
ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant

The Asian Organization for Crohn's and Colitis (AOCC) and the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) offer two collaborative ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grants.

The aim is to offer an opportunity for European investigators (ECCO Members) to visit Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Centres in Asia or for Asian investigators (AOCC Members) to visit an IBD Centre in Europe ([ECCO Country Members](#)), to learn about advanced endoscopy related to IBD or for clinical observations as an IBD Specialist. They are not designed to support travel to congresses or meetings. If a scientific project is attached to the application, it is more likely that this application is scored higher than others, but it is not essential.

[Find an AOCC Centre](#) [Find a centre with E-QUALITY project](#)

Up to two ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grants may be given in 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must submit an original research project proposal using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
2. The applicant may not have reached 40 years of age at the submission deadline or if 40 years of age or older, must be within five years of the date of completion of their GI training or PhD graduation (a certificate with English translation needs to be provided).
3. The applicant and the host have to be members of their respective societies ([ECCO](#) or [AOCC](#) at the submission deadline. e.g., an ECCO Member can apply to visit an Asian institute under host supervision of an AOCC Member and vice versa:
 - Travel Grant 1: AOCC Member goes to ECCO Member centre in Europe
 - Travel Grant 2: ECCO Member goes to AOCC Member centre in Asia
4. The applicant can apply for only one ECCO Award category per annual call.
5. Recipients who have been awarded an ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant in the past cannot reapply.
6. Members of [ECCO Committees](#) or [AOCC](#) Committees are excluded from applying.

TERMS OF SUBMISSION

1. A total amount of **EUR 10,000** will be awarded per ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant.
2. The duration of the Travel Grant is short term: 1-2 months.
3. A department may support one application per ECCO Award category per annual call.



4. All applicants should submit a proposal for the research project using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#) containing the following information:
 - Project title Name, full address of home institute, affiliation(s), ECCO Member ID **or** AOCC Member confirmation of the applicant
 - Name and full address of the host institute
 - Name and E-mail address of the host supervisor
 - Abstract including scientific purpose for travelling to the selected hosting centre (max. 300 words)
 - Significance and impact of the proposed travel on the IBD Community (max. 250 words)
 - Training capacity and background of the group (max. 450 words)
5. As well as the following documents:
 - CV of the applicant
 - A confirmation letter from the Head of Department of the host institute.
6. The deadline for submission is **April 30, 2026**.
7. Applications are reviewed by two ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) Members and two AOCC Review Committee members and up to two applications are selected. Applicants are notified of the results latest **October 31, 2026**.
8. Payment of the Grant funds is contingent upon signing of the ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant form. The payment will be made before to **December 31, 2026**.
9. The selected applicants receive the ECCO-AOCC Travel Grant certificate by e-mail or at the annual ECCO Congress and are encouraged be present to receive it in person.
10. On completion and no later than twelve months after granting of the award, the applicant will submit a short report (max. 150 words), signed by the awardee and the hosting institute, to the Scientific Committee of ECCO and the Grant Review Committee of AOCC for publication in ECCO News channels and AOCC Intestinal Research.
11. ECCO reserves the right to request a return of unused funds in the case of a serious impediment to travel such as a significant delay or if the host supervisor is unable to host the awardee, the awardee moves to a different field or similar disruption.

REVIEW PROCESS

1. All eligible applications are reviewed based on the following four criteria:
 - Relevance of topic
 - Personal development opportunity
 - Impact for the IBD Community
 - Available expertise of the applicant and host institute
2. Applications need to fulfil the formal criteria: no indication of plagiarism, compliance with word limits.
3. Reviewing: Each ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant application will be reviewed by two members of the ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) of ECCO and two members of AOCC Grant Review Committee. They will score their assigned applications according to the four evaluation criteria above and comment on each application.
4. Ranking: Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: The ECCO Scientific Committee/ECCO Governing Board and the AOCC Review Committee/AOCC Governing Board will make a joint selection.
6. Notification: Applicants are notified of the results in **October 2026**.