforementioned requirements, it could potentially qualify as a host institution.
- b) Yes, it is not necessary to move to a different city/country for this fellowship call. Please look at the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 3:

I had to leave Belarus and am currently staying in Warsaw. Would selecting a host institution located in Warsaw conflict with the conditions of this call for proposals?

Answer 3

In short, if you live in Warsaw, a host institution in Warsaw is eligible as long as you have not had a prior working or academic relationship with that institution. You would not be eligible for the fellowship if you are or were an academic employee or had a fellowship in such a host institution. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 4:

I am currently finishing my work within the framework of the Fellowship „Support for Advanced Learning and Training – EU4Belarus-SALT II”. It ends in January 2025. In this regard, I have a question - can I apply for the next SALT competition?

Answer 4:

The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) state that applicants are not eligible for “a second or subsequent Fellowship from “Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)” Action for the same recipient.” Unfortunately, if your current fellowship is under the SALT II programme, you cannot apply for the current fellowship call. However, you may be eligible for the upcoming academic research grant call under the SALT III programme. Please monitor the website www.EU4Belarus/info for new announcements.

Question 5:

- a) I am currently residing in Switzerland. Would it be possible for me to apply? I left Belarus in May 2021, and I resided in different EU countries (Germany, Hungary, and Lithuania) from May 2021 until August 2024, when I moved to Switzerland. I would arrange that for the time of the scholarship I would be affiliated with an university in Germany.***
- b) Would it be in order if a German civil society organization (German Society for Eastern European Study, or DGO) would assess my level of a threat by the Belarusian regime? I relied on their expertise in this area already, and it would be easier for me to organize.***
- c) Right now, I am looking for a possibility to draft an English version of my book, which was published this year in German. It means, this would be not original research per se. At the same time, it won't be a simple translation of the German original, since for my book to appear with a reputable publishing house in UK or US, major revisions in terms of its content and style are required. Would such a project be eligible for funding within your program?***

Answer 5:

- a) According to the Corrigendum published on the CPVA [website](#), the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) require that applicants must “*reside in an EU member state, a member of the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom or one of the Eastern partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)*”. As a result, if your current place of residence is Switzerland, you are eligible to apply. Please also keep in mind the additional eligibility requirements that require the fellowship to take place in person in European higher education institutions and/or research institutions with an evidence-based track of academic history in the EU member states.
- b) The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.2.1) outline that “*If evidence of persecution by the Belarusian authorities on the political grounds is unavailable, letters of reference confirming the fact of dismissal, persecution/threat of repressions on political grounds provided by organisations and/or representatives of civil society (e.g., human rights organizations, representatives of democratic political institutions, diaspora organisations etc.) may be accepted.*” You may submit a recommendation letter from a civil society organisation with your supporting documents. Any and all supporting documents, which would confirm any facts of persecution by the Belarusian authorities in any available language (English, Belarusian, Russian, Lithuanian, etc.) can be submitted and would be analyzed by CPVA and external assessors to confirm the compliance with the requirements, listed in the Guidelines. Whether the letter alone is enough will be determined by the Selection Committee during the eligibility check based on its content. The contracting authority is not in a position to provide a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants at this stage.
- c) You can find eligible types of activities outlined in the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2). It depends on how you plan and present your action as a project of academic exchange and collaboration, how you raise goals and measure incremental achievements. You would still need to have an affiliation with a host institution which would invite you, support your selected topic, defined efforts and intended deliverables, and have a colleague there who would serve in a supervisory role and would be able to sign your reports. Lastly, the fellowship covers the livelihood costs of the fellow, and therefore is not defined as “funding for a project”. While the applicant’s own expenses (usage of received funding) would not be monitored and checked, the fellowship funding is subject to the host institution’s signed confirmation that the applicant is performing the fellowship as defined in the invitation letter. The contracting authority is not in a position to provide a prior opinion on the evaluation of applications.

Question 6:

Can I apply for the "Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)" programme if I already have Polish citizenship? I also have Belarusian citizenship.

Answer 6:

According to the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.1), the applicants must “be a citizen of the Republic of Belarus” with possible exemptions. Dual citizenships are not prohibited. As long as you have Belarusian citizenship, your Polish citizenship does not affect your application.

Question 7:

Please clarify, in this call for a grant program, a necessary condition is also moving to another city where the inviting university is located? Or can the inviting university be located in the same city where I live? Thank you.

Answer 7:

In short, moving to another city is not a mandatory requirement for this call but institutional mobility is required. Limitations apply, if you had an academic or employment relationship with the university in the same city as you live in prior to the planned fellowship. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 8:

The question concerns the Letter of Invitation. In the Guidelines for Applicants Section 2.2.1 point 2, it states 'This should include confirmation to support the visa process'. I have a category C visa issued by the German consulate. It expires at the end of June 2026. The host university is not located in Germany. Please clarify: should the host organisation prepare a temporary residence permit in this case or should a category D visa be obtained before the start of the internship? Should these nuances be described in the Letter of Invitation? Thank you in advance for your reply.

Answer 8:

If you do not currently hold a visa to stay in the EU, in the Letter of Invitation the host institution should confirm its support for your visa process, as this is a common basis for granting a visa. If you already hold an EU visa, which extends for the full period of fellowship and is not impacted by change of your residence country, this is not applicable to you. Regardless, the host institution may include a brief acknowledgment of your current visa status instead of supporting the visa process. However, please note that the contracting authority cannot advise on the specific category or type of visa required, as this depends on the regulations of the country where the host institution is located. We recommend that you contact your host institution or the relevant authorities to confirm whether your existing visa will suffice or if you need to apply for a different visa.

Question 9:

Good afternoon, I am currently completing research on the topic of "Anthropology of Occupation" under the EU4Belarus – SALT II program (ending on 01.01.2025). Can I submit a new application for the competition if the proposed research topic will significantly differ from the previous one?

Answer 9:

The Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2) state that applicants are not eligible for “a second or subsequent Fellowship from “Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)” Action for the same recipient.” Unfortunately, if your current fellowship is under the SALT II

programme, you are not eligible to participate in the current call regardless of any other criteria (e.g. different topic, different time periods, etc.). However, you may be eligible for the new [Academic Research Project Grants](#) call under the SALT III programme. Please monitor the website www.EU4Belarus/info for new announcements.

Question 10:

I work part-time as an adjunct at the university. Can I participate in the program?

Answer 10:

You cannot apply for a fellowship with a host institution if you have a working relationship with it. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 11:

I would like to clarify one of the conditions mentioned in the grant description: "Applicants may not receive grant assistance for fellowships at the same higher education institution or research centre where an applicant has been an employee, a doctoral student, or a research fellow (regardless of its funding source) since August 2020." After relocating from Belarus to Poland in 2024, I continued working on my project as an independent researcher. A month ago, I received the status of an "affiliated researcher" ("badacz afiliowany") at a university. However, I am not an employee of the university, a doctoral student, or a member of any department. Furthermore, my research does not have any sources of funding. At present, my affiliation with the university is essentially limited to access to library resources. Could you clarify if my status as an affiliated researcher would be considered a barrier to applying for the grant if this university is listed as the host institution?

Answer 11:

Based on the information you provided, your status as an "affiliated researcher" does not appear to fall under the eligibility restrictions listed in the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2). The restriction applies to a fixed-list of positions - *employees, doctoral students, or research fellows* at the host institution since August 2020. Since your role as an affiliated researcher is not included in these categories, you are likely eligible to apply. However, the contracting authority is not in a position to provide final confirmation on the eligibility of applications, as final decisions will depend on the evaluation process. We recommend that you provide the details about your situation that you listed here in your application.

Additionally, if the contracting authority or external assessors determine that your proposed research project is a continuation of work already initiated before signing the fellowship contract (e.g., research linked to your current affiliation with the university), this could lead to the rejection of your application.

If possible, it would be helpful if the host institution could confirm in their invitation letter that you have not held a formal position (employee, research fellow or doctoral student) with the institution

and that your proposed research project is dependent on the granting of fellowship and not your status of affiliated research.

Question 12:

I work at a university in Poland. Can I participate in the program while continuing to work at this university? If so, can the invitation be from another Polish university in another city?

Answer 12:

You cannot apply for a fellowship with a host institution if you have a working relationship with it. However, a different host institution in Poland or also in the same city could be eligible. Please see the response to Q1 for more information.

Question 13:

I would like to clarify, whether the deadline for applying for the program "Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, and PhD students at EU higher education and research institutions 2024" has actually been extended? Since in the letter I see the deadline is January 15, 2025, but in the Guidelines for Applicants is "valid until: September 27, 2024". Thank you very much for your clarifications!

Answer 13:

The deadline to apply for this fellowship call is January 15, 2025, as also indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants. You may be referring to the previous Fellowship call from SALT I programme which had a deadline for September 27, 2024. Please refer to the CPVA [website](#) for the latest updated information about the current call under SALT II programme.

Question 14:

I'd like to ask for a clarification about this statement: "for applicants who had a fellowship in EU4Belarus SALT, their object of study must possess a clear distinct difference from the previous grant". If I had my previous fellowship EU4Belarus SALT researching romans of one writer, can I apply for EU4Belarus- SALT II with the research project about the romans of the same writer, but different aspect of the study?

Answer 14:

Based on the Guidelines for grant applicants (Section 2.1.2), the key criterion is that the research funded by the different fellowship grants must be different from each other. It can be acceptable if your proposed research project represents a new phase or builds upon your earlier research. It depends on how you describe your research object in your application. For example, when a second fellowship builds on the results of the first one, and a clear separation of efforts and results of the first and second fellowships is presented.

If the contracting authority or external assessors identify a risk of double funding (i.e., using the second fellowship to cover efforts or results already funded by the first), they may ask for additional clarification or reject the application outright. Please note that the contracting authority cannot provide prior opinion on the acceptance of your application, as this will depend on the evaluation process.