



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

GEP 2023-2024

Every year, the [European Psychiatric Association](#) (EPA) offers selected Early Career Psychiatrists the opportunity to participate in **short observership placements** in various psychiatric institutions across Europe, allowing them to broaden their clinical and/or research and/or teaching skills and knowledge, and to become familiar with different mental health systems in Europe, through the [Gaining Experience Programme \(GEP\)](#).

APPLICATION

→ Who is eligible?

Applicants must be Early Career Psychiatrists (psychiatrists under 40 years of age and/or within 5 years after passing the specialist exam) and reside in a country included in the [World Health Organisation European region](#) (**NB: residents and trainees are not eligible for this programme**).

Visit the EPA website to see participants from previous years: <https://www.europsy.net/previous-participants/>.

→ How to apply?

Check out all placement offers and fill in the online application form on the EPA website, by the deadline:

<https://www.europsy.net/gaining-experience-programme/>

For any question, do not hesitate to contact the EPA Office at epa.gep@europsy.net.

→ During the online application process, candidates are asked to provide:

- Contact information
- A Professional CV in English
- Proof of ID - including birthdate (passport or identity card, please black out the national identification numbers)
- A motivation letter explaining how previous or current work and interests fit with the selected placement(s) and how this observership will help in terms of professional development
- A proof of fluency in the English language: an official certificate or a statement by the candidate's supervisor confirming their English level.
- A copy of the candidate's certificate of completion of psychiatric training - in English
- A recommendation letter from the candidate's supervisor

→ What is the selection process for candidates?

Candidates may apply for one, two or three placements. If they select more than one, they will be asked to indicate their choice in order of priority when they fill in the online application form. Interest in each placement should be explicitly explained in the motivation letter, as well as relevant experiences and aspirations.

Applications are reviewed by the [EPA Early Career Psychiatrists Committee](#) to verify eligibility criteria and approve placement requests based on candidates profiles / proposed specialties of the host institution.

→ What are the objectives of the programme?

To offer Early Career Psychiatrists short observership placements in various psychiatric institutions across Europe that will allow them to broaden their clinical and/or research and/or teaching skills and knowledge, and become familiar with different mental health systems in Europe;

To improve mentoring and professional networks among experts and ECPs;



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PLACEMENTS

→ What types of placements are proposed?

GEP placements come in the form of observerships. According to their profile and activities, institutions can offer clinical, academic, research-focused observerships, or a combination of these areas. The topics are indicated in each placement description. Candidates cannot apply for a placement in the country they are currently living in. Applicants must be familiar with the proposed specialty of the department/ institution they have chosen.

→ What is the timeframe and duration of placements?

Dates and length of placements are discussed directly between the host institution and the selected candidate to find the best possible arrangement for both parties. Placements should be organised in the course of 2024, ideally before 30 September 2024. The recommended duration for placements is between 2 to 8 weeks. Selected candidates will have to negotiate the terms with their own institution to go on leave.

→ What is the working language?

The applicant should be fluent in English, and possibly have notions of the host country language for clinical purposes (see list of placements).

→ Does the programme include any fees, or financial support for selected candidates?

There is no application fee for the programme. For successful applicants, the EPA is pleased to offer scholarships of €850 to help with travel, accommodation and other expenses. The EPA Office will proceed with the payment of this scholarship once the observership is complete. GEP participants will receive the scholarship via wire transfer shortly after the end date of their placement.

→ Travel, accommodation, and visa arrangements:

The EPA Office will put GEP participants in contact with their host institution supervisors, by email. Participants will have to negotiate dates and details of their observership directly with their host institution supervisor before making any arrangements. GEP participants should initiate any necessary visa procedures sufficiently in advance of their visit to the host institution, and are free to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Please note that host institutions may propose accommodation and meals at reduced rates. This information is included in each placement description.

→ What work is expected from selected candidates?

GEP participants are encouraged to prepare a presentation about their work, institution and interests to be performed at the hosting institution as a way of sharing knowledge. Likewise, they are also strongly encouraged to present the experience gained during the programme at their home institution.

As different countries have different regulations for patient confidentiality and right to clinical work, the exact level of patient contact or clinical participation during the GEP placements should be discussed with the host institutions. The EPA Office will ask participants to write a report and to complete an evaluation form at the end of their observership, before scholarship payment is made. Example of reports from previous winners can be found on this page:

<https://www.europsy.net/previous-participants/>

We look forward to receiving your application!