

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ECCHR Scholarship for the 2027/28 Critical Legal Training with the Business and Human Rights Team

Application period: 15 October - 1 November 2026

Application form: <https://www.ecchr.eu/application-legal-training-program/>

ECCHR offers **one scholarship** to support a young person with limited financial means and/or from underrepresented geographic and social backgrounds to participate in the **Critical Legal Training** with the **Business and Human Rights** team. Further scholarship calls to work with other ECCHR teams will be published in the coming application rounds in 2027.

The Critical Legal Training (<https://www.ecchr.eu/en/case/critical-legal-training/>) is ECCHR's education and internship program with the aim to train and cultivate a network for the next generation of progressive human rights lawyers and legal activists, so they may continue to work toward a world free of systemic injustice. The participant joins the Business and Human Rights team to work alongside our experienced colleagues and receive close supervision and regular feedback. The scholarship holder will conduct legal research, prepare legal and policy briefs and memoranda and draft submissions, contributing to relationship-building with partners and stakeholders, support other project activities such as planning of and carrying out events, and participate in ECCHR-internal and project-related meetings.

This traineeship placement is supplemented with weekly curriculum activities coordinated by the CLT team. These include "Critical Reading Debriefs," lunch talks with human rights defenders and other experts in the field, trainee presentations, human rights film screenings or skill-training workshops.

ECCHR's Business and Human Rights Program focuses on legal interventions that break down asymmetric economic, social, political and legal power relations, to advance legal and policy debates on corporate obligations and enforce human rights meaningfully. Aware of the systemic obstacles faced by impacted people when they take on foreign corporations to enforce their rights, ECCHR aims to bring the voices of workers, marginalized communities and individuals, especially from the Global South, within European jurisdictions, policies and legal debates.

Who can apply?

The call for applications is aimed at **young professionals (max. two years after graduation)** who wish to apply for ECCHR's Critical Legal Training Program but whose personal (e.g. family responsibilities, health), legal (e.g. visa restrictions) and/or financial situation would make it impossible to participate in the Critical Legal Training on an unpaid basis. If this does not reflect your situation, we would ask you to refrain from applying for this scholarship and apply for the Critical Legal Training through the standard process without the scholarship.

The scholarship is open to all nationalities. If you need a visa to work in Germany, we provide close support in the application process.

We strongly encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented regions, including the Global South, as well as refugees and people from diverse backgrounds, such as those from racial, ethnic, religious, gender, and socioeconomic minority groups. Regarding the applicant's individual CV and career path, including lived experience, there is some flexibility regarding the requirement that applicants must have graduated in the past two years.

What are the professional requirements?

Applicants should have the following knowledge and experience:

Education and Experience: Applicants should be in an advanced stage of their education or in the early stages of their human rights career. They should have significant experience in activism, NGO work, community or self-organizing and/or should have above-average qualifications in law or another relevant field. Further, we highly value lived experience next to the professional/educational experience of the applicant. You may elaborate on your path in your motivation letter.

Knowledge to work with the Business and Human Rights team: Applicants should have a fundamental understanding of human rights and some recent experience in engaging with business and human rights topics. A good knowledge of the international regulatory framework on business and human rights, and existing mechanisms of corporate accountability is required.

Languages: Fluency in English is required. All other language skills are highly welcomed and supportive to your application, but not an exclusion criterion.

What form does the scholarship take?

Duration: The scholarship is generally granted for a **four-month full-time internship (40 hours per week)**. This includes 25 hours per week of case work with the program team and 15 hours of educational activities and feedback sessions as part of the CLT, which are not counted as working hours.

Starting dates: **Starting dates can be arranged between June 2027 and January 2028**, on the first day of each month. There is some flexibility regarding the starting date, e.g. to accommodate delays in the visa process.

Payment: ECCHR hires scholarship holders as interns/trainees who are employed through ECCHR. They are remunerated for their practical work and receive a **gross monthly wage of €1,800 (minus tax, health insurance and social security deductions)**, the estimate net wage would amount to 1,300 – 1,400 €. ECCHR will also cover **return travel costs from the place of residence to Berlin up to €1,500** and reimburse visa costs and costs connected to the visa application process (e.g. travel to the embassy). As for every staff member of ECCHR, monthly costs for a **local transport ticket** will be partially reimbursed.

Accommodation: We cannot provide accommodation but will support successful applicants to find a suitable apartment or room in Berlin (via our networks) and can provide information about further estimated living costs.

How to apply?

Please use the [online form for the Business and Human Rights program with a scholarship](#) to submit your application. Applications must be submitted in English. Applications in other languages cannot be processed. Applications should include only the required documents and no further transcripts, references or work samples.

We also ask all applicants to complete the questionnaire on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI): [DEI-QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

This information helps us identify and support applicants who may face systemic barriers or come from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the field of international human rights work. All information provided will be used exclusively to ensure equitable access and to prepare for and ensure successful participation in the Critical Legal Training. It will be stored separately from the application form and viewed only by the Critical Legal Training coordinators. Completing this questionnaire is voluntary.

The forms fulfil high security standards. Should you have specific questions before you are able to submit your application, please e-mail us via application@ecchr.eu.

If you are unable to fill in the online form for technical reasons, please send your filled form as a PDF. An overview of the complete application form is copied below.

Reminder: This scholarship call is only for applicants interested in working with the Business and Human Rights team and cannot participate in an unpaid programme! There are currently no scholarship calls for the other ECCHR teams, you may however apply for a regular traineeship (please read through the FAQ on our website for requirements and criteria).

Please note that we regularly receive an incredibly high number of applications but are only able to offer one scholarship per program.

What are the application deadlines?

Applications are possible between 15 October and **1 November 2026, 11:59 pm CET**.

Interviews will likely be held by telephone or online call in December 2026 and January 2027. A decision is expected to be made by the end of January 2027.

Future calls for applications will be announced on our website, via our social media channels and in our newsletter.

Contact

Andrea Ries and Anne Schroeter, Critical Legal Training Coordinators
E-Mail: application@ecchr.eu
Phone: +49 (0)30 40607157

Application form - Critical Legal Training with the Business and Human Rights team supported by an ECCHR scholarship (template – ideally use the online form)

PERSONAL DETAILS

First Name(s) / Given Name(s)

Last Name(s) / Family Name(s)

How do you wish to be addressed? (pronouns)

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Current Place of Residence:

Citizenship as in passport:

Please note: We ask for your current residence and official citizenship for administrative reasons. This information helps us to understand what kind of steps are necessary to realise your traineeship.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHECK

This information helps us to understand what the process will be to realise your employment with ECCHR and your relocation to Berlin as well as estimate a realistic earliest possible starting date. We will discuss details after a successful application.

I will be enrolled as a student for the entire duration of the Critical Legal Training. YES / NO

As a student, the Critical Legal Training would be a mandatory internship according to my study rules. YES/NO

I currently have a work permit / visa that allows me to work in Germany. YES/NO

I will need a new visa and/or work permit for Germany. YES/NO

I am not a student but recently graduated. YES/NO

Please confirm that your graduation from university will be no longer than two years ago by the deadline of the scholarship call. YES/NO

If you are a student, until when will you be enrolled? (Date)

TIME PREFERENCES: Pick the maximum date range during which you are able to do the traineeship.

This means: earliest possible start date and latest possible end date (regardless of your preferred duration). Traineeships with the BHR team should start between June 2027 and January 2028. The team will try to accommodate other starting dates if you cannot align your availability with these dates for specific reasons, however, this cannot be assured.

The full duration of the traineeship with a scholarship is always 4 months.

Preferred start date:

Latest possible start date:

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Do/did you study law? (this is not an exclusion criterion) YES/NO

If yes, in which country?

Degree(s) obtained (please also name the subject):

Degree currently pursued (if applicable):

Current institution (e.g. university/employer):

Are you currently involved in human rights activism / non-institutionalized work which you would like to mention here additionally?

Please name the organization / initiative / type work and the time scope in one sentence.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Please check all languages you are confident in speaking, reading, and writing.

Please note: The main working language at ECCHR is English. All other language skills are highly welcomed and supportive of your application, but not an exclusion criterion.

English

German

Arabic

French

Portuguese

Russian

Spanish

Please specify the languages you confidently speak and write (which were not listed above).

If you want to give more details on your language skills (e.g. a language you cannot work in but speak confidently), here is the space for it.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) in your application

We acknowledge the role that AI plays in our daily lives and how such tools may be used to support drafting and developing ideas and concepts. At the same time, we see the risks and ethical issues that come with using certain services, especially in the field of human rights. Here, we want to emphasize: Via this application, we hope to get to know more of your own thoughts and writing without them being mediated by AI.

Please state in your motivation letter, if and how you have used AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Perplexity or others, in the development of any component of your application to ECCHR's Critical Legal Training program.

Using AI for fine-tuning your English is acceptable and does not need to be disclosed, as long as you can assure that you are capable of working in an English-speaking environment.

[] I confirm that I have read and acknowledged this disclaimer.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE in the field of Business and Human Rights / Climate Justice (max. 500 characters).

In this section, we want to know aspects of your personal and professional journey that align with your desired thematic program. We value both professional as well as lived experience.

MOTIVATION LETTER for the Critical Legal Training (max. 2000 characters)

Please explain why you want to join the Critical Legal Training at ECCHR.

Note: A motivation letter offers a space for you to go beyond qualifications and job titles - it's an opportunity to tell your story.

We are not only looking for candidates who meet technical requirements, but also for people who bring curiosity, empathy, resilience, and a sense of purpose to their work. Soft skills, like communication, adaptability, critical thinking, and collaboration, matter deeply to us. We know these qualities often don't show up clearly on a resume, and a motivation letter is a valuable window into who you are beyond bullet points.

We are also mindful of the ways that structural barriers and systemic inequalities can influence career paths, opportunities, and access. We encourage you to share how your journey (whether conventional or not) has shaped your values, ambitions, and perspectives. There is no single "ideal path" to success in our eyes; we value lived experience as much as formal credentials.

In your letter, please feel free to address:

- a) What motivates you to apply for this role and to work with us.
- b) How your personal, academic, or professional experiences have prepared you.
- c) What values guide you in your work or studies.
- d) Any aspects of your journey that you believe are important for us to understand.

SCHOLARSHIP STATEMENT for the ECCHR Scholarship (max. 2000 characters)

Explanation: This scholarship is aimed at students and young professionals (max. two years after graduation) whose personal (e.g. family responsibilities, health), legal (e.g. visa restrictions) and/or financial situation would make it impossible to participate in the Critical Legal Training on an unpaid basis. Please explain how this reflects your situation, i.e. why you are applying to the ECCHR scholarship.

If this does not reflect your situation, we would ask you to refrain from applying for this scholarship and consider whether you can apply to the Critical Legal Training without this kind of support. Please apply via the regular application form in this case.

CASE ANALYSIS (max. 2000 characters)

Please give a critical comment on the potential and limitations of strategic litigation, analyzing ECCHR's cases in the program area you are applying for, as it is presented on our website.

CV-UPLOAD (as pdf, 2 pages maximum)

Please note: We welcome CV that include experiences beyond formal work and education, like self-organizing, community work, activism etc.

Your CV has to be in English.

REFERENCES

Please name two persons who are familiar with your work (this can be e.g. former colleagues, activist who you have worked with, supervisors from your studies etc.). There is no need to attach recommendation letters.

Note: Giving references is voluntary and not an exclusion criterion. However, under specific circumstances, we might ask you for references in a later step of the application process.

Format: Name, Institution/Affiliation, contact details (e-mail and/or phone number)

How did you find out about ECCHR's Critical Legal Training?

DEI-FORM

Filling the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion questionnaire is optional but encouraged.

Full link to DEI-Form: <https://nc-4346614871095813497.nextcloud-ionos.com/index.php/apps/forms/s/E6EWeo6nqEXG8mmXSQGQrd9M>

☐ I have filled the DEI-Form, using the same name and contact details as here.

☐ I choose to not fill the DEI-Form.

Privacy Policy Acknowledgement

I have read and understood the privacy policy. I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes of the application process. In the event of a successful application, this includes the further processing of my personal data for the administration and implementation of my participation in the Critical Legal Training.

☐ Please confirm.