

HPCTRAIN Call for Trainees

1. Introduction

The European HPC Professional Traineeship Programme (HPCTRAIN) project aims to strengthen the European High-Performance Computing (HPC) ecosystem by offering high-quality traineeships that provide hands-on experience in HPC technologies and their applications. The project contributes to the Digital Europe Programme and EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) objectives to enhance digital skills, foster collaboration between academia and industry, and increase the adoption of HPC across Europe.

Designed to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and the professional use of HPC, the programme enables participants to gain practical experience in professional environment, while developing advanced technical and transversal skills required for careers in HPC and related digital technologies.

The programme also provides networking opportunities and exposure to the European HPC industry, contributing to the development of the next generation of HPC professionals across Europe.

This call invites individuals to apply for traineeships hosted by organisations across the European HPC ecosystem. The traineeships, with a **duration of 3 to 6 months**, focus on HPC as the core domain, including its intersections with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing (QC), and aim to provide practical, hands-on experience with HPC systems, tools, and methodologies.

2. Objective of the Call

The objective of this call is to select motivated candidates for traineeships that:

- Provide practical, hands-on experience in HPC and related fields
- Support the development of advanced digital and professional skills
- Enhance career opportunities in HPC and related domains
- Contribute to building a skilled HPC workforce in Europe
- Bridge the gap between education and labour market needs in the European HPC ecosystem
- Provide trainees with exposure to real industrial and research HPC environments
- Support the development of future HPC users, developers, operators, and high-level support specialists

3. Type of Call

This is a continuous call with four cut-off dates per year.

Opening: 01 June 2026

Closing: 31 March 2029

The first cut-off date is an early access, ending on 15 June, followed by subsequent quarterly cut-off dates in September and December. In the following years, a new call will be issued each year with quarterly cut-off dates in March, June, September, and December.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the call period. Applications received by each cut-off date will be evaluated together, enabling regular and timely selection of candidates.

Calls for traineeship applications will be announced on a rolling basis via the HPCTRAIN project website.

4. Eligibility of Applicants

Applicants must be individuals interested in pursuing a traineeship in HPC and related fields.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate a clear interest in HPC technologies and applications. This may be evidenced through their field of study, previous experience, or motivation to develop skills in HPC and its application domains.

The programme is targeted at early-career professionals and students with a degree that are seeking to pursue professional career paths centered around HPC technologies, operations, and applications.

Applicants must be at an early stage of their professional career and demonstrate the necessary advanced digital skills to achieve the objectives of the traineeship programme. Applicants who participate in an education programme (e.g. Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD level), must have completed the programme by the time the traineeship will start. A relevant academic background is considered an advantage but is not mandatory.

Applicants must have their primary place of residence and citizenship in a country that is a member of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking. All traineeships must be performed in a EuroHPC Participating State and comply with all applicable national regulations, including labour and immigration requirements in the country of the hosting organisation and the place of employment.

Applicants should be able to work in an English-speaking professional environment, as traineeships are expected to be conducted in English.

Applicants should be under 40 years old at the time of submission of the application.

Specific eligibility requirements, including any additional conditions related to the traineeship (such as required skills, duration, or location), will be defined in each individual traineeship description.

The traineeship must not be combined with other funding programmes such as scholarships or mobility grants. Compliance with eligibility criteria will be verified during the selection process.

5. Scope of Traineeships

Traineeships are implemented in organisations providing professional career paths in HPC, such as supercomputing centres, private companies, SMEs, start-ups, and other academic organisations active in HPC technologies and applications.

Traineeships offered under this call are designed to provide practical experience in HPC-related topics, including:

- HPC systems and architectures
- Parallel programming and performance optimisation
- HPC-enabled data analysis and simulation
- HPC applications in scientific or industrial domains
- HPC-related aspects of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing

Traineeships are based on active participation in real tasks and projects and are intended to provide meaningful learning experiences.

Traineeships are expected to provide “on-the-job” training through active participation in operational, technical, research, or industrial HPC activities.

Each selected trainee will be assigned a mentor within the hosting organisation to provide guidance and support throughout the traineeship period.

6. Financial Support

Selected trainees will receive financial support to enable their participation in the traineeship and to contribute to covering living, subsistence, and travel costs during the traineeship period.

The financial support is based on reference values from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and is adjusted to the HPCTRAIN project budget. The allowance may vary depending on the country where the traineeship takes place. On average, the financial support corresponds to a monthly allowance of approximately **3,330 EUR for living costs** and **520 EUR for mobility costs**. The total financial support per trainee will depend on the duration of the traineeship (3 to 6 months), with a maximum contribution of **20,000 EUR per trainee**.

The financial support will be provided in the form of a bursary transferred monthly to the trainee's bank account. **3% of the bursary (not exceeding 500 EUR)** will be paid after the successful submission and acceptance of the final traineeship report.

The financial support is intended to enable trainees to reside close to the hosting organisation and fully participate in the traineeship activities.

This payment structure is designed to ensure both timely support for trainees and the completion of required reporting obligations, which are essential for the monitoring and successful implementation of the project.

The purpose of this support is to enable trainees to reside close to the hosting organisation and fully engage in the traineeship activities. The specific conditions of the financial support,

including payment arrangements, will be further detailed in the traineeship offer and communicated to selected candidates.

Trainees are solely responsible for complying with all applicable tax, social security, and legal obligations related to the financial support received, in accordance with the legislation of the country where the traineeship takes place or where they are tax resident.

Hosting organisations do not receive financial compensation under this call for hosting trainees, but are responsible for providing supervision, guidance, and a suitable working environment for the duration of the traineeship. Exceptionally, SMEs and start-ups may receive a financial support for the mentoring activity.

The allocation and management of financial support will follow the principles of transparency, equal treatment, and sound financial management in line with the project and programme requirements.

7. Application Process

Applicants must submit their application through the official HPCTRAIN application tool:

[PLACEHOLDER – application platform/link]

Applicants may apply for traineeship opportunities hosted by organisations across the European HPC ecosystem, including both public and private sector organisations.

The application form is designed to collect structured and comparable information to support a fair and transparent evaluation process.

Applicants are required to provide personal details, including contact information, nationality, and eligibility to work in the European Union. Information on availability, including the earliest and latest possible start dates, must also be indicated.

Applicants must confirm their proficiency in English sufficient to participate in a professional working environment, including communication, technical discussions, and reporting. This may be verified during the selection process through supporting evidence.

The application must include details on educational background, including the highest completed degree, field of study, and institution, as well as current status (e.g. student, employed, or unemployed). Where applicable, applicants must provide information about their current studies or employment.

Applicants may select up to three traineeships in order of preference. A motivation statement (maximum 500–700 words) is required, explaining the reasons for selecting the traineeships, the expected benefits, and the applicant's suitability based on their background, skills, and experience. A curriculum vitae (CV) must also be uploaded.

Applicants are required to describe their technical skills and experience. This includes programming languages and level of proficiency, as well as relevant experience in HPC, AI, QC, or other advanced computing domains. Applicants should, where applicable, reference

specific tools, frameworks, or environments they have used. Additional relevant technical skills may also be included.

Applicants must provide their consent for the processing of personal data for the purposes of evaluation, selection, project monitoring, and reporting, and confirm that all information provided is accurate and complete.

8. Evaluation and Selection

All applications will undergo a structured, multi-step evaluation process to ensure transparency, fairness, and alignment with the requirements of the traineeships.

In the first stage, applications will be subject to an **administrative check** carried out by the project team to verify eligibility and formal correctness. This includes confirming that all required information has been provided, that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, and that the application complies with the requirements of the call. Applications that do not meet these conditions may be rejected at this stage.

Applications that pass the administrative check will proceed to a **technical review** conducted by internal reviewers. The assessment will focus primarily on the extent to which the applicant fulfils the requirements of the selected traineeships, including their background, skills, experience, and overall suitability.

Candidates who meet the requirements will be shortlisted, and their applications will be shared with the relevant hosting organisations corresponding to their selected traineeships. The hosting organisations will review the applications and conduct interviews with selected candidates.

Following the interviews, hosting organisations will inform the project team of their final selection. Based on this input, the final list of selected trainees will be confirmed and communicated to the applicants.

The selection process aims to ensure transparency, equal treatment, diversity, and alignment between trainee profiles and hosting organisation needs.

9. Obligations of Selected Trainees

Selected trainees are expected to actively and full time (typically 40h per week in line with national and EU labour regulations) participate in the traineeship and fulfil the tasks assigned by the hosting organisation professionally and responsibly. In addition, trainees are required to comply with the reporting and feedback obligations of the HPCTRAIN programme.

Selected trainees are expected to actively engage in the professional environment of the hosting organisation and contribute to the assigned HPC-related activities and projects.

Trainees must submit a **mid-term report** and a **final report** during and after the traineeship. These reports will be reviewed by the project team. Each report will be assessed as approved or not approved. In case a report is not approved, the trainee will receive feedback explaining the reasons and required improvements, and will be given the opportunity to revise and resubmit the report.

Trainees are also required to complete a **satisfaction survey** at the end of the traineeship. A corresponding survey will be completed by the hosting organisation to provide feedback on the traineeship experience.

Completion of all reporting and feedback obligations is mandatory and forms an integral part of the traineeship programme.

Upon successful completion of the traineeship and fulfilment of all programme obligations, trainees will receive an official HPCTRAIN/EuroHPC traineeship certificate.