

ENLIGHT Early Career Researcher Travel Grant

ENLIGHT presents a valuable opportunity to enable our Early Career Researchers to build their international networks. (*ENLIGHT defines Early Career Researcher (ECR) as post-doctoral, early-career faculty, <10 yrs. from PhD*)

This travel grant is being launched by ENLIGHT University of Galway to support ECRs to build teaching and research connections with peers in ENLIGHT partner universities. The travel grant is available to ECRs at University of Galway.

This travel grant is a pilot with 20 grants available in 2026. Applications must be made via [ENLIGHT Early Career Researchers Travel Grant - University of Galway – Fill out form](#) by 16th of May for travel in 2026.

1. Overview

The ENLIGHT ECR travel grant supports Early Career Researchers (ECRs) at the University of Galway in building international networks through direct engagement with ENLIGHT partner universities. This is a pilot programme with 20 grants available in 2026, with a maximum award of €1,500 per applicant.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant, applicants must:

- Hold the status of Early Career Researcher (ECR), defined as:
post-doctoral researcher, early-career faculty, meaning less than <10 yrs. from PhD
- Be a current staff member at University of Galway within contract at the time of proposed travel.
- Declare any previous or current receipt of ENLIGHT funding on the application form.

3. Permitted Purpose of Travel

Travel funded must be directly and exclusively for collaboration with an individual or team at an ENLIGHT partner university that is relevant to the applicant's research area.

Eligible travel includes:

- Direct visits to an ENLIGHT partner university for education or research collaboration
- Meetings with a named researcher or research team at an ENLIGHT partner institution

- Activities that advance educational or research connections aligned with the ENLIGHT Flagship Areas and University of Galway Strategic Pillars

Ineligible travel includes:

- Attendance at conferences, workshops, or events not directly constituting an ENLIGHT partner university collaboration visit.
- Travel to non-ENLIGHT locations or institutions.
- Travel for purposes unrelated to the applicant's research area.
- General networking events, training courses, or non-ENLIGHT-affiliated activities.

Note on Conference Fees

Conference registration and attendance fees are not covered under this grant and are explicitly exempt from eligible expenditure, regardless of whether the conference takes place at or near an ENLIGHT partner institution.

4. Approved Destinations

Travel and accommodation costs will only be covered for journeys to and from an ENLIGHT partner university. No other destinations are eligible for reimbursement under this grant.

- Travel must be to a recognised ENLIGHT partner university location.
- Accommodation must be at or in the immediate vicinity of the ENLIGHT partner university visited.
- Any side trips, extended stays, or travel to non-ENLIGHT locations are entirely at the applicant's own expense and will not be considered for reimbursement.

5. Sustainable Travel Requirements

All travel funded must comply fully with the [University of Galway Sustainable Travel Policy \(QA302\)](#). This is a mandatory condition of the award.

6. Extended Stays

The grant covers only the minimum travel and accommodation necessary to fulfil the stated purpose of the visit, e.g. up to 3 nights' accommodation. Any extension of the stay beyond what is required for the approved collaboration visit is the sole financial responsibility of the applicant.

- Costs associated with extended stays will not be reimbursed.
- Extended personal travel attached to the trip is not covered.
- All vouched expenditure claimed must relate directly to the approved visit dates and purpose.

7. Grant Value and Eligible Expenditure

The maximum grant award is €1,500 per applicant. Dependant on destination as some ENLIGHT regions are more expensive, reimbursement of **vouched expenses only**.

Eligible expenditure categories are:

- Accommodation (at the ENLIGHT partner university location only)
- Transport (compliant with QA302 Sustainable Travel Policy)
- Vouched transport and meal expenses.

The following are not eligible for reimbursement:

- Conference registration or attendance fees.
- Costs at non-ENLIGHT destinations.
- Costs related to extended stays beyond the approved visit.
- Any expenditure non-compliant with QA302.

Additional Funding Sources

Applicants are required to declare on the application form whether additional funding for the same travel has been secured from any other source. Dual funding of the same costs is not permitted.

8. Application Requirements

All applications must include:

- Completed application form with all sections filled ([ENLIGHT Early Career Researchers Travel Grant - University of Galway – Fill out form](#))
- A clear outline of the planned visit, the ENLIGHT partner university, and the individual(s) or team to be met.
- Evidence of invitation or support from the host university (e.g. email correspondence).
- Identification of the relevant ENLIGHT Flagship Area and University of Galway Strategic Pillar.
- Projected outcomes from the visit (maximum 200 words).
- Signature and brief supporting note from Head of School or Principal Investigator.

Application Deadline: 16th May 2026

The call for applications closes on 16th May 2026. Travel funded must be completed and all expenditure reported on within the 2026 calendar year.

9. Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the quality, clarity, and relevance of the proposed visit. In addition to individual merit, the following priority will apply in the selection process:

- Representation across all Colleges of the University of Galway will be prioritised:
 - *Where applications are of comparable merit, preference will be given to ensure balanced representation across Colleges*
 - *Applicants from Colleges not yet represented in the current award cycle will be given priority consideration*
- Alignment with ENLIGHT Flagship Areas and University of Galway Strategic Pillars.
- Strength and clarity of projected outcomes from the visit.
- Evidence of support and invitation from the host ENLIGHT partner university.

10. Post-Travel Obligations

All successful awardees are required, within two weeks of completing their travel, to:

- Submit a Travel Award Impact Evaluation Report comprising:
 - *A short report on the visit*
 - *Potential future plans and outcomes arising from the visit*

The evaluation report should be submitted to: enlight@universityofgalway.ie with **ECR Travel Award Report** in the subject line

- Engage with ENLIGHT and Global Galway communications activities, which may include:
 - *Social media contributions*
 - *Blog posts to raise awareness of ENLIGHT opportunities*