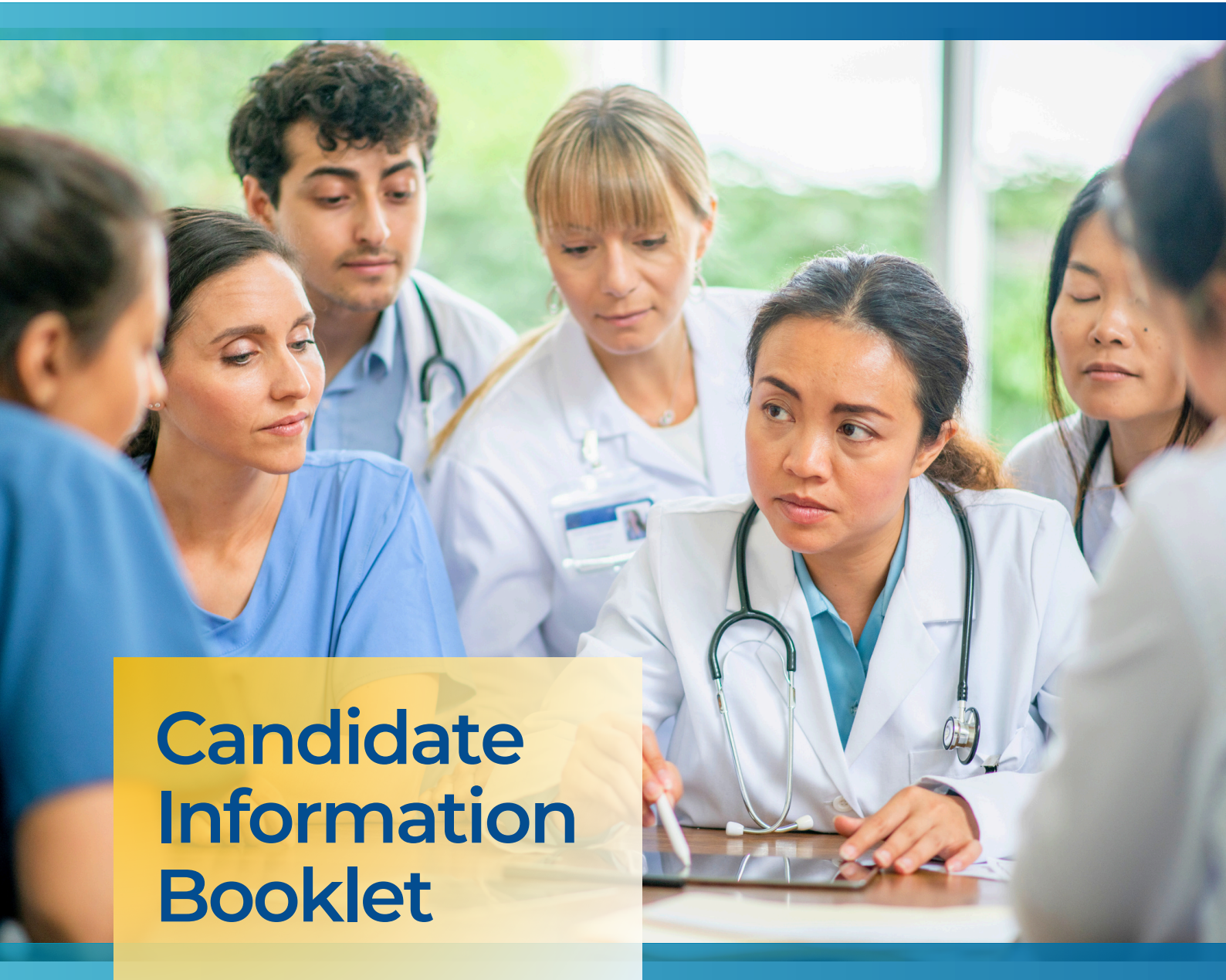


VASCERN SUMMER SCHOOL | 20 26



Candidate Information Booklet

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About VASCERN</u>	03
<u>VASCERN Summer School</u>	06
<u>Application Timeline & Process</u>	07
<u>Academic Information</u>	08
<u>Programme Overview</u>	09
<u>Practical Information</u>	11

ABOUT VASCERN



Who we are

VASCERN is the European Reference Network (ERN) on Rare Multisystemic Vascular Diseases. Our mission is to improve and harmonise care for patients across Europe living with rare and complex vascular conditions including heritable thoracic aortic diseases, hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia, medium sized arteries, primary lymphoedema, vascular anomalies, and neurovascular diseases.

Launched in 2017 and funded by the European Commission, VASCERN is coordinated from Hôpital Bichat – Claude Bernard (Assistance Publique–Hôpitaux de Paris, AP-HP) under the leadership of Professor Guillaume Jondeau.

We bring together healthcare professionals and patient advocates from across Europe to share expertise, develop clinical guidelines, and raise awareness of these rare vascular diseases.



Our structure

VASCERN is organised into six Rare Disease Working Groups (RDWGs), each focused on specific disease areas:

- Hereditary Haemorrhagic Telangiectasia
- Heritable Thoracic Aortic Diseases (HTAD) such as Marfan syndrome and Loeys-Dietz syndrome
- Medium-Sized Arteries (MSA) such as vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome
- Neurovascular Diseases (NEUROVASC) such as CADASIL and Moyamoya angiopathy
- Paediatric and Primary Lymphoedema
- Vascular Anomalies (VASCA) such as venous malformations, lymphatic malformations, rare haemangiomas

We also have a dedicated group of patient advocates in a dedicated group known as the European Patient Advocacy Group (ePAG) who co-develop resources and contribute to patient-centred care.



Our goals

At the heart of VASCERN's mission is a commitment to improving the lives of people living with rare multisystemic vascular diseases. To achieve this, we focus on the following core objectives:

- 01** Advance medical knowledge through expert collaboration, clinical trials, and cross-border registries.
- 02** Raise awareness among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public about rare vascular diseases.
- 03** Promote equitable care by reducing diagnostic delays and improving access to specialised expertise.
- 04** Empower patients and families with reliable information, shared decision-making, and better counselling.
- 05** Expand the network by including more countries, centres, and patient organisations across Europe.



A Growing European Network

VASCERN is committed to expanding its reach across Europe by welcoming new centres, especially from countries not yet represented in the network. To support this, we are implementing an active policy that leverages the expertise and outreach activities of patients, and scientific collaborations between professionals.

Communication campaigns targeting these countries and their rare disease communities are also planned, with the goal of increasing awareness and fostering participation.

To ensure sustainable growth, we are also investing in training and knowledge sharing. Key initiatives include professional exchanges between healthcare centres, development of a Moodle platform for online training, and engagement with future European doctors through educational opportunities.



Why a Summer School?

The VASCERN Summer School was launched in 2024 to equip the next generation of doctors with essential knowledge on rare vascular diseases. With strong participation from over 30 countries in its first two editions, the Summer School has become a key part of our strategy to expand the network, raise awareness, and build long-term connections across Europe.



**200+ applications
received in 2025**



**60 participants
selected in 2024/2025**



**38 countries
represented across
both editions**



**Hosted annually in
Paris with a hybrid
format**

VASCERN SUMMER SCHOOL

The VASCERN Summer School is an educational programme designed to introduce young healthcare professionals to rare multisystemic vascular diseases, support early career development, and expand the impact of the VASCERN network across Europe.



About the programme

Now in its third edition, the 2026 Summer School continues with a hybrid format, partially funded by the ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP). This innovative approach combines both virtual and in-person learning experiences:

- A 15-week online module including e-learning activities and expert-led webinars.
- A 6-day onsite module in Paris, offering immersive, hands-on sessions and face-to-face interaction with experts and patients.

This structure allows participants to gain both theoretical knowledge and practical exposure to the care, research, and lived experience of patients with rare vascular diseases.

Participants will explore topics including disease-specific sessions from each Rare Disease Working Group, translational research and genetics, patient perspectives and therapeutic education, and the role of psychology in rare disease care.

A key objective of the programme is to achieve broad European geographical coverage by actively engaging countries that lack national plans for rare vascular diseases. In selecting participants and partner institutions, we prioritise underrepresented countries that are not yet part of VASCERN particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, such as Latvia, Estonia, Bulgaria, and Slovakia.



Who can apply?

We welcome applications from medical students (undergraduate, master's, or PhD level), residents, and post-doctoral researchers affiliated with a European higher education institution eligible for the Erasmus+ mobility grant.

APPLICATION TIMELINE & PROCESS

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"I honestly didn't expect to hear directly from patients and caregivers. They had time to speak with us, they had voices and that really stood out. I was expecting a more theoretical course, but this brought a whole new level of impact to the experience."

Sharone K., 2024 Participant
Luxembourg



How to apply

1. Complete the online application form here: [VASCERN Summer School 2026 Application Form](#)
2. Download your completed form and email it to: **erasmus@vascern.eu**



Your application will only be considered if the form is submitted and sent by email.



What happens next?

A selection committee of VASCERN experts and a patient representative will review all applications. If selected, you'll coordinate with your university to complete the Learning Agreement and access the Erasmus+ mobility grant.



Required documents

- Updated CV
- Motivation letter
- Certificate of school enrolment or diploma (if graduated)
- Most recent academic transcript

Important Dates

Applications open	Early September 2025
Application deadline	November 11, 2025
Selection results	December 2025
Confirmation deadline	January 12, 2026

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The VASCERN Summer School is part of the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) and is designed to meet academic standards recognised across Europe. Participants who successfully complete the programme will earn the equivalent of 3 ECTS credits.

The total workload is 76 hours, broken down as follows:

30 hours

Online Module

40 hours

Onsite Module

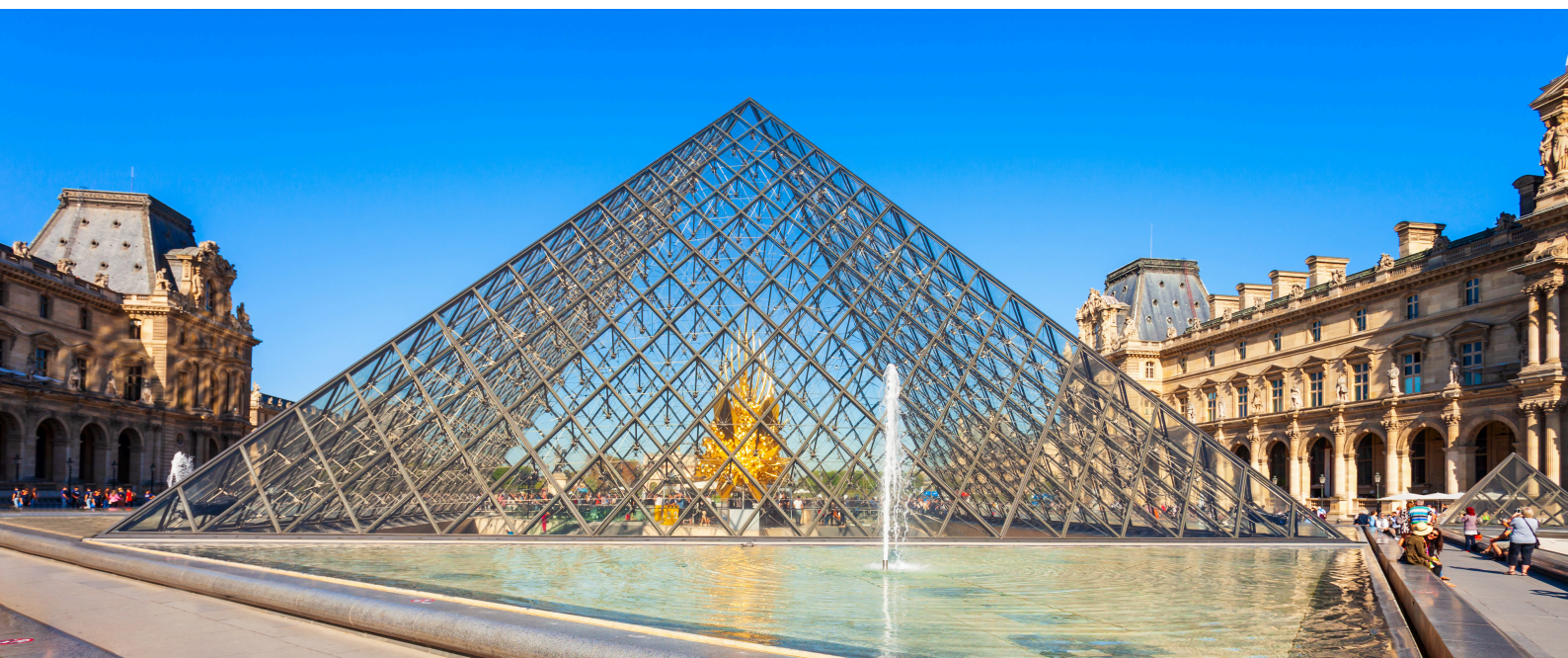
6 hours

Final Evaluation

All selected students will need to complete a Learning Agreement signed by their university and the host institution.

The purpose of the Learning Agreement is to ensure a transparent and efficient preparation of the exchange and ensure that students receive recognition for the activities successfully completed abroad.

The Learning Agreement (provided by the sending institution as a part of the BIP) contains all the learning outcomes that the student is expected to achieve during the exchange. All parties who sign it commit themselves to comply with all the agreed arrangements, ensuring that the student receives recognition for the study carried out abroad without any further requirements.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Online Module (30 hours)

The online module of the VASCERN Summer School runs from February 2 to May 29, 2026, and is structured over 15 weeks. It includes webinars, and e-learning activities led by VASCERN experts and patient representatives.

Module	Topic	Estimated Time
1	Introduction (Week 1)	1.5 hours
2	Methods (Week 1)	1.5 hours
3	Translational Research & Genetics (Weeks 3–10)	17 hours
Easter Break (March 30 – April 6, 2026)		
4	ePAGs & Patient Organisations (Weeks 11–12)	1.5 hours
5	Patient Therapeutic Education (Weeks 11–12)	1 hour
Spring Break (May 1 – May 8, 2026)		
6	Psychology (Weeks 13–14)	4 hours
7	Final Module (Week 15)	1.5 hours



The programme may be adjusted based on speaker availability.

Onsite Module (40 hours)

The onsite module will take place at Hôpital Bichat – Claude Bernard in Paris, and includes expert-led courses, patient perspectives, and interactive activities. Each day is dedicated to the disease areas covered by the VASCERN Rare Disease Working Groups (RDWGs).

Day	Topics	Duration
Monday, Sept 14	Welcome + Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease (HTAD) + Medium Sized Arteries (MSA) – Part I	8 hours
Tuesday, Sept 15	MSA – Part II + Neurovascular Diseases (NEUROVASC) – CADASIL	7 hours
Wednesday, Sept 16	NEUROVASC – Moyamoya + Vascular Anomalies (VASCA) – Part I	7 hours
Thursday, Sept 17	VASCA – Part II + Paediatric & Primary Lymphoedema (PPL)	8 hours
Friday, Sept 18	Hereditary Haemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT)	7 hours
Saturday, Sept 19	Psychology Role-Plays + Final Wrap-up	3.5 hours



The programme may be adjusted based on speaker availability.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue

The onsite module will take place at the Amphithéâtre Chiray, located within:

Hôpital Bichat – Claude Bernard
46 Rue Henri Huchard, 75018 Paris, France.

The hospital is easily accessible by public transportation (metro, bus, and regional trains).



Accommodation

VASCERN will provide a list of recommended accommodation options near the hospital. This information will be shared with selected participants after confirmation of their attendance.



Please note: Participants are responsible for covering their own travel and accommodation costs.



Contact & Useful Links

If you have any questions about the VASCERN Summer School 2026, feel free to reach out.

Email erasmus@vascern.eu

Website bit.ly/vascernsummerschool

You can also follow us on social media for updates, testimonials, and more from VASCERN

 [LinkedIn](#)  [Bluesky](#)  [Facebook](#)  [YouTube](#)