The fellowship scheme also helps young scientists to improve their knowledge of European research structures and networks and to gain more insight into the working conditions of leading European research institutions. The fellowships are of 12 months duration (with a possible extension), spent in one of the ERCIM member institutes. Fellows can apply for second year in a different institute.

Where are the fellows hosted?
Only ERCIM members can host fellows. When an ERCIM member is a consortium the hosting institute might be any of the consortium’s members. When an ERCIM Member is a funding organisation, the hosting institute might be any of their affiliates. Fellowships are proposed according to the needs of the member institutes and the available funding.

The fellows are appointed either by a stipend (an agreement for a research training programme) or a working contract. The type of contract and the monthly allowance/salary depends on the hosting institute.

ERCIM encourages both researchers from academic institutions and scientists working in industry to apply.

Why to apply for an ERCIM Fellowship?
The Fellowship Programme enables bright young scientists from all over the world to work on a challenging problem as fellows of leading European research centers. In addition, an ERCIM fellowship helps widen and intensify the network of personal relations and understanding among scientists. The programme offers the opportunity to ERCIM fellows:

- to work with internationally recognized experts,
- to improve their knowledge about European research structures and networks,
- to become familiarized with working conditions in leading European research centres,
- to promote cross-fertilization and cooperation, through the fellowships, between research groups working in similar areas in different laboratories.

Equal Opportunities
ERCIM is committed to ensuring equal opportunities and promoting diversity. People seeking fellowship within the ERCIM consortium are not discriminated against because race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status or disability.

Conditions
Candidates must:

- have obtained a PhD degree during the last eight years (prior to the application year deadline) or be in the last year of the thesis work with an outstanding academic record. Before starting the grant, a proof of the PhD degree will be requested;
- be fluent in English.

Application deadlines
Deadlines for applications are currently 30 April and 30 September each year.

Since its inception in 1991, more than 790 fellows have participated in the program. In 2023, 19 young scientists began an ERCIM PhD fellowship, and throughout the year, 63 fellows were hosted. The Fellowship Program is named in honor of Alain Bensoussan, the former president of Inria, one of the three founding institutes of ERCIM.