



## FAQ for SCI FI

### Questions concerning the APPLICATION

**Q: Do I have to have a finished PhD to apply?**

A: No, we welcome PhD candidates to apply as well.

**Q: When you say early career, what does that mean? How long after your PhD can you apply as a postdoc?**

A: You can apply as a PhD candidate, or with a finished PhD. There is no restriction on how long after your PhD you can apply till.

**Q: I have a Master's degree, but still would like to take part. Is this possible?**

A: Yes, you can if you can demonstrate that you have at least 1-2 years' experience in research in the medtech, pharma or any other health care related field.

**Q: I don't have an educational background in healthcare can I still apply?**

A: That greatly depends on the area of research that you are currently conducting. If you have sufficient research experience in the field of medtech, pharma or healthcare, then it shouldn't be a problem. Just make sure to highlight this in your application.

**Q: Would this programme be suitable/useful for a new start-up founder?**

A: This programme is geared towards researchers who want to transition from academia to an industry setting and therefore not necessarily geared to start-ups. However, the skills that you will learn, will naturally also be interesting for start-ups. For pure start-up programmes we would recommend you looking into the EIT Health bootcamps: <https://eithealth.eu/bootcamps/>

**Q: What is the maximum number of participants you estimate for each format, for full programme and for light programme?**

A: 50 participants for the full programme; no limit for the light programme

**Q: Should I apply for both programmes in case I don't get into the full programme?**

A: No, in case you are not selected for the full programme, we will ask you if you want to take part in the light programme, which has no restrictions on the number of places. For the full programme only 50 participants can take part.

**Q: On what basis will we be selected?**

A: For the light programme all applicants that fit the background criteria will be selected (based on the questionnaire). For the full programme, applicants will be selected on the following criteria: Personal motivation, fit to the programme (academic background, research), ability to communicate (based on application and submitted video).



**Q: Is there a discount of fees for students who have scholarships (limited budget)?**

A: We are currently offering a special “early bird price” of €400 until 30 April 2024 (only for the Full Programme). As some of you still might struggle with the participation fee, we are offering a limited number of spots **(10 in Total)** for the **Full Programme**:

- 5 spots will be sponsored for applicants from RIS countries who are also currently employed in RIS countries (please check here for the classification of a RIS country: <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme>)
- And a further 5 spots will be sponsored specifically for Ukrainian researchers.

In the recruitment form you will have to explain your current economic situation, provide proof of your country of residence and also upload a letter of recommendation from a supervisor of your current institute.

**Q: The video for the application should be a summary of one's CV? Or is something else expected? How long should it be?**

A: The video should not be a summary of your CV – more a glimpse of who you are, what makes you tick, what you are passionate about (e.g. your current research). Duration: 1-2 minutes. You are completely free in the creation of content.

**Q: How can you "stick out" with your application?**

A: Be creative, tell us about your research and why you are motivated to join.

**Q: What does an ideal participant / applicant look like?**

A: There is no ‘ideal’ participant. We welcome applications from all over the world with a background in med / medtech / pharma, passionate about their research and motivated to work together in a multidisciplinary team.

**Q: Should the CV be an academic one, or should we transform it to an industrial resume?**

A: That is up to you. We accept an academic resume and an industrial resume.

**Q: Previous entrepreneurship courses/workshops/experience is a plus to apply?**

A: Previous experience is naturally always a bonus, however the main evaluation criteria will be on your personal motivation, fit to the programme and ability to communicate.

**Q: How can we benefit from 50% discount by 30 April if final list is announced by 3 July?**

A: If you apply by the 30<sup>th</sup> April and get chosen for the programme (nominations announced by 3 July), you will just have to pay the Early Bird Price.

**Questions concerning the PROGRAMME:**

**Q: Could you please describe the light programme in more detail?**

A: In the light programme you have access to the 7 core and the 5 industry specific online modules. The modules are always open for a week. There will be no webinars, no mentoring sessions and no



events during the light programme. However, you can listen to the presentations of the midterm event, as this will be held online.

**Q: How does it work with the 4 hours a week for the full programme - can this be done at the weekend or is there a fixed schedule?**

A: The modules will open a weekend before (Friday), so you could look at the video clips prior to the week. However, bear in mind that you will have to make time during the week to discuss assignments with your team. The webinars will take place on Friday in the afternoon.

**Q: What exactly is the schedule of the 4 hours per week? Can you break them down what they exactly consist of?**

A: 90 Minutes for the online learning module, 60 Minutes for the Webinar (always Friday), 90 Minutes for the assignment and case study that you will be working on as a team.

**Q: Can you elaborate more on how the modules and the webinars are structured? How do they really look like?**

A: Each module will consist of pre-reading, 90 Minutes of short videos and an assignment that you work on with your designated team. At the webinars you will have the possibility to present your assignments and ask questions concerning the content of the module.

**Q: Do I have to participate in all events, webinars (full programme)?**

A: Yes, we highly recommend that you take part in all events and webinars as this is where you will interact with the specialists and consequently gain a deeper understanding of the module topics.

**Q: What if I can't participate at an event / webinar because of another duties (lab work, teaching...)?**

In the circumstance that you cannot take part at the event / webinar then please let the organiser know and bear in mind that you have to attend at least 70% of all webinars.

**Q: At what time of day are events and webinars (full programme)?**

A: The webinars will be held on Friday afternoon (time will be defined by each organiser) and the events will predominantly start in the afternoon.

**Q: How does it work with the travel cost? Are they included in the fee (full-programme)?**

A: Accommodation will be booked and paid for by SCI FI. However, you will have to organise and pay for your own travel to and from the event locations (Maastricht and Gdansk) from your resident location stated in the application.

**Q: Is it possible to track the course via recordings?**

A: No, the focus of this programme (especially the full programme) is the interaction with your team members during assignments, webinars and events. If you have limited time then we would recommend to participate in the light programme.



**Q: Can you explain a bit more what to expect from the mentoring slots (full programme)?**

A: There will be three one-hour mentoring slots for each team from specialists from industry (Boehringer Ingelheim). The mentors will assist you with any questions and help you progress with your project but will also be open to questions on how to best transition to industry.

**Q: Do I have to complete all assignments (full programme)?**

A: We ask you to complete at least a minimum of 70% of all assignments. Naturally it is best to complete all assignments, as this will help you in the development of your case study.

**Q: How will I receive feedback to assignments (full programme)?**

A: This depends very much on the assignments of each module. For some modules you will present assignments (as a team) at the respective webinar and for others you will send in a document to the module leader.

**Q: Are the companies that provide the case studied also involved in discussing them over the course of the programme?**

A: Yes, the companies providing the case studies will also be involved in some mentoring and also in the Q&A sessions (webinars), so you will be applying the knowledge that you are learning in the modules directly to the case.

**Q: How are teams made. Are the team members from the same field or different fields (full programme)?**

A: We are going to put you in multidisciplinary teams (e.g. from diverse thematic backgrounds) based on your academic background and research field that you stated in your application.

**Q: Could you tell me more about the network as this is one of the most important reasons why I want to participate (full programme)?**

A: Networking is one of the core aspect of this programme and is three fold:

- network with your team members (from different Universities, countries and backgrounds) and with the other participants of the full-programme
- network with the partner universities of SCI FI
- network with industry (not only our partners but also other specialists that will be invited to mentor you and also will take part in the events / webinars).

**Q: What kind of new skills I would be able to add to my CV after the completion of the programme?**

A: The skills that you will acquire during the programme will be manifold:

- From working in a diverse, multidisciplinary team you will learn to collaborate, communicate, delegate and think creatively.
- You will learn how beneficial it is to involve your customer (the patient) in the development process of a product, service, medication and will be given skills to contact and communicate with patient groups.
- You will acquire core business skills that are vital to work in an industry setting (strategic management, project management, operational management and market access and



- pricing) and even industry specific skills that will equip you to better understand specific industry processes (e.g. Digital transformation, Medical device regulation).
- You will experience the importance of networking, with the participants but also with the industry partners and the academic partners, leading to potential job offers or further collaborations.
- You will learn to how to best communicate and pitch your research proposal to an audience.
- You will learn how to improve your CV and enhance your application skills.
- You will learn to think out of the box.

**Q: How is the programme perceived by the industry partners?**

A: Our industry partners have co-developed the programme, providing case studies, modules, mentors and specialists for the Q&A sessions – so the programme is based on their ideas and needs from the industry perspective. We received very positive feedback from the industry mentors working with the teams and from the SCI FI participants.

**Q: Does the course give some competitive advantage if we want to move from basic research to industry at the end of the PhD?**

A: What we can see from the LinkedIn of our Alumni, we can definitely say yes! Many people were hired in the industry after their participation of SCI FI.

**Other:**

**Q: Will you upload this information webinar session somewhere so we can watch again?**

A: The recording of the webinar will be shared to you via e-mail or can be shared to individuals on request (Contact: Marcin Ciszewski: [marcin.ciszewski@umed.lodz.pl](mailto:marcin.ciszewski@umed.lodz.pl))

**Q: Will there be an edition of the course in 2025 or will it only be held this year?**

A: We have funding from EIT Health for 2024. We are currently looking into opportunities for funding for 2025 and beyond and consequently hope that we can continue to run the programme in the future.

**Q: For the Full Programme - will the events take part in person?**

A: We currently are planning to have the kick-off event in Maastricht, The Netherlands and the final event in Gdansk, Poland – so in person.