

# EEBA FUNDING INITIATIVES: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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Applications are being sought for three EEBA funding initiatives, specifically targeted at **Young Technicians, Experienced Eye Bankers, and Training Providers for New Eye Bankers**, which are supported from funds donated by previous organisers of the EEBA Annual Meeting.

These three grant schemes, in accompaniment to the long-standing [Annual Meeting Travel Grants](#), were conceived in order to offer **special training opportunities for EEBA members** and can be summarised as follows:

**EEBA TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP GRANT FOR YOUNG TECHNICIANS** – The aim of this fellowship scheme is to enable young technicians to travel to, and to stay at, an institution in another country in order to advance their technical knowledge and skills relating to eye banking (tissues and cells for treatment of eye diseases). The duration of the stay must be for a minimum of three (3) weeks/maximum of nine (9) weeks and either the home or host institution must be based in Europe.

One (1) fellowship grant is proposed for this year (i.e. fellowship taking place in 2016) with a maximum of **Euro 3,500 (three thousand five hundred euro)** available for the reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs (original receipts required). **Applicants are expected to be paid-up members of EEBA, preferably aged less than 35 years and with at least 2 years' experience in an eye bank laboratory.** They must be sponsored by two members of the EEBA, employed at a non-profit institution, and the fellowship must be performed at such a place of work.

Applications must be received at least 6 weeks before the date of the proposed travel and applicants must travel to an institution not in their own country for their fellowship placement. Successful applicants must travel within **9 months** of receipt of the grant and awardees will be expected to provide a **written report** and confirmation of stay from the host institution on return to their home institution.

Grant applications should make reference to the name of the applicant who is applying for the fellowship, the name of the eye bank/institute to which the applicant is affiliated and the eye bank/institute where the applicant wishes to visit. A brief summary of the applicant's technical background and work experience is expected, along with a brief statement (**not to exceed 500 words**) explaining why the applicant is applying for the grant and what they hope to gain from the fellowship.

**EEBA VISITING FELLOWSHIP GRANT FOR EXPERIENCED EYE BANKERS** – This grant endeavours to give eye banks the opportunity to invite an experienced eye banker from another country to visit their institution in order to impart their medical and/or technical knowledge and skills relating to eye banking (tissues and cells for treatment of eye diseases). It is expected that either the inviting eye bank or the visiting fellow be based in Europe and that the duration of the stay will not exceed one (1) month.

One (1) fellowship grant is anticipated for 2016 with a maximum of **Euro 2,500 (two thousand five hundred euro)** available to cover the reimbursement of the fellow's travel and subsistence costs (original receipts required).

**Applications should be made by the hosting eye bank, which should have at least one paid-up member of the EEBA.** It is expected that the invited fellow will have at least 10 years' experience in an eye bank setting and be employed at, or be a former employee of, a non-profit institution and the fellowship must be performed at such a place of work.

Applications must be received at least 6 weeks before the date of the proposed visit and visiting fellows must travel to an institution outside their own country for the fellowship placement. Successful applicants are expected to travel within **9 months** of receipt of the grant and the host institution will be expected to provide a **written report on the outcomes of the visit** at the end of the fellowship.

Grant applications should refer to the name of the home eye bank which is applying for the fellowship, the name of the eye bank/institute to which the visiting fellow is/was affiliated, a brief summary of the visiting fellow's medical and/or technical background and work experience, along with a statement (**not to exceed 500 words**) explaining why the host eye bank is applying for the grant and what they hope to gain from the presence of the visiting fellow. Letters of support from two members of the EEBA sponsoring this fellowship application are also expected.

**EEBA REGIONAL SEMINAR/WORKSHOP GRANTS FOR NEW EYE BANKERS** – This scheme is intended to enable eye banks from neighbouring countries in the same geographical region to jointly organise a seminar/workshop for new eye bankers in order to optimise the participation and diffusion of medical and/or technical knowledge and skills relating to eye banking (tissues and cells for treatment of eye diseases).

The consortium of organising eye banks must be based in Europe and must be at least three (3) in number, from at least three (3) different member states. The duration of the seminar/workshop should not exceed two (2) days and must include at least eight (8) participants.

One (1) grant is envisaged for this year (i.e. seminar/workshop in 2016) with a maximum of **Euro 2,500 (two thousand five hundred euro)** to cover organisational expenses and/or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs of the seminar/workshop participants and organizers (original receipts required).

**It is expected that each of the organising eye banks have at least one (1) paid-up EEBA member on their staff** and have been established for at least 2 years. In addition, all of the participating new eye bankers must be employed at a non-profit institution and that the seminar/workshop must be performed at such a place of work.

Applications must be received a minimum of 6 weeks before the date of the proposed seminar/workshop and funds will be transferred into a single eye bank which takes on the role of the coordinating institution. The funded seminar/workshop must take place within **9 months** of receipt of the grant and awardees will be expected to provide a **written report** and confirmation of the participation of both the participating eye banks and the participating new eye bankers at the end of the seminar/workshop.

Grant applications should mention the names of the three (3) organizing eye banks who are applying for this grant, give the name of the coordinating eye bank and the eye bank/institute where the seminar/workshop will take place.

The person(s) conducting the seminar/workshop should be detailed along with a brief summary of their medical, scientific and/or technical background and work experience. A brief statement (**not to exceed 500 words**) explaining why the organizing eye banks are applying for the grant and what they hope to gain from funding for the seminar/workshop. Letters of support from two members of the EEBA sponsoring this grant application are also recommended.

The **deadline date for formal applications for all three funding initiatives is 18 December 2015** and anyone interested in applying for any of the aforementioned grants should contact the EEBA Executive Officer for further details (Tel: +39 041 9656422; Fax: +39 041 9656421; E-mail: [admin@europeaneyebanks.org](mailto:admin@europeaneyebanks.org))

**All grant applications will be reviewed in person by the EEBA President, Vice President and Secretary and funding decisions will be based as much as possible on the needs expressed by the applicant, on what the individual(s) may get from the grant and what the applicant's experience may bring to the Association.**