



FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Conference 2026

Call for applications for host institutions

Guide for applicants

The Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) and the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology open the call for hosting the 5th FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE International Molecular Biosciences PhD and Postdoc Conference.

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Conference is an interdisciplinary, three-day international event organized by and for young researchers in the molecular life sciences. It brings together up to 300 participants from around the world. This conference series began in 2022 (Table 1) as a continuation of the 2017–2020 ENABLE project (Table 2), funded by the EU H2020 Research and Innovation Programme.

We are pleased to **invite European molecular life sciences research institutions to host the 5th FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Conference in 2026**. FEBS and IUBMB provide significant financial support (up to 85,000 EUR) as well as organizational assistance for the event.

Table 1. FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE associate host institutions (2022–2025)

Institution	Mission
Institute of Biomedicine of Seville (IBiS), Spain	Seville 2022 ...to investigate the causes of the most prevalent pathologies in the population and to develop new methods for their diagnosis and treatment
University of Cologne, Germany	Cologne 2023 ...to promote training and research in the life sciences, thereby advancing the molecular and cellular understanding of health and disease and connecting basic research to translational medicine
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine – Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore), Singapore	Singapore 2024 ...to transform healthcare by redefining the medicine of tomorrow: the way it is practised and delivered by pursuing medical innovations and creating cutting-edge approaches to healthcare
Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Scotland Institute, UK	Glasgow 2025 ...to understand the mechanisms that regulate cancer cell proliferation, survival and dissemination; to identify critical components of these pathways as targets for novel cancer therapies; and to help translate this knowledge to patient benefit

Table 2. ENABLE participants within the EU-funded project (2016–2020)¹

Institution	Mission
Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona), Spain	Barcelona 2017 ...to carry out research of excellence to cure cancer and other diseases linked to ageing
The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Protein Research (CPR)	Copenhagen 2018 ... to promote basic and applied discovery research on human proteins of medical relevance
Radboud University Medical Center (Radboudumc)	Nijmegen 2019 ... to create scientific impact that leads to the innovation of health and healthcare
European School of Molecular Medicine (SEMM), Italy	Milan 2021 ...to promote training and research within emerging sectors of biomedicine, such as genomics, molecular medicine, nanotechnologies and bioethics

¹ CPR and Radboudumc will not participate as ENABLE partners in the 2026 Conference.



The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Conference (<https://febs-iubmb-enableconference.org>) is unique in that it is organized by a Scientific Committee of young researchers —PhD students and postdocs— from multiple European institutions (see below). This conference features a variety of sessions, with the scientific symposium being the centrepiece. The symposium highlights the latest research and developments in the field of molecular life sciences. In addition to the symposium, the conference offers a range of activities focused on career development and employment opportunities. These include a career day, interactive career workshops, and a job fair. Public engagement is also a core component, with outreach activities specifically designed to reach targeted audiences. Moreover, these activities provide an excellent training opportunity for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows interested in science communication, equipping them with valuable skills for engaging diverse audiences.

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference series provides a platform to empower young researchers by giving them the necessary tools and inspiration to successfully organise an international meeting for their peers.

1. Do you want to host a FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE event?

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE is inviting interested institutions to host the 5th FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Conference in 2026. **The 2026 conference should be held in a country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#).** This event will be organised by a committee of young researchers (see below) following the standards and structure of the previous FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE events (more information on previous conferences at <https://febs-iubmb-enableconference.org>) as summarised below:

- The topic of the conference must revolve around the molecular life sciences research undertaken at the institutions involved. However, the topic should be broad enough to ensure interdisciplinarity and a sound understanding by an audience with different levels of expertise.
- The scientific symposium of the conference must involve the participation of renowned international experts as speakers.
- The conference must include activities in which young researchers can discover career opportunities in the molecular life sciences.
- The conference must include activities that allow discussion and communication between scientists and the general public.
- The conference must be organised by young researchers (PhD students and postdocs). The 2026 Scientific Organising Committee (SOC) should be formed by 2 young researchers from each of the ENABLE partner institutions (2 from IRB and 2 from SEMM), 2 young researchers from the 2025 associated institution (CRUK Scotland Institute), and 2 young researchers from the 2026 associated (host) institution. The committee should also include 1 member from FEBS and 1 from IUBMB. All SOC representatives must be members of a FEBS Constituent Society. Please note that the **SOC 2026 must have their first in-person meeting at the 2026 host institution in May 2025** and therefore **representatives must be selected by early May 2025**. The meeting in May will also serve as the **on-site visit to the venue**.



- A Local Organising Committee (LOC), composed of 15–25 young researchers from the host institution, will support the SOC in all practical and logistical aspects that need to be arranged in the host city. A member of LOC should join the SOC. The LOC should form subcommittees to handle all aspects that are related to the venue, catering and restaurants, travel arrangements and accommodation for invited speakers, career day, and outreach coordination, etc.
- The Organising Committees (SOC and LOC) should ensure a certain number of travel grants are awarded to participants, to broaden the impact of international participation. Sponsors must be sought for these travel grants. Companies that have sponsored past FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conferences can be sought again for sponsorship.
- The LOC and SOC should have administrative support from their own institutions. In particular, **the LOC should have local support from the Human Resources, Academic Office, PR/Communications Department, and/or the secretariat** of the host institution in order to be able to manage, among others, the registration and accounting processes, as well as the budget. All logistical details related to the venue and associated catering will also fall under the responsibility of the host institution. It is important that a representative of the Academic Office (or similar) joins the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Team (FIET), which includes representatives of all the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE participants.

2. How will the event be funded?

FEBS and IUBMB fund the event with a total budget of up to **85,000 EUR**. The grant provided by IUBMB (25,000 EUR) should be mainly used to cover travel grants for participants from [IUBMB Adhering Bodies and Associate Adhering Bodies](#). FEBS and IUBMB will transfer most of the funds in advance at the start of the event, with a small sum retained until after its successful completion. Any remaining costs should be covered by registration fees², sponsors or other sources of revenue. The funds will be transferred following the schedule in Table 3:

Table 3. Payment schedule for FEBS and IUBMB grants.

Schedule of payments for 2026	-18 months	-12 months	-6 months	-3 months	+3 months	total
FEBS	5%	30%	20%	10%	5%	70%
IUBMB	5%	20%	5%	0%	0%	30%

The **Application Form** includes a **Budget Table** that should be completed by the applicant. The budget table is an important part of the application, make sure to carefully include all the requested information. The income section of the table must include: the FEBS and IUBMB grants, registration fees from participants, and all other available support. The FEBS and IUBMB grants provide funds to cover the travel (economy class) and accommodation expenses of invited speakers and general costs of event operation, including catering services,

² Registration fees should be kept as low as possible, considering the costs in the host country. For reference, the registration fees for the Conferences held between 2022 and 2024 ranged from €135–160 for the early bird rate and €170–265 for the late registration rate. Most participants took advantage of the early bird discount.



venue rental costs and other event materials. Please note that the funding from FEBS and IUBMB cannot be used to pay honoraria for speakers.

The successful applicant will receive a Decision Letter after obtaining approval from the evaluating committee, together with Disclaimer and Declarations Forms. The two latter documents should be completed and returned to the FEBS Treasury – details for their reply are provided on the forms. Once the forms have been received by FEBS, the details of the application will be shared with IUBMB, the allocated grant will be transferred to the bank account provided by the host institution. FEBS and IUBMB shall transfer the funds in a timely manner. Note that the host institution is fully responsible for the proper use of the funding provided by FEBS and IUBMB and should cover any deficit in the case of overspending. Any surplus remaining from the conference grant after the event should be returned to FEBS and IUBMB by the end of the reporting period, proportional to the amount of funding each one provided. Any significant changes to the approved budget require approval from FEBS and IUBMB. Note that the host institution has no right to enter any commitments or render any services in the name of FEBS or IUBMB.

Three months after the event has taken place, the Organisers are required to send FEBS and IUBMB a Financial Report. This should give a summary of the income and expenditure for the event and is to be signed by the host institution and legal representative.

3. Eligibility requirements

The institutions interested in applying to host the conference must:

- Be an academic institution (either a university or research institute) with a strong research background in molecular life sciences.
- Be located in countries whose national Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Societies are [Constituent Societies of FEBS](#). Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying.
- Have an established young researchers' organisation (Student Council, Young Researchers Association, or similar).
- Have an administrative structure devoted to providing support to young researchers (Academic Office or similar) with experience in event management.
- Be able to host the conference in November 2026 (3 days).
- Have a letter from their national Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Society, which is a FEBS (and IUBMB – optional) member, expressing support for the organisation of the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference.
- Be able to provide a venue with suitable capacity and requirements for the planned activities, including a main auditorium with 250–300 seats, 6–8 rooms for workshops with up to 30 people capacity, and an open-plan area for the job fair and poster sessions.
- Be able to provide institutional support to SOC and LOC (from Human Resources, Academic Office, PR/Communications Department, etc) to oversee the registration and accounting processes, the conference budget, and all logistical matters related to the venue and catering.



In addition, the following point should be positively evaluated:

- Support of the local national molecular life sciences society/ies with respect to offering travel grants to its members (either for the conference organisers or for the participants).

4. Application procedure and timeline

Institutions interested in hosting this event should complete the **Application Form** and the **Budget Table**, duly signed by the legal representative of the institution, and send it to reyes@febs.org. The deadline for applications is **28 February 2025**. For additional information, please contact reyes@febs.org

- Call opening: 20 January 2025
- Deadline for applications: 28 February 2025
- Notification of results: April 2025
- Selection of SOC members: May 2025
- On-site visit to the venue and first face-to-face meeting of all SOC members at the host institution: Late May 2025
- Invitations to speakers for the 2026 Conference: Autumn 2025

Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying. Host institutions must be a country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#).

5. Evaluation of proposals

Proposals will be evaluated by the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Executive Board, composed of 2 FEBS coordinators, 2 IUBMB coordinators, and 2 institutional academic coordinators. The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Robustness of the Training/Students/Predoctoral Programme of the host institution.
- Level of organisation and activity of the Student Council (or similar) at the host institution.
- Level of support from the Human Resources, Academic Office, PR/Communications Department and/or secretariat of the host institution for the organisation of the conference.
- Level of internationalisation and quality of the research undertaken at the host institution. In this regard, the number of publications of the institution, as well as the number of projects and international agreements in which the institution is involved, will be considered.
- Readiness and capacity to organise an event of such characteristics.

After a first evaluation of the submitted proposals, the executive board can ask the proponent institutions to meet online for a deeper discussion or clarification on specific issues.