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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

October 2026 – Call for expression of interest – scientific trainees

As the science and knowledge service of the Commission, the mission of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is to provide independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society. The JRC is located in 5 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain).
Further information about the JRC activities is available at https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en

The place of traineeship will be one of the following JRC sites: Geel (Belgium), Ispra (Italy), Karlsruhe (Germany), Petten (the Netherlands) or Seville (Spain).

The JRC cultivates a workplace based on respect for other people and the environment and embraces non-discriminatory practices and equality of opportunity.

Thematic areas

The JRC science and knowledge activities cover a variety of areas, including agriculture and food security, health, industry and space, energy, natural resources, mobility, creativity and an inclusive society, civil security for society, environment and climate change, nuclear safety and security, crisis management, population dynamics and migration, digital transformation and data, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence as well as innovation and growth.

For the October 2026 call, the JRC seeks to recruit approximately fifty (50) scientific trainees, in different thematic areas relevant for the organisation. The thematic areas are clustered in 11 fields as listed below. More detailed information, project descriptions, as well as relevant candidate profiles are available in Annex I.

If the candidate's profile fits more than one field, the applicant is encouraged to choose as their first option the field in which they are most specialised.

The programme welcomes candidates from diverse backgrounds, with a particular emphasis on those who possess a strong scientific foundation and interest. Trainees will have the chance to engage in a variety of tasks, including both desktop work and laboratory activities, tailored to the needs of each project.

Fields for the October 2026 call (projects details in Annex I)

Fields number	Title
1	Environment and climate
2	Energy sustainability
3	Security, ICT, cyber-security and technologies for law enforcement
4	Data management analysis, research, and applications for evidence-based decision-making
5	Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and complex systems
6	Space technologies, secure connectivity and geo-information
7	Health and consumer protection
8	Transport science and sustainable mobility
9	Social and political sciences, geopolitics, democracy, science communication, economic and financial resilience
10	Behavioural science, research management, economics and education
11	Nuclear Science and Technology. Radiochemistry and radiation protection

Requirements of the Call

Candidates must meet the requirements by the application deadline for the traineeship.

Eligibility requirements:

- **Nationality**:
  Open only to nationals of Member States of the European Union, and of countries associated to the "Research Framework Programmes" at the time of publication.
  The full list of associated countries is available at the following link:
  https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en

  The recruitment of candidates from non-Member States (under Research Framework Programmes) may require additional compulsory administrative procedures[1] imposed by the national authority of the country hosting the JRC site (e.g. visas, residence permits) and in accordance with internal rules and regulations.

- **Degree:**
  To be eligible, candidates must hold at least a standard three-year higher education degree, equivalent to a complete bachelor's cycle (university education – 180 ECTS[2] credits).
  Additionally, candidates must meet at least one of the following conditions:
  - Have been awarded their last university degree no more than five years prior to the closing date of the call for applications for traineeships; or
  - Be currently enrolled in a Master's degree or Ph.D. (or equivalent) programme.

- **Languages:**
  To fully benefit from the traineeship and effectively participate in meetings and tasks, also considering the JRC's role in global scientific research, candidates must have a thorough knowledge of the English language (minimum C1 level, according to the Common European Framework for Languages - CEFR).
  In addition, candidates from EU Member States must have a very good knowledge (minimum B2 level, according to the CEFR) in another Community language.

- **Previous experiences:**
  The JRC wishes to offer the opportunity for a traineeship to as many people as possible. Therefore, applications are not considered eligible from those candidates who for more than six weeks, within a European institution, body or agency:
  - have already benefited or benefit from any kind of traineeship (formal or informal, paid or unpaid);
  - have had or have any kind of employment, including anyone who is or has been a temporary staff member, a contract staff member, a contract staff member for auxiliary tasks, a grantholder or an assistant to a Member of the European Parliament;
  - have had, or currently have, experience as an external service provider, a member of the interim staff, a seconded national expert or as a visiting scientist.

[1] Any expenses incurred by the non-EU candidate for completing the national administrative procedures will be at the charge of the individual and will not be reimbursed.
[2] European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

Selection criteria

Candidates are evaluated anonymously, based on the following criteria:

- Education (minimum bachelors' degree);
- Languages skills;
- Relevant field-related work, volunteering and practical experiences (e.g. projects and tasks), if any;
- Knowledge of IT and equipment tools, if any;
- International experience (e.g. studies, work, volunteering abroad and aptitude to work in an international environment), if any;
- Papers, publications, participation in conferences/summer schools, if any;
- Motivation and suitability for the JRC.

National guiding rates may be applied to ensure balanced geographical representation.

All candidates will be notified about the pre-selection results.

Short-listed candidates might be contacted for informal interviews directly by the interested JRC Unit/Service. Not all short-listed candidates will be offered a traineeship. An offer is not considered final until the placement offer has been signed. Candidates not recruited will be notified at the closure of the selection phase.

Supporting documents will be verified in the recruitment phase. Originals may be requested for verification at any time.

Conditions of Traineeship

The conditions of the Traineeship Programme are governed by the Rules Governing the Scientific Traineeship Programme of the Joint Research Centre.

The next traineeship session will start in October 2026 and will run for a fixed period of 5 months. Under exceptional circumstances and subject to prior approval, a postponement of the start date may be possible. Candidates should be aware that any postponement of the start date might have an impact upon candidates' eligibility for other career opportunities at the European Commission.

For reference, the amount of the basic monthly allowance in 2026, adjusted by the applicable correction coefficient of the site, is between € 1.338,20 and € 1.741,20[3].
No tax or social security contributions will be withheld or paid by the European Commission with respect to the above stated allowances. Trainees are solely responsible for the declaration and payment of any taxes due on allowances in accordance with the laws in force in the relevant State(s).

Trainees may receive a travel allowance that partly covers the expenses incurred for travelling from their place of residence to their place of traineeship. The travel allowance is a lump sum (fixed amount). The method of calculation and the procedure to be followed are published in Annex II.

[3] The monthly basic allowance is equivalent to 25% of the basic remuneration for an official at grade AD5/1, adjusted by the correction coefficient applicable to the JRC site where the traineeship takes place.

Further opportunities

Candidates interested in further opportunities at the European Commission can find information on the website of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO): https://eu-careers.europa.eu/en

Access to the Junior Professionals Programme ("JPP"[4]) is open to JRC scientific trainees. The admission is subject to specific eligibility requirements and further boundary conditions.

Data Protection

The Commission ensures that candidates' personal data are protected as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the processing of personal data by EU institutions and bodies. This safeguards the confidentiality and security of such data.

For further information on how the JRC processes your personal data, please consult our page for "Data protection in the selection and/or recruitment process".

JRC contact details

For any technical issues with your application, please contact:

HR-JRC-RECRUITMENT-TOOLS-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu

For questions related to this call, please contact:

HR-JRC-ISPRA-TRAINEES@ec.europa.eu

[4] traineeships.ec.europa.eu/junior-professionals-programme-jpp

ANNEX I - FIELDS

FIELD	PROJECTS DESCRIPTION	PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN…
FIELD 1 Environment and climate	This field addresses climate and environmental challenges, such as climate change, air, water (from source to sea) and soil quality, biodiversity-loss, sustainable land use (including agriculture and forestry), and sustainability in the built environment. It also addresses circular economy. *Research topics:* The projects could involve measurement and modelling techniques to assess sustainability, environmental and climate variables, human interactions, environmental economics, pollution prevention and control, technology assessment, and resource dependency. The goal is to provide scientific evidence for EU policies on sustainability, competitiveness and quality of life. Support to cities climate actions. Topics may include industrial decarbonisation and pollution prevention and control, circular and bio-economy, waste management, sustainable consumption, sustainable transition, sustainable finance, and material life cycle.	– Industrial and environmental technology, engineering and analytical chemistry, biotechnology and related field. – Environmental monitoring and modelling, air/water/soil quality assessment, ecosystem studies, biodiversity modelling, pollution impact assessment, circular economy analysis/modelling, waste and material flow analysis, sustainability strategies, agronomic and agro-economic modelling. – Environmental data analysis, regulatory standards, and policy evaluation. – Impact assessment, environmental economics, transition and green finance. – Climate and/or industrial transition analysis. – Circularity and reusability in the built environment and in other sectors. – High-resolution emissions mapping for optimizing climate mitigation investments.
FIELD 2 Energy sustainability	This field focuses on the supply, transformation and sustainable use of energy and raw materials, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and innovative low-carbon energy systems (including advanced nuclear applications). *Research topics:* Activities include improving energy systems, assessing their environmental and societal impacts, supporting decarbonisation, developing resilient, and competitive energy infrastructures at EU and global scale.	– Renewable energy including enablers such as hydrogen and batteries, PV, energy consumption analysis, energy efficiency, nuclear safety, energy market modelling, electrification analysis, emissions monitoring. – Energy policies, climate impact studies, and integration of energy systems. – Data analysis or policy assessment related to energy. – Eco-efficiency and sustainability in buildings and infrastructure.

		– Consumption-based and production-based emissions accounting in the context of global value chains and trade for energy policy evaluation.
FIELD	**PROJECTS DESCRIPTION**	**PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN…**
FIELD 3 Security, ICT, cyber-security and technologies for law enforcement	This field covers research activities related to security (including cyber-security), ICT and other technologies for law enforcement, protection of critical infrastructure, border management, customs control, and responses to hybrid threats. *Research topics:* The JRC supports the European Internal Security Strategy, the European action plan against drug trafficking, the counter-terrorism agenda, new and emerging security threats and the European Integrated Border Management. Research also evaluates emerging digital technologies and paradigms for critical infrastructure resilience and associated risks.	– Computer science, cyber-security, data protection, – AI applications for security, cryptography, biometrics, software engineering, or infrastructure security. – Network security, data privacy, or software development; risk assessment or encryption methods. – Unmanned systems, including counter measures. – Sensor systems (RF, optical, X-ray, chemical, acoustic, etc), data analytics for detection, classification and identification. – Risk/Threat assessment. – Conflict risk analysis. – CBRNE protection. – Digital forensics. – Analytical Chemistry. – Data Science. – Applied physics. – Electronic engineering. – Material sciences. – Engineering, mathematics. – Natural sciences. – Political sciences.
FIELD 4 Data management analysis, research, and applications for evidence-based decision-making	This field involves advanced data analysis to extract knowledge from complex datasets (structured, unstructured, numerical, geospatial, textual). *Research topics:* The field supports evidence-based policymaking through data management, data science, composite indicators and scoreboards, machine learning, advanced data visualisation, and econometric and statistical modelling. Some projects involve linking data from various sources and using data science for policy implementation. Counterfactual impact evaluation methods are also used to	– Data science, econometrics, statistics. – Text mining, data visualization, and impact evaluation. – Data processing, and counterfactual analysis. – Economics and policy evaluation. – Development of composite indicators and scoreboards.

	assess policy impacts and tailor implementations using data science techniques and econometrics methods.	
FIELD	**PROJECTS DESCRIPTION**	**PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN…**
FIELD 5 Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and complex systems	This field covers developing, using and evaluating advanced algorithms, AI technologies and complex systems to tackle EU challenges and/or the study of the use and implications of AI and complex systems in Europe. *Research topics:* Projects that research on the capabilities, limitations and societal impacts of the latest advances in AI, the practical application of frontier AI models, AI systems and AI agents and the related policy implications. This includes the use of AI to various domains (climate, energy, health, financial, security, safety, transport, built environment, economy, etc.), applications (recommender systems in online platforms and search engines, automated driving systems, etc.) and/or study the implications of AI in these domains, also related to relevant EU policies such as the AI Act, the Digital Services Act and the Resource for AI Science in Europe.	– Computer science, mathematics, or engineering. – AI applications, autonomous systems and robotics. – Automated systems and robotics in construction. – AI ethics, trustworthy and responsible AI, algorithmic transparency. – Programming, statistical modelling. – AI-driven innovation across various sectors, including construction, transportation, healthcare, science, economy. – Recommender systems, generative AI, large language models. – AI applications for short-term forecasting of emissions from anthropogenic activities.
FIELD 6 Space technologies, secure connectivity and geo-information	This field focuses on space, security and defence technologies – from the security and reliability of satellite navigation systems (e.g., Galileo and GPS) to the design and development of terrestrial and non-terrestrial communications systems (e.g., 5G/6G networks and state-of-the-art satellite constellations such as IRIS²), and quantum technologies for secure communication. *Research topics*: space technologies, resilient satellite-based PNT (Positioning, Navigation and Timing), satellite navigation systems (e.g. Galileo), design and development of 3GPP Non-Terrestrial Networks (e.g. IRIS²), next-generation connectivity systems (e.g. 5G and quantum), quantum technologies for communications (e.g. quantum key distribution), sensing and computing; Earth observation for climate monitoring to enhance security and disaster management, geo-data applications for policy monitoring.	– Telecommunications, Electronics, Aerospace, Electrical engineering. – Computer Science. – Physics. – Environmental Sciences. – Earth observation, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), geospatial data processing. – Authoritative space data for policy.

FIELD	PROJECTS DESCRIPTION	PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN…
FIELD 7 Health and consumer protection	This field addresses public health, health technologies, medical devices and in vitro diagnostics, biotechnology, advanced therapies/nanomedicine, food/feed safety, nutrition security, sustainability, new genomic techniques-derived products, food fraud and quality, safe and sustainable chemicals, advanced materials, cancer, rare diseases, lifestyle impacts and nuclear medical applications. *Research topics:* Via modern scientific methods, research infrastructures encompassing life sciences (chemistry, biology, physics, etc.) and tools (e.g. bioinformatics, artificial intelligence), the research outputs inform policy makers, regulatory bodies and support standardisation, including the development of reference materials. The goal is to safeguard the well-being of European citizens and ensure the appropriate dissemination of information, as well as to contribute to combatting malnutrition at the global level.	– Public health, life sciences, biotechnology. – Chemistry, epidemiology. – AI in healthcare, medical research, regulatory affairs. – Food safety, nutrition. – Health policies, risk assessment, analytical or bioanalytical sciences.
FIELD 8 Transport science and sustainable mobility	The field covers sustainable mobility, transport infrastructure and the impacts of emerging technologies on EU transport systems. *Research topics:* Projects aim to improve transport efficiency, safety and sustainability, considering environmental, social and security aspects. Emphasis is on the impact of new technologies on mobility, vehicle lifecycle energy efficiency, environmental performance, and experimental/simulation methods. Also, the field contributes to the standardisation and regulatory processes related to the transport sector. The work extends beyond technological aspects. The research delves into the societal implications of future mobility systems and model the economic aspects and impacts of future transport policies. This includes a comprehensive consideration of how these policies affect climate and environment.	– Transport engineering, urban planning, environmental science. – Transport means and systems modelling. – Electrified/autonomous vehicles, mobility policy, infrastructure safety, and climate impact analysis. – Sustainability assessments or urban mobility planning. – Transport emissions inventories and holistic assessment. – Structural safety of transportation infrastructures, with a focus on monitoring and analysis methods and on the resilience to environmental stresses and climate change impacts.

FIELD	PROJECTS DESCRIPTION	PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN…
FIELD 9 Social and political sciences, geopolitics, democracy, science communication, economic and financial resilience	This field analyses social, economic and political dynamics to inform EU and global decision-making. It also covers science communication and education at the science–policy–society interface. *Research topics:* economic and financial resilience, societal challenges and social innovation, societal resilience, demography and migration dynamics, governance structures, civil society, policy dynamics and geopolitics, as well as security risks, including impacts of digitalisation. Possible tasks include quantitative and qualitative analyses, impact assessment and foresight, to support EU policymaking in financial, economic, industrial, social, territorial, and political areas, including issues related to taxation, social protection, skills and jobs, environmental crises, digital technologies and data-driven innovations. In addition, research topics include anticipatory governance through foresight and design approaches, to assess the societal and economic impact of science, technology, and policymaking, including the implications of emerging technologies on people, young people, labour markets and re-skilling. Furthermore, it includes engagement with stakeholders and ordinary citizens in transdisciplinary studies of impacts of public policy, science and technology, on society and democracy. The field includes specifically the study of democracy and democratic practices at all levels of governance in the EU, including citizen participation in policymaking.	– Social sciences, political science, economics, including sociology and anthropology, as well as humanities. – International and strategic studies. – Economic, econometric and financial modelling, policy evaluation and governance research. – Mapping of supply chains and supply chain analysis. – Social transformation, future studies, foresight analysis, threats/risk management (including digital economics and technological innovation). – Survey methodologies and stakeholder collaboration, with expertise in data analysis and digital tools. – Citizen participation in policymaking and in science (methods and tools). – Working across different ways of knowing, including with indigenous and traditional knowledge. – Science and/or policy communication.
FIELD 10 Behavioural science, research management, economics and education	This field focuses on human behaviour, decision making, and their impact on society, including the influence of digital technologies and platforms on individual and collective choices. It also covers social studies of science, bibliometrics, research management. *Research topics:* Possible projects will address a wide range of societal challenges, including issues related to consumption, production, investment, political engagement, education, energy transition,	– Behavioural sciences, education, economics or psychology. – Economic modelling, policy impact analysis and data visualization. – Policy design, with a focus on digital public governance and service design.

	migration, health, training systems, taxation, social protection and more with a focus on the role of digitalisation and data-driven innovations. Tasks include using analytical methods to evaluate public policies, anticipate citizen reactions to interventions, and help to optimise policy effectiveness including the assessment of digital public services and governance models. Such work encompasses micro, macro, financial, market, and sectoral econometric analyses to understand the economy and policy impacts, employing experimental and quasi-experimental methods for policy impact evaluation, including the analysis of the data economy. Other possible tasks involve designing, implementing and evaluating research programmes, and science communication activities for relevant science for policy actions and investigating the use of AI in editorial processes.	
FIELD	**PROJECTS DESCRIPTION**	**PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN…**
FIELD 11 Nuclear Science and Technology. Radiochemistry and radiation protection	This field aims to ensure the safe, secure, and sustainable use of nuclear technology for energy and non-energy applications. It focuses on the nuclear fuel cycle, reactor safety, security and safeguards, structural materials and nuclear data. It covers radiation protection, environmental radioactivity monitoring, and non-energy applications (such as nuclear medicine and space technology). *Research topics:* they include decommissioning nuclear installations, back to the green field and environmental remediation, developing analytical techniques for radionuclide detection, isotopic ratio analysis, Monte Carlo simulations, nuclear forensic investigations ("atomic detectives") and implementing radiation protection best practices. In addition, projects involving design, operation and maintenance of JRC nuclear installations.	– Nuclear engineering, physics, chemistry, radiochemistry, analytical chemistry and related fields. – Nuclear safety, radiation protection, reactor physics, nuclear fuel cycle, environmental radioactivity monitoring and isotopic analysis. – Laboratory work, experimental data interpretation, data modelling (e.g. physics based and ML/DL based models). – Radiation hazard assessment and policy development. – Nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management. – Mechanical, civil electronics or electric engineering applied to nuclear facilities.

ANNEX II - TRAVEL ALLOWANCES

JRC Scientific Traineeship Programme

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Art.8.4 - Travel allowances under the Rules Governing the Scientific Traineeship Programme of the Joint Research Centre

Trainees may receive a travel allowance that partly covers the expenses incurred for travelling from their place of residence to their place of traineeship. This possibility is specified in each call and is subject to budget availability. The travel allowance is a lump sum (fixed amount).
The trainee must complete a minimum of three months of traineeship to qualify for the travel allowance.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The place of residence is the one where the trainee's address is legally fixed at the time of the recruitment procedure and indicated in the placement offer.

Documents accepted as proof of residence:

- Certificate of residence, not older than one year;
- Valid ID card or Passport with complete and up-to-date address.

A false declaration can result in the termination of the traineeship or a recovery order.

TRAVEL CLAIM and DOCUMENTATION

To receive the travel allowance, trainees must submit the travel allowance claim using the form provided by the HR Service during the recruitment procedure.

All modes of transport are accepted (bus, car, plane, train, boat, motorbike, ...). Trainees may be required to provide proof of travel dates, receipts, or other documentation.

DEADLINES

The travel allowance claim must be submitted within two months after the start of the traineeship.

Claims that are not introduced correctly, or not submitted by the given deadline, will not be processed.

Travel allowances are paid starting from the fourth month of traineeship.

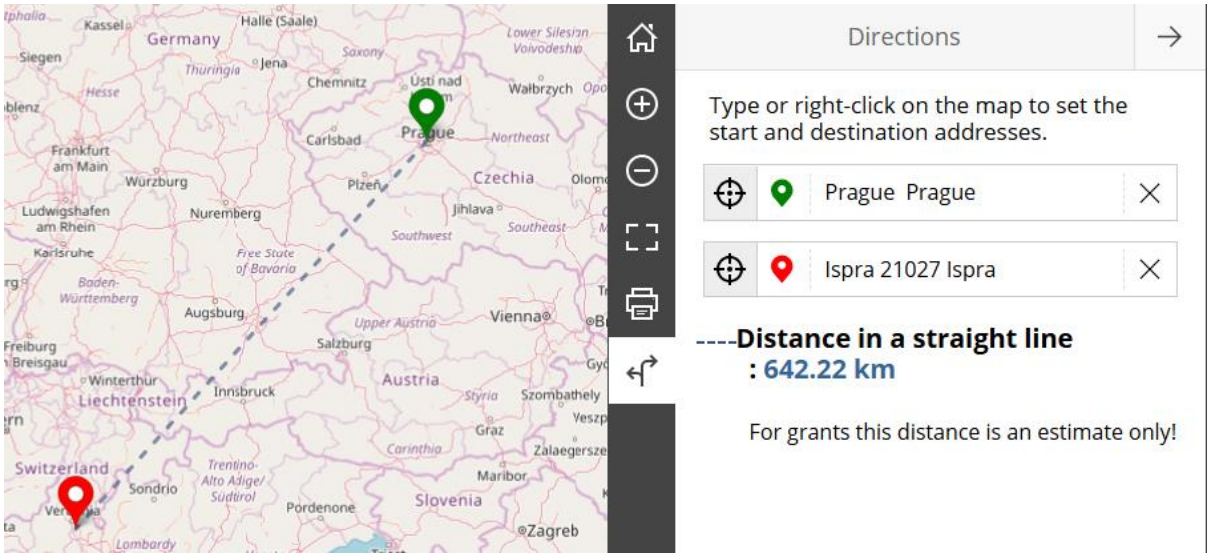
TRAVEL ALLOWANCE AMOUNT

The travel allowance is calculated as a lump sum (fixed amount) based on the shortest aerial distance between trainees' place of residence and the place of assignment (city).

Distances, one way only, are calculated through the Erasmus+ Distance Calculator[5].

Distance – KM	Allowance - €
0 - 49 km	0 €
50 – 99 km	40 €
100 – 249 km	100 €
250 – 499 km	180 €
500 – 1999 km	275 €
2000 – 2999 km	360 €
3000 – 3999 km	530 €
4000 – 7999 km	820 €
> 8000 km	1.100 €

For example, the distance from Prague (CZ) to Ispra (IT) is 642.22 km, which corresponds to 275,00 €.



[5] https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator

Electronically signed on 13/04/2026 10:52 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121