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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

Part I

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.”

PART II (Updated 2026.08.13)

Question 10:

I previously received a fellowship as an independent researcher. My previous fellowship focused on a specific research topic. I am now planning to propose a broader topic related to the same general subject. Would the proposed topic meet the requirement that it must be clearly distinct from the subject of my previous fellowship, and am I eligible to apply?

Answer 10:

Eligibility first depends on which SALT action funded the previous fellowship, as described under the [Answer 1](#). The present call is launched under SALT I, therefore, an applicant who has already received an individual fellowship under **SALT I** is not eligible to receive another fellowship under the same action.

Applicants who previously received an individual fellowship under **SALT II** are not automatically excluded. However, Section 2.1.2 requires the proposed fellowship action to possess a “clear distinct difference” compared with the object of study of the previous fellowship. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed action does not duplicate, overlap substantially with or fund in parallel the same research.

Describing the proposed topic as broader does not, by itself, establish a clear distinction. The application should clearly demonstrate the differences between the previous and proposed fellowships, including, for instance, in their objects of study, research questions, scope, empirical basis, methodology, planned activities and expected results or other. In case of doubt, CPVA may request additional information or documents during the evaluation.

As stated in Section 2.2.4 of the Guidelines, to ensure equal treatment of applicants, CPVA cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, an action or specific activities. Compliance with this requirement will therefore be determined during the evaluation of the complete application and supporting documents.

Question 11:

I am a Belarusian researcher who left Belarus in September 2020 and am currently a PhD candidate at a university in a Schengen Area country.

I am seeking funding to prepare a special issue of an academic journal devoted to Belarus. The fellowship would be used exclusively for preparing the special issue, particularly to cover professional proofreading and modest honoraria for contributing authors.

Would this purpose be eligible under the present call if the special issue were prepared in collaboration with a host higher education or research institution in the European Union and resulted in peer-reviewed publications?

Answer 11:

The use of the fellowship to pay for professional proofreading and honoraria for contributing authors would not be eligible. Section 2.1.2 specifies that the call supports “actions concerned only with individual fellowships”; the same section details that the call permits research fellowship actions that may include international collaboration leading to peer-reviewed articles; However, it further specifies that applicants may not propose financial support or otherwise transfer the grant to third parties. Honoraria for contributing authors would constitute payments to third parties. Professional proofreading may not be included as a separate eligible project cost.

Furthermore, Section 2.1.3 specifies that eligible direct costs may include only a “Monthly fellowship allowance (individual support grant) of EUR 1860 for a maximum of 6 months” and that “any type of costs other than specified under the eligible direct costs are NOT eligible”.

Therefore, preparing or editing a peer-reviewed special issue could form part of the applicant’s own academic work within an individual research fellowship, provided that the proposed action meets all applicable requirements and is implemented at an eligible host institution. However, the fellowship must remain centred on the applicant’s own research and academic activities. It may not be structured as funding for proofreading services, honoraria or other financial support to third parties.

In accordance with Section 2.2.4 of the Guidelines, CPVA cannot provide a prior opinion on the eligibility of an individual action or specific activities. Eligibility would therefore be determined on the basis of the complete application and the proposed action as a whole.

Question 12:

What are the specific responsibilities of the host institution during the implementation of the fellowship? Does the host institution administer the fellowship payments, or are the funds transferred directly by CPVA to the fellowship recipient?

Answer 12:

The host institution’s principal role is to host and support the implementation of the approved fellowship action in accordance with the arrangements agreed with the applicant.

The Guidelines do not prescribe a separate standard list of responsibilities for host institutions. However, during implementation, the supervisor from the host institution is required to sign the monthly Confirmation of Duration Form (Annex VI), confirming the fellowship period completed

during the relevant month. Submission of this form is required for the corresponding fellowship payment to be issued. The supervisor must also sign the fellow's Final Narrative Report (Annex IV), confirming the implementation of the fellowship action.

The host institution does not administer the fellowship payments. The individual applicant becomes the beneficiary under the grant contract and remains CPVA's sole interlocutor. As specified in Section 2.6 of the Guidelines: "Fellowship payments will be made monthly by bank transfer in euros to a personal bank account held in the beneficiary's own name. The bank account must be able to receive payments in euros and must be eligible for transfers from **CPVA**."

The funds are therefore transferred directly by CPVA to the fellowship recipient, subject to the submission of the required monthly Confirmation of Duration Form, rather than through the host institution.

PART III (Updated 2026.08.27)

Question 13:

The application form requires applicants to list publications from the last five years. However, I spent this period in detention as a political prisoner and was therefore unable to publish. May I list publications from earlier years?

Answer 13:

Yes, where an applicant was unable to publish during the period specified in the application form because of imprisonment or similar exceptional circumstances, the relevant section should not be left blank. In these circumstances, the applicant should use the Section 3.5 "Applicant's experience and relevant awards" of the application form to list their most important earlier publications, together with a brief explanation of why they were unable to publish during the specified period.

Given the 1,000-character limit, the applicant should prioritise the most recent available publications that are relevant to the proposed fellowship. A more complete list of publications may also be included in the academic CV submitted with the application.

Question 14:

I am a Belarusian citizen residing in an EU Member State and will be enrolled as a self-funded, part-time distance-learning PhD student at a university in the United Kingdom while continuing to reside in the European Union.

May I apply under the present call and propose the UK university at which I am a PhD student as the host institution?

Answer 14:

The university in the United Kingdom could not serve as the host institution for the proposed fellowship for two independent reasons. First, the eligibility rules distinguish between the applicant's country of residence and the location of the fellowship. Section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants permits applicants to **reside** in "an EU member state, a member of the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, or one of the Eastern partnership countries". However, Section 2.1.2 requires 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."

Although the United Kingdom is an eligible country of residence, it is not an EU Member State and a UK university therefore cannot host a fellowship under this call.

Second, the fellowship is intended to provide institutional mobility. Section 2.1.2 states 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.” The applicant therefore cannot undertake the fellowship at the university at which they are enrolled as a PhD student. This restriction applies at the institutional level, irrespective of whether the doctoral programme is delivered in person or through distance learning and irrespective of the applicant’s country of residence.

Please note, however, that enrolment in a PhD programme does not, in itself, prevent an applicant from applying. The applicant may propose a separate fellowship action at a different eligible higher education or research institution in an EU Member State, including an eligible institution in their current country of residence, provided that all other requirements are met. The proposed action must constitute an individual fellowship and cannot be intended primarily to fund the applicant’s doctoral studies, as actions “concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses” are ineligible under Section 2.1.2.

Question 15:

I am considering undertaking a fellowship at a department within a public academy in an EU Member State. The proposed action would involve civilian academic research under the supervision of a professor whose expertise is relevant to the proposed topic. The academy is also a military higher education institution.

May such an institution act as a host institution under this call? Does its military status create any restrictions or additional requirements?

Answer 15:

The Guidelines for Applicants do not exclude a higher education institution solely because it is a military institution. Its status as a military academy does not, by itself, create additional eligibility requirements under this call. However, the proposed host must meet the standard host-institution requirements. Section 2.1.2 of the Guidelines specifies 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 academy may serve as a host institution if it is an accredited higher education institution in an EU Member State and meets the above requirements. A fellowship hosted by one of its academic departments may be proposed, provided that the action itself is eligible and is implemented in accordance with the approved application.

The application must include a letter of invitation from the host institution. As stated in Section 2.2.1, this must be a: “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.”

As per the Section 2.1.2. of the Guidelines, proposed fellowship activities must also be compatible with EU values. This section excludes actions or measures that “that may result in violation of human rights or that may cause significant adverse effects on the environment or the climate. This includes, in particular, actions that undermine human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities.”

CPVA cannot provide a prior decision on the eligibility of a particular host institution or proposed action. Final eligibility will be assessed on the basis of the complete application, supporting documents and the proposed fellowship activities.

Question 16:

May an applicant who holds a doctoral degree be supervised by a scientific supervisor who also holds a doctoral degree? May the invitation letter be signed by the head of the relevant department within the host faculty? If the supervisor and department head are different persons, who should sign the monthly Confirmation of Duration Form (Annex VI)?

Answer 16:

The Guidelines do not require the scientific supervisor to hold an academic degree higher than that of the applicant. A supervisor who holds a doctoral degree may therefore supervise an applicant who also holds a doctoral degree, provided that their academic expertise is relevant to the proposed fellowship action.

Under Section 2.2.1, the invitation letter must be signed by an “authorised representative of the institution or its subdivision.” The head of the relevant department may sign the letter where they are authorised to represent that department or subdivision.

The monthly Confirmation of Duration Form (Annex VI) should be signed by the supervisor, as the person confirming that the fellow completed the relevant fellowship period. Where the supervisor and the department head are different persons, the department head does not need to replace the supervisor’s signature.

Question 17:

Does the invitation letter need to mention that the host institution will provide visa support, even if the applicant does not need a visa?

Answer 17:

No. Confirmation of visa support should be included in the invitation letter only where it is applicable and needed for the applicant’s travel or residence arrangements. If the applicant does not require a visa, the letter does not need to mention visa support.

As per the Section 2.1.1. of the Guidelines for Applicants, the invitation letter should nevertheless include the required information on the proposed fellowship, ideally including such aspects as the types of activities to be performed, host institution or department, clearly visible signatures and titles, and other relevant information.