

CECAD Travel Grants for Doctoral Researchers

CECAD offers Travel Grants for doctoral researchers from CECAD research groups* who are in their second year or later of their PhD and planning a postdoctoral position as their next career step. The grants support attendance at conferences or workshops that strategically advance postdoctoral career opportunities, in particular by networking with potential postdoctoral host PIs or collaborators. Applicants should clearly demonstrate that the meeting will help them connect with researchers or groups they may consider for a future postdoc position.

Active participation is expected. Applicants should aim to present their research (preferably as first author) through a poster or oral presentation. Submission of an abstract and use of the current CECAD logo on the presentation are prerequisites for funding. Travel grants are awarded individually with a maximum amount of **2,000 EUR per grant**.

Application Requirements

Applications should include the following documents:

1. **Motivation and career relevance**

Explain why you would like to attend this conference or workshop and how participation will support your **transition toward a postdoctoral position, with reference to your current research project.**

2. **Networking strategy**

Outline how you plan to use the meeting to **identify and connect with potential postdoctoral hosts or collaborators**, including the **names of 1–2 researchers you aim to meet**.
(Maximum 1 page for points 1 and 2 combined.)

3. **Planned presentation**

Indicate the format of your planned presentation (poster, talk, etc.) and include your **submitted abstract**.

4. **Curriculum vitae**

5. **Estimated costs**

Provide an overview of expected expenses (registration fee, travel, accommodation, visa** if applicable). If total costs exceed **2,000 EUR**, indicate how the remaining costs will be covered.

6. **Conference information**

Conference title, location (city, country), and dates.

7. **Additional funding sources**

Disclosure of **existing or applied funding sources** (e.g., SFBs, research consortia, graduate programs, travel fellowships) related to the same conference.

The conference or workshop must take place **between January 1 and October 31, 2026**. Travel related to conferences that occur before the application deadline may be **reimbursed retrospectively if the application is approved**. All reimbursement documents must be submitted **no later than November 2, 2026**.

Please send your application (in English only) under the keyword “Travel Grant for Doctoral Researchers” as one PDF file to julia.zielinski@uk-koeln.de. The application deadline is June 15, 2026. The following selection criteria will be applied: The quality of the application, maximum one grant per research group, whether you have already received a CECAD travel grant in 2025, and your accessibility to further internal travel grants.

* CECAD full member labs are listed on cecad.uni-koeln.de → Research → Principal Investigators

**All travel expenses must be according to the Travel Expense Law. Further information is available e.g. at the Uni-Köln Website under “Administration > Dep. 44”