

COST Action 24111 - European Network for Valorising Food Processing Waste into Sustainable Fibers (ENFiber)

SELECTION & FUNDING GUIDELINES

Fiber 101: Fiber Basics Training School



1. About the Training School

Fiber 101: Fiber Basics is the 1st ENFiber Training School, organised under COST Action CA24111 (ENFiber). It is designed for Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) who are new to or have limited experience in fiber science. The school covers:

- **Day 1:** Fiber basics: theory, characterisation, scientific paper writing workshop, hands-on demonstrations
- **Day 2:** Applied sessions: textile applications & hydrogel preparation
- Mini poster session with networking and poster awards

The Training School takes place 10–11 September 2026 in [Ljubljana, Slovenia at the National Institute of Chemistry](#).

2. Who Should Apply

This Training School is specifically designed for researchers who are new to fiber science or have limited prior experience in this field. Researchers who already work primarily in fiber science are also eligible to apply.

Target audience

- **PhD students (highest priority)**
- Postdoctoral researchers
- Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) — under 40 years old

Applicants are encouraged to apply if they:

- Are early in their research career and new to fiber science
- Work in a field adjacent to fiber science and wish to expand their knowledge
- Are registered or planning to register as ENFiber CA24111 COST Action members ([Apply to WGs](#))

Applicants are discouraged from applying if they:

- Are senior researchers or faculty members with established fiber science programmes

3. Training Committee

All applications are reviewed by a Training Committee of three members who evaluate applications independently:

- Local Organiser / Main Contact (Doc. Dr. Ilja Gasan Osojnik Črniveci National Institute of Chemistry)
- Chair of ENFiber COST Action (Prof. Mecit Halil Öztıp, Middle East Technical University)
- One volunteer Core Group member of CA24111

Each committee member scores all eligible applications independently using the Evaluation Rubric. Scores from all three reviewers are averaged to produce a final ranked list. The committee then collectively agrees on the final selection, applying tie-breaking rules where needed. The decision is documented in the Committee Decision Document, signed by all three members.

4. Application Timeline

Milestone	Date
Application form opens	June 12th, 2026
Application deadline	July 12th, 2026
Independent review by committee members	July 13th – 27th, 2026
Results announced: ENFiber website & social media	July 30th, 2026
Individual notifications sent to all applicants	July 31st, 2026
Grant letters issued to funded participants	Starting from July 31st, 2026

5. Application Form

Applications are submitted via the online [Google Form](#). All fields marked with * are required. The form collects the following information:

Personal & contact information

- Full name, email address, country of residence, nationality, gender
- ORCID iD (optional)
- Visa requirements: does the applicant need a visa to enter Slovenia, and if so, will they handle it themselves or need a support letter from the organisers?

Institutional information

- Institution / university / organisation (full official name)
- Department / research group
- Country of institution
- Position / career stage

ENFiber membership

- Whether the applicant is a registered ENFiber CA24111 COST Action member

Scientific information

- Current research description (max 250 words)
- Motivation for attending (max 300 words)
- Prior fiber knowledge level (self-reported scale — see Section 6)
- Prior COST Training School attendance in 2026 (if any, which Action and where)

Poster session

- Whether the applicant wishes to present a poster
- Poster title (optional)
- Poster abstract (optional, max 150 words)

BPP 2026

- Whether the applicant is registered or planning to register for the [Bio-Based Polymers Conference \(BPP 2026\)](#)

6. Selection Criteria & Scoring

Eligible applications are scored on 8 criteria using a full 1–5 scale (all integer values valid). The maximum total weighted score is 80 points

Code	Criterion	Weight	Max	Source	Notes
C1	Career Stage	×2	10	Application form	PhD student = 5; Postdoc = 4; YRI = 3;
C2	COST Action Membership	×2	10	Application form	Active member = 5; Recently joined = 4; Pending = 3; Intends to join = 2; No intention = 1
C3	Research Relevance to Fiber Science	×3	15	Research description	Evaluator judgment based on research description
C4	Quality of Motivation Statement	×3	15	Motivation statement	Evaluator judgment based on motivation statement
C5	Prior Fiber Knowledge	×2	10	Self-reported (Application form)	Lower knowledge = higher score. Override permitted if contradicted by research description.
C6	Geographic / Institutional Diversity	×1	5	Country of institution	Inclusiveness Target Countries preferred
C7	Poster Contribution	×1	5	Poster question	Confirmed poster with title & description = 5
C8	Attending BPP Conference	×2	10	BPP 2026 question	1 = no plans; 2 = considering; 3 = planning to attend; 4 = abstract submitted / confirmed participation; 5 = paid registration fee confirmed
TOTAL (80)					

7. Eligibility Requirements

Before scoring, reviewers confirm that all mandatory eligibility requirements are met. Applications failing any of the following are marked INELIGIBLE and are not scored:

- Applicant is a PhD student, postdoctoral researcher, or Young Researcher Investigator (YRI).
- Position / career stage is clearly stated in the application.
- All required fields in the application form are completed.
- Research description is substantive (not placeholder text).
- Motivation statements are substantive.
- Applicant has confirmed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided.

8. Tie-Breaking Rules

If two or more applicants have equal average scores after independent review, the following criteria are applied in order:

- Active ENFiber COST Action member takes priority over pending/non-member.
- PhD student takes priority over postdoc; postdoc over Young Researcher Investigator (YRI).
- Applicants from an underrepresented or COST Inclusiveness Target Country takes priority.
- Applicants who plans to present a poster takes priority.
- If still tied, the committee decides by consensus and records the rationale in the Committee Decision Document.

9. COST Funding Conditions

A limited number of funded places are available for eligible participants under the ENFiber COST Action budget. Funded participants (trainees) must comply with all COST rules:

- Have an active and complete e-COST profile before the grant letter is issued.
- Keep travel costs within the limits specified below.
- Attend for the full duration of the Training School (10–11 September 2026).
- Submit their reimbursement claim via the e-COST portal within the deadline communicated after the event.
- Retain all original receipts and boarding passes for reimbursement.

Financial Support Calculation

In accordance with COST rules, the maximum daily allowance claimable is calculated using the following formula: **Maximum Daily Allowance = Daily Allowance Rate × (N + 1 + 0.40)**

Where:

- **N** = number of Training School days attended (for Fiber 101: N = 2 days, 10–11 September 2026)
- **1** = one accommodation night (arrival day before the school)
- **0.40** = travel day allowance at 40% of the daily rate, as per COST Travel Reimbursement Rules

Financial Support Rates (N = 2 days)

Role	Daily Allowance Rate	Max. Flight Ticket	Max. Daily Allowance (Rate × 3.40)	Maximum Total Claimable
Trainee	€110 / day	€400	€110 × 3.40 = €374	€374 + €400 = €774
Trainer	€150 / day	€750	€150 × 3.40 = €510	€510 + €750 = €1,260

Note: The maximum total claimable is based on actual costs. Participants must retain all original receipts and boarding passes. Reimbursement is subject to COST Travel Reimbursement Rules and the availability of funds.

Trainers: Trainers do not need to apply for a grant. Their participation costs (daily allowance and travel) are covered directly under the Action budget and processed separately by the Grant Holder.

10. Visa & Support Letters

Applicants who require a visa to enter Slovenia are asked in the application form whether they will handle it themselves or need an official support/invitation letter from the organisers. The Training Committee should identify applicants requiring support letters immediately after the selection is finalised so that letters can be issued without delay.

Applicants who need a support letter should contact enfiber@metu.edu.tr as soon as they receive their acceptance notification. Visa-related travel disruptions and their budget implications should be documented in the Committee Decision Document.

11. Results & Notification

Results will be announced on 30 July 2026 through the following channels:

- The ENFiber COST Action [website](#)
- ENFiber [LinkedIn](#)

All applicants will also be notified individually by email on the same date. Notifications will include:

- **Funded participants:** acceptance confirmation, next steps, and e-COST profile requirements.
- **Waitlisted applicants:** waitlist status and instructions for what to do if a place becomes available.
- **Unsuccessful applicants:** a courteous decline notification.

Waitlisted candidates will be contacted in ranked order if a funded place becomes available due to withdrawal.

12. Contact

For questions about the application process, eligibility, or the Training School in general:

Please contact us at enfiber@metu.edu.tr