

International Programme PHD

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15 JANUARY, 2024



I. WHO CAN APPLY

1. Can I apply if I have not finished my university studies?

You can only apply either if you hold a Masters Degree or Medical Degree or an equivalent University Degree that allows you to start a PhD thesis in the candidate's home country by September - December 2024.

2. Can international students apply (those outside of EU/EEA)?

There are no nationality restrictions. Students of all nationalities can apply for the VHIO PhD Programme

3. Should I contact the supervisor(s) to discuss my application?

It is not necessary to contact the supervisor to discuss your application. In the application form, you will be asked to indicate your preferred research group.

II. SUBMISSION

4. How can I submit my application?

Applications are accepted exclusively online through the online application system, which is available on the VHIO call page.

You will be required to submit the name of 2 referees together with the application form. You will only be able to submit the application once all mandatory fields, including uploaded reference letters by referees, have been completed. Therefore it is your responsibility to make sure that the referees will complete the reference letters before the call deadline.

Once the application is submitted, you will receive automatically by email an acknowledgement of receipt.

5. Do I need to register to submit an application?

Yes. To submit a new application please, go to the online application system, click on "Start new application", complete and save the mandatory personal details. If the registration was successful you will receive an automatic email confirming your registration and providing the login details. You will be able to complete the rest of the application before logging out or alternatively you can log out and continue working on the application later and until the call deadline.

6. May I provide the reference letters on behalf of my referees?

No. Applicants need to provide contact details of two referees, which should not be affiliated with the institutes you apply to. Once clicked the button "Send Request", the referees will receive an automatic email to complete the recommendation letter online. The application will only be eligible if the recommendation letters are provided before the application deadline. Therefore, the applicant needs to make sure to send the request through the online application portal as soon as possible, before finalizing the application. Applicants will be able to check whether and when the recommendation letters were submitted, but will not be able to read the recommendation letter itself.

7. Who should I name as referees?

Your referees should be 2 scientists who are familiar with your academic work and/or research experience and who can judge your potential as a PhD student.

Please select your referees carefully: one must be your current or most recent employer/supervisor, at least one must be able to comment on your university academic record, and at least one must be able to comment on your previous research experience. None of them should be affiliated with the institute you apply to (VHIO).

8. I made a mistake in my application and I have submitted it - can I change it?

No, you cannot make changes to submitted applications, and we will not do so on your behalf. Therefore, please double-check your application before submission.

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9. Can I submit two fellowship applications?

No, you may only submit one application.

10. If I do not have the transcripts of my Masters yet, what shall I upload in the form?

If you do not have the transcripts of your masters by the time you fill the form, please upload an official document proving your enrolment in a Masters Programme and/or an official document stating that the transcripts are in the process of being issued.

11. When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for applications is 23.59 (midnight) (UTC +1) on Friday, January 15, 2024

III. SELECTION PROCESS

12. Which are the evaluation criteria for the applications?

The selection of the fellows will be organized in different steps (pre-selection based on the CV, evaluation of the CV by the prospective Group Leaders and oral interview) and based on the candidates' academic qualifications and research excellence as described on the website. The call calendar for the selection round is available on the website.

13. Does the selection process involve an interview?

Yes, pre-selected candidates will be invited to participate in an oral interviews. Full details regarding the interview process will be sent to invited candidates.

14. When will I know if my application has been pre-selected? When will candidates be informed about the final results?

Pre-selected and non pre-selected candidates will be informed by mid January 2024. Successful and non-successful candidates after the interviews will be informed by the end of February 2024.

15. If my application is successful, when will the fellowship start?

Successful candidates would be expected to start the PhD between September - December 2024.

16. Do I need to register separately with a university to do my PhD at VHIO?

Yes. Students are free to register with the University of their choice, normally a local one (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat Pompeu Fabra or Universitat de Barcelona). You complete your coursework at the University while concurrently doing practical training and work toward your thesis in a VHIO research laboratory.