

ECIU SMART-ER INSTITUTE: SECOND CALL FOR SEED PROJECTS NOW OPEN

Notice of available additional support

What is ECIU University and what is the SMART-ER Institute?

The ECIU University is a network University under development by the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU), of which the UT is a member. This means a group of Universities is working together towards making their higher education offerings available to each other's students and learners (CBL and micro-modules), developing and offering personalised and flexible learning paths and micro-credentials and making it easier to move flexibly throughout the consortium to engage in research collaborations. During the pilot phase of the ECIU University, the UT experiments with the challenge-based approaches, (international) quality assurance, lifelong learning, micro-modules and quadruple-helix research and innovation interactions, in collaboration with our European partners.

The Institute for SMART European Regions (SMART-ER) is the virtual research institute under development of the ECIU University. SMART-ER aims to be a hub through which staff from ECIU members and their societal partners can connect and engage in collaborative research efforts.

What can I apply for?

As per now (May 2022), researchers can apply to the second call of the SMART-ER Seed Programme. The SMART-ER Seed Programme supports research career development and the implementation of a shared R&I agenda that aims to focus (though not exclusively) on SDG11 topics (Sustainable Cities & Communities). It does so through supporting the training, mobility and engagement in international, cross-disciplinary collaboration of ECIU University researchers. Specifically, staff can apply for:

- Co-tutelle of doctoral students and industrial doctorates
- Blended mobility (exchange of staff) to create networks
- Seed Projects: small research projects that may result in future larger joint collaborations

For eligibility requirements and award criteria, please see: <https://www.eciu.org/smart-er-for-researchers#research-funding>.

Eligible costs include:

- Travel and subsistence
- Consumables (up to 10% of total budget)
- Conference fees and fees for training programmes
- Costs of the organisation of events
- Small equipment (up to 10% of total budget)
- Costs related to open science (e.g., open access fees)

Can I apply to the seed programme for salary costs?

The SMART-ER seed programme does not cover salary costs or any other costs not listed above. However, successful applicants who receive funds from the seed programme to cover the expenses listed above **may apply to the University of Twente's internal budget** set aside by the Executive Board to stimulate participation in the ECIU University. Applicants may apply to this budget to cover up to 50% of one staff member's time dedicated specifically to carrying out the project for which seed programme funds were received, for the period during which the project is active (6 – 12 months). The maximum amount available from the internal budget is €200.000.

How do I apply?

1. Applications must be submitted to the SMART-ER seed programme coordinator based at the University of Aveiro, using the application form. The application form can be found on the SMART-ER website: <https://www.eciu.org/for-researchers/funds/smart-er-seed-projects>. The application (pdf format), must be sent by e-mail smarter_seed@ua.pt.
2. Upon submitting their application to the SMART-ER coordinator, applicants should notify Felix van Urk (S&P – f.c.vanurk@utwente.nl) of their intent to apply for internal UT funding, submitting a copy of their proposal. A complete application for internal funding will be requested once applicants have been notified of their successful application for SMART-ER seed funding by the SMART-ER coordinator.

DEADLINES

- Application deadline for SMART-ER seed programme funding: **1 July 2022**
- Application deadline for funding from the UT internal budget: two weeks upon SMART-ER award notification

Questions

University of Twente staff can e-mail Felix van Urk (f.c.vanurk@utwente.nl) with any questions related the SMART-ER Seed Programme, funding opportunities, or ECIU University in general.