

EMBO Courses & Workshops Programme

Application guidelines

Workshops
Practical Courses
Global Exchange Lecture Courses

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Application deadlines:

1 March and 1 August annually

EMBC Member States (A): Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom

EMBC Associate Member States (B): India, Singapore

Countries / territories covered by a co-operation agreement (C): Chile, Taiwan

Countries / territories eligible for co-funding by EMBO and The Company of Biologists (D): Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea

EMBO subject areas: Cell Cycle, Cell & Tissue Architecture, Cellular Metabolism, Chromatin & Transcription, Development, Differentiation & Death, Evolution & Ecology, Genome Stability & Dynamics, Genomic & Computational Biology, Immunology, Membranes & Transport, Microbiology, Virology & Pathogens, Molecular Medicine, Neuroscience, Plant Biology, Proteins & Biochemistry, RNA, Signal Transduction, Structural Biology & Biophysics, Systems Biology

Contact: courses_workshops@embo.org

EMBO Course Committee 2019:

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Application guidelines for organizers of EMBO Practical Courses, EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Courses and EMBO Workshops

Applications to organize an EMBO Practical Course, an EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Course or an EMBO Workshop are accepted via the EMBO online system. Application deadlines are **1 March and 1 August**. Selections for funding are made by the EMBO Course Committee in April/May and in September/October. Please check the eligibility criteria before applying.

Applications to organize a lecture course in EMBC Member States (A – see list on first page) are only possible via a FEBS/EMBO Lecture Course. Applications have to be submitted via the FEBS application system (<http://www.febs.org/our-activities/advanced-courses/guidelines/>).

Should you have questions regarding your application, please contact courses_workshops@embo.org.

Eligibility

Applications must meet the following criteria to be accepted:

- Applications for practical courses and workshops must cover a topic from the life sciences (see EMBO subject areas on first page).
- Scientists from anywhere in the world are eligible to apply, independent of their nationality.
- While organizers can be based anywhere, practical courses and workshops must take place in one of the following:
 - A. EMBC Member State,
 - B. EMBC Associate Member State
 - C. Country or territory covered by a co-operation agreement
 - D. Country or territory eligible for co-funding by EMBO and The Company of Biologists
- Global Exchange Lecture Courses can only take place outside Europe (B, C or D - see list on first page).
- If you wish to organize a meeting in a country that is not listed, please contact the EMBO office.

Please note: For repeating practical courses and workshops a new application is required for each individual meeting within a series. Each application for funding of a meeting within a series will be evaluated competitively.

Application process

Applications to organize an EMBO Practical Course, Workshop or Global Exchange Lecture Course are submitted via an online application form.

Timeline

First deadline for application	1 March 2019, 09:00 CET
Committee meeting	end of April 2019
Results announced to applicants	May 2019
Second deadline for application	1 August 2019, 09:00 CET

Committee meeting	mid October 2019
Results announced to applicants	end of October 2019

Organizers are advised to apply as early as possible in the calendar year before the proposed date of the practical course, workshop or lecture course to ensure sufficient time for the proper advertising and promotion of the meeting if the application is accepted for funding. Applications to fund events in the same calendar year will not be considered.

Application procedure

- All incoming applications are screened by the EMBO office to ensure eligibility requirements are met.
- Each application is assigned to two members of the Course Committee for evaluation.
- Final decisions on the awarding of support for the meetings are made by the EMBO Course Committee in April/May and September/October each year.
- All applicants are informed of the outcome of their application by email shortly after the committee meeting.

Please do not contact the committee members directly. This may lead to your application being excluded from the review process.

Application forms

The application has to be submitted online.

In the online form, you will be asked to provide:

- An abstract describing the principle themes and objectives of the meeting
- Subject areas and keywords
- A list of the organizers, specifying their role, e.g. main organizer, co-organizer, administrative or financial contact
- Proposed title and topic of the meeting
- Reasons for holding a meeting on the proposed topic
- Information on any competing or similar meetings held in the past, current, or following year
- Proposed date and location of the meeting
- Selection criteria for participation and number of participants
- A description of the networking activities
- A list of proposed speakers/instructors
- A draft programme
- A draft budget

ORGANIZERS

There can be only one main organizer and the number of co-organizers should not exceed five. Please list for each organizer their respective experience in organizing courses or workshops.

It is expected that the organizing committee rotate for repeat EMBO Workshops, with no one scientific organizer involved with organizing more than three consecutive workshops (this rule does not apply for EMBO Practical Courses or EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Courses).

Please note that the committee has rejected applications for workshops that do not adhere to the organizer rotation requirement.

The **main organizer** is the primary contact for all correspondence after submission of the proposal. **Co-organizers** are scientists who have major scientific/technical involvement in the planning and execution of the meeting. Co-organizers should be from more than one institute, preferred is an international grouping representing the topics covered in the meeting.

The **administrative contact** will be copied on all email correspondence related to the application. Additionally, you may add a **financial contact** who can be contacted for budgetary issues.

Multiple roles for one person are acceptable, e.g. one of the organizers may also be the administrative or financial contact.

MEETING TYPE AND PROPOSED TITLE OF MEETING

EMBO funds EMBO Practical Courses, EMBO Workshops and EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Courses. Lecture courses in EMBC Member States (A – see list on first page) are only supported in conjunction with FEBS as a FEBS/EMBO Lecture Course (application forms can be found on the FEBS website: <https://courses.febs.org/login>).

When completing your application, please ensure you choose the correct type.

The (main) title of the workshop/course may not mention sponsor's, organization's or institute's names. Organizers should also refrain from using excessively long titles and numbers referring to previous meetings.

EMBO Practical courses

EMBO Practical Courses provide training in emerging techniques, taught by experts. Practical Courses support the transfer of new methodologies, enabling participants to implement novel techniques in their home laboratories. A practical course typically has 20 – 25 participants (generally advanced PhD students or postdoctoral researchers, for computational topics a greater number of participants can be accepted) and lasts between 4 and 15 days.

EMBO Workshops

EMBO Workshops are meetings that cover different and evolving aspects of life science related subject areas and bring scientists together to present and discuss their latest findings. Workshops may alternate with corresponding meetings held outside of Europe, facilitating interactions between scientists based in Europe and beyond. Workshops can be repeated.

Workshops should have between 80 to 450 participants and last a minimum of 2.5 days.

EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Courses

EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Courses can only be organized in eligible countries or territories outside Europe (B, C and D – see list on first page). Please contact EMBO Global Activities should you be interested in organizing a lecture course elsewhere. The Lecture Courses are aimed at teaching participants, primarily PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, providing them with background in relevant and timely scientific topics.

EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Courses can last between 3 and 10 days, and include up to 120 participants. They should provide sufficient time for discussion groups, poster sessions and journal clubs. Underlying concepts of a particular field should be made accessible to participants with varying scientific background.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

Please provide a short **abstract** (max. 200 words), stating the principal themes and objectives of the event. Describe the meeting with **five scientific keywords** and choose a primary and secondary subject area from the EMBO subject areas (listed on the first page).

Reasons for holding a meeting on the proposed topic

Please outline the reasons for organizing a meeting on the proposed topic in the near future (max. 200 words), describing recent developments in the field and how the meeting would contribute to the advancement of the research field.

For repeating EMBO Courses and Workshops, please state why the meeting should be repeated, i.e. what are the new developments in the field that would justify a repeat at this stage.

Similar events

Please mention any events on the same theme held in the past, current or following year and outline how the event you are proposing will differ from those. Please consider any overlap with other EMBO Courses and Workshops, or those organized by CSH, FEBS, GRC, Keystone, etc. (max. 200 words).

If applicable – Feedback from previous EMBO funded meeting(s) or resubmission

For meetings previously funded by EMBO, describe any improvements or changes you propose to implement based on the experience of, and feedback from, the previous meeting(s) (max. 200 words). Also, please list the names of the organizers of the three previously EMBO funded meetings in this series.

Note that the committee receives the feedback from the previous meetings and takes this into account when judging a resubmission.

For **resubmission** of a previously unsuccessful proposal, please state the ID number of the previous proposal and list the main adjustments that you have introduced.

PROPOSED DATES AND LOCATION

Provide the dates and the address of the proposed location and a short description of the venue (e.g. capacity of the lecture hall and poster exhibition, note if it is a hotel, convention center or university/institute, if catering is offered on site (max. 200 words)). The venue should have suitable facilities and preferably accommodation should be onsite or close by. Please note the availability of wireless internet access and the distance from the closest international airport(s).

For a practical course, also describe the available laboratory facilities (max. 200 words).

PARTICIPANTS

The approximate number of participants for EMBO funded meetings should be as follows:

- Not more than 25 participants (excluding speakers) for EMBO Practical Courses (computational courses can have more participants)
- Greater than 80 (up to 450) participants for an EMBO Workshop
- Up to 120 participants for an EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Course

The following further guidelines apply:

- Scientists at an early stage of their career should have the opportunity to attend and present their research.
- Participants should not be restricted to a pre-defined group, such as an EU network or other defined groups.
- Significant regional bias should be avoided, e.g. not more than 25% of participants should be from the host country. This requirement is waived for meetings taking place outside Europe_(B, C and D – see list on first page).
- You are requested to consider EMBO's commitment to a reasonable gender balance in all activities.

Please describe what criteria will be used to select the participants and who will make the selection (e.g. organizers, speakers, session chairs etc.). State their names and role at the meeting.

Provide us with an estimate of the number of participants you plan to accept and the percentage of participants who are based in the country where the meeting is taking place.

NETWORKING

EMBO believes that networking is a vital component of every scientific meeting. Organizers are expected to facilitate networking through dedicated activities during the meeting, these should include, but not be limited to poster sessions, joint meals, meet the speaker sessions, flash talks. The committee welcomes creative ideas regarding the facilitation/promotion of networking.

Please describe how discussion and interaction between participants will be stimulated (max. 200 words).

POSTER SESSIONS (if applicable)

Poster sessions should be held at a time that encourages maximal attendance, ideally not during lunch or coffee breaks, with no other activities taking place in parallel, and should be held in a room with sufficient space, for at least 90 minutes. At least two poster sessions, each of at least 90 minutes duration, are expected for a meeting with more than 150 participants.

The form requires you to tick if the following applies to your poster session:

- Sufficient space for poster session available
- The venue for the poster session is close to the lecture hall
- The posters will be displayed throughout the meeting
- In case multiple poster sessions are planned, participants will be assigned to a specific session
- A social event will be incorporated

PRACTICAL WORK (for practical courses only)

Details of the practical sessions (500 words) should be provided.

SPEAKERS/INSTRUCTORS

Organizers are expected to apply with a complete programme and a confirmed list of speakers, rather than a wish list. If speakers are unconfirmed, there is only a minimal chance of the proposal being accepted.

- There should be enough speakers to cover the topic in sufficient depth without making the programme overly dense.
- A minimum of 50% of the invited speakers should be based in EMBC Member States (A) or in

EMBC Associate Member States (B) or from countries and territories covered by a co-operation agreement (C) (see list on first page). Significant bias for certain states should be avoided.

- Meetings held outside Europe (B, C and D – see list on first page) should have a minimum of 33% speakers based in EMBC Member States (A – see list on first page).
- At least 30% of the speakers must be women. If there is a lower proportion, a justification must be provided. Applications with a lower percentage are generally not successful.
- It is expected that at least 50% of the speakers are different between subsequent events in a repeating workshop series. This rule does not apply to practical courses.
- EMBO supports the career progression of young scientists. The invitation of early stage researchers, here defined as maximally 5 years experience as PI, will be viewed positively by the committee.

Please list the speakers in the following format:

- First Name Last Name, Institute, City, Country

Please add C (for confirmed), F (for female), R (for repeat speaker), O (for overseas), E (for early stage researchers) as well as a few keywords regarding the (recent) contributions to the field that led to the invitation of that speaker, including the link to their website or relevant publication.

e.g.

Jane Doe, (Institute, City, Country); C, F.

General keywords on the research topic of the speaker and their most recent contribution that led to the invitation (Jane Doe et al, EMBO J, 2018; pubmed link or link to the speaker's website).

You will be requested to provide the total number of speakers in each category and the percentages will be calculated automatically.

PROGRAMME

Workshops

Please give a one-paragraph introduction, explaining the logic behind the order of the sessions. In the draft programme, please note in a few words what the invited speakers will contribute to that session. Final talk titles are not expected at such an early stage.

Example:

Introduction: One paragraph...

Day 1:

12:00	Opening of the meeting, introduction
12:15	Keynote lecture: Joe Bloggs on cancer stroma
13:15 – 15:30	Session I: Signalling networks in cancer I
13:15 – 13:45	Mary Doe / Ras signalling in melanoma
...	
15:30 – 16:30	Coffee break and meet the speakers session
16:30 – 18:30	Poster session with wine and cheese

Practical courses

EMBO Practical Courses promote the transfer of new methods and emerging techniques. The programme of a practical course should cover both theory and practice with the aim to enable participating students to implement novel techniques in their home laboratories. Approximately 20 (25 max) participants should be accepted. Participants are generally early-stage postdoctoral researchers and advanced PhD students. The ratio of instructors to students should be sufficient to allow all participants to get good tutoring in the techniques/subject presented, normally the ratio should be close to 1:5.

When planning the course, organizers are advised to:

- Encourage students to bring their own samples/data (where appropriate);
- Provide students with theoretical background material including selected references, in addition to the programme, well in advance of the course;
- Ensure that instructors give a briefing at the beginning of each day;
- Ensure that instructors and speakers stay for the entire duration of the course;
- Ensure that accommodation for instructors and students is in the same facility;
- Include round table discussions in the course programme;
- Include poster sessions and/or student presentations in the programme;
- Ensure that at least 40% of the programme comprises practical sessions.

EMBO views responsible conduct of research education as an integral part of research.

During an EMBO Practical Course participants should learn how to design reproducible experiments with appropriate sample sizes that allow the production of statistically relevant results. They should be made aware of the necessity to validate certain reagents, including antibodies, cell lines, and animal models as well as learning about ethical issues that include breaches of confidentiality, lack of informed consent and abuse of research subjects or materials when carrying out experiments.

Digital technologies, such as image processing software, statistical packages and data-mining techniques should be introduced in a way that informs the participants of the limits of the technologies and their potential for fraudulent misrepresentation and misinterpretation of results.

Organizers are requested to dedicate an appropriate section of their course programme to discuss these issues and make participants aware of good research practices and the caveats they may face when designing experiments (with the technologies covered during the course).

Please describe shortly in the application form how you will address these issues during the course.

BUDGET

Expenses

The form requests your estimates for travel, accommodation costs, local transport or shuttle services that you want to provide, catering, expenses related to the venue, promotion and organization. The sums are automatically calculated.

EMBO funds can be used to cover:

- Economy travel, accommodation and subsistence costs of the speakers;
- Onsite catering for the meeting;
- Administration costs up to €4,000;
- Room hire, audio-visual and IT facilities essential for the workshop;
- Materials and consumables for practical courses.

EMBO funds do not cover overheads.

EMBO will create the workshop website (including an online registration system), design a poster and abstract book cover at no additional charge. EMBO funds cannot be used to pay for alternative website providers.

EMBO funds cannot be used to cover gifts, honoraria and dinners/meals exclusively organized for the speakers.

Income

Registration fees

The maximum registration fee allowed for EMBO Workshops is:

- €550, excluding accommodation
- Participants from industry should be charged a minimum of €700

The maximum registration fee for an EMBO Practical Course or EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Course should not exceed:

- €500 (> 5 days in length) and €350 (< 5 days in length), including accommodation
- Participants from industry should be charged a minimum of €1,000

Funding and Sponsorship

Please state the amount of funding requested from EMBO. A maximum of €33,500 of core funding may be provided. An additional €4,500 will automatically be allocated to fund travel and childcare grants to participants. This additional funding should be used as follows: €1,500 are provided for general travel grants and €2,000 for travel grants for scientists of any nationality working in Chile, India, Singapore or Taiwan to participate in meetings in regular EMBC Member States (A – see list on first page).

For events taking place outside Europe (B, C and D – see list on first page), EMBO provides €1,500 for general travel grants and €2,000 for travel grants for participants of any nationality working in EMBC Member States (A – see list on first page).

A further €1,000 are provided to cover additional childcare costs incurred by participants or speakers when participating at any EMBO funded meeting. Eligible costs include fees for a baby-sitter or childcare facility, travel costs for a caregiver, or travel costs for taking the child to the meeting etc.

You do not have to request travel and childcare grant funds in your budget; these will automatically be allocated to your event if funded. Details on how travel grants should be distributed to participants can be found in the guidelines for organizers.

Please also state other funding sources or sponsorship that you expect and list any non-monetary support. Ensure that all funders and sponsors understand that they cannot be mentioned in the title of the meeting, but can be acknowledged on the website and the poster. Sponsors and funders who provide €20,000 or more towards the meeting can also be recognized as co-sponsors.

State the name of the funder or sponsor, the status of sponsorship (confirmed, pending, not yet approached) and special conditions linked to the sponsorship

BUDGET BALANCE

Total expenses should match the total expected income. Please explain if this is not the case.

Selection

The EMBO Course Committee is looking to fund workshops and practical courses that cover the latest developments and assemble the best experts worldwide. Each application is reviewed in depth by at least two members of the [EMBO Course Committee](#). The final decision is made by the entire committee. Applications should be timely, non-overlapping with other meetings in the same year, and as complete as possible. The committee will pay special attention to the following aspects:

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

- Is the topic interesting or novel or is it adding new aspects or an interesting combination of topics? (please note: EMBO does support repeats of meetings that have been successfully held and were supported by EMBO or otherwise).
- The committee will take into account the feedback received from previous EMBO funded meetings (the feedback will be made available to the committee by the EMBO office). It is therefore advisable to address relevant issues raised by participants.
- Is the topic already covered by other meetings (EMBO or otherwise) close in time? (please note: EMBO does support meetings that alternate with meetings held in the US or elsewhere in other years)
- Is the topic covered in sufficient depth and breadth?
- Does the list of speakers represent the leaders in the field?
- Is there a minimum of 30% female speakers invited (accepted)?
- Will some of the speakers be selected from the submitted abstracts, such as to give junior researchers and others a chance to present their results?
- Is there a good representation of geographical areas in the speakers list?

NETWORKING ASPECTS

- Is sufficient time dedicated to the scheduled poster session? Is it stand-alone?
- Is sufficient time dedicated to networking opportunities, such as joint dinners, coffee breaks, group activities, meet the speaker session, flash talks, discussion rounds?

ADDITIONAL ASPECTS CONSIDERED FOR PRACTICAL COURSES

- Topics supported must be cutting edge. Courses in areas that are not of sufficient general interest will not be funded.
- A relatively broad range of techniques should be covered.
- The equipment and materials should be state-of-the-art and appropriate to the topic.
- Instructors and students should be housed together if possible.
- Issues concerning responsible conduct of research should be covered.

Confidentiality

All applications are treated in confidence and only publicized following acceptance of the funding conditions by the organizer.

The EMBO Courses & Workshops office should be contacted with any questions concerning applications.

Contacting individual members of the EMBO Course Committee to influence the decision process will result in disqualification of the application.