

FUTURE LEADERS OF EUROPE: THE EUROPÆUM SCHOLARS’ PROGRAMME FAQs

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ELIGIBILITY

I am not studying at a Europaeum University. Can I apply?

No. Only students studying at member of the Europaeum are eligible. A list of full member universities can be found here: <https://europaeum.org/members/>.

I am a master's student, can I apply?

No. We do not accept applications from master's students. If you are interested in the Programme, we would be happy to hear from you if you are a registered doctoral student at one of our member universities when we launch our next call for applications in two years.

I am a cotutelle student. Am I eligible?

As long as you are studying at a Europaeum university then you could be eligible. You should ask your internal university contact this question, as practice may vary between Europaeum members. If the answer is yes, then please make sure that both of your supervisors at both of your universities support your application – if your supervisor at the non-Europaeum university is not one of your referees please ask them to send a brief statement saying that they are happy for you to apply to applications@europaeum.org

I am not in the first or second year of my doctoral programme, can I still apply?

Possibly. All Scholars should have at least two full years left on their doctoral programme as we expect all Scholars to be registered doctoral students for the duration of the Scholars Programme. If you are planning to submit your thesis in late 2027 you could still be eligible, but you would need to have a serious conversation with your supervisor about whether it would be viable to undertake the Scholars Programme at this point, as the final two modules of the Programme will be scheduled in the late summer and autumn of 2027 and will include a written output. It may not be viable for someone finishing off their thesis to take on this additional work.

I am a part time student, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. But we would strongly suggest that you talk to your supervisor about whether it is a good idea for you to do so and in particular whether you would be able to manage the competing demands on your time if your application were to be successful. You should also check with your employer or contract (if applicable) that the residency commitments of the programme are compatible with your terms of employment, as they would need to be happy for you to be away from work during our residential weeks.

My research is not really concerned with Europe. Am I eligible?

Applicants must demonstrate and interest in, and commitment to, the future of Europe. We define Europe very broadly (i.e. we do not define it as the EU). Anyone with a clear European element to their research would automatically meet our criterion of demonstrable interest in Europe. So too would anyone who can demonstrate that interest through their extra-curricular activities. It is also the case that your research may have considerable potential relevance for Europe or policy areas relevant to Europe, even if Europe is not its focus. You may find it helpful to look at the profiles of our previous Scholars when judging how well your research interests or extra curricular interests might fit. However, if your research has no European element **and** you are not interested in Europe

in your non-academic life, it is unlikely that you would be competitive and it is also very unlikely that you would enjoy the programme. If you are in any doubt, please email the Programme Director, Dr Tracey Sowerby, on scholarsprogramme.director@europaeum.ox.ac.uk with a brief outline of your research interests for clarification.

What subject do I need to be studying in order to be eligible to apply?

Applicants' research must normally fall wholly or in part within the Humanities or Social Sciences. Subjects which are eligible include (but are not limited to): Anthropology, Area Studies, Art History, Cultural Studies, Economics, European Law, European Studies, Gender Studies, Geography, History, International Law, International Political Economy, International Relations, Languages, Linguistics, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religious Studies/Theology. Candidates whose research is in the medical, life, or physical sciences may be eligible to apply if it has a European policy dimension. Please contact the programme director in the event of any uncertainty.

I did not do very well in my undergraduate degree or my Master's degree. Can I still apply?

You can still apply, but we would discourage you from doing so if you do not meet our threshold criteria as your application is highly unlikely to be competitive. Our selection criteria (<https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/applications/outline>) outline what we would expect to see as a minimum standard of prior academic achievement. If you do not reach this threshold your application is very likely to be deemed ineligible.

I am not really interested in leadership or policy. Am I eligible?

You may technically be eligible, but you are highly unlikely to make a competitive application. The Programme is designed for those interested in policy and leadership and our selection criteria (<https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/applications/outline>) take this into account. But just as importantly, you probably would not enjoy the Programme and should think very carefully about whether applying would be the right thing for you.

I am not a citizen of a European country. Can I apply?

Yes. We want to hear from people who are interested in Europe and its future, whether they are citizens of a European country or not.

I applied unsuccessfully in the past. Can I apply again?

As long as you still meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply this time.

APPLICATIONS

How do I apply?

Applications need to be submitted to the Europaeum (applications@europaeum.org). Please write 'Europaeum Scholars Programme Application' in the subject line of your email. If you are in any doubt, please double check with your university contact.

Please send all of your application documents in a single email to both addresses with the required documents as attachments. For further details about and guidance on the documents you need to supply please consult the Europaeum Scholars section of our website:

<https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/>

If you wish to collate your documents into a single pdf file, please do so in the following order: application form; CV; personal statement; answer to the questions; degree certificates. You welcome to submit them as separate files if you prefer.

Please ask your referees to submit their references to us directly, copying in your university contact, and writing 'Scholars Programme Reference for [your name]' in the subject line of the email.

When do I need to apply by?

The deadline is 23.59 GMT / 22.59 CET on **15 March 2026**.

What documents do I need to include in my application?

Full details of what documents are required are published on our website:

<https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/>

Who should I ask to be a referee?

Full details of the references required and some guidance about who to ask to write them is available on our website: <https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/applications/>.

Please note that your personal reference must NOT be written by a family member or someone with whom you are romantically involved. Please also note that one of your academic references MUST be from your doctoral supervisor. If you have not yet been allocated a supervisor you should ask your academic advisor or whoever has had oversight of your postgraduate studies to date and to clearly indicate that they are writing as the director of your studies.

Who assesses my application?

Each university has an internal process for assessing applications (normally an interdisciplinary committee) that will produce a short list of candidates that it recommends for interview. They will assess applications using the same selection criteria as all other universities. The Europaeum also has a selection panel comprised of academics from across Europaeum member universities. The Europaeum's selection panel will assess the recommended applications, conduct the interviews, and make the final selection decisions.

When will the interviews be held?

We expect that interviews will be held via Zoom on **29 and 30 April, and 1 May 2026**, with the potential that a few may be held on. Please note that there will be no flexibility about this date range – if you are invited to interview your interview will need to be on one of the dates listed – but we will be as flexible as we can be within the date range.

When will I find out if I have an interview?

We will let you know by **22 April 2026**.

Who will interview me?

Applicants will be interviewed by members of the Europaeum selection panel, which comprises members of the Europaeum team and academics from our member universities, as well as individuals with considerable policy experience from outside academia.

What should I expect from the interview?

Interviews will test your suitability for the programme and to do so we will ask you about a range of topics. These may include, but are not limited to, the following areas: your ideas about good leaders and good leadership; your own experience of and interest in leadership; your ideas about the public good; what you have or would like to do to promote the public good; your interest in Europe; and how your research and/or extracurricular interests relate to Europe. We may also ask you about what you have said in your application documents.

When will I find out if I have a place?

We hope to let you know by **5 May 2026** if you are being offered a place on the programme or if you have been placed on a short reserve list. Candidates who have not been shortlisted for interview will hear from us earlier.

Who are you looking for?

We are looking for people who “think for themselves but not just of themselves” with the capacity and the desire to shape the future of Europe for the better. They will combine academic excellence with a clear commitment to promoting the public good. Highly motivated and well-organised, they will have a strong interest in connecting the lessons that can be learned from academic research to the public arena.

What are the criteria that you will use to select Scholars?

To be eligible applicants must be enrolled on a relevant doctoral programme at a Europaeum university. This should usually be in a Humanities or Social Science subject or be a joint degree including Humanities or a Social Science subject OR, if in STEM, have a strong European policy component. The criteria for selection include outstanding academic ability, evidence of clear commitment to promoting the public good, and a high level of personal qualities that command respect. They are listed in more detail here: <https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/applications/outline>

Will I be able to apply in 2027 for 2028?

No. Calls for applications happen every 2 years.

Will I be able to apply in the next round if I apply unsuccessfully this time?

As long as you meet the eligibility criteria at the time of application, you would be able to reapply.

When will I find out the result of my application?

You will find out whether or not you have been shortlisted for an interview by **22 April 2026**. Shortlisted candidates will find out the results of their application after the interviews; we will endeavour to tell you by **4 May**. Please note that as well as making a number of offers, we will also identify a small number of reserve candidates. We will inform you if you are placed on our reserve list and will inform you immediately if a place on the programme becomes available. Once the first module has taken place it will not be possible for anyone on the reserve list to join the programme.

When will I be able to ask for feedback?

It will not be possible to provide feedback to applicants before **8 May 2026**. If, after that date, you would like to request feedback, please contact scholarsprogramme.director@europaeum.ox.ac.uk

COSTS

Will I have to pay fees?

No. All Scholars will have the fees for the Scholars Programme paid.

Will I have to pay for accommodation and travel?

Scholars will have to book and pay for their own travel, but they will be reimbursed for all reasonable travel costs associated with attending the programme modules upon the production of receipts (i.e. economy travel booked a reasonable time in advance of modules). Please note that we will only reimburse claims for economy travel within Europe and that we would normally expect trains/flights to be purchased for £250 or under for most destinations. If a Scholar is studying/researching outside Europe for a short period and needs to travel back for a module we will make a contribution to their travel, but are unlikely to refund the full cost. We will not normally reimburse claims by scholars travelling to a module at their own university, e.g. an Oxford student travelling to the first module in Oxford and we reserve the right to only partially refund Scholars who book travel at very short notice without good reason. Accommodation will be booked and paid for by the programme. We also provide meals for the duration of all modules (physical modules only).

I need a visa to attend the first module in the UK. Will the Europaeum help me with the costs?

Yes. If you will need a visa to participate in the Programme, please contact us as soon as possible and make us aware of the situation so that we can help advise you on how to proceed and provide any necessary documentation should you be offered a place on the Programme.

Is this a fellowship that will give me an income?

No. This is a programme where the scholarship covers the costs of attending the programme and all tuition. It does not provide a salary or maintenance allowance.

THE PROGRAMME

When does the programme start?

The Scholars Programme will start in July 2026. Please note that successful applicants will be expected to arrive in Oxford by 17.00 on **12 July 2026**. Scholars will be able to depart Oxford after 13.00 on **18 July 2026**

How long does the programme run for?

The programme runs for just under 2 years and consists of 8 modules (the last one of which is a conference), each of which will last between 3 and 5 days. Scholars will usually have to arrive the evening before and/or stay until the morning after a module in order to attend it in full.

What is the language of the Programme?

The Scholars Programme will be conducted in English.

What can I expect from modules?

Across the Programme, you can expect to hear from political leaders, policy makers, and other leading practitioners as well as other experts, academics, and those impacted by policy. Some modules will involve visits to regional, national, and/or international organisations, and smaller organisations such as NGOs, think tanks, and cultural institutions. A key feature of the programme is reflection on the ethical issues associated with leadership, which takes the form of both abstract and concrete group discussion and exercises with experts. Professional and academic training will also be offered in some modules. A significant proportion of each module will be comprised of group discussion and/or project work, as scholars work together in small groups to come up with a policy recommendation linked to a contemporary issue. Information about previous modules is available here: <https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/content/>

What would a group project look like?

Scholars come up with the project idea themselves with guidance from a post-doctoral fellow and the Europaeum team. So in theory they could tackle any subject. At the end of the programme this will need to be translated into a policy recommendation (which will be presented to policy makers) and a supporting document of up to 5000 words. Previous projects have included:

- proposals to increase the diversity of the workforce at the European Commission.
- recommendations designed to alleviate the impact of energy poverty on vulnerable citizens.
- proposals for a just transition to greener transport, with emphasis on the automotive sector.
- proposals to encourage renewable energy communities in rural Europe.
- proposals for how to improve the engagement with EU processes and institutions of citizens who feel disconnected from the EU and how to better understand the causes of their disconnections.
- a social media campaign to increase youth turnout in the 2019 European Parliamentary elections and a set of recommendations for improving young voter turnout in the future.
- a proposal for a digital tool to encourage young people to engage more with local democratic processes.
- recommendations to improve the EU's online public consultation tool.
- recommendations to help young unemployed people with particular regards to mental health and unemployment.
- recommendations to improve the conditions of agricultural workers.
- proposals for an EU media wallet to encourage youth engagement with the press and counter disinformation.
- proposals to decriminalise consensual sex work across the EU.
- a blueprint for EU member states' to implement aspects of the Migration and Asylum Pact.
- recommendations for raising awareness of, and promoting more, community urban gardens across Europe.

You can learn more about these projects on our website:

<https://europaeum.org/programmes/scholars-programme/group-projects/>

All projects are designed and developed by the groups, with input from Teaching Fellows and members of the Europaeum team, so it is really up to each cohort what they feel are the most pressing issues that they want to tackle.

Where will I be taught?

One of the unique features of the programme is its multi-institutional and multi-locational nature. Teaching is primarily based in our member universities. In 2024-2025 modules will take place in Brussels, Budapest, Geneva, Krakow, Lammi (near Helsinki), and Oxford. The

locations of modules varies from cohort to cohort.

Who will the instructors be?

You will hear from a range of experts and policy makers. These include academics affiliated with Europaeum member universities, external experts, leading thinkers, media experts, business people, and other stakeholders.

Can I miss a module?

No. It is expected that Scholars attend all seven modules. You should not apply if you do not intend to or cannot commit to all eight modules. However, we understand that very exceptional circumstances may arise once you are on the Programme that may impact your ability to attend a particular module. The exact dates of the modules are determined in advance.

Can I miss part of a module?

It is expected that Scholars will attend all elements of all modules in person and it is important to the aims of the Programme that Scholars do so unless prevented by serious illness or injury. There may be exceptional circumstances in which a Scholar needs to leave a little early or arrive a little late and these can be negotiated on a case by case basis with the Programme Director. An academic conference does not count as an exceptional circumstance. Scholars should ensure that their departments are aware of the dates of the modules and that any teaching commitments do not clash / are rescheduled. You should not apply if you do not intend to or cannot commit to all eight modules.

What happens if I miss a module?

Unless your absence met our definition of exceptional circumstances and you received permission in advance, we would not normally permit you to continue with the programme and we would inform your home university that you were no longer a part of the programme. We would not reimburse any money you had paid towards travel expenses for that module. Only in truly exceptional circumstances would we make exceptions. We have this rule because collaborative work is at the heart of the Programme and for many of the activities we schedule being present in person is essential.

When will the modules run?

The outline for the programme gives a rough indication of when each module will run. There will be 3 modules in year one and 4 in year two each of between 3 and 5.5 days. More precise dates are given on our website. We have done our best to avoid national holidays, major religious festivals, and dates when we know doctoral candidates absolutely have to be on campus. It is not always possible to schedule modules outside of term / semester.

You should make your supervisor aware that if you are accepted on to the programme there may be some days during term/semester when you will be expected to be attending a module – unfortunately as our universities have slightly different vacation periods it is not possible to ensure that we never schedule a module during term somewhere. If accepted onto the Programme you should also liaise with your faculty or department to ensure that no teaching responsibilities or annual reviews are scheduled during the modules.

Will I be expected to do work in between the modules?

Yes, you will be expected to do some work, but it should not be onerous. For some modules there will be some preparatory reading or exercises for the ethical workshops and training sessions or to help you make the most out of talks by academics and policy makers. We might ask Scholars to spend a few hours preparing a presentation or short overview of their project ideas before other modules. We would hope that Scholars would continue to think about the issues and problems they have encountered during the Programme and would be in contact with one another about group projects. The group work will be the main time commitment between modules and based on our experience with the first three cohorts this is likely to increase towards the end of the first year and into the second. The amount of time spent on the project is at the discretion of the Scholars and each project group should decide among themselves what they consider to be a reasonable and realistic time commitment between modules and adapt the scope of their project to reflect this. We will discourage groups from taking on what we consider to be too much work outside of modules.

What about COVID or other pandemics?

The Europaeum remains committed to in person events whenever it is safe to hold them.

We have no reason to believe that there will be a pandemic that would impact on our activities in 2026-2027. However, in the event that there were, we would follow medical advice and if required would move to either a hybrid format or online activities for as short a duration as safely possible and would ask that all applicants would keep the full week in which modules are scheduled free just in case. This would also allow us to spread out the content of the modules so that you would spend less time online each day should we not be able to meet in person.

Will I have time to see the city where the module is based?

Modules will be fairly intensive and it is not the purpose of the Programme to provide holidays. During some modules we will be moving between different locations, so you will get some sense of how the city fits together. While we may build visits to parts of the city or cultural visits into the schedule for a specific module if it fits with the aim of the module, you should assume that you will not have time to be a tourist during the module itself. In modules 1-3 we will give you half a day off in the middle which you will be able to use to rest, catch up on work, or explore the city as you wish. Should you wish, there will be a little

time before and after each module, as we would normally provide accommodation the evening before the module starts and (for modules 4-7) the evening of the day that it finishes. If you wish to stay longer in order to see a city, you will need to cover the accommodation costs for any extra nights yourself.

Are the sources of the scholarship funding ethical?

Yes. A major donor has been the Templeton World Charity Foundation; others include individuals who have already given to one or more major universities. They are all of impeccable quality.

My question is not answered here, who should I contact?

Please email Sasha on office@europaeum.org for technical and logistical matters, and the Programme Director Dr Tracey Sowerby on scholarsprogramme.director@europaeum.ox.ac.uk if you have questions about programme content or your eligibility.