

Future Circular Collider Week 2026 Early Career Researcher Award

Introduction

The Future Circular Collider (FCC) Early Career Researcher (ECR) Award 2026 invites young scientists and professionals to contribute innovative, relevant and technically robust work that supports the long-term vision of the FCC project.

The competition is embedded within the FCCWeek 2026, taking place in Helsinki, Finland, 8–12 June 2026, and is organised jointly by the FCC project and Springer Nature.

This document provides all essential information for prospective participants, including eligibility, submission process, selection criteria, awards, promotional text for social media, and material suitable for the FCCWeek conference website: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1552126/>

Purpose

The FCC ECR Award aims to:

- Engage Early Career Researchers in shaping the future of a visionary new high-energy physics and accelerator-based research infrastructure.
- Highlight outstanding and original work that advances the FCC vision.
- Offer visibility, recognition, and career-building opportunities to emerging experts across all relevant scientific, technical, and socio-economic disciplines.

Eligibility

Open to Early Career Researchers involved in fields relevant to the FCC.

The ECR criteria are the ones issued by ECFA (<https://ecfa.web.cern.ch/mandate-ecfa-early-career-researcher-panel>) extending it to **everyone with up to 8 years after defense of the last degree and without a permanent contract.**

The work submitted must be original, has not been previously published, and is not currently submitted or under review elsewhere. Submissions and publications to preprint servers are allowed (arXiv, CDS, Zenodo, ...).

The submission must clearly indicate the Technology Readiness Level (TRL 1 to 9) of the content of the contribution. Please refer to the TRL definitions in Annex G of the document:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-ga_en.pdf.

Collaborative submissions are welcome and encouraged. In team submissions, the award is attributed to the team, represented by the primary author.

Scope of Topics

Relevant contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Theoretical and experimental physics
- Accelerator physics and technologies
- Detector technologies
- Software, simulation, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Civil engineering and large infrastructure development
- Economics, finance, procurement and cost optimisation
- Project management and systems engineering
- Public engagement, education, outreach and science diplomacy
- Knowledge transfer, industrial collaboration and innovation management
- International cooperation, governance and legal aspects

In short: **any topic that can meaningfully contribute to making the FCC a reality.**

Deadlines and Submission Portal

- **Submission deadline: Thursday, 30 April 2026 (18h00 CET)**
- **Submission platform:** FCC Week 2026 Indico website, via the designated submission form at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1552126/abstracts/>

File Formats

- MS Word or LaTeX
- No template is required or provided.
- References shall be in numerical format, in rectangular brackets (e.g. [1] ..., [2] ..., ...)

Length and Materials

- No fixed length requirement (shorter contributions in the order of 8 A4 pages are typically preferred).
- No restrictions on image materials or supplementary data, but all materials used and supplied must be openly publishable and the authors must have the rights to do so.
- Work must be original, unpublished, and not under review elsewhere.

Review Process

All submitted contributions undergo an internal review by the competition panel.

Feedback is not guaranteed but may be provided at the discretion of reviewers.

Selection Criteria

The selection panel evaluates submissions based on:

1. **Relevance and meaningfulness** for the FCC project (low, medium, high)
2. **Technical validity and realistic viability**: The contribution must be verifiable, validated, correct, and more than a speculative idea (TRL 3 or higher, self declaration).
3. **Originality**: Research must not be previously published or under review elsewhere (self-declaration)
4. **Authenticity**: Authors must ensure their work is genuinely their own; team contributions are allowed (self-declaration).

Note on Innovation

The term “innovative” refers to contributions that add something new or improve an existing process, product, method, workflow or service. It does not require a radically new idea, though such ideas are of course welcome.

Selection Panel Composition

The award winners are chosen by a panel of five members:

- Two technical experts in the scientific/technical domain of the submission.
- One FCC Early Career Researcher representative.
- One member of the FCC Study Coordination Team.
- One member of the Springer Nature Publishing Management Team.

Awards

Three winners will be announced at FCC Week 2026.

Prices will be awarded in 3 categories:

- Accelerators and related technical systems including software and ICT
- Physics, experiments and detectors
- CE, project and innovation management, socio-economics, finance, risks, ...

Each winner receives:

- Certificate of Achievement
- Trophy
- Monetary award of €1000
- Open Access publication of the winning article in a Springer Nature EPJ Journal, free of charge

The award ceremony will be held jointly by FCC project organisation and Springer Nature.

Winners will receive promotion on the FCC website, Springer Nature channels and social media platforms.

Submission Process (Step-by-Step)

1. Prepare your document using MS Word or LaTeX.
2. Visit the FCC Week 2026 Indico page.
3. Navigate to the “Call for Abstracts” submission section.
4. Indicate as contribution type "(1) Early Career Researcher Award"
5. Fill in the form and indicate that you are an ECR.
6. Upload your draft article and any supplementary material.

Submit no later than 30 April 2026 (18:00 CET).

Additional Information

Copyright: Authors retain copyright.

Winning submissions will be published under Open Access terms.

Ethical Standards: Submissions must follow academic integrity, proper citation, and standard scientific ethics. Authors must adhere to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, as well as apply the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) where relevant, particularly for data and supplementary materials.

The competition is fully inclusive, open at the international level, and not limited by FCC collaboration membership.

The competition is strictly gender-neutral and nationality-neutral, ensuring equal opportunity for all Early Career Researchers.

Confidentiality: Reviewers will treat all submissions confidentially.

Notification of Results: Winners will be informed prior to FCCWeek 2026.

Presentation Opportunity: Winning authors may be invited to present their work during the conference (optional, depending on programme constraints).

Travel Support: No travel funding is provided, but participation in FCCWeek is strongly encouraged.