NENS Exchange Grants for Training Stays

Closing Dates for Application: 15th April and 15th October

Tips for Submission

Application details

To apply for a NENS Exchange Grant please check the NENS Exchange Grants page and submit the application via the online application form. The application form includes:

- **Personal information** (contact details, …)
The NENS exchange grants for training stays are intended for Master and PhD students who want to learn a new methodology unavailable in their home institution, complementary to the techniques they presently use, which could be applied for completion of their thesis project.

- **FENS Member ID**
Please note down your FENS member ID (check here how to retrieve your FENS member ID)

- **Education** (Information related to degree)

- **Project Proposal:**
  - **Statement on motivation for intended training stay** (250 words max.)
  Briefly discuss the reasons for pursuing neuroscience studies and for submitting an application for a NENS Stipend.
  
  - **Short description of Master or PhD project** (250 words max.)
  Please name title and supervisor of your project. Briefly summarise your main study area, aims of the project, key results obtained so far and your contribution.
  
  - **Description of proposed project during training stay** (500 words max.)
  The applicant should be enrolled with a NENS school programme at the time when the application is submitted, as well as on the proposed period of the training stay.
  Give a clear outline of the project planned during your training stay and state a clear learning goal.
  Your training stay should last between 1 to 3 months.
  Training must be completed within one year from the application deadline.
  The training planned should either not be available at your home institution or be available on a higher standard elsewhere.
  You should be able to actively use the newly acquired skills in your home lab (e.g. the required equipment should be available at your home lab or become available in the near future).
  Training planned should be directly linked to your Master of PhD project.
  However, the training should be comprised of an individually organised stay and should not be part of the essential structure of your Master/ PhD degree.
  Extra points will be awarded to your proposal if not only you, but also your home institution will benefit from the exchange. E.g. you might be able to transfer the newly acquired know-how to staff at your home institution or your stay at the host lab might initiate a collaboration between your home lab and the host institution.
State the starting date and duration of your training stay in the proposal. The duration of your stay should allow enough time for the skill training planned. Clearly justify the time needed for learning the proposed method and the time of your stay.

- **Description of methods to be learned or course to be followed during training stay** (250 words max.)
  Your project should envisage a methodological training at the host lab and not be based on a common research project. Clearly describe the methods you will be trained in during your stay.

- **Expected costs/Requested budget**
  The NENS exchange grant will cover travel and accommodation costs of up to 3,000 Euros. Please break down the costs for your training stay. If the financial support you require exceeds the 3,000 Euros awarded by NENS then give sufficient proof for the availability of additional funding needed.
  Please note that the grant will only be paid to you after the completion of your stay. You will be required to submit the invoices for all the costs you intend to claim.
  Please note that you will be required to hand in a report after the completion of your training stay to the NENS Office. Only after the submission of this report you will be reimbursed.

- **NENS Membership** (the home and host labs should be NENS members)
  You will have to be enrolled within a NENS member school or programme in order to apply. Your proposed training stay should take place at a host institution in a different European country that is registered as a NENS member school or programme.
  You can check NENS membership status online on the [NENS Programme Directory](#). This is where you will also find information on contact details of the respective programme coordinators.
  An email will be sent automatically to the NENS Home to confirm that you are enrolled as a student in the NENS school programme, and to the NENS Host Programme to confirm that the programme is a NENS member.
  Please ensure that you have informed the NENS home and host programme coordinators about your application.

- **Referees**
  Full name, e-mail and affiliation of your Master/PhD supervisor, and of your supervisor at the host laboratory respectively. The referees will receive an e-mail asking them to submit a letter of recommendation in support of your application. Please make sure that your referees are aware of this and will send the letters in due time, as your application will be considered as incomplete if they don't).

  *The Letter of recommendation from Master/ PhD supervisor (500 words max.)*: The letter should cover the applicant’s suitability on both academic and general grounds to undertake the proposed training. Moreover, the letter should emphasise how the applicant and the home institution will benefit from the envisaged training stay in the host lab.

  *The Letter of support from host laboratory (500 words max.)*: The letter should give a brief summary of the content of the training and state the commitment of the host lab to provide the training envisaged in the applicant’s project proposal.

For enquiries, please contact the NENS Office: nens@fens.org