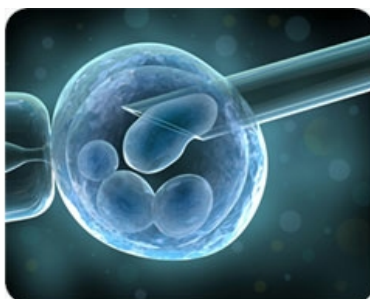


# ResearchConnect

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Research bulletin  
02 June 2025



# Welcome to your research bulletin

ResearchConnect is powered by Idox, Europe's leading provider of funding and policy information, covering thousands of funding opportunities dedicated to the international research community. It is supported by an in-house team of researchers who are all educated to graduate and postgraduate level and who have practical experience of making applications for, and participating in, postgraduate and postdoctoral research. Content on the site is updated in real time to keep research staff up-to-date on the latest changes and trends in funding. The most important changes are showcased in this bulletin.

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## Arts and Humanities

### Getty Publishes 2026-2027 Art Fellowships Call on Theme of Provenance

Fund ID: S11359

The Getty Foundation is a cultural and philanthropic institution dedicated to the presentation, conservation and interpretation of the world's artistic legacy. The Foundation and its constituent programmes work with a range of clients around the world, from the general public to specialist professional communities, to promote civil society through an understanding of the visual arts. The Foundation houses an art collection, a library and holdings of special collections.

Getty Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended for emerging scholars who are working on projects related to the Getty Research Institute or Getty Villa's [annual themes](#). The programme is open to scholars around the world. The three main grant categories are:

- Scholar Grants for established researchers and professionals who have held their PhD for at least five years and/or possess strong records of publication activity. These Grants take place at the [Getty Center](#) or the [Getty Villa](#).
- Postdoctoral fellowships for recent PhDs at the Getty Center or the Getty Villa.
- Predoctoral fellowships for PhD candidates at the Getty Center.

Fellows make use of the Getty collections, join in a weekly lecture devoted to an annual theme, and participate in the intellectual life of the Getty. For 2026-2027, Getty has chosen the theme of **Provenance**. The programme is soliciting projects that explore provenance and adjacent research areas, including but not limited to the history of collecting, the study of the art market, as well as broader explorations around the ownership of art objects. The scholar cohort will be invited to examine and critique the arena of provenance studies while also envisioning its future, situated between the practices and demands of source communities, art historians, museums and the market.

Getty Predoctoral Fellowships are for nine months (from late September to late June) and include a stipend of \$30,000. Getty Postdoctoral Fellowships are for nine months from (late September to late June) and include a stipend of \$35,000. In addition, fellowships may provide a workspace at the Getty Research Institute or the Getty Villa, an apartment in the Getty scholar housing complex, a travel stipend and healthcare options.

**Applications are open from 1 July to 1 October 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

### CAIS Digital Transformation Fellowship and Working Group Programmes Now Open

Fund IDs: S14968, S14974

The Centre of Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) is an independent research centre in Bochum, Germany. The main research focus of the Centre is dedicated to the social, political and economic changes brought about by digitalisation. Its aims are not only research but also the promotion of an ongoing dialogue between science and society.

CAIS's **Fellowship Programme** offers national and international scholars as well as practitioners in the field the opportunity to carry out a research project for up to six months at the CAIS in Bochum. These research projects may be individual or collaborative and can address any of the topics in the vast field of digital transformation.

In addition to the regular fellowship programme, CAIS also awards special fellowships for a period of three to up to six months on the topic **Creating a Human-Centred Future: Exploring the Promise of Industry 5.0**. Research projects are expected to focus on the societal, organisational and economic conditions of Industry 5.0.

The **CAIS Working Group Programme** (*Arbeitsgemeinschaften*) is aimed at scholars and practitioners who wish to make use of the resources of the centre to meet and collaborate. Working groups usually consist of 2-10 members who spend a period of up to three weeks at CAIS. It is also possible to arrange several meetings in the course of a six-month period.

It is possible to combine applications for multiple CAIS programmes simultaneously, allowing researchers to conduct research as a fellow, and also organise events or working groups during their stay at CAIS.

Applications for all programmes are welcome from highly accomplished academics and professionals with practice-based expertise in the main research areas of the CAIS. Applications are open to all nationalities.

The maximum funding amount for German working groups is €10,000. In the case of international groups up to €15,000 may be provided. Participants in the fellowship programme receive a monthly allowance between €600 and €2,000.

**Applications for all funding lines close on 31 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## AUF Opens Applications for the 2025 Pedagogical Innovation Award

**\*\*NEW\*\***

Fund ID: S27620

The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF - Francophone University Agency) is composed of more than 1,000 universities, university networks and scientific research centres that use French in more than 100 countries. It promotes scientific excellence, innovation, best practices and collaborative projects between francophone higher education establishments and research institutes.

The Agency's Pedagogical Innovation Award recognises educational projects that contribute to the transfer of expertise in the French-speaking world, the strengthening of French-speaking academic mobility, and the promotion of scientific Francophonie in academic and socioeconomic circles. Projects should have been carried by any of the AUF member institutions worldwide.

The 2025 edition of the Prize focuses primarily on educational innovation in French-language teaching, including:

- Teaching French.
- Teaching science in French (all disciplines combined), particularly in non-French-speaking or limited-French-speaking environments.

To be eligible for the Prize, applicants must be [a member of the AUF](#) and up to date with their contributions. Projects must involve innovative practices which have been proven and applied in real conditions for at least one academic year out of the three years preceding the call.

A maximum of two projects will receive official certification and a monetary prize of €10,000 each to encourage them to continue their award-winning activities.

**Applications must be submitted before the deadline of 27 June 2025 (19:00 Paris time).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## July Deadline Announced for the 2026/2027 FIAS Fellowship Programme

Fund ID: S20290

The French Institutes for Advanced Study (FIAS) is composed of French institutes located in Paris (Paris IAS), Cergy (CYAS Cergy), Lyon (Collegium de Lyon), Marseille (IMÉRA), Montpellier (MAK'IT), Loire (Le Studium Loire Valley), and Nantes (Nantes IAS).

FIAS administers a Fellowship Programme to strengthen scholarship and mobility in the social sciences and humanities by offering academic residencies in France to experienced international researchers. The programme is now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Researchers from all countries are eligible to apply, as long as they have spent no more than 12 months in France during the three years immediately prior to the application deadline. Eligible applicants must hold a PhD and have at least two years of full-time research experience at the time of the application. Exceptions can be made for researchers with a Master's degree and six years of full-time research experience after the degree (PhD training will not be considered in the calculation of experience).

Each residency consists of one academic year at one of the participating French FIAS institutes. The fellowship is designed to provide fellows with the facilities and conditions to develop their professional careers free from the administration and teaching commitments of their home institution. They also offer the opportunity for transdisciplinary intellectual exchanges with other fellows and the academic community of the host institute in France. The institutes are open to all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, however, each may have a specific field(s) of research focus, depending on the academic year. These details are specified by each individual institute.

Fellows will each receive a minimum net income of €2,200 per month for the duration of the 10-month fellowship. Social security, support for accommodation and travel expenses and a €2,500 research and training budget will also be provided.

**Applications must be submitted by 16 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Polish-German Research Collaboration: Nominations for Copernicus Award 2026 Now Open

Fund ID: S13868

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation) and Fundacja na rzecz Nauki Polskiej (FNP - Foundation for Polish Science) are accepting nominations for the 2026 Copernicus Award. This biennial prize recognises two researchers - one based in Germany and one in Poland - for exceptional contributions to German-Polish scientific collaboration.

The award, worth €200,000, is jointly funded by the DFG and FNP and is equally divided between the two recipients. It is intended to support ongoing scientific work that strengthens bilateral cooperation and opens new research perspectives.

The award is open to researchers in any discipline of science or the humanities. Eligible nominees must hold a doctoral degree and be actively leading research teams at public universities or research institutions in Germany or Poland. They must also be engaged in current joint research efforts between the two countries. Nominations can be submitted by qualified third parties or through self-nomination. Nominations of female researchers are particularly encouraged.

**The deadline for nominations for the 2026 award is 15 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Value Increase for Castle Studies Trust Grants

Fund ID: S14148

The Castle Studies Trust is a UK based charity founded in July 2012 with the aim of increasing knowledge of castles in the UK and abroad. The Trust has the aim of advancing public education for public benefit by promoting the study of and research into the history and archaeology of castles and disseminating all useful results of such research.

In May 2025, the Trust increased the amount of funding awarded for projects supported via its grants programme. Previously worth a maximum of £10,000, projects may now request up to £14,000 from the Trust.

The programme supports types of work that enhance understanding and knowledge of castles. The focus is on new discrete pieces of research and projects should be for an achievable specific result that will help advance understanding of the studies of castles.

The scheme is open to both individuals and groups/organisations around the world. Projects are expected to be completed within 12 months of receipt of the first tranche of funding.

**The next application period will be open from early September 2025 until 1 December 2025.**

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# August Deadline Announced for DAAD PRIME Mobility Programme for Postdoctoral Researchers

Fund ID: S15505

The Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service) is a registered association of German institutions of higher education and student bodies. It is a large funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. DAAD supports the internationalisation of German universities through grants and scholarships, promotes German studies and the German language abroad, assists developing countries in establishing effective universities and advises decision makers on matters of cultural, education and development policy.

The Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (PRIME) programme supports the international mobility of postdoctoral researchers through temporary positions at German universities. Postdoctoral researchers of all nationalities who see their long-term career prospects in Germany are given the opportunity to combine employment at a German university with a research stay abroad. The programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must have completed a PhD with excellent results before starting the fellowship. Application is possible up to six years following the completion of the (first) doctorate.
- Only candidates with an excellent scientific record, including at least one publication (co-authorship is accepted), will be considered.
- There are no restrictions regarding nationality and current residency.
- Applicants must comply with the programme's mobility rule, ie they are free to choose any country (except Germany) as the destination for their research stay abroad provided they have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies etc) in that country for more than 12 months in total during the three years preceding the application deadline.
- Applicants who are EU nationals, resident citizens, or have been continuously active in research for three years' full-time equivalent in the EU prior to the time of recruitment may spend their research stay outside of the EU. All other applicants must stay in the EU for their research stay abroad.

Funding is provided through an 18-month temporary position at the selected German university. An additional lump sum travel allowance is also available.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 29 August 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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# Biotechnology and Biology

## New Fondation Maladies Rares Call Focused on Rare Diseases Involving Developmental Abnormalities **\*\*NEW\*\***

Fund ID: S27616

Fondation Maladies Rares (Foundation for Rare Diseases) is a non-profit umbrella organisation created in 2012 within the framework of France's second National Rare Diseases Plan. Its two main objectives are to understand rare diseases to facilitate their diagnosis and to accelerate the development of new treatments and to improve the lives of people with rare diseases and their families. Filière de Santé Anomalies du Développement avec ou Sans Déficience Intellectuelle de causes Rares (AnDDI-Rares - Health Network for Developmental Disorders with or without Intellectual Disability of Rare Causes) is the French national rare diseases network dedicated to diseases involving developmental abnormalities.

Fondation Maladies Rares is operating a call for proposals, funded entirely by AnDDI-Rares, intended to encourage the initiation of projects leading to significant advances in the diagnosis and understanding of the genetic basis of rare diseases involving developmental abnormalities, with or without intellectual development disorders. The call will support the following two project types: biology research projects (wet lab projects); and bioinformatics projects (dry lab projects).

The call is open to translational research teams worldwide working in molecular biology, genomics and bioinformatics, including clinicians and data analysis experts.

The Principal Investigator must: hold a permanent position as a researcher and/or clinician (or have a non-permanent position but be able to demonstrate that their salary will cover the entire duration of the project).

Projects must focus on at least one of the following topics:

- Development of new bioinformatics methods for the identification and interpretation of genomic variants.
- Exploitation of innovative technologies (long-read sequencing, RNA-seq, methylome etc).
- Analysis of cohorts to detect predictive genomic signatures.
- Development of in vivo and in vitro functional tools to study the effect of genetic variations.
- Study of gene interactions and regulatory mechanisms involved in pathologies with developmental abnormalities.

Projects will be funded up to a maximum of €25,000 for a maximum duration of 24 months.

**The application deadline is 10 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

# African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI) Young African Phosphorus Fellowship Award Open to Applications

Fund ID: S22113

Established in 2019, the African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI) is a non-profit research organisation that seeks to enhance plant nutrition to improve food security in Africa and enable African farmers to sustainably manage food crops.

APNI's Young African Phosphorus Fellowship Award is given to young scientists working in African National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) institutions or African universities. The award is designed to encourage scientific programmes relevant to understanding and improving phosphorus management in Africa's field or tree crop agro-ecosystems.

Applicants must submit a creative proposal that addresses current knowledge gaps or synthesises existing information leading to improved phosphorus management. Of particular interest are proposals that can address phosphorus management in combination with at least one of APNI's high priority topics:

- 4R (right source, rate, time and place) Nutrient Stewardship (eg matching crop growth dynamics with phosphorus applications based on adjustments in source, rate, time or placement).
- Carbon farming (eg biomass turn over and phosphorus applications).
- Soil health (eg residue management and soil phosphorus status, innovative phosphorus use and cropping system diversification, phosphorus management and dynamics in no-till systems, and management of phosphorus in problem soils such as high phosphorus-fixing soils).
- Precision farming (eg innovations in addressing phosphorus variability at field scale).

Eligible applicants are scientists working at African NARES institutions or universities. Applicants must be working full time and must have completed their PhD study. Applications from scientists in postdoctorate positions are eligible.

Up to five awards with a value of \$5,000 each are available.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 30 June 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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# Economic and Social Research

## Second 2025 Deadline Issued for Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness Grants

Fund IDs: S4411, S4410, S4424, S4422

Established in 1999 as a registered charity, the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness (FSHI - SHI Foundation) seeks to promote and improve social scientific research, education and scholarship in the field of the sociology of health and illness.

FSHI provides the **Mildred Blaxter Postdoctoral Fellowships** to support individuals who have recently submitted or been awarded a PhD in the field of the sociology of health and illness, to enable them to disseminate findings of their thesis through publications and presentations, and/or develop a new programme of work related to their thesis. Fellowships can only be held in UK universities but awards are not restricted to UK or EU citizens. Full salary costs are provided for one year (including on-costs), plus up to £7,000 for mentor, research and/or conference expenses. London weighting is payable where appropriate.

The **Postgraduate International Conference Travel Awards** support the costs of presenting a sociology of health and illness paper at a recognised international conference outside the UK. Postgraduate students and early career researchers who are presenting or co-presenting a paper can receive assistance towards the costs of attending the conference. Applicants must be postgraduate students registered for a Master's degree or MPhil/PhD at a UK university or early career researchers within three years of the award of their PhD. Awards of up to £1,000 can be made.

**Research Grant Development Awards** provide pump-priming funds for the development of high-quality, innovative research in medical sociology or the sociology of health and illness. Grants are intended to support groups to produce substantive outputs in the form of a full grant application to a major national or international funding body and, where appropriate, publications in peer-reviewed journals. Applications are considered from groups of at least four researchers, based in at least two different institutions, at least two of whom (including the lead applicant) should have a track record as active researchers in the sociology of health and illness. Grants of up to £6,000 can be made.

FSHI's **Symposium or Workshop Support Grants** fund symposia, small conferences and workshops that address important issues in the sociology of health and illness field. FSHI is particularly keen to support meetings that promote discussion and debate on interdisciplinary themes of wide public relevance, and meetings with an international or comparative dimension. The scheme is open to meeting organisers based at UK universities for meetings to be held in the UK. Applications for support for one-day, two-day or longer symposia, conferences or workshops will be considered. Up to £2,500 can be provided for one-day events and up to £3,000 for longer meetings.

There are usually two application deadlines per year. **Applications to the second 2025 round for all FSHI grant schemes must be submitted by the deadline of 31 October 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

# Results of 2024 MSCA Staff Exchanges Call Published with 83 Collaborative Projects Receiving Support

Fund ID: S22300

The European Commission has announced that 83 projects will receive a share of €99.5 million through the 2025 round of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Staff Exchanges programme.

MSCA is the EU's flagship programme to support scientific excellence and cooperation across countries, sectors and research fields. It aims to encourage more young people to pursue a career in research and promote Europe's attractiveness for leading global talent.

MSCA Staff Exchanges fund short-term international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary exchanges of staff members involved in research and innovation activities at all stages of the innovation chain. The aim is to develop sustainable collaborative projects between different organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe and beyond.

Secondments take place between different countries, and exchanged staff benefit from new knowledge, skills and career development perspectives, while participating organisations increase their research and innovation capacities.

The successful 83 projects were selected out of 324 eligible submitted proposals, a success rate of 25.6%. The selected collaborative projects will be implemented by international partnerships covering 1,025 organisations in 111 countries in the EU, countries associated to Horizon Europe and beyond, including 300 non-academic organisations and 150 small and medium-sized enterprises. Selected projects are coordinated by organisations in 17 countries.

Selected projects span all scientific disciplines and will conduct research in areas such as advanced health, AI, sustainability and deep tech, covering areas including cancer diagnostics, climate resilience, neurodegenerative disease research and circular economy solutions. Further projects will be conducted in quantum physics, inclusive education, democratic governance, food security and cultural heritage valorisation; as well as developing digital information models and 3D databases to valorise cultural heritage routes and architectural heritage in European border territories and improve sustainable planning and management.

The successful projects are in the broad fields of:

- Engineering and ICT: 25% (21 projects)
- Life sciences: 13% (11 projects)
- Social sciences and humanities: 18% (15 projects)
- Environment and geosciences: 17% (14 projects)
- Chemistry: 10% (8 projects)
- Economics: 6% (5 projects)
- Physics: 7% (6 projects)
- Mathematics: 4% (3 projects)

Further details of successful applicants to the 2024 round are available on the [MSCA website](#).

**The 2025 call for MSCA Staff Exchanges is currently open for applications with a deadline of 8 October 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Open for Applications

Fund ID: S22290

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are the EU's flagship programme to support scientific excellence and cooperation across countries, sectors and research fields. They aim to encourage more young people to pursue a career in research, promote Europe's attractiveness for leading global talent, retain its own researchers and reintegrate those working elsewhere.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are available for excellent researchers undertaking international mobility either to or between EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, as well as to non-associated Third Countries. All disciplines are eligible for Postdoctoral Fellowships. Applications will be made jointly by the researcher and a beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector.

Postdoctoral Fellowships can either take place in Europe (ie in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country) or in a Third Country not associated to Horizon Europe:

- **European Postdoctoral Fellowships** are open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The standard duration of these fellowships

must be between 12 and 24 months.

- **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships** are open to either nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Associated Countries who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside EU Member States and Associated Countries. These fellowships require an outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Interested researchers submit an application together with a host organisation, which can be a university, research institution, business, SME or other organisation based in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. The beneficiary receiving EU funding needs to recruit the researcher for the total period of the fellowship.

Researchers interested in PFs:

- Should have a PhD degree at the time of the deadline for applications. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered eligible to apply.
- Must have a maximum of eight years' experience in research from the date of the award of their PhD degree.
- Should comply with mobility rules: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies etc) in the country of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.

The scheme is also open to researchers wishing to reintegrate in Europe, those who are displaced by conflict, as well as researchers with high potential who are seeking to restart their careers in research.

[Seals of Excellence](#) will be awarded to applications with a total score equal to or higher than 85%, but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available under the call.

The following amounts are available for each type of fellowship in the 2025 round:

- European Fellowships: €233,439,340
- Global Fellowships: €41,195,178

The call also marks the launch of the 2025 round of ERA Fellowships. To apply for these awards, applicants must submit their proposal to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 call and must be applying with a host organisation located in an eligible Widening country. The application to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 will be automatically resubmitted to the ERA Fellowships call in case the proposal fails to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded. This simplified submission procedure to the ERA Fellowships call presents applicants moving to Widening countries with an additional funding opportunity but there is the possibility to opt out during the application stage.

**Applications should be submitted by the 10 September 2025 deadline.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Policy: European Parliament Adopts Report Calling for Independent Research Framework Programme Beyond 2027

The European Parliament has voted to adopt a non-binding document setting out its priorities for the EU's long-term budget covering 2028-2034. The report calls for an increased and more flexible budget compared with 2021-27 and crucially rejects the European Commission's proposed 'Competitiveness Fund', which would merge several existing research and innovation programmes into a single instrument, and instead calls for a standalone research Framework Programme.

The report was adopted by 317 votes in favour and 206 against, with 123 abstentions. It draws among other sources on the recommendations set out in the September 2024 [Draghi Report on EU Competitiveness](#), which urged the Commission to considerably streamline and double investment in the next Framework Programme to guarantee the long-term competitiveness of the European Union.

Calling for an increased budget, the report states that the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) must be endowed with increased resources compared to the 2021-2027 period, moving away from the traditional limit of 1% of gross national income (GNI). It cites the Draghi report's finding that the annual investment gap with respect to innovation and infrastructure sits at €750-€800 billion per year between 2025 and 2030 and that the Union budget cannot cover this shortfall alone. The Commission must therefore unlock investment from the private sector and exploit synergies between public and private investment, in particular by simplifying and harmonising the EU investment architecture.

Flexibility is cited as a key priority, with the report noting that contemporary political, security, economic and social challenges mean that setting static medium-term priorities is 'no longer tenable'. The report advocates for crisis-response capacities to be built into the budget for each policy area, with humanitarian aid ring-fenced. Two special instruments should be established in this regard: one for

disaster relief and another for other unforeseen challenges.

The report further identifies a 'clear need' to progress towards a genuine Defence Union through increased investment, highlighting a current defence spending gap of €500 billion over the next decade. However, it states this spending cannot be covered by Union funding, and it must not come at the expense of social and environmental spending, nor from a reduction in funding for long-standing and successful Union policies.

The report also suggests an alternative to the Commission's proposed 'one national plan per Member State' approach, which is based on the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) model. The European Parliament instead calls for a structure that focuses on transparency and parliamentary accountability, and involves regional and local authorities and all relevant actors.

Co-rapporteur of the report MEP Siegfried Mureşan said:

'We want the next long-term EU budget to be better equipped to respond to today's challenges - helping Europe act swiftly in crises, better protect its citizens, and build a stronger, more competitive Union. We also want adequate support for our long-standing priorities, such as agriculture and cohesion. We propose a responsible and justified increase in the next MFF - moving beyond the outdated 1% GNI cap.

'If we ask the EU to do more, we must equip it accordingly. The European Parliament will only approve a future-proof MFF that is flexible, effective, and ready for implementation by 1 January 2028. This is why we urge the Council and Commission to begin negotiations immediately after the Commission's proposal in July.'

The priorities set out in the European Parliament's resolution are designed to feed into the Commission's proposal on the EU's next long-term budget, which is due to be published in July 2025.

The report can be accessed in full at the [European Parliament website](#).

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Choose Europe for Science: €500 Million Initiative to Attract Scientists to Europe

On 5 March 2025 at Sorbonne University, Paris, the **Choose Europe for Science** conference took place, confirming the launch of a new EU initiative focused on encouraging international researchers to move to Europe. The initiative, comprising an incentives package worth €500 million, seeks to position the EU as a refuge for scientists whose academic freedom is threatened in their home countries.

The conference, led by French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, brought together European commissioners, scientists, academics and ministers for research from EU member countries, as well as representatives from non-EU countries such as Norway, Switzerland and the UK.

Through the initiative, the EU hopes to attract researchers in a number of specific sectors, including health, climate, biodiversity, artificial intelligence (AI) and space. In addition to its incentives package, the initiative puts a spotlight on existing European research programmes, such as the Horizon Europe programme and the EuroHPC supercomputing infrastructure. It also highlights the potential advantages of life in Europe, such as its education and healthcare systems and its working conditions and protections.

The conference follows the launch of two French programmes: the [Choose France for Science](#) platform, providing co-funding to support French institutions hosting international researchers, and the [Choose CNRS](#) programme, offering a variety of positions in France to international scientists. During the conference, Macron confirmed that France is committing €100 million from its [France 2030](#) budget in support of the incentivisation initiative.

During her conference speech, von der Leyen outlined the four priorities of Choose Europe for Science:

- The first priority is to ensure science in Europe remains open and free, with the intention to enshrine freedom of scientific research into law through a new European Research Area Act.
- The second priority is to ensure there is ample funding to incentivise research in Europe. This priority is addressed through the €500 million incentives package and the creation of a seven-year ERC 'super grant'.
- The third priority is to accelerate the pathway from breakthrough science to innovation and business, addressed through the the European Innovation Act and a Startup and Scaleup Strategy, aiming to remove regulatory barriers and to facilitate access to venture capital for European startups and scaleups.
- The final priority is to make it easier and more attractive for international researchers to come to Europe for research by accelerating and simplifying the process for entering and staying in Europe.

In her closing remarks, von der Leyen set out the values of the new initiative:

'We are choosing to start a new age of invention and ingenuity. We are choosing to put research and innovation, science and technology, at the heart of our economy. We are choosing to be the continent where universities are pillars of our societies and our way

of life. We are choosing to be the continent where innovation serves humanity, where global talent is welcomed.'

President von der Leyen's speech can be accessed in full at the [Choose Europe](#) website.

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Horizon Europe Award for Gender Equality Champions Opens for 2025

Fund ID: S24064

The European Commission provides the Horizon Europe Award for Gender Equality Champions to recognise and reward academic and research institutions that have achieved outstanding results through implementing gender equality measures. The award is designed to encourage the development of inclusive gender equality plans and policies in the framework of the [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#). It further complements the requirement to have Gender Equality Plans (GEP) as an eligibility criterion for higher education and research organisations applying to Horizon Europe.

The prize intends to raise public awareness of the importance of addressing gender equality in academic and research organisations through institutional change and incentivise a high degree of commitment to implementing inclusive GEPs. It is further designed to create a community of champions to inspire other organisations to become gender equality champions themselves.

Applicants may apply to a maximum of one of the following three categories of the award:

1. Sustainable Gender Equality Champions: Organisations that can demonstrate a significant and sustained record of activity and a high level of achievement through the implementation of their GEP.
2. Newcomer Gender Equality Champions: Organisations that have recently finalised the implementation of their first GEP and can demonstrate the most progress achieved through its implementation.
3. Inclusive Gender Equality Champions: Organisations that have developed the most innovative inclusive GEP - that is, a GEP addressing intersections between gender and at least two other social categories, such as racial or ethnic origin, social origin, sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTIQ) or disability - and can demonstrate concrete results obtained through its implementation.

Four prizes worth €100,000 each will be awarded: one in award category 1, two in award category 2 and one in award category 3.

The prize is open to universities, higher education institutions, and other research performing organisations (public or private), established in an EU Member State or a Third Country [associated](#) to Horizon Europe. Only applications submitted by a single legal entity will be permitted.

**Applications should be submitted by the 18 June 2025 deadline.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Otsuka Team Award Psychiatry+: €20,000 for Innovations to Improve Psychiatric Care

Fund ID: S27570

The Otsuka Team Award Psychiatry+ promotes innovation in psychiatric patient care. Sponsored by Otsuka Pharma GmbH, the award is now accepting applications from healthcare teams across Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The annual award celebrates collaborative projects that showcase innovative teamwork between different healthcare professionals. Eligible teams must include at least two different professional groups, with one being a practicing neurologist or psychiatrist. The initiative particularly values projects that have been successfully implemented in clinical settings and have shown tangible benefits for patients with mental illnesses.

Otsuka Pharma GmbH, the German subsidiary of the Japanese pharmaceutical company Otsuka, has established this award to encourage the development of future-oriented concepts in psychiatric care. The company, which specialises in various medical fields including psychiatry, nephrology and cardiovascular diseases, has allocated €20,000 for the winning team.

Projects will be evaluated based on their innovative approach to interdisciplinary care, practical implementation and demonstrated impact on patient outcomes.

**The deadline for applications is 31 August 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Submission Service Opens for EIC Transition Open Call 2025

Fund ID: S21604

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is inviting proposals through the Open Call of its EIC Transition stream, which funds innovation activities that go beyond the experimental proof of principle in laboratory. Support is available for both the maturation and validation of a novel technology in the lab and in relevant application environments as well as the development of a business case and business model towards the innovation's future commercialisation.

Proposed activities must include further technology development on the results achieved in a previous project and follow user-centric methodologies to increase chances of the innovation's future success in the market. Projects should address, in a balanced way, both technology and market/business dimensions, possibly including iterative learning processes based on early customer or user feedback.

The activities must in all cases address market readiness towards commercialisation and deployment (market research, business case, prospects for growth, intellectual property protection, competitor analysis etc) and other relevant aspects of regulation, certification and standardisation, aimed at getting both the technology and the business idea investment-ready.

By the end of the Transition project, applicants should be ready for the next stage, which can be to apply for EIC Accelerator (for SMEs, including start-ups or spin-offs), to seek other investors or sources of funding, to enter licensing or collaboration agreements with third parties, or other routes to market deployment.

Applications may be submitted by either:

- A single legal entity, either an SME or a research performing organisation (university, research or technology organisation, including teams, individual Principal Investigators and inventors in such institutions who intend to form a spinout company); larger companies that do not qualify as SMEs are not eligible to apply as a single legal entity; or
- A small consortium of a minimum of two and a maximum of five independent legal entities, which may include, for example, universities, research organisations, SMEs or larger companies, user/customer organisations or potential end-users (such as hospitals, utilities, industry, regulatory and standardisation bodies, public authorities).

A total indicative budget of €98 million is available in 2025. Grants of up to €2.5 million (or more if properly justified) are available to validate and demonstrate technology in application-relevant environment (eg TRL 3/4 to 5/6) and develop market readiness. Projects may also receive additional grants of up to €50,000 to undertake portfolio activities.

**Applications should be submitted by the 17 September 2025 (17:00 Brussels time) deadline.**

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## Engineering and Physical Sciences

### France-Germany Hubert Curien Partnership 2026 'Procope' Programme

Fund ID: S12984

The Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) programme promotes the exchange of scientific and technical excellence between research teams in France and various partner countries through joint research projects and bilateral research visits.

The Procope partnership supports the reciprocal mobility of collaborators between France and Germany. The programme is jointly administered by Campus France and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service).

Eligible joint research teams involve researchers in each country. French teams must be affiliated with a higher education institution (HEI) or research organisation; companies can participate in the project as long as they are associated with an academic partner. In Germany, applications may be submitted by state and state-recognised universities and by non-profit, research-active, non-university research institutions.

Funding is available to cover the costs of the bilateral mobility of participating researchers between the two partner countries. The annual funding granted per project averages around €6,000 on the French side, while on the German side, DAAD provides funding of up to €6,000 per year.

Collaborations will be funded for two years each and may be in any discipline. The programme focuses on early career researchers, and collaborations are expected to involve research visits by doctoral students and/or early career postdoctoral fellows.

Applications must be submitted in parallel by both French and German teams via their respective administrators.

**The joint deadline for application to the 2026 programme is 2 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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### UK and Canada Collaborations Invited to Develop Semiconductor Technologies

Fund ID: S26976

Innovate UK (IUK) has launched the Canada-UK Semiconductors Competition to support collaborative innovation in semiconductor technologies. The initiative is designed to stimulate the development of new products, processes or technology-based services across the semiconductors sector.

The competition is open to UK businesses and Canadian incorporated, profit-oriented small or medium-sized enterprises. To be eligible, projects must include at least one UK grant-claiming business and one eligible Canadian SME. Other eligible collaborators may include UK academic institutions, not for profit bodies and research organisations.

Grants are available for feasibility studies, industrial research and experimental development. UK partners can request up to £500,000 per project. Canadian partners may request up to CAD \$500,000, with funding provided under their own national rules.

Projects may focus on a range of semiconductor technologies including advanced packaging, photonics, simulation tools and emerging materials. Application areas include sustainable technologies, high-voltage systems, data centres, communications and sensors.

**The deadline for applications is 15 October 2025 (11:00).**

## €50,000 for Catalysis Research: Dr Karl Wamsler Award Now Open for Nominations

Fund ID: S20198

The annual **Dr Karl Wamsler Innovation Award** of the Technical University of Munich honours scientists who have created innovative momentum with industrial potential in the field of catalysis research. The award is presented on the basis of a research publication or patent.

Eligible recipients are scientists who have authored ground-breaking work which has been published in scientific journals or patent literature. The research must originate in an academic or industrial research environment.

There are no restrictions on who can nominate appropriate candidates.

The prize amounts to €50,000.

**The nomination deadline for the 2025 award is 31 August 2025.**

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

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## ANR and TA CR Launch Second Edition of Bilateral Call for Nuclear Research (SIGMA)

Fund ID: S26461

The Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR - National Research Agency) was first established in 2005 and is governed by the French Ministry of Research. It provides funding to public research organisations and universities, as well as to private companies, for both basic and applied research in all fields of science. The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) is a Czech government agency that supports collaboration between publicly funded research organisations and the business sector. TA CR takes on the responsibility of organising and funding its own applied research and experimental development projects while supporting projects launched by other agencies.

Following an agreement between ANR and TA CR for the funding of bilateral research and innovation projects on the topic of nuclear, French teams are invited to participate in TA CR's [SIGMA programme](#), designed to support international collaboration in applied research. At the request of the Direction Générale Energie-Climat (DGEC - Energy-Climate General Management), ANR also aims to support the establishment of Franco-Czech teams focused on nuclear energy. For the 2025 call (the ninth edition of the SIGMA programme and the second Czech-French bilateral call), French teams are invited to participate in collaborative research projects with Czech teams on the following research areas:

- Safety and reliability of current nuclear reactors:
  - Research in the field of serious accident studies.
  - Research in the field of the ageing of concrete structures under irradiation.
  - Research in the field of modern materials: Accident Tolerant Fuel (ATF), fuel for small modular reactors (SMR), additive manufacturing, high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU).
- Research on materials and the combustible cycle to support research reactors.
- Research in the field of Generation IV reactors (GFRs and MSR).
- Support for the development of SMRs, including within the framework of the NUWARD project.

Projects must involve collaboration between French and Czech research teams. For Czech applicants, an industrial partner must be involved who will assume the role of coordinating Czech partners. This stipulation does not apply for French applicants. However, the participation of French business or public research partners is welcome. For French applicants, ANR can allocate funds to higher education and/or research institutions, or groups composed of these institutions. Private establishments with a public service mission of higher education and research may access funding, if approved by ANR, MESRI and SGPI. Two project coordinators must be identified, one to represent the French teams and one to represent the Czech teams.

The total budget allocated to support French partners is €1 million. This is expected to fund two to four projects. Projects will have a total duration of three years. ANR will provide the funding for French teams and TA CR will provide the funding for Czech teams. The teams must adhere to the funding regulations of their respective national agencies.

**The application deadline is 9 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Medical Research

### Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation Opens 2025-2026 Grants Cycle

Fund ID: S17298

The Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation (CJD Foundation) is a US-based non-profit organisation which maintains an annual Research Grants programme to support research projects relating to human prion diseases.

Supported projects may focus on pathophysiology, molecular mechanisms, cell and animal disease models, diagnostics, clinical and translational research, studies identifying treatment targets or biomarkers, genetics, bioinformatics, or other areas related to human prion diseases.

Eligible applicants are researchers with appropriate expertise in the field. These grants are available internationally.

Grants have the following values:

- One-year grants of up to \$50,000.
- Two-year grants of up to \$100,000.

The application process consists of two steps: Letter of Intent (LoI) and, for invited applicants only, a Full Grant Application.

**Letters of Intent to the 2025-2026 grant cycle must be submitted by 17 July 2025.**

Full Applications must be submitted by 31 October 2025. Successful proposals are scheduled to be announced in January 2026.

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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### Applications Open for 2025 BrightFocus Foundation Macular Degeneration Research Programme

Fund ID: S15404

The BrightFocus Foundation is a non-profit organisation based in the United States, founded in 1973 as the American Health Assistance Foundation (AHAf). Its mission is to support innovative research worldwide and promote awareness of Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration and glaucoma.

The Macular Degeneration Research programme was established in 1999 to support research into the causes and potential prevention strategies and treatments of macular degeneration disease. It is now accepting applications for its 2025 call. Researchers from around the world are eligible for this funding. The programme offers the following types of awards:

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards** (\$100,000 per year over two years)

Funding for young researchers in their final stages of mentored training. The award provides salary support for a young scientist to conduct postdoctoral studies in an established laboratory focused on research contributing to understanding the biological causes and/or new clinical treatment of macular degeneration and should also serve as the basis for the applicant's own independent research career.

Exceptional circumstances notwithstanding, applicants must hold an MD, PhD, DVM, DO, OD or equivalent degree received no more than four years before the time of application. For clinician scientists, this application should be submitted within two years of

completion of their final clinical training. The fellowship may be performed in a non-profit, governmental or academic research institution or at a for-profit, including a start-up or a biotech institution.

#### **New Investigator Grant Programme in Macular Degeneration Research** (\$150,000 per year for up to three years)

Funding to support investigators during their early years as an independent investigator involved in studies that have an impact on the causes and/or treatment of macular degeneration.

Applicants must be new or early investigators and have received their MD, PhD or equivalent degree within the past 10 years at the time of application. The applicant must serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) on the project and have independent laboratory space. The applicant may be working at a non-profit, governmental or academic research institution or at a for-profit, including a start-up or a biotech institution.

#### **Innovative Research Grants in Macular Degeneration Research** (\$200,000 per year for up to three years)

Funding to support for high-risk/high-gain age-related macular degeneration research. Established investigators are eligible to apply, but the aims of the application must contain outside-the-box ideas that are novel in the field.

Applicants must hold an MD, PhD, DVM, DO, OD or equivalent degree. The applicant must serve as the PI on the project and have independent laboratory space. The applicant may be working at a non-profit, governmental or academic research institution or at a for-profit, including a start-up or a biotech institution.

**Letters of Intent must be submitted by 17 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## **Launch of AACR-Hope Scarves Metastatic Breast Cancer Innovation and Discovery Grant **\*\*NEW\*\*****

Fund ID: S27646

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is a large professional organisation dedicated to advancing cancer research. Its mission is to prevent and cure cancer through research, education, communication and collaboration.

The AACR-Hope Scarves Metastatic Breast Cancer Innovation and Discovery Grant is a new grant mechanism intended to foster innovation and advance the translation of promising ideas in metastatic breast cancer research, including the exploration of potential therapeutic targets and biomarkers. By supporting efforts to bridge basic science with emerging treatment strategies, the grant also aims to foster the development of the next generation of cancer researchers.

Research projects may be basic, clinical or translational in nature and must have direct applicability and relevance to metastatic breast cancer. Applications are invited from researchers currently studying metastatic breast cancer, as well as investigators with experience in other areas of cancer or biomedical research.

Applicants must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, MD/PhD or equivalent) in a related field and not currently be a candidate for a further doctoral degree.

At the start of the grant term, applicants must be independent investigators and be affiliated with an academic, medical or non-profit research institution anywhere in the world.

There are no citizenship or geographic requirements. However, by submitting an applications for this grant, an applicant applying from an institution located in a country in which they are not a citizen or a permanent resident assures that their visa status will provide sufficient time to complete the project and grant term at the institution from which they applied.

Applicants must be AACR members. Non-members interested in this grant opportunity must submit a satisfactory application for AACR Active membership by the deadline.

This grant provides \$50,000 over one year for expenses related to the research project.

**Applications should be submitted by the 24 July 2025 (13:00 US ET) deadline.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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# Fondation Maladies Rares Launches Two New International Collaborative Calls **\*\*NEW\*\***

Fund IDs: S27630, S27629

Fondation Maladies Rares (French Foundation for Rare Diseases) is an umbrella organisation created within the framework of France's second National Rare Diseases Plan. It promotes scientific cooperation in all aspects of research on rare diseases. The Foundation launches four to six calls for projects per year, providing funding and access to innovative technologies and specialised technological platforms.

The Foundation has published two new international calls for proposals, in collaboration with two different French patients' associations.

## **Call for Proposals on Heterotopic Calcifications and Ossifications in Inactivating PTH/PTHrP/Gsa/AMPC/PKA Signalling Disorders (iPPSD)**

In collaboration with Association K20, the Foundation is operating a call for proposals on iPPSDs, focused specifically on heterotopic calcifications and ossifications. Ectopic ossifications are a major criterion for iPPSD diagnosis. Currently, there are no curative treatments available and current management is essentially preventive. The call for proposals aims to support innovative, fundamental, translational or clinical research programmes on heterotopic calcifications and ossifications caused by the inactivation of PTH/PTHrP/Gsa/AMPC/PKA signalling. All biomedical sciences disciplines are eligible.

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a researcher belonging to a public research organisation anywhere in the world. They are expected to hold a statutory and permanent position or have a contract covering the entire project duration plus six months.

The call will provide support of up to €50,000 for a maximum duration of 24 months.

**The application deadline for this call is 17 July 2025.**

## **Call for Proposals on Low Phospholipid Associated Lithiasis (LPAC)**

In collaboration with ALBI France, the Foundation has launched a call for proposals on low phospholipid associated lithiasis (LPAC) syndrome, a rare disease primarily affecting young women. The syndrome is a predisposition to the formation of intra- and extra-hepatic gallstones. The call for proposals aims to support innovative, transdisciplinary, basic, translational or clinical research projects on LPAC. All biomedical science disciplines are eligible. The Association wishes to support research aimed at enhancing the pathophysiological understanding of the disease, improving diagnostic methods, developing better management strategies and/or advancing therapeutic approaches.

The PI must be a research affiliated with a public research organisation located in an EU member state. They are expected to hold a statutory and permanent position or have a contract covering the entire project duration plus six months.

The call will provide support of up to €30,000 for a maximum duration of 24 months.

**The application deadline for this call is 11 September 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Applications Invited for Amyloidosis Foundation Research Grants

Fund ID: S17183

The Amyloidosis Foundation is a US-based non-profit organisation established to provide support to patients and promote research, education and awareness in the field of amyloidosis, a group of rare, serious conditions caused by a build-up of an abnormal protein called amyloid in organs and tissues throughout the body.

The Foundation's Research Grants programme supports innovative basic biomedical and clinical research in all forms of systemic amyloidosis.

When assessing applications, the committee will consider most favourably those proposals that provide evidence of an applicant's research initiative and creativity. The committee will also consider the feasibility of meaningful results from the proposed research and the likely contribution to the advancement of knowledge of Amyloidosis etiology, diagnosis, treatment or prevention.

Funding is open to applicants in any country who have completed their PhD, MD or equivalent degree within 10 years prior to application. Applicants must have a mentor who guarantees an environment that will support the research project of the applicant.



The grant has a value of \$75,000. Grants are awarded for one year.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 12 September 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Michael J Fox Foundation Opens Funding Call to Develop Molecular MRI Biomarkers to Advance Parkinson's Disease Research

Fund ID: S27589

Established in 2000, the Michael J Fox Foundation (MJFF) was set up to find a cure for Parkinson's disease (PD) and ensure the development of improved therapies.

The purpose of the MJFF Molecular MRI Biomarker Program Request for Applications (RFA) is to advance the development of innovative Molecular Magnetic Resonance Imaging (mMRI) techniques that directly quantify molecular and cellular events in PD.

PD is a complex neurodegenerative disorder driven by multiple pathological processes, including endolysosomal and mitochondrial dysfunction, neuroinflammation, and immune system dysregulation. mMRI offers a non-invasive method to visualise and quantify these molecular and cellular processes in vivo, providing critical insights into disease mechanisms and therapeutic response.

This funding opportunity seeks to accelerate the development, validation and clinical translation of mMRI biomarkers that target key pathways implicated in PD pathophysiology. Proposals are invited that focus on the following molecular and cellular pathways associated with PD:

- Endolysosomal dysfunction: Strategies to detect disruption in lysosomal activity, pathological protein accumulation, autophagy etc.
- Mitochondrial impairment: Strategies to measure mitochondrial bioenergetics, oxidative stress, metabolic changes and track mitochondrial dysfunction in-vivo.
- Neuroinflammation and immune system dysregulation: Strategies to detect and visualise inflammatory markers, quantify BBB integrity etc.

Applications may be submitted by researchers or clinicians in:

- Public and private non-profit entities, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments, and eligible agencies of the federal US government.
- Biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies or other publicly or privately held for-profit entities.

Awards may be held in any country.

Funding is available for a period of 6 to 24 months. The budget should be commensurate with the work proposed.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 14 July 2025 (17:00 US ET).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Breakthrough T1D Training Awards for Early Career Researchers

Fund IDs: S7270, S7271, S7273, S4908

Breakthrough T1D is inviting applications for the FY2026 round of its Training Awards, which includes several fellowships and grant awards to support early career postdoctoral researchers seeking to establish and develop a career in type-1 diabetes research.

The awards can support researchers and scientists based at private and non-profit host institutions in the US and overseas, including universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories and government research institutions. There are no citizenship requirements.

Open for applications are the Career Development Awards, Kellogg Family Early Career Patient-Oriented Diabetes Research Awards, Postdoctoral Fellowships and Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowships:

The **Career Development Awards** are available to independent, early career researchers conducting basic and clinical research to develop their career and establish themselves on the leading edge of type-1 diabetes research. The awards are a maximum of

\$200,000 per year, for five years, to support exceptionally promising postdoctoral researchers who were appointed to their first faculty-level appointment (or equivalent) at a university, health science centre, or other comparable institution, no more than three years before the application submission date.

Proposals are invited for clinical or basic research projects on a subject directly related to the Breakthrough T1D research strategy.

The **Kellogg Family Early Career Patient-Oriented Diabetes Research Awards** are open to early career clinical researchers who are already working in diabetes or a related field and are seeking to further develop a career in diabetes-related clinical investigation. The awards provide up to \$200,000 per year, for five years, to fund salary and a research allowance. Applicants should be within five years of award of their first faculty appointment and currently hold an appointment or joint appointment in a sub-speciality of clinical medicine in a clinical department and conduct human clinical research.

The grant is typically awarded in the later stages of training and includes the ability for recipients to transition to independent faculty or research appointments. Support is aimed at applicants who have demonstrated superior scholarship and show the promise for future achievement in clinical research - particularly in areas that require the unique training of a clinical investigator.

The **Postdoctoral Fellowships** are available to promising postdoctoral researchers and scientists who received their doctoral degree within the last five years and are seeking to enter a professional career in type-1 diabetes research. The fellowship awards include an annual stipend, over a maximum of three years, and an annual research allowance of up to \$5,500.

Fellows must commit 75% of their working time to the research project detailed in the fellowship application, which should aim to address a specific and substantive question relevant to Breakthrough T1D's mission.

The **Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowships** are open to promising postdoctoral health scientists seeking to undertake research training in type-1 diabetes research. The fellowship awards are a maximum of \$95,000 per year, for three years, to fund stipend and supporting costs over a period in which fellows will receive high-quality, full-time research training that will position them to work at the leading edge of their chosen field and prepare for the transition to independent (faculty-level) researcher.

Applicants should have a doctoral degree, have completed some postdoctoral training and be preparing for transition to research independence. Fellows are required to work under the supervision of a sponsor at an accredited training institution who can provide an appropriate training environment.

The programme also includes an optional one-year transition award to assist fellows with the process of transitioning to independent faculty or research appointments and will serve as a bridge between the fellowship stage and independent competitive research funding.

**Applications for awards to commence in FY2026 should be submitted by the deadline on 1 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## LifeArc Launches Rare Disease Clinical Trials Programme

Fund ID: S27557

LifeArc has launched a new funding programme offering up to £5 million for researchers at non-profit and industrial research institutions in the UK and overseas to undertake early stage clinical trials to develop therapeutics, advanced therapies, medical technologies, devices and diagnostics for rare diseases.

The Rare Disease Clinical Trials Programme operates within the remit of the LifeArc Translational Challenge for Rare Diseases, which is one of several Translational Challenges designed to address unmet needs in specific medical fields (eg antimicrobial resistance, chronic respiratory infection, emerging viral threats) and disease areas (motor neuron disease, childhood cancer, neglected tropical diseases) where the translational infrastructure needed to advance promising scientific discoveries for patient benefit is currently lacking.

The programme will support the clinical progress of life-changing innovations with potential to address unmet needs for people suffering from rare diseases. Support is aimed at well-developed clinical-stage projects, particularly those that are ready to progress to the next stage of clinical development within 12 months. Proposals will focus on proof of efficacy and delivering high quality clinical efficacy and safety data to advance rare disease innovations that demonstrate strong scientific rationale and potential to impact on patients within three to five years.

Potential interventions eligible for support can include:

- Therapeutics (including repurposed drugs) and advanced therapies (including gene and cell therapies).
- Medical technologies or devices.
- Diagnostics that demonstrate potential to improve decision-making and outcomes.

Projects that align with any of the LifeArc Translational Challenges (rare neurodegenerative, rare respiratory, childhood cancer), are especially encouraged.

Application is open to researchers based at non-profit research institutions (academic institutions, healthcare organisations, public sector research establishments etc) and SMEs, in the UK or abroad. Trials can be based in the UK or abroad and can involve collaboration with other partners.

**There are no set deadlines for application. Proposals can be submitted at any time and will be assessed on a case by case basis.**

*(This Bulletin item was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Natural Environment

### Wübben Foundation Launches New Programme to Support Top International Professorship Appointments **\*\*NEW\*\***

Fund ID: S27623

Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft (Wübben Foundation) has launched a major new funding initiative aimed at strengthening Germany's position as a global hub for academic excellence. The **Advanced Professorship Programme** supports German universities in appointing top international researchers. The programme offers up to €1.6 million over a period of four years. The funding is designed to cover the appointee's salary, as well as associated personnel costs, material expenses and investments. The university may also cover expenses relating to onboarding and dual career measures, such as assistance for partners and integration into the local research environment.

A distinctive feature is that researchers receive 10% of the funding as discretionary research funds. Universities must commit to financing the professorship beyond the funding period, ensuring long-term academic integration.

The programme welcomes applications for new and existing W2 and W3 professorships, as well as for visiting professorships. It is open to all German universities, including educational colleges (*Pädagogische Hochschulen*) that hold university status.

The appointment must relate to a candidate who has been living and working outside of Germany for at least three years. The focus is on 'leading researchers' (R4) according to the [European Commission's career level definitions](#).

The programme will operate two funding rounds per year.

**The first funding round is now open until 30 September 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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### Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) Small Grants Open to Applications

Fund ID: S8605

The Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Switzerland that provides support for projects and activities that have the capacity to make a difference to the health of the oceans and to the survival of threatened aquatic species and habitats.

SOSF Small Grants are aimed at early career scientists conducting new and creative start-up projects in the fields of marine conservation, research and education. Grants are intended for local projects conducted by local project leaders and are intended to give career scientists, conservationists or educators the opportunity to prove themselves.

Projects eligible for support must be concerned with marine chondrichthyan species (sharks, rays, skates, sawfishes and chimaeras) and should be of 12-18 months' duration and have specific and finite objectives. SOSF will consider small grant applications that aim to undertake the preliminary investigations necessary before a larger, longer-term project can be developed.

Project leaders should be early career scientists, within five years of being awarded their degree. Applicants can be from any country.

Grants are up to \$10,000 (with grants averaging \$5,000). Funding can last for 12 to 18 months.

There is a two-stage application process consisting of Stage 1 (short) proposals followed by invited Stage 2 full (detailed) applications.

**Stage 1 applications must be submitted by the deadline of 28 June 2025 (18:00 CET).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Science for Africa Foundation Opens Africa Science Journalism Awards to Advance Excellence in Health, Climate and Agriculture Reporting

Fund ID: S25286

The Science for Africa Foundation (SFA Foundation) is a pan-African, non-profit and public charity organisation that supports, strengthens and promotes science and innovation in Africa.

The Foundation's Africa Science Journalism Awards (ASJA) scheme, with funding support from the Gates Foundation (GF) and the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ), aims to celebrate excellence in health, science and development reporting across Africa. By recognising and rewarding exceptional journalism, ASJA aims to amplify the visibility and impact of science coverage on the continent. It reflects the Foundation's commitment to advancing science communication in Africa in the Foundation's thematic areas of health, climate and environment, and agriculture. Through these awards, ASJA seeks to:

- Establish an award that honours excellence in science journalism, focusing on its key thematic areas.
- Expand the pool of science journalists across the continent.
- Strengthen the capacity of African science journalists, enabling them to gain in-depth knowledge on specific scientific topics.

The entry categories are:

- *Best Story* (Print and Broadcast) - This category honours two experienced journalists, one in print and one in broadcast, whose in-depth and compelling science reporting has significantly shaped public understanding of key issues.
- *Early Career Journalist* (Print and Broadcast) - This category recognises two promising journalists, one in print and one in broadcast, who are in the early stages of their careers and show exceptional potential in science reporting.
- *Innovator Award for Editors* - This award acknowledges two editors who have championed science journalism within their newsrooms by encouraging and expanding coverage of science-related stories.
- *Science Champion* - Recognises a scientist or innovator who has effectively utilised online and traditional platforms to elevate the visibility of their work and promote science across the African continent.

All categories are open to entries from print, broadcast and online media.

The scheme is open to African journalists who excel in covering health, climate change and environment, and agriculture. To further promote credible science communication, the awards include a category for scientists, aimed at amplifying reliable science voices and combating the misinformation and disinformation often found in discussions on science. Additionally, there is a category for editors, aimed at recognising editors who have championed science journalism within their newsrooms by encouraging and expanding coverage of science-related stories.

Entrants must be citizens or permanent residents of an African country, and must permanently or primarily reside in Africa, and work in local or international print, broadcast or online media. Submissions may be published by either local or international outlets, provided the reporting is rooted in the African context. Editors applying for the Innovator Award for Editors must represent publications based only in Africa.

The prizes are: Best Story - \$1,500; Early Career Journalist - \$1,500; Innovator Award for Editors - \$2,000; and Science Champion - \$1,500. Workshops, plaques, pitch fees and networking opportunities are also on offer.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 4 July 2025 (17:00 EAT).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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# European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards Open for Applications

Fund ID: S5210

The European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards were launched in 2002 by the European Commission as part of the implementation of the Culture Programme. Europa Nostra, the Pan-European Federation for Cultural Heritage, was selected to run this awards scheme on the basis of its long experience in publicly recognising, at a European level, individual or joint excellence in the field of Cultural Heritage. The awards are supported by the European Commission's Creative Europe programme.

The awards celebrate and promote the highest standards in the conservation and enhancement of tangible and intangible cultural heritage interventions, research, and education, training and awareness-raising, as well the longstanding dedication of professionals and volunteers. The awards identify and promote best practices, stimulate the trans-frontier exchange of knowledge throughout Europe, increase public awareness and appreciation of Europe's cultural heritage and encourage further excellent initiatives.

Awards are granted annually in five categories:

- Conservation and Adaptive Reuse
- Research
- Education, Training and Skills
- Citizens Engagement and Awareness-Raising
- Heritage

Entries may be small or large scale, ranging from local to European to international level, and be related to tangible, intangible or digital heritage.

Up to 30 outstanding heritage achievement projects will be awarded throughout Europe. Of these, up to five will be selected as Grand Prix laureates and will be awarded €10,000 each, while one will receive the €10,000 Public Choice Award, chosen in an online poll.

Entries may be submitted from all countries that take part in the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. Entries may be submitted for projects/studies or dedicated service to heritage conservation by anyone closely connected to the entry, as long as permission has been gained from the owner of the building or site/author of the study.

**Applications should be submitted by the 9 September 2025 (23:59 CET) deadline.**

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## L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) International Awards: Launch of 2026 Prize

Fund ID: S5101

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) International Awards recognise outstanding contributions to the advancement of science by female scientists. The L'Oréal charitable foundation and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) offer five jointly financed International Awards, which alternate each year between the Life and Environmental Sciences and Physical/Computer/Engineering Sciences.

One award is presented per geographical region, which includes: Africa and the Arab States; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America.

Nominations will be assessed according to the candidate's outstanding contribution to the general advancement of science, the impact of the candidate's research, recognition of the candidate by peers in the same discipline, and recognition of the candidate's commitments to education, teaching activities, mentoring and/or to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals more broadly.

For the 2026 FWIS International Awards, nominees are sought from the **life and environment sciences**. Fields represented by the award include:

- **Biological sciences:** biochemistry; bioengineering; cell biology; reproductive biology; extremophile biology; evolutionary biology (anthropology, archaeobiology); human biology; marine biology, freshwater biology, limnology; molecular biology; theoretical and mathematical biology; biophysics; biotechnology; stem cells; chronobiology; cryobiology; ecology; embryology and developmental biology; enzymology; epigenetics; ethology; genetics and heredity; immunology; metabolism; biochemical research methods; microbiology; mycology; neuroscience; [palaeontology]; cell physiology; biodiversity conservation; radiobiology; plant sciences, botany; symbiosis; virology; zoology; ornithology; entomology; behavioural sciences biology.
- **Basic medicine:** anatomy and morphology; medicinal chemistry; human genetics; immunology; neurosciences (including psychopathology); pathology; pharmacology and pharmacy; physiology (including cytology); toxicology.



- **Clinical medicine:** allergy; andrology; anaesthesiology; respiratory systems; surgery; dentistry, oral surgery and medicine; dermatology and venereal diseases; endocrinology and metabolism (including diabetes, hormones); gastroenterology and hepatology; geriatrics and gerontology; haematology; peripheral vascular disease; critical care medicine and emergency medicine; general and internal medicine; obstetrics and gynaecology; oncology; ophthalmology; orthopaedics; otorhinolaryngology; paediatrics; psychiatry; radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging; rheumatology; cardiac and cardiovascular systems; transplantation; urology and nephrology.
- **Health sciences:** epidemiology; infectious diseases; occupational health; tropical medicine; nutrition, dietetics; parasitology; public and environmental health; sport and fitness sciences; substance abuse.
- **Health biotechnology:** biomaterials (as related to medical implants, devices, sensors); health-related biotechnology; forensic science; technologies involving identifying the functioning of DNA; proteins (gene-based diagnostics and therapeutic interventions; pharmacogenomics; gene editing and recombinants); technologies involving the manipulation of cells, tissues, organs or the whole organism (assisted reproduction).
- **Earth and related environmental sciences:** contamination and waste management; ecology; geochemistry and geophysics; physical geography; geology; geosciences (multidisciplinary); meteorology and atmospheric sciences; mineralogy; oceanography; hydrology; water resources; climatic research; soil science; environmental sciences; volcanology.
- **Agriculture sciences:** agriculture; agronomy, plant breeding and plant protection; agricultural biotechnology and food biotechnology; agricultural chemistry; livestock cloning, marker assisted selection, diagnostics (DNA chips and biosensing devices for the early/accurate detection of diseases); animal husbandry; agricultural engineering; horticulture, viticulture; fishery; phytopathology; animal and dairy science; soil science; veterinary science; forestry; GM technology (crops and livestock); biomass feedstock production technologies; biopharming.

To be eligible for nomination, the candidate must be recognised for her personal scientific excellence by the international scientific community within the specified field(s) - taking into account the number, quality and impact of publications, conference presentations and patents. The geographical location of the applicant is based on their location for work over the previous 10 years, rather than nationality. Nominations must be submitted in writing by an eminent scientists, who may be based anywhere in the world.

Qualified nominators include:

- Heads of University or Scientific Institutions
- Members of Academies of Science
- Research Chairs
- Full professors
- Past For Women in Science Award Laureates
- Holders of a PhD in science

Each of the five winners will receive a prize of €100,000.

**Nominations must be submitted by 4 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

## New CEFIC-LRI Research Calls Open to Applications

Fund ID: S13304

The Cefic Long-range Research Initiative (CEFIC-LRI) funds research to address the health and environmental impact of chemicals, based on the need of the chemical industry to understand the long-term effects of its products and processes. It has launched three new requests for research on NAMs, Biodegradation Testing and Mobility Assessments:

- LRI AIMT12: Comparing Quantitative Uncertainty of Traditional Versus NAMs Based Hazard Characterisation. Budget: €250,000 for a one year project beginning in Q4 2025.
- LRI ECO69: Improving Understanding of Sorption Mechanisms Beyond Organic Carbon Partitioning: Development of Metrics and Screening Methods for Chemicals of Low-Hydrophobicity. Budget: €300,000 for a two to three year project beginning in Q4 2025.
- LRI ECO70: Expanding the Applicability Domain of the OECD 309 Test Guideline for Biodegradation Simulation Testing to Address Difficult-to-Test Properties. Budget: €300,000-€400,000 for a two year project beginning in Q4 2025.

Research is conducted openly by non-industry scientists and the results are publicly available. Proposals may be submitted by any European or non-European, for-profit or non-profit organisation, public or private entities, such as universities, colleges, laboratories, and contract research organisations; units of national and local governments with the necessary laboratory facilities; and research cooperatives. Collaborations between research institutions are encouraged.

Applicants should provide an indication of additional partners and funding opportunities that can be appropriately leveraged as part of their proposal. Partners can include, but are not limited to industry, government/regulatory organisations, research institutes etc.

**Applications to the 2025 Research Project Calls must be submitted by 27 June 2025 (23:59).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Purina Opens Global Grant to Advance Human-Animal Bond Research

Fund ID: S22047

Purina is an American subsidiary of Nestlé. It produces and markets pet food, pet treats and cat litter, and conducts research on pet wellbeing and nutrition.

The aim of the Purina Sponsorship For Human-Animal Bond Studies scheme is to encourage innovative scientific research that leads to a better understanding of the bond between people and their pets. Preference will be given to proposals exploring the potential benefits of the human-animal bond in the following areas:

- People in vulnerable situations (eg those in abusive relationships and/or experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder).
- The impact of human-animal interactions on the wellbeing of pets.
- The bond between people and cats.

Only proposals about cats and/or dogs will be evaluated. Purina will only fund non-invasive research studies and procedures consistent with routine veterinary care.

Applicants can be based in any country and should be affiliated with universities, foundations, charities and NGOs (this list is not exhaustive). Applicants do not have to be based within academic organisations, but they will be expected to show research capacity.

Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent. Preference will be given to applications from recently qualified researchers with less than 10 years since the award of their PhD.

The funding has a value of up to \$40,000 per proposal. Projects must be completed within two years of receiving the first grant instalment.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 15 August 2025 (23:59 US CST).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Science and Technology

### Policy: New Strategy Targets Barriers to Startup Success and Talent Retention in the EU

The European Commission has launched the [Choose Europe to Start and Scale Strategy](#), aimed at bolstering the European Union's competitiveness by fostering the growth of technology-driven startups and scaleups. It forms a central component of the broader 'Choose Europe' campaign, introduced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, which seeks to enhance Europe's appeal as a hub for innovation and talent.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of startups and scaleups in driving innovation, sustainable growth, and job creation, the strategy addresses persistent challenges that hinder their development within the EU. These challenges include fragmented regulations, limited access to finance, and difficulties in attracting and retaining top talent.

A cornerstone of the strategy is the establishment of the 'Scaleup Europe Fund', a public-private investment initiative projected to exceed €10 billion, primarily sourced from private investors. This fund aims to support promising tech startups, particularly in scaling operations and preparing for public listings, thereby narrowing the innovation gap between the EU and global competitors such as the United States and China.

The Commission proposes simplifying rules and reducing administrative burdens across the Single Market. This includes the introduction of a 'European 28th regime' to harmonise regulations and the development of the 'European Business Wallet', enabling seamless digital interactions with public administrations through a unified digital identity for economic operators.

The strategy also emphasises the importance of attracting and retaining top talent. Initiatives such as the 'Blue Carpet' programme focus on entrepreneurial education, tax-related aspects of employee stock options, and facilitating cross-border employment. Additionally, the Commission will promote the Blue Card Directive and encourage Member States to implement fast-track schemes for non-EU founders.

To expedite the journey from laboratory research to market, the 'Lab to Unicorn' initiative will connect university ecosystems across the EU, providing frameworks for licensing, royalty and revenue-sharing, and equity participation for academic institutions and their inventors. This initiative aims to enhance the commercialisation of intellectual property and support the creation of spinoffs.

By addressing these multifaceted challenges, the strategy seeks to create a more conducive environment for startups and scaleups, enabling them to thrive within the EU and compete effectively on the global stage.

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### Helmholtz Opens Applications for Distinguished Professorships and First-Time Professorial Appointments for Female Scientists

Fund IDs: S8888, S23727

The Helmholtz Association is a union of 18 scientific-technical and biological-medical research centres. It is a large German scientific organisation and develops research programmes for six research fields: energy, earth and environment, health, aeronautics, space and transport, key technologies, and structure of matter.

In order to promote outstanding researchers and to increase the proportion of women at mid and upper levels of Helmholtz management, the Helmholtz Association operates different funding programmes which are designed to attract female researchers to leading positions in Germany. They are also intended to strengthen cooperation between Helmholtz institutes and partner universities. Two programmes are currently running for 2025, both of which are designed to attract a top-level group of experienced, internationally recognised female scientists to Helmholtz Centres:

## **Helmholtz Professorship - Funding of First-Time Professorial Appointments of Highly Talented Female Scientists (W2/W3)**

This programme provides funding to facilitate the establishment of highly qualified candidates as professors. Support is targeted towards the first appointment of highly talented female scientists to universities at the W2 or W3 level and to help them to establish themselves as professors. Applications are open to female scientists who have received a first professorship appointment.

Funding of €200,000 per year is provided for the professorship.

## **Helmholtz Distinguished Professorship - Funding to Recruit Top-Level International Female Scientists (W3)**

This programme provides funding to support the appointment of outstanding female scientists with an international reputation at the W3 professorship level and to create reliable career prospects by funding permanent appointments. To be eligible, candidates should be highly distinguished female scientists with an international reputation who are currently conducting research at foreign institutions and who are recognised leaders in their respective field. This may also include female researchers of German nationality. They must have secured a Helmholtz Professorship at the W3 level.

Funding of €600,000 per year is provided for the professorship for an initial funding period of five years.

For both calls, interested candidates should contact the Helmholtz Centre of their choice. The centres should then submit applications to the Helmholtz Association Head Office via their boards.

**The deadline for the submission of applications is 1 August 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## **France-Belgium 'Tournesol' Wallonia Brussels Hubert Curien Partnership 2026**

Fund ID: S13081

The Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) programme promotes the exchange of scientific and technical excellence between research teams in France and various partner countries through joint research projects and bilateral research visits.

Two PHC programmes exist to support the bilateral mobility of collaborators between France and different regions of Belgium. The **PHC Tournesol Wallonia Brussels** programme covers the French Community of Belgium.

Eligible research teams in France must be affiliated with a higher education institution (HEI) or research organisation. Belgium teams must be affiliated with a University of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and active in the field of fundamental research. Other HEIs can participate as partners in projects submitted by a project leader from a university in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

Funding is available to cover the costs of the reciprocal mobility of participating researchers between France and Belgium. The Hubert Curien programme focuses on early career researchers, and all collaborations are expected to involve research visits by doctoral students and/or early career postdoctoral fellows.

Collaborations will be funded for two years each, and may be in any discipline. The maximum amount allocated to each project is €3,000 in each of the two years.

On the French side, PHC Tournesol partnerships are administered by Campus France, while in Belgium, projects are administered by Wallonia Brussels International (WBI).

Proposals must be submitted in parallel by both French and Belgium collaborators via their respective administrators.

**The joint deadline for application to the 2026 programme is 16 June 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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# Students Invited to Participate in International ICT Innovative Services Awards

Fund ID: S26410

The Administration for Digital Industries (ADI), Department of Information and Technology Education (MOE), and Chinese Society for Information Management organise the International ICT Innovative Services Awards to enable students worldwide to showcase their information management projects and demonstrate their process in technological innovation.

Students are invited to submit innovative ICT or computer technology projects. Eligible projects may focus on, but are not limited to, areas such as AI, AIoT, blockchain, cloud applications, cybersecurity, medical technology, mobile applications, open data, XR, e-commerce, green technology/sustainability, smart manufacturing, sport-tech, e-mobility etc.

The competition is open to university or college students currently enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate or PhD programmes throughout the world. Participants must still be registered as students by the time of the awards ceremony.

Applicants may participate as a team or individually. Each team may consist of up to eight eligible students and must have at least one but no more than two mentors.

The total prize fund available is NTD \$200,000 (approximately USD \$6,750). The prizes available per team are as follows:

- First prize: NTD \$120,000 (approximately \$4,000) with award certificate
- Second prize: NTD \$50,000 (approximately \$1,750) with award certificate
- Third prize: NTD \$30,000 (approximately \$1,000) with award certificate
- Best Innovation Award: Award certificate

An airfare subsidy and hospitality package is also available for finalists travelling to Taiwan.

The finalists will be announced by 25 September 2025. The final and awards ceremony will be held in Taiwan on 1 November 2025.

**Applications should be submitted in English by the 12 September 2025 deadline.**

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## Alan Turing Institute Opens Applications for 2025 Data Science and AI Doctoral Internships

Fund ID: S20041

Founded in 2015 as a registered charity, the Alan Turing Institute is the national institute for data science and artificial intelligence (AI), and has its headquarters at the British Library in London.

Launched in July 2020, the Turing Internship Network offers a nationwide engagement scheme that connects doctoral students interested in acquiring industry experience and business awareness with businesses and organisations that seek to address challenges using data science.

The initiative enables the Institute to link businesses, governmental organisations, charities and NGOs to those researchers who wish to apply their research expertise and technical skills to tackle real-world challenges and gain new skills in a business setting. Students are able to establish professional connections in an industry of their interest and explore future employment opportunities outside of academia.

For the summer 2025 round of recruitment, paid internship roles are offered by partners and collaborators in a variety of research areas. New for the 2025 round is the opportunity to participate in Innovate UK (IUK) BridgeAI internships through IUK start-up companies in the agricultural sector. Interns will have the chance to work alongside scientific advisors on a project presented by a start-up and become part of the Alan Turing Institute/BridgeAI community of expert advisors.

Partners offering roles are:

- Alan Turing Institute - Defence and National Security Programme (TIRE)
- Alan Turing Institute - Data Centric Engineering (DCE)
- HSBC
- Ministry of Justice (social science focus)
- Mutus Tech Ltd (BridgeAI programme)
- SparkSoft Ltd (BridgeAI programme)

- TrackCarbon (BridgeAI programme)

Students must meet all the following eligibility criteria to be considered for the scheme:

- Current doctoral student enrolled in a university (or a recent graduate within six months) in the UK or Ireland.
- Studying for a PhD that heavily uses methods or concepts from mathematics, statistics, data science, computer science, AI, ethics and/or technology (or social science and public policy for policy internships).
- Able to pause their studies for the entire duration of the internship, unless the internship allows for part-time or flexible working.
- Have the right to work and be based in the UK or Ireland depending on the role location (applicants can be of any nationality).

All internships are paid opportunities of up to £40,000 per annum pro rata. The duration can be 3-6 months full time or 6-12 months part time; this varies for each opportunity and some internships are full time only.

**Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 17 June 2025 (11:00 GMT).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Policy: Two New Reports Shed Light on Germany's R&D Landscape

Two recently published reports from Elsevier and the British Council provide fresh insights into Germany's evolving research and innovation ecosystem - from its global scientific influence to the role of creative technology hubs in fostering inclusion. While these reports focus on activity in Germany, their findings are relevant for the wider European research landscape.

Elsevier's [Germany as a Science Nation](#) evaluates the country's research strengths, highlighting its high academic output and institutional excellence. Drawing on over a million publications from 2019 to 2023, the report underscores Germany's position as a top non-English-speaking nation in global university rankings, with institutions like the Technical University of Munich leading the way in the EU.

The report also points to Germany's strong non-university research landscape, exemplified by institutes within the Helmholtz, Max Planck, Leibniz and Fraunhofer networks. These institutes frequently collaborate with universities and industry, contributing to Germany's high rate of academic-industry co-publications. However, the study identifies key challenges in translating academic breakthroughs into industrial applications - especially in emerging fields like quantum computing and artificial intelligence (AI).

In parallel, the British Council's new study, [Creative Technology Hubs in Germany](#), examines the role of immersive media spaces, such as those focused on virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) and screen-based innovation, in shaping inclusive practices. Mapping 64 creative tech hubs across the country, the report highlights Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, and Nordrhein-Westfalen as major activity centres.

The British Council's findings emphasise the importance of these hubs not just as innovation engines, but as potential bridges to migrant and international communities. While some hubs, particularly those with artistic or cultural missions, actively engage migrant creatives, the sector still faces barriers due to limited access to funding, training and production spaces for underrepresented groups.

Together, the new reports illuminate both the strengths and gaps in Germany's R&D environment. They call for continued investment, stronger academic-industry linkages, and more inclusive innovation policies. The reports are available for download from the Elsevier and British Council websites.

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## NWO/JST The Netherlands and Japan Launch Joint Research Programme in Information Processing Technologies

Fund ID: S27564

The Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO - Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) have announced a bilateral research programme focusing on unconventional information processing technologies.

The initiative aims to foster transnational relationships while advancing computational science through research in semiconductors, photonics, quantum and neuromorphic technologies. Projects should address key computational challenges including speed, energy consumption and latency times while developing alternatives to conventional information processing hardware.



Research consortia must include participants from both countries, with interdisciplinary teams comprising fundamental, applied and practice-oriented researchers. The workload and number of applicants should be balanced between both nations.

Eligible Dutch applicants must hold tenured or tenure-track positions at qualifying research organisations. Japanese applicants must be conducting research at universities, independent administrative institutions or public experimental research institutions within Japan.

NWO is providing €4.65 million in total funding, with a maximum of €1.15 million per project. JST's total budget is ¥769,230,769, with maximum grants of ¥250 million per project. Up to four projects will receive funding for a project duration of 48 to 60 months.

**The deadline for full proposals is 9 September 2025 (14:00 CEST for NWO submissions and 14:00 JST for JST submissions).**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Policy: Call for Nominations to the ERC Scientific Council

The European Commission has issued a call for nominations to the [Scientific Council of the European Research Council \(ERC\)](#), inviting European research organisations to propose distinguished candidates for membership. The Scientific Council, comprising 22 eminent scientists and scholars, serves as the ERC's independent governing body, responsible for defining its scientific funding strategy and methodologies.

Members of the Scientific Council are appointed for a four-year term of office, renewable once. This initiative is prompted by the impending conclusion of terms for nearly a quarter of the current Council members within the forthcoming year.

Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, said:

'The ERC's strength lies in the independence of its Scientific Council, which has long set the course for excellence, transparency and bold scientific leadership. Now, we invite the scientific community to nominate extraordinary researchers who will take up the challenge, uphold our commitment to scientific excellence and innovation, shape our strategy, and drive discoveries that will leave a lasting mark on Europe's future.'

**The deadline for nominations is 23 June 2025 (12:00).**

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## ERC to Offer Larger, Longer 'Super Grants' following Budget Increase

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has announced that the European Research Council (ERC) will receive additional funding to develop a new funding instrument larger and of longer duration than those currently offered.

The ERC is the European Commission's leading funding organisation for supporting investigator-driven, frontier research. It currently offers four main grant programmes to support projects and investigators at progressive stages of development: Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants, Advanced Grants and Synergy Grants. It also provides Proof of Concept Grants to help bridge the divide between pioneering research and early phases of commercialisation.

Details of the format and criteria of the new instrument are being developed, but President von der Leyen confirmed that the grant would last for seven years and maintain the ERC's focus on scientific excellence as the sole criterion for selection. As per other grants offered by the ERC, proposals may be submitted across all research disciplines and will be open to individual researchers of any nationality who are working at or are ready to move to a host institution in an EU Member State or associated country.

The announcement follows the recent decision by the ERC Scientific Council to double the amount of grant available to ERC grantees relocating to Europe to set up a laboratory or research team, from its previous level of up to €1 million to up to €2 million.

President von der Leyen announced the new funding instrument during her closing speech at the 'Choose Europe for Science' event at the Sorbonne, during which she also outlined a new €500 million package for 2025-2027 to make Europe 'a magnet for researchers' and 'support the best and the brightest researchers and scientists from Europe and around the world'.

President von der Leyen's speech can be read in full at the [European Commission website](#).

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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# NEO Innovation Award 2025 Focuses on Artificial Intelligence

Fund ID: S19713

TechnologieRegion Karlsruhe GmbH (TRK) has announced its annual NEO Innovation Award for 2025, with a focus on ground-breaking innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI). The award carries a cash prize of €20,000. It aims to recognise outstanding solutions that address contemporary challenges through AI technology.

The 2025 competition is seeking digital technologies that demonstrate measurable positive impacts across various domains. Key areas of interest include process improvements, efficiency gains, enhanced customer satisfaction, innovative business models, and sustainability achievements through AI implementation.

Applicants must showcase clear, quantifiable results in at least one of several categories, such as reduced processing times, increased automation, optimised supply chains, or improved customer service metrics. The award particularly emphasises AI solutions that contribute to sustainability goals, including reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and enhanced energy efficiency.

The competition is open to companies, organisations, public administration bodies and scientific institutions based in Germany or the French Alsace region.

The selection process will be conducted in multiple stages, with up to 10 shortlisted candidates being invited to present their projects in detail. The jury will then select up to five finalists to attend the award ceremony, scheduled for November 2025.

**The deadline for applications is 7 July 2025.**

*(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)*

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## Policy: MEPs Seek Greater Role in Future UK-EU Research Framework Talks

The European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) has called for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to be fully involved in upcoming negotiations concerning the United Kingdom's participation in Framework Programme 10 (FP10), the EU's next major research and innovation funding programme.

The request is outlined in a [draft opinion](#) on a broader Parliamentary review of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which has governed post-Brexit relations since it was signed in late 2020. While the TCA provides the legal basis for the UK's current association with Horizon Europe, inclusion in FP10 will require a new set of negotiations, particularly on the terms of participation and financial contributions.

Although the European Parliament was asked to endorse the UK's Horizon Europe association, it played no part in the negotiation process. ITRE's latest intervention reflects growing concern among MEPs over their exclusion from key discussions shaping future EU-UK research collaboration.

The draft opinion does not identify specific failings in the most recent agreement but highlights frustration over the significant delay in its implementation. The call for 'full involvement' aims to ensure stronger Parliamentary oversight in future agreements affecting the European research landscape. The outcome of this move may influence how MEPs contribute to shaping international research cooperation in the next phase of EU framework programmes.

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