



# EXODOCS

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Version V1 (14/05/26)

### 1. Where can the Application Form be downloaded in an editable format?

Due to platform limitations, EURAXESS only allows documents to be uploaded in PDF format. An editable version of the Application Form (DOC format) can be downloaded from the official EXODOCS website ([www.exodocs.eu](http://www.exodocs.eu)), under the “Recruitment” section.

### 2. What is the application deadline?

The general application deadline for the EXODOCS call is May 31st, 2026. However, some institutions may decide to extend the deadline for specific DC positions. To check the exact deadline for each position, we recommend consulting the corresponding DC vacancy publication on <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>

### 3. What is the expected start date of the PhD positions?

The start date of the PhD positions may vary depending on the host institution and country. In general, recruitment timelines differ across the consortium: institutions in the UK typically start later in the year, Italian institutions are expected to begin around November 2026, and most other institutions aim to complete recruitment by August. For precise information on individual positions, applicants are encouraged to contact the corresponding supervisors.

### 4. Will there be additional calls for EXODOCS PhD positions in the future?

No. The current call includes all available EU-funded PhD positions within the EXODOCS Doctoral Network. No additional calls are planned. Applicants are therefore strongly encouraged to apply within the current call deadline.

### 5. Does professional experience in industry count towards the “four years of research experience” eligibility rule?

Professional experience in industry does not automatically count as “research career”, particularly if it is not research-oriented. Therefore, candidates who have spent several years working in industry after completing their MSc may still be eligible.

### 6. How should application documents be named? Should all documents be merged into a single PDF file named “EXODOCS\_SurnameName\_DC”?

The filename “EXODOCS\_SurnameName\_DC” should be applied specifically to the Application Form. In addition to the Application Form, applicants must submit six supporting documents: 1) Curriculum Vitae (CV), 2) Diplomas, 3) Academic transcripts of records, 4) Supporting documentation for merits, 5) Reference letters, and 6) Motivation letter

### 7. How can I apply to multiple DC positions?

Candidates wishing to apply to multiple DC positions only need to prepare one Application Form, in which the selected DC positions must be listed in order of priority using the dedicated table included in the form.

The Application Form must be accompanied by the rest of the required documentation (see point 6). All the documents are the same for all applications, except for the motivation letter, which should be specifically tailored to each individual DC position.

Once the documentation is prepared, candidates must send one separate email for each DC position they wish to apply to. Each email must be addressed BOTH to [recruitment@exodocs.eu](mailto:recruitment@exodocs.eu) and to the main supervisor of the corresponding DC position, and must include all the required application documents as attachments.

**8. Should recommendation letters be sent directly by the referees to the supervisors or evaluation committee?**

No. Recommendation letters should be submitted directly by the candidate together with the rest of the application documentation.

However, candidates are strongly recommended to provide the contact details of the referees, so that the evaluation committee and supervisors may contact them directly if additional information or clarification is needed.

**9. If applying to more than one Doctoral Candidate (DC) position, is it necessary to provide separate reference letters for each application, or is a single set of letters sufficient?**

A total of two reference letters is required per applicant, regardless of the number of Doctoral Candidate (DC) positions applied for.

**10. Are there any specific requirements for referees?**

There are no strict requirements regarding the profile or field of the referees. Applicants are free to choose referees from either academic or professional environments. However, it is generally advisable to include at least one academic referee. In all cases, referees should be able to provide a meaningful assessment of the applicant's skills, experience, and potential.

**11. Are there specific formatting guidelines for the motivation letter?**

Apart from the two-page limit, there are no strict formatting requirements (e.g. font size, margins, or character limits). Applicants may use the format that best allows them to clearly present their motivation and qualifications.

**12. If applying to multiple Doctoral Candidate (DC) positions, is it possible to submit different recommendation letters tailored to each position?**

By default, applicants are only required to submit two recommendation letters, regardless of the number of DC positions they apply for. However, candidates are welcome to include additional recommendation letters specifically tailored to individual DC positions.

**13. Should recommendation letters include the contact details of the referees?**

Yes. Applicants should attach the two recommendation letters directly to their application. The recommendation letters should also include the contact details of the referees, so that supervisors may contact them if additional information or clarification is needed during the evaluation process.

**14. Is applying to more than one Doctoral Candidate (DC) position discouraged or potentially detrimental to the evaluation?**

No. Applying to multiple positions does not negatively affect the evaluation process. In the event that a candidate is selected by more than one supervisor, the order of preference indicated in the Application Form will be used to determine the position to be offered.