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CENTRAL PROJECT
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AGENCY

Fellowships to Belarusian lecturers, scientists, researchers, and PhD students at EU higher education and research institutions 2026

Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT)

Questions and Answers

Question 1:

Am I eligible to apply for this SALT fellowship, if I received earlier individual fellowships within the SALT scheme (i.e. fellowships for Belarusian lecturers)?

Answer 1

Eligibility depends on whether the previous individual fellowship was funded under SALT I or SALT II.

Applicants who previously received an individual fellowship under SALT II are not automatically ineligible under this call. They may apply provided that the proposed fellowship action is clearly distinct from the previously funded action and does not duplicate or substantially overlap with it. The same requirement applies to applicants who participated as research team members in an Academic Research Project grant under SALT II or SALT III.

Section 2.1.2 of the Guidelines for Applicants provides:

“if an applicant is or has been a research team member in an Academic Research Project grant funded under the ‘Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT II)’ or ‘Support to Advanced Learning and Training (SALT III)’ programme or has previously received a fellowship under EU4Belarus SALT II, the proposed fellowship action must possess a clear distinct difference compared to the object of study of the Academic Research Project grant or the previous fellowship. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed fellowship does not duplicate, overlap substantially with, or fund in parallel the same research. In case of doubt, the Contracting Authority leaves the right to request additional information and documents during the evaluation process.”

By contrast, the present call is launched under SALT I. Applicants who have already received an individual fellowship under SALT I would be applying for a second fellowship under the same action and are therefore **not** eligible. Section 2.1.2 lists among the ineligible actions “a second or subsequent fellowship from “Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT)” Action for the same recipient”.

Question 2:

Can an association or non-governmental organisation with a scientific and educational profile act as a host institution for a fellowship under this call?

Answer 2

Under Section 2.2.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants, applicants must submit the following document together with their application:

“Letter of invitation (signed by authorised representative of the institution or its subdivision) by an EU-based hosting accredited higher education institution or legally established research institution inviting the applicant and describing the duration and type of action.”

Section 2.1.2 further provides that:

“Actions must take place in one of the accredited European Union higher education institutions and/or research institutions with an evidence-based track of academic history in the EU member states.”

Accordingly, the host institution does not necessarily have to be a university. However, registration as an association or non-governmental organisation with a scientific or educational profile is not, in itself, sufficient to establish eligibility. If the organisation is not an accredited higher education institution, it must demonstrate that it qualifies as a legally established research institution in an EU Member State and has the relevant capacity and track record to host the proposed fellowship action.

The eligibility of the proposed host institution will be assessed on the basis of the application and supporting documents, including the invitation letter and the information provided about the host institution.

Question 3:

Am I eligible to apply for the program if my Polish residence permit expires before the programme begins? I will continue to reside legally within the European Union, as I have submitted an application for international protection. Unfortunately, decisions on such applications currently extend to up to two years.

Answer 3

The expiry of an applicant’s current residence permit before the fellowship begins does not automatically make the applicant ineligible. Under Section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants, the applicant must:

- reside in an EU Member State, a member of the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom or an Eastern Partnership country (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine); and
- if residing outside Belarus, have left Belarus no earlier than August 2020.

During the eligibility verification, applicants will be required to provide evidence of their declared country of residence. Where a residence permit or another relevant legal-status procedure is ongoing, the applicant may submit evidence of their actual current location and the pending procedure. Section 2.3.3 identifies the following supporting document: “A copy of evidence proving the declared country of residence or the actual current location if residence permit procedure is ongoing.”

Applicants remain responsible for ensuring that they can legally reside in the relevant country and implement the proposed fellowship for its planned duration. Final eligibility will be assessed on the basis of the complete application and supporting documents submitted. CPVA cannot provide a prior decision on an individual applicant’s eligibility.

Question 4:

The Guidelines state that applicants may not receive grant support for “a second or subsequent fellowship from the ‘Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT)’ Action for the same recipient”. I previously received funding to study Polish under SALT III. Am I eligible to apply under this call?

Answer 4:

Previous funding for a language course under SALT III does not prevent applicants from applying under this call, provided that all other eligibility requirements are met.

If the applicant previously received an individual academic fellowship grant or participated in an Academic Research Project grant under SALT II or SALT III, please refer to Question 1.

Question 5:

In 2023–2024, I received my first SALT fellowship, but I do not currently have access to its details. How can I check whether it was funded under SALT I?

Answer 5:

This information should be specified in the grant contract or award notification for the previous fellowship. If these documents are unavailable to you, please contact CPVA at eu4belarus@cpva.lt, providing your full name and, if available, the contract or application reference number. CPVA will check its records and confirm under which SALT project the fellowship was funded.

Applicants who previously received an individual fellowship under SALT I are not eligible to receive a second fellowship under this call. For previous support under SALT II or SALT III, please refer to Question 1.

Question 6: Does the provision concerning “a second or subsequent fellowship from ‘EU4Belarus – Support to Advanced Learning and Training (SALT I)’ Action for the same recipient” apply only to applicants who have already received two or more fellowships, or also to applicants who have previously received one SALT I fellowship?

Answer 6:

The restriction applies to applicants who have previously received one individual fellowship under SALT I. A fellowship awarded under the present call would constitute their second fellowship under the same action. Therefore, applicants who have already received an individual fellowship under **SALT I** are not eligible under this call.

Section 2.1.2 of the Guidelines for Applicants identifies the following as an ineligible action:

“a second or subsequent fellowship from ‘Support to Advanced Learning and Training (EU4Belarus – SALT)’ Action for the same recipient.”

Question 7: Can an application be submitted on behalf of a group of researchers rather than by an individual? If so, how should this be reflected in the application form?

Answer 7:

No, Section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants specifies that an applicant must, among other requirements:

- “be a natural person”;

- “be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary”; and
- “act individually only”.

A group application cannot therefore be submitted or reflected in the application form. If several researchers wish to apply, each person must submit a separate application, meet all applicable eligibility requirements and propose an individual fellowship action.

Section 2.1.2 further provides:

“The applicant may not submit more than one (1) application or be awarded more than one (1) grant under this call for proposals.”

Question 8: *May I apply with the same host university as in a previous academic fellowship project if I work with a different professor, department and institute and change my field of research?*

Answer 8:

If the applicant previously received an individual fellowship under SALT I, they are not eligible under the present call, irrespective of the proposed host institution, as per the section 2.1.2. of the Guidelines for Applicants.

For other applicants, the restriction concerning a previous relationship with the host applies to the **institution as a whole**, rather than to individual professors, faculties, departments or institutes.

Section 2.1.2 provides that 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.”

Consequently, working with a different professor or changing the faculty, department, institute or field of research does not affect this restriction.

Question 9: *How can I apply for this project from Afghanistan?*

Answer 9:

This call is open only to individual applicants who meet the citizenship and residence requirements set out in Section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants. Among other requirements, an applicant must:

- “be a citizen of the Republic of Belarus”; and
- “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).”

Afghanistan is not among the eligible countries of residence. Therefore, a person residing in Afghanistan is not eligible to apply under this call.

In addition, Section 2.1.2 specifies where the fellowship action must be implemented:

“Actions must take place in one of the accredited European Union higher education institutions and/or research institutions with an evidence-based track of academic history in the EU member states.”