

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ECCHR Scholarship for the 2026 Critical Legal Training with the International Crimes and Accountability Team

Application period: 16 February-1 March 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 **International Crimes and Accountability** team in Berlin. Further scholarship calls to work with ECCHR's Institute for Legal Interventions and Border Justice teams will be published in May 2026. The call to work with the Business and Human Rights team closed already in November 2025.

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 International Crimes and Accountability 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 to international bodies, 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.

The International Crimes and Accountability program (<https://www.ecchr.eu/en/international-crimes-and-accountability/>) focuses on accountability for violations of international criminal law through mechanisms such as domestic criminal proceedings under the principle of universal jurisdiction and communications with the International Criminal Court with a survivor-centered approach.

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 and legal guidance 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. With regard to 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 besides the professional/educational experience of the applicant. You may elaborate on your path in your motivation letter.

Knowledge to work with the International Crimes and Accountability team: Applicants should have a fundamental understanding of human rights and some recent experience in engaging with international crimes and related topics. Excellent understanding of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law (incl. extraterritorial cases before national courts) as well as the current legal and political debates on international criminal jurisdiction is required. Awareness of strategic litigation and legal procedures before international forums, universal jurisdiction and knowledge on sexual and gender-based violence are a plus.

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.

Starting dates: **Starting dates can be arranged between June 2026 and May 2027**, on the first day of each month.

Please note that for a scholarship holder from outside the EU we require a period of at least 10 weeks between acceptance into the program and the start of the internship to make the necessary formal arrangements, incl. visa applications.

Payment: ECCHR hires the scholarship holder as an intern employed through ECCHR and they will 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. As for every staff member of ECCHR, a monthly contribution to the **local transport ticket** will be reimbursed.

Accommodation: We cannot provide accommodation but will support the successful applicant 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 (<https://www.ecchr.eu/application-legal-training-program/>) to submit your application and mention that you are applying with the ECCHR scholarship when asked. Applications have to 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.

The form fulfils 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 International Crimes and Accountability team and cannot participate in an unpaid programme! (Tick the relevant box when asked). Also, fill in the question about the scholarship statement later in the form.

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 16 February and **1 March 2026, 11:59 pm CET**.

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

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

Critical Legal Training Program & ECCHR Scholarship: Application Form

Please only use this form if you are having technical difficulties or security concerns using the online form <https://www.ecchr.eu/application-legal-training-program/>

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. However, 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 or others, in the development of any component of your application to ECCHR's Critical Legal Training program.

1 / 12 - Personal Details

Name:

First Name:

Gender:

Current Residence:

Official citizenship:

Telephone:

Mail:

Please note: We ask for your current residence and official citizenship for administrative reasons. This information helps us understand what kind of steps are necessary to realise your traineeship. They are not an exclusion criterion.

2 / 12 - ADMINISTRATIVE CHECK

Are you applying to the ECCHR scholarship to participate in the Critical Legal Training? (if yes, please give more details in your scholarship statement later in this form) 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

Will you be enrolled as a student for the entire duration of the Critical Legal Training? YES/NO

If you are a student, would the Critical Legal Training be a mandatory internship according to your study rules? YES/NO

If you are a student, will you be able to apply for a scholarship supporting your stay (e.g. ERASMUS, or through your university, note: not the ECCHR scholarship)? YES/NO

Are you applying to the Critical Legal Training as part of your German legal clerkship (Referendariat)? YES/NO

If you are neither a student nor a “Referendar*in”, are you applying to the Critical Legal Training in connection with a fellowship program you are part of? YES/NO

If yes, which program?

If you are neither a student nor a “Referendar*in”, have you explored suitable options for fellowship programs to realise your participation in the Critical Legal Training? YES/NO

If yes, which ones?

Are you currently eligible to work in Germany? YES / NO (this is not an exclusion criterion)

3 / 12 - TIME PREFERENCES

Please note: for voluntary student internships without scholarships, the maximum duration is three months. For scholarship holders, 4 months is the ideal length.

Preferred start date:

Latest possible start date:

Preferred length of your stay (minimum 10 weeks, ideally 3 months, for the ECCHR scholarship only 4 months is possible):

Full-time (40 hrs/week): Yes/No

Part-time: Yes/No

Possible working time (minimum commitment: 24 hrs/week, for the ECCHR scholarship, only full-time is possible):

4 / 12 - THEMATIC PROGRAM

Preference

Please choose the program which fits to your interest, expertise and experience

Business and Human Rights (including Climate Justice)

Institute for Legal Intervention

International Crimes and Accountability [x]

Border Justice

Experience in the program area (max. 500 characters)

We value both professional as well as lived experience.

5 / 12 - 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):

6 / 12 - LANGUAGE SKILLS

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

English

Native – Fluent – Intermediate

German

Native – Fluent – Intermediate

Other:

7 / 12 - MOTIVATION LETTER

Motivation letter for the Critical Legal Training.

Please explain why you want to join the Critical Legal Training
(max. 2000 characters)

Scholarship Statement for the ECCHR Scholarship:

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 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.
(max. 2000 characters)

If this does not reflect your situation, we would ask you to apply to the Critical Legal Training without this scholarship.

8 / 12 - CASE ANALYSIS

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

Applicants to the Institute for Legal Intervention can comment on any case pursued by

ECCHR and give a critical comment from a decolonial/gender/intersectional/social class perspective.

(max. 2000 characters)

9 / 12 - 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.

Reference 1

Name:

Institution/Affiliation:

Address:

Telephone:

Mail:

Reference 2

Name:

Institution/Affiliation:

Address:

Telephone:

Mail:

10 / 12 - HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

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

11/12 CV-Upload

Please attach your CV

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