

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

What is the purpose of an STSM?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are aimed at strengthening existing networks and fostering collaborations by facilitating researchers and scholars participating in a given COST Action to visit an institution / organisation in another Participating COST Country / an approved NNC institution or an approved IPC institution.

A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and / or methods not available in their own institutions / organisations.

Who is eligible to partake in STSM?

A STSM applicant must be engaged in a research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing scientific research.

Always satisfying the above requirement, whether a Researcher is eligible to receive a STSM Grant depends on the status of the country where they hold their primary affiliation. Once this has been established, eligibility can be determined by adhering to the stipulations in the following 3 categories:

1. Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an institution located in a Participating COST Country (a Country that has accepted the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are eligible to perform a STSM in another Participating COST Country. A list of Participating COST Countries can be found on the respective COST Action Webpage at www.cost.eu.
2. For Researchers holding their primary affiliation in a Near Neighbour Country (NNC), the consideration for being eligible to receive a STSM Grant is linked to whether their institution has been formally approved onto the Action or not – The eligibility status of Researchers located in NNC is restricted to those affiliated to approved NNC institutions. The complete list of NNC can be found at http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries/international_cooperation/nnc. A list of approved NNC Institutions can be found on the respective COST Action Webpage at www.cost.eu.
3. For Researchers holding their primary affiliation at a European RTD Organisation, the consideration for being eligible to receive a STSM Grant is linked to whether their institution has been formally approved onto the Action or not. The eligibility status of Researchers located in European RTD Organisations is restricted to those affiliated to approved European RTD Organisations.

STSM - from where to where?

The Home Institution / Organisation is the institution / organisation where the STSM applicant holds their primary affiliation as registered on their e-COST profile / STSM application / C.V. and where they are currently performing their main strand of research. The table below (see category A) details the possible STSM scenarios available to the respective applicant. The Host Institution / Organisation (category B) concerns the Institution / Organisation that will host the successful applicant.

The following table shows the STSM scenarios available to eligible applicants:

A) Researcher in a Home Institution	B) To Perform a STSM in a Host Institution
From an institution in a Participating COST Country	In another Participating COST Country
	In an approved NNC institution
	In an approved IPC institution
	In an approved Specific organisation
From an approved NNC institution	In a Participating COST Country
In an approved European RTD Organisation	In a Participating COST Country