



## Exchange Program Award 2026



## Program for the young researchers of the European Society for Artificial Organs

“If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas”

(G.B. Shaw)

## Aim

In the frame of Artificial Organs, the *yESAO Research Exchange program* provides the opportunity to experience training and research in different environments.

## Who can apply?

The yESAO Research Exchange Award addresses the yESAO community interested in improving their scientific knowledge and cooperation to produce innovation together. yESAO members interested in doing research with another yESAO member of a different institute are encouraged to apply to the yESAO exchange program. If you are not a yESAO member yet, you have to submit your application form together with the exchange award application (see below). Two researchers from two different countries apply together and submit one application, explaining their joined contribution. (Researchers that previously won this award cannot apply for a second time. Projects that were not selected in previous award editions can be re-submitted.)

## Where can young researchers go and for how long?

The two yESAO members may belong to any research institute interested in cooperating and in carrying out a common short project which has to be completed during the exchange program. The yESAO exchange is a two steps program: one period in each institute of the two applicants. The duration of the exchange period should be at least two weeks (one for each institute). The exchange will be regulated by the host institute (safety, insurance etc.) and the guest researcher must comply with the rules.

## How to apply?

A complete application consists of the following:

1. **Cover page:** Information of each researcher involved in the exchange (see **FORM 1**);
2. **Exchange proposal** written by the two researchers involved (see **FORM 2**);
3. A **graphical abstract** that illustrates and helps to understand your planed work (Powerpoint 16:9);
4. **Curriculum Vitae** of the two researchers;
5. **Letter of support** from the supervisors of the two hosting institutes;
6. yESAO [membership application form](#) (if not already a member).

Please submit all the documents listed above by the **1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 23:59h (CEST)** to [yesao@esao.org](mailto:yesao@esao.org).

If one of the requested documents is missing, the application will be excluded from the evaluation procedure.

## Eligible Costs

The ESAO will fund **750 Euro** for the exchange of each researcher. It is allowed to apply for additional funding from other institutions for example if you want to extend your stay or your partner city is very expensive.

## Evaluation Procedure

The application will be double-blinded evaluated by at least three reviewers ((y)ESAO members) that are not working in the two institutes involved in the exchange program. Reviewers will be nominated by the yESAO coreteam.

Projects will be reviewed based on the following categories:

- Quality of content (e.g. description of central theme, structure)
- Novelty of the approach
- Exchange of methods
- Quality of working plan / feasibility of proposed work

The two exchange projects (4 researchers) with the highest score will be funded by ESAO.

## After the exchange

The researchers enrolled in the program must prepare:

- A summary of the exchange experience and submit it to [yesao@esao.org](mailto:yesao@esao.org);
- An oral presentation on the experience at the upcoming ESAO conference

## Timeline

Call opening:	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Deadline:	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 (11.59 p.m. GMT+1)
Selection:	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Exchange:	Between 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 and ESAO2026



## FORM 1

Personal Information (1)	
First & Last Name	
Last Name	
Phone	
Email Address	
Home Institution	
Country	
Supervisor + Email Address	

Personal Information (2)	
First & Last Name	
Last Name	
Phone	
Email Address	
Home Institution	
Country	
Supervisor + Email Address	



## FORM 2

*Please structure your application as follows and be as concise and specific as possible.  
Stick to the 2-page limit and use Arial 10, single spacing. Figures and tables can be included.  
References may extend to a third page.*

**Objectives:** Please describe the background and the problem you try to solve

**Materials&Methods:** How do you want to achieve your goal? Highlight **why** this exchange is needed to complement specific laboratory equipment or methods that one institute or researcher alone could not provide.

**Working plan and expected outcomes:** Structure your research plan and state what you want to have accomplished after each step and after the exchange. High ambitions are highly encouraged - but stay as realistic as possible.

**References:**