

ESRS Summer School 2026

Funding Call for Student Innovation and Business Ideas

Application period: 13 July - 2 August 2026

Following the ESRS Summer School, participants and their teams have the opportunity to continue developing the innovation or business ideas created during the programme, as well as submit other ideas of their own. The funding is intended to support the practical testing, validation, and early-stage development of promising concepts.

The Student Innovation Grant provides an opportunity to transform the ideas and challenges identified during the Summer School into practical, testable solutions, including research-based innovations, digital services, community initiatives, prototypes, and social innovation concepts.

Key Information

Theme: Rural digitalisation, social innovation, research-based solutions, and sustainable development

Related event: ESRS Summer School 2026

Summer School dates: 6-10 July 2026

Location: RSU Faculty of Social Sciences, Kuldīgas iela 9c, Riga

Language: English

Funding: Student teams may receive up to EUR 3506 to develop their innovation or business idea within the project.

Who can apply: Teams wishing to further develop ideas created during the ESRS Summer School or other innovation and business ideas aligned with the programme objectives.

Next Step: Apply for Funding with Your Team

After the ESRS Summer School, participants can apply for an Innovation Voucher to further develop their ideas. Teams may receive up to EUR 3506 to advance an

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innovation or business concept, test its feasibility, and establish the foundation for future development.

Applications may be submitted for ideas developed during the Summer School or for independently developed concepts, provided they contribute to strengthening students' innovation capacity, entrepreneurial skills, and the development of practical, impactful solutions.

Funding may be used for activities such as:

- ✓ Developing prototypes or initial solutions
- ✓ Purchasing materials and other necessary resources
- ✓ Expert, mentor, and specialist consultations
- ✓ Market, user, or target audience research
- ✓ Idea validation and real-world testing
- ✓ Skills and competency development
- ✓ Other expenses directly related to the development of the idea

All required materials and services will be procured through RSU.

[Apply here](#)

Or https://ej.uz/esrs_pieteikums

Supporting documents:

- [Student Innovation Application Form](#)
- [Budget Form](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Final Report Form](#)

Who Can Apply?

Applications are open to teams of 2 to 5 members working on a shared innovation, research-based, or business idea.

Each team must include:

- At least one student, doctoral student, resident physician, or vocational/general education student.
- At least one member affiliated with Riga Stradiņš University (RSU), RSU Latvian Academy of Sport Education (RSU LASE), or RSU Red Cross

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Medical College (RSU RCMC), such as a student, researcher, employee, or another member of the university community.

Teams are encouraged to combine participants with diverse expertise, including social sciences, research, data analysis, digital technologies, design, communication, and entrepreneurship.

Application Process

1. Develop Your Idea and Build a Team

Define the innovation, research-based, or business idea you wish to develop and assemble a team of 2 to 5 members.

2. Confirm Your Eligibility

Ensure your team includes the required participants:

- at least one student, doctoral student, resident physician, or school student; and
- at least one member affiliated with RSU, RSU LASE, or RSU RCMC.

3. Prepare Your Application

Complete the application form and submit all required supporting documents, including team members' CVs and proof of student status where applicable.

4. Prepare Your Budget

Specify the materials, services, consultations, travel, or other activities required to validate and develop your idea.

For each budget item, indicate the requested amount and provide supporting documentation, such as supplier quotations, official website prices, or other relevant evidence.

5. Submit Your Application

Submit your application before the deadline and await the evaluation results.

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Idea Development After Receiving Funding

Teams awarded funding will spend the following four months developing their innovation or business ideas within the Student Innovation Grants Programme.

Each team will be assigned a supervisor who will provide methodological guidance and support throughout the development process.

Teams will also have the opportunity to collaborate with industry experts, receive tailored consultations, and gradually transform their initial concept into a validated solution, prototype, or proof of concept.

Teams that did not participate in the ESRS Summer School but receive funding through the Student Innovation Grants Programme will be assessed individually. If necessary, they may be invited to attend additional training sessions during the autumn semester to strengthen their innovation and entrepreneurship skills.

In November, participating teams will present their achievements at RSU Innovation Day. During three-minute pitch presentations, they will showcase their idea, development progress, and future potential to a jury while competing for cash prizes.

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