



UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme

ACADEMY



A SPECIFIC GRANT
PROGRAMME
DESIGNED FOR
ACADEMICS WORKING
ON MEDICAL, HEALTH,
PERFORMANCE,
AND ANTI-DOPING
RELATED RESEARCH
IN FOOTBALL

FOREWORD

The UEFA Medical and Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme, launched in 2023, has evolved in response to the community's call for targeted research in football medicine. Designed to tackle current emerging issues in football, the programme aims to make a meaningful impact across various facets of the game. With the programme, we strive to advance the understanding and care of football-related health issues, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive

approach to the well-being of players. Our commitment extends beyond academic pursuits; we aspire to deliver practical value, fostering tangible improvements in football medicine that directly benefit players and the sport.

Giorgio Marchetti
UEFA Deputy General Secretary



Who

Researchers holding a research position at a university, national association, club or equivalent institution

When

Once a year
Application deadline: 2 March 2026
17:00 CET

How long

In principle 1 year

Where

Research has to be carried out at the home institution

Grant

Up to €30,000 for any topic on medical or health-related matters in women's football; Up to €30,000 for any topic on medical or health-related matters in men's football; Up to €30,000 for any topic on medical or health-related matters in support staff working in football; Up to €30,000 for anti-doping-related social science topic; Up to €30,000 for anti-doping-related natural science topic

Total funding available

€150,000

Language

English

UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme (UEFA MRGP)

The UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Programme promotes researchers to conduct medical, health, performance, and anti-doping research in European football. It is intended for anyone pursuing or holding a doctorate degree.

Programme overview

The UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Programme is developed to facilitate impactful research proposals. The overarching aim is to create impactful and translatable knowledge, which will help improve evidence-based decision-making in European football.

Each successful grant application is eligible for a one-year award of up to €30,000. The call is open for the following five grant themes: (1) medical or health in women's football, (2) medical or health in men's football; (3) medical or health in support staff working in football, (4) anti-doping with a social science perspective or (5) anti-doping with a natural science perspective.

The UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping unit can, if desired, support grant recipients with access to de-identifiable data relevant to the research project. UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping unit will also support grant recipients with knowledge sharing opportunities to maximise the impact of the study.

Main takeaways

- A funding opportunity for European football medical, health, performance, and anti-doping research
- UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping will support grant recipients in ensuring impact of research findings

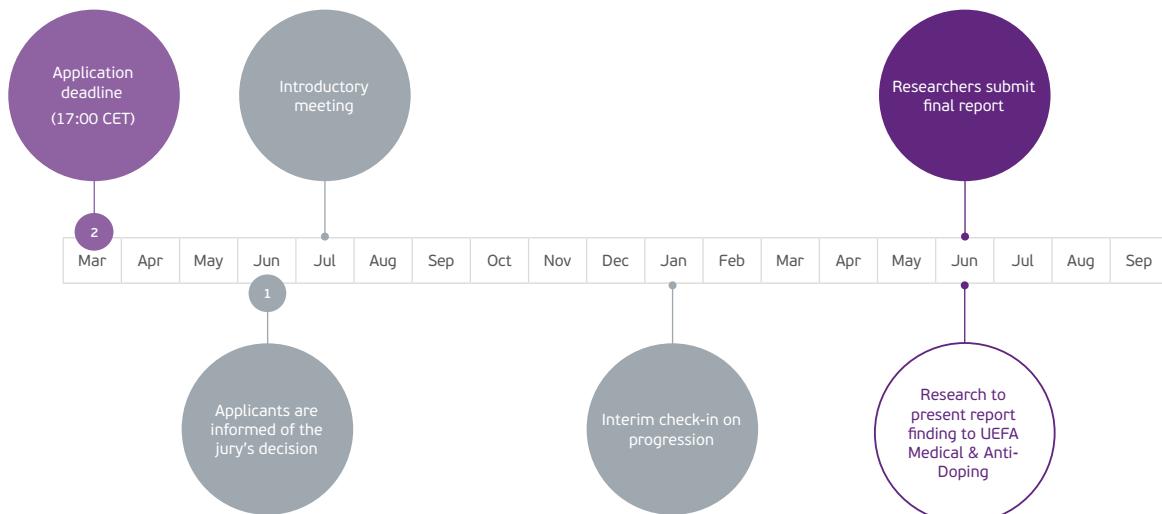
Testimonial



As a previous recipient of the UEFA grant, I have been inspired both academically and professionally. The grant has facilitated further research into the field of the prevention of football injuries, in particularly the preventative effect of the Adductor Strengthening Programme on groin problems in football players. Moreover, the outcomes of the studies have been implemented at all levels of Norwegian football and in football medicine worldwide.

■ Thor Einar Andersen, Professor at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Oslo, and Chief Medical Officer, the Football Association of Norway

Structure



Application process

The official application form and the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme Regulations are available on UEFAacademy.com/courses/mrgp/. Applications must be submitted by 2 March 2026 17:00 to be considered. Applications that meet the requirements of the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme Regulations are reviewed by the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme jury.

The jury consists of internationally recognised football medicine, performance and anti-doping researchers and specialists. One UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping research specialist is acting as chair.

For each correctly completed application, at least two jury members will review the application. The reviewers will be chosen based on individual expertise and declaration of no potential conflict

of interest. In the case of a conflict of interest, the respective jury member concerned will be replaced for voting. The jury is free to award any number of grants for each research theme and the exact amount of funding is decided on a case-by-case basis (up to €30,000 per research topic). All relevant deadlines are presented in the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme Regulations.

We welcome all participants from diverse backgrounds and cultures, recognising the unique value that diversity brings to our community. If you have any uncertainties about meeting specific programme criteria, we encourage you to reach out to us.





About the UEFA Academy

Building on the professional expertise that UEFA has established in the course of its history and the learning initiatives that it has created over the last decade, the UEFA Academy provides educational programmes for individuals and organisations alike with a view to constantly elevating the game of football. The UEFA Academy is LIFT certified, recognising the impact of its programmes on people, their organisations and society at large.

For details of all our courses, visit UEFAacademy.com

Eligibility

Applicants must either:

- Have obtained a doctorate degree and currently hold a research position at a university, football club, national association, or equivalent institution; or
- Be enrolled as a doctoral student at a university or equivalent institution and currently be preparing a doctoral thesis.

Applicants must possess a high-level professional proficiency in the English language.

Still have questions?

Should you have any question on the application process, please contact medicalresearch@uefa.ch or antidoping@uefa.ch

Joint applications

Joint applications may be considered, however, we strongly encourage that at least one of the following factors are met:

- A maximum of 3 research applicants;
- Focus on multidisciplinary research and hence, demonstrate coverage of multiple relevant subjects;
- Multinational collaboration.

One of the applicants must be appointed as the lead researcher and act as the point of contact for UEFA



Contact us

academy@uefa.ch

UEFAacademy.com