

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

Goal: STSMs are aimed at strengthening the existing networks and fostering collaboration by allowing scientists to visit an institution in another participating COST country (or approved institution). A STSM should contribute to the objectives of the COST Action and allow applicants to learn new insights or methods.

Basic rules: All researchers or staff of a participating COST country (or approved institution) can apply. A STSM will take place for minimum 5 days and maximum 90 days. The stay cannot be split up in different periods. An Early Career Investigator (ECI) can apply for a stay of a minimum of 91 days and a maximum of 180 days.

Financial Support: The STSM provides support to travel to the host institution. (Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.) The maximum amount is 2500€ (and 3500€ for ECI that stay more than 90 days).

Requirements: A candidate for a STSM should

- have a written agreement from the host institution that you are welcome
- apply online via the COST website (<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>). In addition a CV and work plan (min. 800 max. 1200 words) should be send to the STSM coordinator (peter.vanaelst@uantwerpen.be). The work plan should provide detailed information on the intentions and objectives of the stay.
- After the stay (within 30 days) a short scientific report (min. 1200 - max. 1800 words) needs to be submitted to the STSM coordinator describing the work carried out, the results obtained and refer to outcomes (incl. future collaboration).

Evaluation criteria: The application will be evaluated by the STSM coordinator (in agreement with the Chair of the Action, Toril Aalberg) based on three criteria:

- The quality of the application (does this contribute to the objectives of our COST Action)
- Early Career Investigators will be given priority (ECI = less than 8 years after PhD)
- In general, geographical and gender balances will be taken into account

Procedure:

- Applicant fills in online form + email additional info to STSM coordinator
- STSM coordinator will approve or deny the application
- Grant Holder will send official grant letter to the applicant
- After the stay the grantee submits a short report to STSM coordinator
- After approval Grant Holder will execute payment

Deadline: STSM applications must be submitted **before 31 Dec. 2017**. The STSM visits need to be completed **before 1 April 2018**.