Aim
A research fellowship offered for 4-6 months to young scientists and clinicians to visit the Department of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Leuven, Belgium, with the aim of getting an insight and special knowledge of clinical, translational or basic science research concepts or techniques not available at the home institution. The home institution should benefit from the research training when the applicant returns, by leading to research developments and activities back onsite. Furthermore, it may offer the opportunity of an additional clinical training.

Grant amount
15,000 EUR

Eligibility criteria
Postdoctoral candidate (M.D. in training for thoracic surgery)
Upper age limit 40
Adequate skills in English
Applicant must be a member of ESTS
The program is open to both European and non-European based candidates.

After completion of the fellowship, the applicant must return to her/his home institution to apply the acquired skills; at the home institution appropriate facilities and resources must be available.

Application and Selection process
The Biology Club members (Brendon Stiles, Olivia Lauk and Laurens Ceulemans), the Department Chief of Thoracic Surgery Leuven, Paul De Leyn, the Director of Education Hasan Batirel and the Treasurer Isabelle Opitz will review the applications and will choose the candidate based on the originality and feasibility of the project.
The applicant must contact Dr Laurens Ceulemans before application (laurens.ceulemans@uzleuven.be) to discuss a possible research topic (any topic in the field of thoracic surgery can be discussed) and afterwards submit an outline of this project along with his/her CV (curriculum vitae) and bibliography. For the fellowship a supporting letter from the home institution is needed. Staff members will supervise the project in respect to their expertise.

**Reporting**

Results of the projects are encouraged to be published in the European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery. Fellowship applicants are expected to write a final report as well as a financial report.

**Applications**

Contact Dr Laurens Ceulemans (University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium; laurens.ceulemans@uzleuven.be) to discuss potential research topics before **22 February 2020**.

Applications to be sent by Sunday 1 March 2020 to:

Sue Hesford, Executive Director, ESTS

sue@ests.org.uk