



## FEE WAIVERS

Participants at the 2026 ESSE Conference can apply for one of the following fee-waiver schemes: the one provided by ESSE and addressed to ESSE members or the one offered by the local organising committee and addressed to participants from non-ESSE countries as explained below.

Please note that fee waivers will **cover only** the conference **registration fee**. The gala dinner, post-conference trips, and other social events not included in the registration fee are not covered.

Applicants who are **granted half / full fee waivers** will be sent a **special link for registration**.

### FEE WAIVERS – ESSE MEMBERS (covered by ESSE)

ESSE offers a limited number of full and half fee waivers to support ESSE members who may not have the financial means to attend the 2026 ESSE Conference in Santiago de Compostela. These waivers cover only the conference registration fee, not the social activities listed in the programme.

**Applications must be submitted to [esse2026@usc.es](mailto:esse2026@usc.es) by 31 March 2026.**

**Eligibility** will be limited to **ESSE members\***

- who are doctoral students or have finished their PhD thesis after 1 January 2017 (a statement in English from the supervisor is sufficient),
- who are from low-income countries (regardless of academic or actual age),
- who are retired professors (with priority given to seminar convenors).

Scholars at risk, *i.e.* scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being, do not need to be ESSE members to apply for a conference fee waiver but must be presenters.

\* Applicants must themselves be members of their national associations according to the official membership list submitted by their association in November 2025 to ESSE.

**Selection Criteria:** strength of application package

Preference will be given to early-career scholars and scholars at risk, participants who have no funding, are unemployed or receive low income, as well as participants who have not previously received a fee waiver for an ESSE conference.

The assessment of applications for fee waivers shall not be based on age, gender, race, colour, religion, place of birth or ethnic origin, or disability.

**Application Documents:**

- Applicants' CV
- Motivation letter that provides the following information:
  - a) why they are applying for the fee waiver, *i.e.*, the reason for financial hardship,
  - b) the university affiliation and the postal address of the university,
  - c) presentation details of the doctoral symposium and/or conference,
  - d) whether or not they have previously received a fee waiver,
  - e) statement: "I hereby certify that I have not received and will not receive any refund for the registration fee from any other funding sources."
- If applicable, notification of acceptance from the Doctoral Symposium coordinator or the convenor(s) of the seminar panel or roundtable, as appropriate in each case. Email notifications of acceptance are valid.
- For PhD candidates: statement from the supervisor(s) (including statement of lack of financial support or means).

**Selection Committee:**

Two members from the Organising Committee and an ESSE Board member. All three members are also part of the [Academic Programme Committee](#).

## **FEE WAIVERS – NON-ESSE COUNTRIES (covered by ESSE 2026)**

The 2026 ESSE Conference offers a limited number of full and half fee waivers to support participants from non-ESSE countries who may not have the financial means to attend the 2026 ESSE Conference in Santiago de Compostela. These waivers cover only the conference registration fee, not the social activities listed in the programme.

**Applications must be submitted to [esse2026@usc.es](mailto:esse2026@usc.es) by 31 March 2026.**

**Eligibility** will be limited to participants from non-ESSE countries

- who are doctoral students or have finished their PhD dissertation after 1 January 2017 (a statement in English from the supervisor is sufficient),
- who are scholars from low-income countries (regardless of their academic position),
- who are retired professors (with priority given to seminar convenors),
- who are students or scholars at risk, *i.e.*, scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being.

**Selection Criteria:** strength of application package

Preference will be given to those acting as presenters/convenors at the conference, early-career scholars and scholars at risk, participants who have no funding, are unemployed or receive low income, as well as participants who have not previously received a fee waiver for an ESSE conference.

The assessment of applications for fee waivers shall not be based on age, gender, race, colour, religion, place of birth or ethnic origin, or disability.

**Application Documents:**

- Applicants' CV
- Motivation letter that provides the following information:
  - a) why they are applying for the fee waiver, *i.e.*, the reason for financial hardship,
  - b) the university affiliation and the postal address of the university,
  - c) presentation details of the doctoral symposium and/or conference,
  - d) whether or not they have previously received a fee waiver,

e) statement: “I hereby certify that I have not received and will not receive any refund for the registration fee from any other funding sources.”

- If applicable, notification of acceptance from the Doctoral Symposium coordinator or the convenor(s) of the seminar panel or roundtable, as appropriate in each case. Email notifications of acceptance are valid.
- For PhD candidates: statement from the supervisor(s) (including statement of lack of financial support or means)

**Selection Committee:**

Two members from the Organising Committee that are also part of the [Academic Programme Committee](#).

For any queries, please contact [esse2026@usc.es](mailto:esse2026@usc.es)