

Application guideline for EULAR Centres of Excellence in Rheumatology

Period 2021-2026

To apply for designation as a EULAR Centre of Excellence in Rheumatology for the period of 2021-2026, research centres are invited to list their permanent staff members and all their original research papers related to rheumatology and areas closely linked to rheumatology which have been published in journals with a current impact factor of > 4.00. As guidance, at least **350 impact factor points over the last 5-year period (2016-2020)** is expected.

Specifically, the following rules apply (please read carefully):

1. A unit is a group of permanent staff dealing with rheumatology.
2. Centres of Excellence in Rheumatology are usually led by one individual responsible for one unit. However, joint applications by two individual units are possible, if there are joint appointments and mutual staff as documented by one budget or by mutual written collaboration contracts. These units should reside in close proximity, preferably on one campus. The tight interaction between these units must also be documented by a high number of significant publications with shared authorships from both units. The plaque will be awarded to the submitting institution.
3. A reference list consists of references emanating from the permanent staff and includes **original research papers** related to rheumatology or areas closely linked to rheumatology published in 2016-2020 with **unit as main contributor** (first author or senior/corresponding author) which should reach at least 350 impact factor points (see also point 5 about layout). The list should only include original research papers related to rheumatology and areas closely linked to rheumatology which have been published in journals with a current impact factor of > 4.00. The list will be returned to the applicant for revision if it includes publications not defined as original research papers. The following categories should **not** be included in the list: **Letters, editorials, review articles not including primary research, consensus documents, recommendations, case reports, commentaries and other communications that are not primary reports of original research.**
4. Permanent staff should be listed as, for example:
 - Head of Department
 - Professors
 - Tenured academics, e.g., Senior Lecturers, etc.
5. The layout of the application documents must follow the samples provided on the website. The published journal impact factor for 2019 (announced in 2020) should be used for the calculation of the total impact factor points. **Authors from the unit (with the unit as publication address at the time of publication) should be written in bold in the list of references. All references should be complete with all authors, publication year, journal volume and first and last page.**
6. Applications that are not in line with the above requirements or include non-eligible publications will be returned to the applicant for revision.

Applications may be sent by e-mail to the EULAR Secretariat at simona.lupatin@eular.org no later than 10th of April 2021.