
COST Action CA18202

NECTAR – Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research

Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants (CG)

Call for ITC Conference Grant Applications

Third Grant Period, 1 November 2021- 31 October 2022

NECTAR COST Action CA18202 opens a call for applications to ITC Conference Grants to be developed under the scope of the referred Action, in the terms described in this document.

The main procedures/regulations concerning ITC Conferences are governed by the ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/02/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-2022-02-15.pdf>). Please read them prior to preparing your ITC Conference application.

Scope of NECTAR COST Action

The thermodynamic study of chemical equilibria represents the core of many important branches of chemistry, from coordination and supramolecular chemistry, to chemical speciation, to molecular modelling and drug design. The importance of chemical equilibria, and chemical thermodynamics in general, results from the simple assertion that many properties of elements and compounds depend mainly on their interactions in a given system: the biological activity of an element or molecule, or their environmental impact can be explained by a detailed study of these interactions, whose nature and strength can be evaluated by chemical equilibrium and other thermodynamic studies.

NECTAR combines the expertise of the large community of specialists working in the field of thermodynamic studies of chemical equilibria. The scopes of this Action are to create a network based on the stimulating collaboration between them, to promote knowledge exchange, and to achieve high technological progress. All this will be accomplished through a fruitful collaboration between young researchers and experienced scientists, taking into consideration gender balance and maximal geographical distribution. Innovative and integrated theoretical and experimental approaches will be established and optimized. Overall, the outstanding quality of obtained results will serve as benchmark for next decades, allowing their application in the above-mentioned fields and substantially impacting on life quality of next generations.

For further details and specific objectives, please read the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of NECTAR COST Action: https://www.cost-nectar.eu/docs/general_docs/memorandum_of_understanding.pdf

Purpose of ITC Conference Grants

ITC Conference Grants consist in a grant for the presentation of the own work given by Young Researchers and Innovators affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) / Near Neighbour

Country (NNC) for their participation in high-level conferences. Conferences must be focused on the topic NECTAR COST Action CA18202 and should not be organized by the COST Action. For further details, please read the user guide <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf> .

Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Conference Grants are exclusively reserved to Young Researchers and Innovators (PhD students, PhD candidates, and ECI's) with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC/NNC member of NECTAR COST Action CA18202.
- The applicant shall make an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question that shall be listed in the official event/conference program. The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation / speech at the approved conference shall be on the topic of the NECTAR COST Action CA18202 and shall acknowledge COST as recommended in <https://www.cost.eu/about/visual-identity/>. Specifically, for NECTAR COST Action CA18202 acknowledgements, please contact SCM for additional information and check https://cost-nectar.eu/pages/ack_guides.html .

Additionally

- The priority is always given to applications that are related to currently ongoing Working Groups, submitted by the WG members, and endorsed by the WG leaders.
- The priority is given to Conferences in presence.
- In order to ensure proper distribution of funds and a more efficient dissemination, NECTAR COST Action CA18202 will not grant more than one person (especially from the same Institution/Country) for a single conference .
- ITC grantees should make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

Funding

An ITC Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application by the delegated person(s). ITC Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in a given conference. An ITC Conference Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the selected Grantee.

The contribution for each Conference Grant will be up to a maximum of EUR 1250 per grant.

Multiple applications to several Actions by the same person to attend the same conference is strictly forbidden and may lead to the cancellation of the grant.

The amount granted to each individual ITC will be determined during the evaluation process by ITC Coordinator and may be subjected to negotiation with the applicant(s) before approval.

Find a conference

Granted Conferences are only those strictly related to NECTAR's aims and scopes. Suitability of Conference will be unquestionably judged by the Evaluation Committee and ITC Coordinator.

Conferences must necessarily take place before **October 15th, 2022**.

How to apply

- Applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>.
- The applicant encodes an ITC CG application by logging into e-COST and clicking on the ITC Conference Grants tab.

The following documents are required:

- Application form available at https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_GrantApplication
- CV (Europass, including a list of academic publications, if applicable);
- a short description of involvement in the NECTAR COST Action;
- acceptance letter from the conference organizers (confirming either applicant's oral or poster presentation);
- a copy of the submitted abstract;

Additionally (if available)

- Full paper about the presentation;
- The most recent conference booklet or leaflet / conference program;
- The invitation from the organizers (for a keynote presentation, etc.).

Further details can be found in <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>

Application and Evaluation process

The ITC Conference Grant evaluation procedure has been approved through e-vote by COST NECTAR Management Committee Members. The procedure is as follows:

- ITC Conference Grants Call is launched by NECTAR ITC Conference Grants Coordinator (stating all relevant details of application and deadline). **Please note that current call is ongoing and the applications can be submitted not later than Apr 30th, 2022.**
- After the deadline, a Committee of Reviewers checks the eligibility of applicants and applications and evaluates them in the context of their compatibility and relevance with the topic of the Action. Only applications that support NECTAR Aims and Scopes will be considered. Please consult NECTAR website (www.cost-nectar.eu) and NECTAR Memorandum of Understanding for details (https://cost-nectar.eu/docs/general_docs/memorandum_of_understanding.pdf). Preference will be given to oral presentations.
- If needed ITC Conference Grants Coordinator will negotiate the Grants.
- Action Chair gives the final approval.
- The GH manager sends the applicant the Grant Notification Letter

Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee and by the ITC Coordinator.

Reporting

It is expected that each ITC grantee will **send a copy of its presentation/poster/paper** to both the ITC

Coordinator and the Science Communication Manager of the NECTAR Action. It will be then disseminated using the official NECTAR website, social media, etc. The material must be submitted to the ITC Coordinator by email shortly after the conference to upload a report to the e-COST platform. Photographic material from the conference (e.g. the Applicant with the NECTAR logo in background) will be requested. In particular, the grantee must also submit a picture of her/him taken at the poster session or during the lecture, with the conference banner in the background, and accompanied by one or two short sentences about the research presented at the conference, to be used for the dissemination purposes in social media.

1 day and 15 days after the end of the participation to the conference, the grantee receives a reminder to upload the scientific report.

The deadline to submit the last supporting documents is 15 days from the end of the participation to the conference.

The submission of both the report and communication/dissemination material is **mandatory** to receive the Grant. Late submission, beyond the deadline, can also lead to the cancellation of the Grant.

A scientific report template is available here: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report . The grantee must complete this template and save it in pdf before uploading it in e-COST.

Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by ITC CG applicants.

Deadlines

Relevant dates are as follows:

- **April 30th 2022:** deadline for submission of ITC CG Applications
- **Before May 15th, 2022:** notification of selected ITC Granted
- **October 15th, 2022:** deadline for the end of Conference

Additional information

Further info at: <https://cost-nectar.eu/pages/itc.html>

Contacts

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