



# EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme

## Call for applications and programme description

**Call opening: 30 April 2021**

**Call closing: 22 June 2021**

### 1. Background and overview

The EUTOPIA Alliance is pleased to announce the launch of the ***EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme***.

The [EUTOPIA Alliance](#) is a network of six universities that was awarded an Erasmus+ ‘European Universities’ pilot project in 2019 and officially launched in December 2019:

- [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)
- [CY Cergy Paris University](#)
- [University of Gothenburg](#)
- [University of Ljubljana](#)
- [Pompeu Fabra University](#)
- [University of Warwick](#)

The core mission of the *EUTOPIA Alliance* is to promote a connected and inclusive academic community, addressing global and local challenges, advancing excellence and inclusion, geared towards impact and fostering European economic development and innovation through a deep engagement of the Alliance with its local and regional ecosystems. The promotion of scientific excellence, research collaboration and mobility of academics among the partner universities is a core objective of EUTOPIA.

### 2. Objectives of the program

The ***EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme*** supports **PhD students enrolled in the doctoral programme of one of the EUTOPIA universities and wishing to conduct a research visit at another EUTOPIA university**. The aim of the programme is to foster collaboration and integration, to promote the sharing of expertise and research infrastructures and to develop **joint research activities** (e.g. common publication, co-supervision, etc.).

The core objective of the Doctoral Mobility Programme is to enrich the doctoral experience of EUTOPIA PhD Students by allowing them to develop new research skills, to explore new research and innovation areas and to widen their international research integration, by engaging project-led collaborations with complementary research groups within the EUTOPIA Alliance. The projects shall be carried out at the host institution during the visit in collaboration with a **host researcher** within this institution.

The *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme* is open to **all academic disciplines and topics**. The EUTOPIA Alliance emphasizes the importance of research impact and the ability of research to address the societal challenges of our times and welcomes projects linked to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). This may in particular include, without limitation, projects related to one of the following six broad research areas: (a) Welfare and Inclusion, (b) Materials Engineering, (c) Data & Intelligence, (d) Health, (e) Sustainability, (f) Culture & Heritage.

Visits are funded for duration of **3 to 6 weeks** and will be compensated as **outgoing research mobility** by the student's home institution, in the limit of 5 000€ for all the project.

The program implementation is guided by two principles:

- Open and easily accessible programme: lightweight and local application procedure, quick answers;
- Decentralized implementation: local programme managers (LPM) in each partner institution offer a direct contact for PhD students and their directors.

### 3. Application and selection process

The application and selection of projects to the *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme* are jointly managed by the local programme managers of the applicant's home and host institutions (part 4 and 6).

#### a. Expectations and restrictions:

*EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* visits must be **centred on a research project**, hosted by a research group from another EUTOPIA university. Applicants are expected to outline the content and objectives of their project and to demonstrate its relevance and value-added to their PhD training experience.

The *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* may offer the opportunity to explore new research directions, in collaboration with or under the supervision of the host research group, leading to new research results, joint publications, etc., will be an integral part of their doctoral thesis. The mobility may also be used to foster the impact of PhD research results and their application in socio-economic environments through *e.g.* innovation or outreach projects co-developed with the host research group.<sup>1</sup>

Both the **visiting PhD student** and the **host supervisor** shall be actively implicated in the project's realization during the visit.

In the case of a *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* linked to an ongoing research project between partner universities financed by external sources, such as H2020 etc., applicants must make sure that the

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<sup>1</sup> This last option may be more relevant for PhD students in the last stage of their PhD.

EUTOPIA *Doctoral* Mobility funds can be combined with the regular project financing. They can refer their home institution's local program manager for more information.

#### a. Who can apply?

**PhD students from EUTOPIA partner universities.** Only PhD students enrolled, at the submission date and during all the mobility period, in the doctoral programme of one of the EUTOPIA universities are eligible. The PhD students shall not have defended their PhD before the end of the mobility period.

**PhD students funded under the EUTOPIA PhD Fellowship Cotutelle programme are NOT eligible.**

#### b. How to apply:

The PhD students wishing to apply must:

- submit the EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme application form (available on EUTOPIA website) in pdf format and named as follow: DocMobProgramme\_Lastname\_Firstname.pdf
- in a single email addressed to
  - the *local programme manager of their home university*,
  - the *local programme manager of the host university* (see contact details part 6)

The application must include:

- Research and mobility proposal form including:
  - general presentation of PhD research (max 1 page);
  - research project for the mobility; expected outcomes from the mobility (*e.g.* common publications, co-supervision, other collaboration) (max 1 page);
  - summary of added-value of the mobility: (i) for the student; (ii) for EUTOPIA
- Applicant CV (attached pdf file)
- The application must be endorsed by the PhD supervisor, the Head of current research group, the prospective host supervisor and the head of host research group.

#### c. When to apply:

- The application process will **open on 30 April 2021**
- The application process will close **on 22 June 2021** at 13h CET.
- The mobility will have to be scheduled during the 2021-2022 academic year.

#### d. Selection process:

A joint selection process is operated by the applicant's home and host universities:

- Check of the application's eligibility by the local programme managers;
- Validation/refusal of the application by the *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme* local committee after internal evaluation and selection process based on the same process and criteria in each university,
- Coordination between the programme managers for joint validation/refusal of the proposal,
- Communication of the result to the applicant by their home institution's programme manager

Selection criteria: It is expected that the mobility will enhance the quality of the PhD research project, the experience of the PhD fellow and launch and reinforce research cooperation between EUTOPIA institutions.

*EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* proposals will be assessed against the above-mentioned criteria, with a special attention to:

- A well-defined project for the duration of the visit (*i.e.* objectives to be attained, cooperation dynamic to be reinforced);
- The support of the project by a host supervisor and a host research centre;
- The expected outcomes of the mobility visit, its added-value to the PhD training, and next collaboration steps planned after the visit.

#### 4. Implementation of the research mobility

The *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility Programme* will be implemented in a decentralized manner, by local programme managers in each partner university (part 6) responsible for:

- the promotion of the program among its academic communities and the doctoral schools,
- the application and selection process,
- the programme implementation

Program implementation:

- Outgoing/incoming mobility: selected *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* projects submitted by EUTOPIA PhD students are **financed by the PhD student home university** according to the university's general procedure for *outgoing research mobility*.

*Issues such as health/accident insurance coverage and other practical aspects regarding the researchers' visits (e.g. visa, if applicable, etc.) remain the sole responsibility of the PhD student, according to the above-mentioned procedures of the home and host universities for Doctoral mobility.*

- Financing modalities & expenditure: following the above-mentioned principles, each university applies its own modalities for financing the *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* visits, as well as its mobility expenditure scales. Expenditure in the scope of the *EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility* include accommodation and living expenses during the stay, as well as travel expenses, in the limit of 5000 euros per proposal (total costs). According to each university's functioning, the university may assist the PhD student in the organization of their research visit and directly pay the travel and accommodation costs, or ask the PhD student to organize these aspects in order to be reimbursed by the institution.

*Each university describe its own rules in a document "PRACTICAL MODALITIES OF THE EUTOPIA DOCTORAL MOBILITY PROGRAMME", made available to candidates by the local program manager. The document includes details regarding the organization of the stay (assistance by the institution or organization by the researcher for reimbursement) and possibly additional expenditure restrictions, if applicable.*

- Host institutions' services: the visiting fellow's main contact person in the host university is their host supervisor. The host supervisor shall help with the preparation of the visit, particularly for practical aspects regarding office space and access to research facilities in the

host research centre during the stay, as well as with internal services, and guide the visiting PhD student during their stay. The host university programme manager can assist the host PhD student for practical questions. Reasonable and *bona fide* costs of the research carried out as part of the mobility project will be financed by the host research centre (material, tools, machines etc.).

- Visiting PhD student obligations: the visiting PhD student must abide by all rules and obligations of the host university which affects them during the stay, such as safety, use of facilities, code of conduct, etc. Each visiting PhD student is expected to prepare a short report on their research mobility on the basis of a template to be send by the programme manager of their home EUTOPIA university and submit it 4 weeks after the end of their stay to the programme manager.

*Each university will define the rules and obligations applying to incoming visiting PhD student detail these in a document "RULES AND OBLIGATIONS FOR THE EUTOPIA DOCTORAL MOBILITY PROGRAMME", made available to the candidates by the local programme managers.*

## 5. Program budget / number of Visiting Fellows

- EUTOPIA total budget for the program (EU funds): 90K€ (15K€ per EUTOPIA university)

According to the up-mentioned budget and the maximum amount of 5 000€ per visit (part 4), **each institution can finance a minimum of 3 Doctoral mobility projects**. However, depending on each university's table for mobility expenditure, the number of financed mobility projects can vary slightly between the partners.

## 6. Contacts

**Local managers of the EUTOPIA Doctoral Mobility programme, in charge of the application / selection procedure and practical questions about the program, are:**

*Vrije Universiteit Brussel*: Hannelore De Grande, Head of the Research Training and Development Office (RTDO) within the R&D Department, [Hannelore.De.Grande@vub.be](mailto:Hannelore.De.Grande@vub.be)

*CY Cergy Paris University*: Perrine Elshawish , Head of office for doctoral studies , CY Cergy Paris University, [perrine.elshawish@cyu.fr](mailto:perrine.elshawish@cyu.fr)

*University of Ljubljana*: Jelena Tomazin, Office for doctoral study/Doctoral school, University of Ljubljana, [jelena.tomazin@uni-lj.si](mailto:jelena.tomazin@uni-lj.si)

*Pompeu Fabra University*: Marta Aragay, Head, Office for Graduate and Doctoral Studies, [escola.doctorat@upf.edu](mailto:escola.doctorat@upf.edu)

*University of Gothenburg*: Lisa Broadwell, University of Gothenburg International centre, [lisa.broadwell@gu.se](mailto:lisa.broadwell@gu.se)

*University of Warwick*: Rhiannon Martyn, Head of Doctoral College, [R.martyn@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:R.martyn@warwick.ac.uk)

In order to get an overview on the research activity within the EUTOPIA partner institutions and establish the contact with individual researchers or research centres of partner institutions, please refer to the institutional website of each EUTOPIA University.

**Contact for general inquiries:**

Sylvie Niessen, Director of International Scientific Development, CY Cergy Paris University, [sylvie.niessen@cyu.fr](mailto:sylvie.niessen@cyu.fr)

**Additional information, including updates and application material can be found online on the Doctoral Mobility Programme webpage:**

<https://eutopia-university.eu/doctoral-mobility-programme/>