Exchange of Scientists under the Estonian-Taiwanese Agreement of Scientific Cooperation

Procedure for applying for the travel grant for the year 2026

The researcher exchange visit programme provides opportunities for researchers from one partner country to visit research institutions in other partner countries with the aim of facilitating research cooperation between Estonia and Taiwan; it promotes mobility, the building of international contacts and knowledge transfer.

Fields of Research

- Health and Medicine
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, AI, Industry Automation and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

1. **Travel period**
   1.1. The Call opens on the **7th of November 2026**, and the **deadline is the 30th of January 2026**.
   1.2. The **potential travel period** is set from **1st of June to 31st of December 2026.**
   1.3. The **length of travel** can be **up to two (2) weeks**. Additional days may be permitted if travelling to the destination takes longer; however, costs for these extra days will not be covered by the travel grant.
   1.4. The travel grant recipient must stay the entire duration in the destination country and is prohibited from visiting neighbouring countries during this travel (except to reach the destination).

2. Eligibility of the travel grant applicant

2.1. Each candidate must possess citizenship or be a permanent resident of the sending country.

2.2. The travel grant can be applied by a scholar who is holding a doctoral degree and has worked in the research institution of the sending country for at least three years prior to the application deadline.

2.3. To apply for NSTC international cooperation projects, a Taiwanese applicant must conform to the principal investigator qualifications (https://law.nstc.gov.tw/LawContent.aspx?id=FL026713) of the General Research Project funded by NSTC.

2.4. The Estonian-Taiwan travel grant is an individual grant for one researcher, and it cannot be applied for the several members of one working group for the same travel to visit the same host.

3. Procedure for applying for the travel grant

3.1. Parties will organise a public call for the travel grant. The final decision among the applicants is made by the sending country in cooperation with the receiving country.

3.2. Processing the applications for the travel grant complies with the guidelines on processing the applications laid down in each Partner's organisation.

3.3. Estonian applicant must submit the **electronically signed application** with the **researcher's CV by e-mail (marta.vormansika@etag.ee).**

3.4. To host an Estonian researcher in Taiwan, the Taiwanese host institution must also submit an application to the Taiwan National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) before the deadline. ETAG can only award the grant if the application has been submitted to NSTC on time and it has been accepted.

3.5. To host a Taiwanese researcher in an Estonian institution, the Estonian host researcher must hold a position at a positively evaluated research institution (i.e. university, research laboratory or research institute) in Estonia. The list of evaluated institutions is provided on the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS).

3.6. **Estonian host researcher must inform ETAG about the Taiwan researcher's visit by e-mail (marta.vormansika@etag.ee) before the call deadline.** The following information must be included in the email: name of the Taiwanese researcher, their organisation and position, the title of the application, the research area and the estimated time of the planned visit (start and end date, number of days). The Taiwanese travel grant recipient must stay in Estonia for the entire duration of their visit. Short-term trips to

neighbouring countries during this visit are not allowed (except for travelling to and from Taiwan).

4. **Amount of the travel grant**
   4.1. The funding organisations (hereafter Parties) shall contribute to the programme as follows:
   4.2. Each Party will reimburse the travel expenses of their researcher. The upper limit of the travel expenses reimbursed by ETAG is 1400 EUR; by NSTC is 75,000 TWD. Travel expenses that are eligible are: plane tickets in economy class, local transport to the destination and insurance.
   4.3. The receiving Party will cover accommodation costs and daily allowances. ETAG will cover daily allowances and accommodation costs in total €100/day; NSTC will cover daily allowances and accommodation costs in total TWD 3,500/day; the host institution in the receiving country ensures all other costs associated with hosting.
   4.4. The Estonian host researcher must **submit an application to ETAG by email (marta.vormansika@etag.ee)** for the transfer of accommodation and daily allowances **at least two weeks (14 days) before the Taiwanese researcher arrives in Estonia.**

5. **Documents to be submitted**
   5.1. The proposal for the travel grant consists of a **digitally signed application** and the **PDF of the applicant's CV** with references to major publications. The application must be submitted in **English**.
   5.2. Proposed projects must directly **involve researchers working at a research institution** (i.e. university, research laboratory or research institute) of the receiving country. Both the **Estonian applicant and the Estonian host** researcher must hold a position at a **positively evaluated research institution** in Estonia by the application deadline. The list of evaluated institutions is provided in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS).
   5.3. Proposals must be based upon a firm potential for research collaboration. The primary objective of the travel will be for the researchers to meet in person and discuss in detail the future project and determine how to go forward with proposals for funding and research itself. Thus, contact must have already been established with the partner researcher before the application is submitted.

6. **Programme reporting**
   6.1. A final report on the project is required and must be submitted within three weeks after completion of the travel grant. The report should provide a review

of activities conducted under the grant and state the future plans for cooperation. The report should not be more than 2 pages (A4 size). Forms for the report will be provided with the travel grant contract.

6.2. The Estonian host researcher must submit a document (Proof of the Transfer of Funds) to ETAG by email (marta.vormansika@etag.ee) no later than two weeks after the Taiwanese researcher's visit to Estonia. The document must be signed by both the host and the Taiwanese researcher. Additionally, copies of the Taiwanese researcher's travel documents (plane boarding passes) must be sent with the document.