



European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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ECVS RESEARCH GRANTS:

Resident Research Grant Guidelines

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

Resident Research Grants shall be available to trainees registered with ECVS and enrolled in an ECVS-approved Standard Veterinary Surgery Residency Programme (SVSRP) or Alternate Veterinary Surgery Training Programme (AVSTP). As these grants are expected to support studies contributing to the research and publication components of the training programme, it is expected that eligible trainees will substantially participate in developing and writing the proposal and that results of such funded studies will be published within one year after completion of the study. Consequently, trainees are encouraged to apply during the **first half of their programme training time** as the projects should be completed at the end of the training period. 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. Currently, two grants up to €7'500 (seven thousand five hundred euros) will be awarded annually, one for a large animal project with the second for a small animal one. ECVS looks favourably 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 Resident 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](http://www.ecvs.org). 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, grants will be distributed. A formal announcement of successful applicants 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 instalments. 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 and supervisor-signed proof of compliance with the requirements for “[Humane Care and Use of Animals](#)”. 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. Ethical approval should be completed **prior** to grant application. 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 (it is the applicants’ responsibility to remove any identifying features within sections 5-12 of the application form) before being sent to the Research Committee.

Guidelines for submission of proposal:

1. Proposals ([official application documents](#)) should be sent to the ECVS Office by 1st December via email to info@ecvs.org. Receipt of each proposal will be acknowledged.
2. Proposals will be forwarded to the ECVS Research Grant Committee by the ECVS Office. The Research Grant Committee consists of three Small Animal and three Large Animal members of the College. Where possible Small Animal Diplomates will review Small Animal proposals and Large Animal Diplomates will review Large Animal proposals unless there is a conflict of interest.
3. Proposals are scored on a number of criteria, applying a 100 points 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)
 - feasibility (5 pts)
 - potential to lead to further work (5 pts)
 - budget appropriateness (10 pts)
 - timeline (10 points)

Thus, the name of the applicant and the institution should not appear in the body of the proposal (Research Proposal). 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 (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) of research plan, including feasibility to carry out the investigation at the proposed site, and proposed timeline. Each grant proposal will be reviewed by three members of the ECVS research committee and the average score taken. 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.

4. In the case of successful proposals, the applicant's Institution, or a non-institutional individual Diplomate, must send ECVS an invoice for the awarded amount, before payment will be made.
5. Unsuccessful applicants will be given feedback on average scores per category, and overall score.
6. **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 supervising Diplomate being denied the right to act as such on further proposals.