



European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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Diplomate Research Grant Guidelines

Submission deadline: 1 December

In keeping with the objectives of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons, whereby ECVS encourages Diplomates and prospective members to pursue original investigations and contribute to the veterinary literature, ECVS has established a Diplomate Research Grant Programme. Surgically related clinical and basic research proposals will be considered for funding.

Diplomate research grants shall be available to fellow Diplomates with certified status.

If appropriate, manuscripts of ECVS-funded studies should be submitted to *Veterinary Surgery* for publication.

At the discretion of the Board of Regents and the Research Grant Committee, the amount to be granted will be determined annually. For 2024, **the Diplomate Research Grant Programme will fund one project for up to € 15'000 or several projects up to that total sum.** ECVS looks favorably on applications only partially fundable with ECVS support, but proof of alternative funding, such that total project costs will be covered, must be received with the application. Credit to the ECVS Diplomate Research Grant shall be given in resulting publications, regardless of whether full or partial funding has been obtained.

Application forms are available from the ECVS website (www.ecvs.org).

Application deadline: Completed grant applications must be received at the ECVS Office by 1st December. The Research Grant Committee will evaluate proposals and propose potential awardees to the Board of Regents for consideration at the February Board Meeting. Shortly thereafter, grant(s) will be distributed. A formal announcement of successful applicant(s) will be made at the Annual Scientific Meeting in July. This should allow commencement of funded studies without undue delay.

Funding considerations: Funds may be used only for direct expenses relating to the project. Travel, consultative fees, publication fees, personnel costs, and institutional overheads will not be funded by the grant. If the proposed length of the study is greater than one year, the total award may be allocated in installments. A time limit of two years is suggested for completion of the research, although exceptions may be granted by the Board of Regents.

Compliance with Human Care and Use of Animals: Each proposal must include written proof of compliance with the requirements for “Humane Care and Use of Animals” as outlined in the [ECVS Training Guidelines](#). This would generally be in the form of a statement of Ethical Approval for the project from the Ethical Review Board of the applicant’s institution. Any applications that do not clearly evidence that appropriate ethical approval is in place will be rejected, and the applicants invited to resubmit. Similarly, analgesia must be adequately addressed where appropriate.

All submissions will be blinded (identifying features removed) before being sent to the Research Committee.

1. Guidelines for submission of proposal:

2. Proposals should be sent to the ECVS Office by 1st December 11.59 pm (CET) via email (PDF document) to info@ecvs.org. Receipt of each proposal will be acknowledged. Proposals should be sent by the principal investigator (who must be a fellow ECVS diplomate with up-to-date membership status) and all other co-investigators should be listed on the proposal.
3. Proposals will be forwarded to the ECVS Research Grant Committee by the ECVS Office. The Research Grant Committee consists of six members of the College.
4. Proposals are scored on a number of criteria, applying a 100-point system. The Research Grant Committee is initially blinded to the applicant and institution to score the following criteria: overall quality of proposal (40 pts), potential impact (20 pts), originality (10 pts), potential to lead to further work (5 pts), and budget appropriateness (10 pts). Thus, the name of the applicant and the institution should not appear in the body of the proposal (Research Proposal).
5. In the second stage, the members of the Research Grant Committee will be provided with the additional information to enable them to score the SMARTness of research plan, including feasibility to carry out the investigation at the proposed site, and proposed timeline (15 points). Proposals are then ranked and will be submitted to the ECVS Board of Regents in rank order. During the February meeting, the Board of Regents will decide which proposal(s) will be funded. All applicants will be notified of the Board’s decision shortly after the meeting.
6. In the case of successful proposals, the applicant’s Institution, or a noninstitutional individual Diplomate, must send ECVS an invoice for the awarded amount, before payment will be made.
7. Unsuccessful applicants will be given feedback on average scores per category, and overall score.
8. Reporting: A yearly report (submitted electronically) on the progress and results of the study must be submitted to the ECVS Research Grant Committee Chair via the ECVS Office Zurich by January 15, each year, until the project is completed. Publication(s) from the work should be submitted electronically and one hard copy sent to the ECVS Office, who may publish pertinent information from the project in the ECVS Newsletter.

Failure to comply with the requirements above may result in the principal investigator being denied the right to act as such on further proposals.