



Call For Applicants  
Catalyst Europe 2024-25

# Terms & Conditions



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## INTRODUCTION

Catalyst is a principled methodology developed by MIT for needs identification and opportunity development, and an organizational model that fosters a vibrant multi-stakeholder community. The Catalyst mission is to increase the potential that biomedical research will lead to products that address unmet health care needs.

Catalyst Europe 2024-25 is a program coordinated by Health Venture Lab (an accelerator powered by GE Healthcare; from now on, the “Organizer”), sponsored by University of Gyor, that counts with the collaboration of research and innovation specialists in academy, industry and hospitals, such as: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), GE Healthcare, University of Győr, University of Luxembourg, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), University of Debrecen (UniDeb), Hospital Clínico San Carlos (HCSC), Fundación Mvision, SERMAS, and Medical Valley.

## CATALYST EUROPE 2024-25

Catalyst Europe 2024-25 is a hands-on program for researchers and clinicians (**Fellows**, or participants) who would like to accelerate the impact of biomedical research. The Fellows are guided by experts in the academic, business and clinical domain (**Faculty**). In this immersive experience, participants (Fellows guided by Faculty) team up and identify and evaluate unmet medical needs, build multi-professional teams to design solutions and plan research projects that show strong potential for healthcare impact in collaboration with industry and hospitals. Descriptions:

**Fellows** – the participants (see profiles in “Eligibility Criteria”), who would like to accelerate the impact of biomedical research and are interested in biomedical innovation. They form an innovation cohort during the program.

**Faculty** (the trainers) - Professionals (from academic, clinical or business background) with a strong experience and interest in health innovation, who will share their expertise with fellows, mentor them, teach lessons and run workshops during the program.

Every stage of the Catalyst program involves regularly scheduled sessions that **Fellows** attend together with a diverse group of **Faculty**, who help guide the process of project evolution. **Fellows** are expected to work with one another, insofar as possible, to develop projects and project ideas and to prepare for the sessions.

The general precept of these sessions (and the program as a whole) is to promote entrepreneurial thinking (e.g. is there a real need? is there a plausible way to address it and to get the solution out of the lab into widespread use?), innovation (e.g. if successful is there a significant advantage over existing technologies?; does it have a potential for significant impact?), and acceleration (by focusing on work that de-risks the idea). Finally, intrinsic to the process is the development of many professional skills, such as oral communication, critical analysis, defending an idea, professional networking, etc.

The sessions depend heavily on oral communication and presentations in order to provide a forum that allows for rapid feedback and guidance and to facilitate rapid iterative development. Sessions generally include a combination of presentations by Fellows, group discussions including Faculty, and workshops including ones with external experts.

While we expect candidates to have some identified area of expertise, we do not specify that area. Through our process, Fellows working in teams learn from one another and gain from hearing the perspective of others (even those who are not expert). Sometimes, Fellows have to unlearn (or set aside) what they know about a problem to open the door to observations and, ultimately, innovation.

Faculty serving as mentors will help guide Fellows through the Catalyst process, which involves cycles of convergent and divergent thinking, trial and error, iteration, progress, reassessment, creativity, critical thinking, and more iteration. Although seldom a linear path, it is always an exciting one for those who are ready for a journey from insight to impact. Fellows will ultimately decide which projects to move forward. Applicants don't need to know a lot about entrepreneurship or innovation.

**Catalyst does not support researchers on the translation or commercialization of their current research projects.** Fellows join Catalyst to discover new opportunities for research with high translational and impact potential and prepare themselves to execute new research projects. Catalyst Faculty and partners support Fellows after the program on the development of the projects nucleated during the Catalyst program, and help them find resources to execute those projects.

**Deliverables of Catalyst Europe 2024-25:** The main deliverable as a cohort is a portfolio of research project plans. Each research project plan is developed by a team of Fellows. However, all the Fellows interact as a cohort in a way that they make decisions together to decide what projects to move forward.

Fellows finish the program with carefully planned projects clearly focused on healthcare impact. The Fellows themselves are transformed, with a deepened understanding of their strengths, a renewed perspective on their goals, and expanded career horizons.

**After the program:** After the program, approved projects get into a transition phase to get ready for execution. During project execution, Fellows receive support and mentoring from Catalyst Faculty and partners. That mentoring program is named *Catalyst Phase 2*. (Contingent on project proposal approval in May 2025).

**Program format:** Catalyst Europe sessions will run online, via videoconference. Three 3-day working sessions (a.k.a Intensifications) may involve travel. See Program Calendar below.

**Catalyst Hubs:** We call Catalyst Hubs to the locations where program partners are located, which typically have a powerful healthcare innovation ecosystem. Program partners engage academic and clinical organizations from their ecosystem, increasing the reach to relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts for Fellows. The Catalyst Europe 2024-25 Hubs are: Győr, Erlangen, Madrid, Luxembourg and Boston.

## COMMITMENT

Program participants (Fellows) shall commit to:

- Attending the following sessions during the 6 months program:
  - Weekly sessions (online, synchronous): Thursdays 3:00pm – 6:00pm CET.
  - Three 3-day intensifications, according to the program calendar below.
  - One- or two-days encounter in April 2025 for a last sprint with teammates, according to the program calendar below.
- Spending time during the program on team work and the development of research project proposals. Typically, time dedications for a participant is around 10-12 hours per week.

**Supervisor support letter:** admitted candidates who have an employer will be required to send a support letter from their supervisor, stating that they support the time commitment above.

## PROGRAM CALENDAR

**Program start:** November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Program end:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

### Sessions:

Weekly sessions will run on Thursdays from 3pm CET to 6pm CET. These sessions will run online, via Zoom.

### Intensifications:

Fellows are required to participate in the following activities, for which fellows should plan full time dedication:

- November 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024: **Intensification 1**. In person, travel required. Location: Győr, Hungary.
- December 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024: **Intensification 2**. Online (Dec 10<sup>th</sup> only afternoon, the other 2 days both morning and afternoon). Participants will connect via videoconference (Zoom). This intensification will be led by Catalyst US Faculty from the Catalyst Boston Hub.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025: **Intensification 3**. In person, travel required. Location TBD (either Madrid, Luxembourg or Erlangen).
- One- or two-days encounter in April 2025 for a last sprint with teammates. Location and dates TBD based on fellows' convenience.

### Breaks:

- **Christmas break:** December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025: During these days, there won't be weekly sessions.
- **Easter break:** April 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. During these days, there won't be weekly sessions.

## HOW TO APPLY AND ADMISSION PROCESS

### Applications Deadline – September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Candidates shall apply to the Catalyst Europe 2024-25 program by filling the application form:

<https://fs24.formsite.com/MITLinQ/ItY6355yfu/index>

The Organizer reserves the right to not accept applications that do not express the commitment to participate in the program sessions, for which in cases the applicant has a full time activity it is necessary to have the approval of a supervisor, so that, if selected, is able to join the sessions during work time. Having a supportive supervisor may potentially also bring some flexibility to work on Catalyst projects during work time.

Applications will close on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 12:59pm GMT+1 Europe (the “Application Period”). Applications submitted outside the Application Period will not be eligible.

The Organizer reserves the right to extend the Application Period. Any change will be published on the Catalyst Europe website and on all its communication channels.

### Pre-Selection announcement – October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Applications will be reviewed by an Admissions Committee, responsible for pre-selection. Pre-selected candidates will be contacted by October 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 and will be invited to participate in Selection Interviews.

Candidates will confirm their participation to the Selection Interviews by October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Interviews – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to participate in the Selection Interviews on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The session will run online via videoconference and will consist of team workshops and individual interviews. The specific details and timetable of activities that will be conducted that day, will be communicated within the invitation to participate. It is recommended that **candidates book the whole day** until they are informed about the detailed timetable.

### Selection announcement – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Fellows admitted to Catalyst Europe 2024-25 will be announced by October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### Enrollment process – from October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Admitted candidates will become Fellows of Catalyst Europe 2024-25 program. Fellows will sign the enrollment agreement by October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The Organizer reserves the right to select another candidate in case of failure to sign the enrollment agreement before the deadline.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Candidates' profile:

- Candidates living in the European Union (EU), from any EU region.
- Academic degree: engineering or science graduate or medical degree.
- Typical profiles: Researchers (PhD students, postdocs), Clinicians (residents, fellows, attendings). Other early stage professionals interested in biomedical research (designers, entrepreneurs, business developers) may be considered if they fit the cohort.
- With domain expertise in:
  - o any domain area linked to health technology: including but not limited to life sciences, engineering, biomedical engineering, data science.
  - o Or any clinical domain.
  - o Or in commercial science or health economics.
- Research experience is desirable.
- With a strong interest in health innovation and willingness to participate in research projects as a next step after the 6-month Catalyst Europe 2024-25 program, as the pathway to de-risk the opportunities identified during the program.
- Open to identify and validate unmet needs, define solutions and design new lines of research with high translational potential, rather than applying with an existing project to the Catalyst program.

### Requirements:

- Availability to dedicate 10-12 hours/week for regular weekly activities of Catalyst Europe program – including weekly Sessions, personal work and teamwork (personal and team work in a flexible schedule format). Full time availability for the Intensifications.
- Compatibility with current job, training or activity. Candidates will have to demonstrate compatibility with their current activities.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

A Selection Committee composed of program faculty and managers will select the Catalyst Europe 2024-25 Fellows, after the admission process, based on one main and most important criteria:

- Candidate's potential to bring value to the innovation cohort and contribute to the cohort main objectives: validate unmet needs, propose technological solutions and develop research project plans.

This evaluation is conducted holistically with the objective to recruit the best possible group of Fellows and their potential to work in teams. For information, below there is a list of common attributes of successful Fellows:

- Ability to differentiate between validated facts and assumptions, and to ideate a process to validate assumptions.
- Ability to apply logic and critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of source materials.
- Willingness to work outside your field of expertise.

- Ability to communicate ideas and collaborate with others with different expertise and experience.
- Ability to design, create and build new technologies to solve critical problems.
- Ability to receive and synthesize constructive criticism.
- Willingness to “own” your career and your project (rather than depending on direct supervision).
- A team player willing to fulfil different roles in research projects.
- Experience in developing and implementing research proposals.
- Be willing to work in a process that is chaotic, creative and free of pre-conceived ideas or pathways.
- High level of English.

The Selection Committee is composed of experts in evaluating high performance teams and decisions will be made based on expert opinion rather than in quantifiable metrics.

## PROGRAM COST

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, this program does not require individuals to pay tuition.

Selected fellows will be offered with free tuition, as well as flight and accommodation for the in-person Intensifications.

## PARTICIPATION AND APPLICATION DETAILS

The application process is free of charge. No payment is necessary to fill in the entry form.

By applying, participants guarantee the Organizer that the information contained is accurate and complete, and that by submitting the application to the Organizer they are not and will not be violating any contract or third party rights including any patents, copyrights, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential information, trademarks, or rights to privacy including personal data.

The Organizer reserves the right to reject any entry that, in its judgment, violates the spirit of the guidelines, processes and rules outlined in current Terms & Conditions.

Participants will receive a certificate of participation in Catalyst Europe 2024-25, only if they have attended at least 90% of the activities.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Meetings and activities of the Catalyst Europe Program are by invitation only, are not public, and are conducted with the understanding that Fellows and Faculty (together referred to as “participants”) abide by confidentiality guidelines as they seek and/or provide mentoring. The purpose of these guidelines is to enable the greatest amount of cross-fertilization of ideas while protecting intellectual property, minimizing the risk of premature disclosure of ideas and inventions, and ensuring that advice given to and by participants is, and can be perceived as,



fair and objective. Consequently, each participant (Faculty and Fellows) will review and sign confidentiality agreements to:

- Not make claims to other participants' intellectual property;
- Maintain privileged information in confidence;
- Not use privileged information for personal gain;
- Notify staff of any potential conflict of interest; and
- Recuse themselves from participating in any activity where they may have or appear to have a conflict of interest.

In the course of participation, participants have access to certain information about other participants' projects and plans. Some, but not all of this information, is confidential. Participants, therefore, must maintain information about other program participants' projects and plans in confidence, unless such information is or becomes publicly available or is received from another source without any obligation of confidentiality.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Catalyst Europe 2024-25 Program is intended to support innovative and entrepreneurial ideas. While intellectual property may be created or enhanced in the course of program activities, participation in the Catalyst Europe program does not, in and of itself, confer on Fellows any ownership, license or other interest in or to intellectual property (copyrights, inventions, trademarks, etc.). Any intellectual property is generated by Fellows as part of their work in the program will be handled in accordance with the institutional policies of the inventor(s).

The Catalyst Europe 2024-25 program is organized in a way that it is not expected that fellows generate Intellectual Property during the program, except for works protected by copyright (e.g. description of research projects). Intellectual Property would be generated after the Catalyst Europe 2024-25 program, during the execution of the research projects (if fellows execute them).

## DATA PROTECTION

Privacy Policy is described in the following website: <https://www.catalysteurope.eu/privacy-policy/>.

By submitting the application form, applicants acknowledge that the data provided in the application form will be stored by Health Venture Lab either in its local servers or in outsourced hosting services companies' servers. Health Venture Lab reserves the right to share the information provided by applicants with the organizations that form the Consortium (defined in "INTRODUCTION" section) with the sole intention to use the data to inform pre-selection and admission decisions.

## CONTACT

To solve doubts related with the Application and Admission process, please send a message through our contact form at <https://www.catalysteurope.eu/contact/>. Please note that you may receive an answer after several days, and no later than after a week.

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