



EURACAN Summer School on Research Methodology and Ethics in Rare Cancers

When ? 1–4 September 2026

**Where ? Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori
Via G. Venezian 1 - 20133 Milan, Italy**

Clinical research on rare cancers, including rare adult solid cancers, face all challenges of low numbers. Several solutions are available, but dedicated educational pathways thereon are often lacking. Methodological issues should always be tackled with a view to an ethical perspective.

EURACAN, as a European Reference Network on a large group of rare cancers, is uniquely positioned to address this educational gap.

Educational format

- Intensive in-person school in Milan
- Blended teaching approach through interactive multidisciplinary workshops based on:
 - lectures by a EURACAN and external multidisciplinary faculty, made up of methodologists/statisticians/AI scientists, clinical and translational oncologists and bioethicians
 - interactive discussions
 - fast project works run by participants
- Workshops on:
 - Clinical decision-making in conditions of uncertainty
 - Classic and innovative clinical trial designs in rare cancers
 - Surrogate end-points
 - Frequentist and Bayesian statistical analysis
 - Artificial intelligence tools for clinical research
 - Causal modeling and inference in rare cancers
 - Observational research, registries and real-world evidence
 - Ethics of research in rare cancers
 - Regulatory pathways in rare cancers
 - Role of European Reference Networks in research and care

Call for applications

EURACAN invites **young investigators** to apply for the **Summer School on Research Methodology and Ethics in Rare Cancers**.

Designed for early-career clinicians and researchers, the course offers **interactive learning, expert mentorship and practical tools** to address the methodological and ethical challenges of rare cancer research. It focuses on innovative trial design, real-world evidence, ethical decision-making and international collaboration for research.

Who should apply?

Early-career professionals (medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, epidemiologists, translational scientists, bioethicists) involved in rare cancer research and care, motivated to grow within European research networks.

Application Procedure

1. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Be a **clinician, researcher, or health professional** involved or interested in rare cancer clinical research
- Be currently:
 - enrolled in a PhD or postgraduate training program, **or**
 - within early–mid career stage (e.g. residents, fellows, junior faculty, postdoctoral researchers)
- Demonstrate a **clear interest in rare cancer** clinical and/or translational and/or epidemiological research
- Be **proficient in English**, as the School will be conducted entirely in English

Please note that the School is limited to a **maximum of 20 participants, with one seat reserved for applicants based in Ukraine. Applicants from EURACAN centers will be privileged.**

2. Application Documents

Applicants are required to submit the following documents in English:

- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages), including:
 - Education and training
 - Current position and institutional affiliation
 - Relevant clinical and/or research experience
 - Publications, if applicable
- Motivation Letter (1-2 pages), describing:
 - Professional background and current role
 - Interest in rare cancers and relevance to career development
 - Motivation to participate in the Summer School
 - Expected impact of the course on future clinical or research activities

3. Submission Process

- Applications must be submitted electronically via the dedicated email addresses: JoanneMary.Fleming@istitutotumori.mi.it & johanna.schell@lyon.unicancer.fr
- All documents should be sent as PDF files.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Application deadline: 26 June 2026 at 23:59 CET

4. Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee based on:

- Relevance of the applicant's background to rare cancer research or care
- Motivation and commitment to the field
- Potential benefit of the Summer School for the applicant's professional development
- Balance across disciplines, countries, and rare cancer domains

In case of a high number of applications, priority may be given to candidates:

- Without prior participation in similar EURACAN educational initiatives
- Actively involved in rare cancer networks or multidisciplinary teams

5. Notification and Acceptance

- Selected candidates will be notified by email.
- Failure to confirm in due time may result in replacement by candidates on a waiting list.

6. Financial Support

Travel and accommodation will be organised and covered by EURACAN. Applicants are asked **not** to book their tickets and accommodation in advance. Details and final agenda will be communicated to selected candidates.