2027 / 2028

Application procedure

The EoF Academy Fellowship Program

Application Deadline → **8 January 2027**

Program Starts → **February 2027**

The Economy of Francesco Foundation invites applications for 12-month research fellowships, running from February 2027 to February 2028, with the possibility of applying for a second year through a new selection process.

The program is designed for early-career researchers (Master's students, PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers) with innovative and original research projects aligned with the vision of The Economy of Francesco (EoF).

What kind of projects are we looking for?

We particularly encourage research projects engaging with the themes of the twelve EoF villages:

- Agriculture and Justice
- Business and Peace
- Businesses in Transition
- CO_2 of Inequalities
- Energy and Poverty
- Finance and Humanity
- Life and Lifestyle
- Management and Gift
- Policies and Happiness
- Vocation and Profit
- Women for Economy
- Work and Care

Within the Finance and Humanity theme, we particularly welcome research proposals exploring cooperative credit and its contribution to integral human development, local communities and territories. Dedicated fellowship funding is available for research in this area, with the support of the Federazione Marchigiana Banche di Credito Cooperativo (Federation of Cooperative Credit Banks of the Marche Region, Italy).

We also welcome projects that:

- Address issues related to disarmament and demilitarisation.
- Emerge from war and conflict-affected regions.
- Explore the ethical use of technology and artificial intelligence.
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration, including joint projects between academics, entrepreneurs and other changemakers.
- Connect academic research with practical applications while maintaining a strong academic foundation.
- Explore other innovative themes aligned with the EoF vision of giving a soul to the economy, inspired by Franciscan thought and practice, as well as papal encyclicals and other relevant Church teachings, such as *Magnifica Humanitas* (2026), *Fratelli tutti* (2020) and *Laudato si'* (2015).

Individual and collaborative research projects

As a new feature of this edition, applicants may submit either an individual research project or a joint research proposal involving two applicants.

This opportunity aims to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and strengthen the dialogue between academic research and concrete experiences of economic transformation.

All projects are expected to maintain a strong academic foundation.

What does the fellowship involve?

During the fellowship year, fellows are expected to actively contribute to the academic life of the EoF Academy and engage with the wider Economy of Francesco community.

Specifically, they are expected to:

- Participate in the Academy's academic activities, including monthly thematic research group meetings, plenary seminars and other activities promoted by the EoF Academy.
- Engage with the wider EoF community by organising at least one seminar in collaboration with an EoF village or hub.
- Participate in person in the EoF Academic Conference, taking place in Assisi, Italy, from 21 to 23 October 2027, under the theme *"Is Poverty to Be Fought, Loved, or Both? — Contemporary Research and the Prophecy of St. Francis of Assisi"*.
- Produce at least one academic paper during the fellowship year, explicitly acknowledging the EoF Academy, and submit it to a peer-reviewed academic journal before the end of the fellowship period.

Research grant

Each fellow will receive a research grant of approximately €5,000. For collaborative research projects involving two fellows, the total grant will be €7,500.

Participation in the EoF Academic Conference in Assisi is mandatory, and the conference registration fee will be waived for all fellows.

Fellows are responsible for arranging and covering their own travel and accommodation expenses, with the fellowship grant contributing towards these costs.

Fellows travelling from more distant countries or facing particular financial constraints may apply for additional travel support through the EoF Academic Conference scholarship application process, subject to its eligibility criteria and available funding.

Evaluation and selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality: quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research project.
- Interdisciplinarity and relevance: the project's interdisciplinary approach and relevance to the overall vision and specific themes of The Economy of Francesco.
- Communication skills: good proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Motivation and commitment: strong motivation, genuine enthusiasm for the EoF vision and objectives, and a willingness to actively engage in and contribute to the EoF Academy community.
- Collaborative spirit: a commitment to co-creating an inspiring, stimulating and collaborative academic environment.

The EoF Academy aims to support early-career researchers. Applicants under the age of 35 will therefore be given priority. However, age is a guiding priority rather than a strict eligibility criterion.

How to apply

- Application deadline: 8 January 2027
- Notification of results: by 31 January 2027
- Program start: February 2027
- Fellowship period: February 2027 – February 2028

As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit one example of previous academic work (such as a published paper, working paper or thesis chapter) and one letter of recommendation from an academic supervisor, professor or other relevant professional.

A Google Account is required to complete the online application form and upload the requested documents.

Applicants are expected to explain how their proposed EoF Academy research project differs from their ongoing academic research (e.g. Master's, PhD or postdoctoral research).

Further details about the application process and fellowship conditions will be provided in the application form.

Applications must be submitted through the online application form.