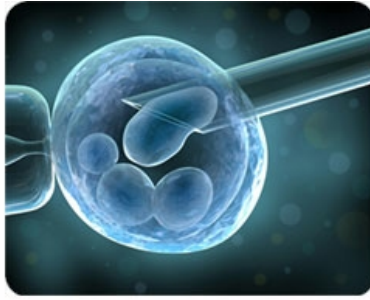


ResearchConnect

Research bulletin
01 October 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

NFDI4Memory FAIR Data Fellowships Now Open Internationally

Fund ID: S26224

The NFDI4Memory consortium has announced that its FAIR Data Fellowships for 2026 are now accepting applications from international researchers, with no requirement for German citizenship, residency, or institutional affiliation.

These short-term, non-residential fellowships support researchers working with historical data who need assistance processing, preparing, and editing their collected materials for publication. The programme is particularly valuable for those in the final stages of projects or following data collection completion.

NFDI4Memory is one of 27 consortia developing Germany's national research data infrastructure (*Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur* - NFDI) for the digital age. The consortium unites partners from different disciplines which are using historical methods or requiring historical contextualisation of data.

Fellows receive remote support over one month, with funding of up to €1,500. The programme provides access to experts from leading German institutions, including Deutsches Museum, the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, the Leibniz Institute of European History, the Data Centre for the Humanities at the University of Köln, and the Herzog August Library Wolfenbüttel.

The focus of the fellowship is particularly on the FAIR principles for scientific data management and stewardship which include an emphasis on findability, accessibility, interoperability and reuse of digital assets.

Eligibility extends to Master's and doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, staff at museums, libraries, archives, universities and research institutions, as well as freelance historians.

Fellowships can begin between February and December 2026.

Applications, which may be submitted in German or English, must be received by 19 November 2025.

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

Invitation of Senior Social Sciences and Humanities Researchers to France - First Call for 2026 Visits

Fund ID: S10939

The Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH) aims to foster excellence in humanities and social sciences research by promoting collaboration and by supporting scientific networks, working groups and experimental research teams in France.

Through its Associate Research Directors programme (*Directeurs d'Études Associés* - DEA), FMSH encourages senior scientific researchers to visit France for a period of between four and six weeks, to carry out research-related activities such as field studies, bibliographic research and archival work.

Eligible candidates are university professors and equivalent senior researchers who work in higher education institutions (HEIs) and research institutions outside of France and hold a PhD (or equivalent). Candidates must be aged under 65 at the time of their visit.

Funding consists of a monthly allowance of €3,400 which is awarded to support travel and living expenses. In addition, FMSH provides logistical support such as help with visa applications.

Applications to the first call for visits taking place in 2026 must be submitted by the deadline of 28 November 2025 (17:00 Paris time).

FMSH expects to announce funding decisions in March 2026. Research visits supported through this call must commence during the period from 1 April - 15 November 2026 and cannot cover the academic summer vacation period.

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

Policy: German Science Alliance Calls for Enhanced Investment into Next EU Framework Programme

The Alliance of German Science Organisations (*Allianz der Wissenschaftsorganisationen*) has issued a position paper which sets out the organisation's initial recommendations for the upcoming negotiation process. While the Alliance welcomed the European Commission's decision to commit to a standalone EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) covering 2028-2034, the organisation sees several key areas in which the proposal should be strengthened.

Whilst the proposed €175 billion budget represents a positive step, the Alliance argues that this falls short of Europe's long-term research and innovation ambitions. In line with the [Draghi report](#)'s recommendations, it advocates for increasing the budget to €200 billion in order to address the EU's innovation deficit and maintain global competitiveness. The Alliance emphasises that without substantial investment, Europe cannot achieve its current growth agenda for prosperity and resilience.

The Alliance supports FP10's strategic focus spanning the entire innovation pipeline - from fundamental research through to industrial deployment. However, the organisation stresses the importance of balancing top-down strategic priorities with flexible, bottom-up discovery approaches. Excellence must remain the primary criterion for research and innovation investment, preserving the highly competitive nature that has defined EU-funded research programmes.

The position paper also highlights concerns about unclear governance structures, particularly regarding the interplay between FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). The Alliance calls for clearer roles and responsibilities, alongside robust consultation mechanisms that systematically involve the research and innovation community in decision-making processes.

Recognising talent as the EU's main competitive advantage, the Alliance recommends increasing the Erasmus+ budget to €60 billion whilst safeguarding FP10 funding. The statement stresses the need to balance openness and security in international cooperation, maintaining academic freedom whilst developing a strategic approach to collaboration and establishing consistent rules of association.

The full statement is available via the [Alliance's website](#).

Three Residential Fellowships in Weimar Open for 2026 Applications to Researchers Worldwide

Fund IDs: S13351, S13366, S23650

Klassik Stiftung Weimar (Classicism Foundation Weimar) is a unique ensemble of cultural memorial sites. With more than 20 museums, palaces, historic houses, parks as well as literary and art collections, it is one of the largest and most significant cultural institutions in Germany.

Klassik Stiftung Weimar has opened three residential fellowships for research stays of two to four months in Weimar, Germany. They are aimed at candidates based anywhere in the world. Further details of the calls are as follows:

Weimar Fellowships

The Weimar Fellowships offer researchers working on topics relating to European cultural history from early modern times to the present day the opportunity to refer to the collections and cultural heritage of Weimar, Germany. During a two- to four-month research stay, fellows have access to all facilities and departments of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar, particularly the Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv (GSA), the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek (HAAB) and Weimar's museums.

Eligible to apply are researchers worldwide who hold a Master's degree or above and whose research has a clear connection to the holdings of Klassik Stiftung Weimar.

Nietzsche Fellowships

The Friedrich Nietzsche College promotes contemporary Nietzsche Fellowships in philosophy, cultural studies and the humanities. The institute, supported by the Klassik Stiftung Weimar, offers a discursive platform to philosophers, scientists and artists on contemporary and/or future-oriented problems of mankind and society.

The Fellows-in-Residence Programme enables critical thinkers to live, work and create at Villa Silberblick in Weimar, Germany. The length of residence is generally two months, with the aim of supporting a philosophical, scientific or journalistic project. A reference to Nietzsche's philosophy is advantageous, but not required.

Critical thinkers (philosophers, humanities scholars, theologians, scientists, artists) from any country are eligible to apply. Candidates must hold a university degree (Bachelor's, Master's or PhD).

Bauhaus Fellowships

The Bauhaus Fellowships support innovative projects in the fields of art, media, design, literature, curatorial practice and cultural education. It offers artists, cultural workers, students and graduates a research stay of two to four months in Weimar.

Funded projects should be directly or indirectly related to Weimar and contemporary issues. Fellows must present their projects publicly, for example, in the form of an exhibition, work presentation, event or intervention, and reach a broad audience via the media channels operated by the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.

Artists, cultural workers, students and graduates of any nationality, based anywhere in the world, in the fields of art, media, design, literature, curatorial practice and cultural education are welcome to apply.

Each fellowship includes a monthly stipend of €1,500. Depending on capacity, fellows are also provided free accommodation, or an additional monthly accommodation fee of €500.

The application deadline for all three fellowships is 31 July 2026.

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

Policy: Launch of Global Research Initiative on Open Science (GRIOS)

The Global Initiative on Open Science (GRIOS), an international collaboration involving a broad range of partners, announced its official launch on 24 September 2025. The initiative, which intends to advance open science using an evidence-based approach, is supported by the French National Open Science Fund and is hosted at the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg, France. Its current partners include the French Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche (MESR - Ministry of Higher Education and Research), the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO - Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS - French National Centre for Scientific Research) and Ouvrir la Science (French Committee for Open Science).

Responding to the [G7 Science and Technology Ministers' call from May 2023](#), which outlined among its priorities the development of open science infrastructures, GRIOS aims to leverage existing scientific research findings to inform and enhance open science policies globally. The initiative will bring together international experts and organisations to advance the following three objectives: delivering state of the art analysis of open science research; identifying critical knowledge gaps and promoting new research; and fostering international coordination along with knowledge sharing in open science research. Over the next four years, GRIOS will produce an open science roadmap intended to fill knowledge gaps, alongside a number of reviews and recommendations. The output is intended to advance understanding of open science, inform policy direction, guide further research and strengthen collaboration.

All findings will be published in an open access format to ensure widespread accessibility. In addition, GRIOS will take into account research publications in various languages, while ensuring its own resources are available in multiple languages. The range of languages available will depend on new partners joining the initiative.

GRIOS welcomes partnerships with research organisations, funding bodies and other stakeholders committed to advancing open science. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the GRIOS Coordinator directly to get involved.

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

Thoma Foundation Launches 2026-2027 Call for Art of the Spanish Americas Fellowships and Awards

Fund ID: S20814

The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation is a US-based art foundation that was established in 2014. The foundation exhibits work in its Santa Fe Art House, lends work for touring exhibitions from its permanent collection, funds various artistic initiatives and supports projects and research initiatives that will advance study of the art of the Spanish Americas.

The Foundation has launched the 2026-2027 call for its fellowships and awards on art of the Spanish Americas. Applications are welcome from around the world. Applicants for all awards must be able to communicate and conduct research in both English and Spanish.

Marilynn Thoma Fellowship in Art of the Spanish Americas: Predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships providing unrestricted research funding devoted exclusively to the field of art of the Spanish Americas. Fellowships are expected to result in major measurable outcomes, such as museum exhibitions, dissertations, book publications, scholarly essays, or lecture series. Projects will be considered from all of Spanish colonial Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the Foundation will give strong preference to projects that make specific contributions to the history of painting and sculpture in viceregal South America. Predoctoral applicants must be at least 21 years old and enrolled in an accredited doctoral program in the fields of art history, history, architectural history, religion or a related field. Postdoctoral applicants must hold a PhD conferred between 2015 and 2025. The Predoctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship has a value of \$50,000 for one year. The Postdoctoral Fellowship includes a stipend of \$65,000 for a duration of 1-2 years.

Thoma Foundation Research and Travel Awards in Art of the Spanish Americas: Funding to support projects and research initiatives that will advance the field of the art of the Spanish Americas. This funding can be granted to scholars, curators, art historians or advanced graduate students working on their MA theses or PhD dissertations. These grants are meant to help defray the costs of research-related expenses. Eligible applicants are scholars, curators, art historians or advanced graduate students working on MA theses or PhD dissertations. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for projects lasting up to six months.

Applications must be submitted by 15 December 2025.

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

EFEO Field Scholarships: Applications Welcome for First Semester of 2026

Fund ID: S18195

The École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO - French School of Asian Studies) is an associated college of Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL University) which was founded in 1900 and is dedicated to the study of Asian societies. Its mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research on the civilisations of Asia, extending from India to Japan. EFEO consists of a network of research centres in several Asian countries.

EFEO Field Scholarships are available for research students and tenable for periods of research in an [EFEO Centre in Asia](#). The project must involve humanities or social sciences research relevant to civilisations of countries of South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia. Scholarships will take place in the first semester of 2026 (between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026).

Applications are welcome from Master's and doctoral students around the world. Candidates must have a working knowledge of French and good command of the language(s) required to complete the field research project.

The scholarship includes a monthly stipend varying between €700 and €1,360 according to the academic level of the applicant (MA or PhD student) and the country of field research in Asia. Scholarships have a duration of 1-6 months (two months max for MA students). However, candidates may be awarded up to two scholarships for a total duration not exceeding nine months.

The application deadline is 10 October 2025.

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

British Library Endangered Archives Programme Grants Open to Applications

Fund ID: S6922

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom, housing over 170 million items and looking after the nation's archive of printed and digital publications. The British Library Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) facilitates the digitisation of archives around the world that are in danger of destruction, neglect or physical deterioration.

EAP offers approximately 30 grants each year to enable researchers to identify, digitise and make available online material on any theme or aspect of culture from any part of the world outside of Western Europe and North America. Grants are offered on the condition that the original material is not removed from the country of origin and the digital materials created by the project are held and maintained by local archival partners. Materials must date from before the middle of the twentieth century.

Applications are invited to digitise a wide variety of material types, such as rare printed sources, manuscripts in any language, visual materials, pre-existing audio recordings, and other objects and artefacts found in association with a documentary archive. Applicants must demonstrate that the material is vulnerable due to neglect and/or environmental threats, and that there is an urgent need to safeguard it.

The following grants are available:

- Pilot project grants fund either survey investigations into the potential for a major project or small digitisation projects.
- Major project grants are intended for the digitisation and cataloguing of a collection or collections. This type of grant may involve the preservation necessary for digitisation and may also relocate the material to a more secure location/institution within the country.
- Area grants are similar to a major grant, but larger in scale and ambition. Applicants must demonstrate a track record of archival preservation work and be associated with an institution that has the capacity to facilitate a large-scale project.

The application should be submitted by a single principal applicant. The principal applicant can be a member of teaching/research faculty or a registered postgraduate researcher at a recognised university or similar higher education institution. They can also be an archivist/librarian with responsibilities for special collections in a recognised archive, research library or similar institution. Grants are administered by a host institution to which the principal applicant is affiliated.

The scheme funds internationally except for archives held in the UK, Western Europe (ie the Balkans and former Soviet countries, but not the wealthier countries) or North America. Applicants must identify an archival partner (maximum of three) in the country in which the archive is located.

Grants of up to £150,000 are available for up to two years.

English-language webinars were held for interested applicants on 17 September 2025.

There is a two-stage application process consisting of a preliminary application followed by an invited detailed proposal. **Preliminary applications for Round 21 (2025/26) must be submitted by the deadline of 7 November 2025 (12:00 GMT).**

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

Casa de Velázquez Opens Applications for 2026 Scientific Grants

Fund ID: S24305

Casa de Velázquez is a French research school in Madrid, established in 1920, which aims to promote artistic, cultural and academic cooperation and exchanges on bilateral and international scales.

The scientific grants programme offered by Casa de Velázquez will allow doctoral researchers whose work requires travelling to the Iberian Peninsula to make a one-time visit of one to three months to the school in order to complete their studies. The research being undertaken must be in the humanities and social sciences and must be related to the Iberian Peninsula, the Maghreb and/or the Atlantic Area. Visits may take place during the 2026 calendar year.

Applications are welcome from doctoral researchers around the world. Candidates residing outside of the Iberian peninsula will be prioritised. Candidates must be at least 18 years old. There is no maximum age limit.

Visits will last for 1-3 consecutive months. Grantees can request single room accommodation at Casa de Velázquez, according to availability, for a visit taking place from 7 January 2026 and 22 December 2026.

The programme provides €750/month to candidates who wish to reside in Casa de Velázquez accommodation for the whole month. Candidates who do not wish to reside in Casa de Velázquez accommodation will receive €1,000/month. During their visit, they may

request one-off stays in Casa de Velázquez accommodation (subject to availability), which will be charged at €20/night. Grantees from higher education institutions in Africa or Latin America are entitled to additional funding of up to €300.

The application deadline is 10 October 2025.

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

International Balzan Prize Opens for 2026

Fund ID: S11909

The International Balzan Prize Foundation aims to promote culture, the sciences and positive initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace and fraternity among peoples throughout the world. It awards prizes in both literature, moral sciences, and the arts; and physical, mathematical and natural sciences and medicine.

The subject areas in which the awards are granted are rotated each year in order to promote and recognise new or emerging fields of study or research that may be overlooked by other international awards. The 2026 prizes will be awarded in the following fields:

- The Social Science of Digital Technology
- Jewish Studies
- Biodegradable Polymers from Renewable Sources
- Molecular Evolution: Decoding Patterns of Genomic Change

The prizes are awarded to scholars, artists and scientists who have distinguished themselves in their fields at an international level.

The most prestigious international cultural and scientific institutions (universities, research institutes and academies) and figures recognised by the General Prize Committee as highly distinguished in the chosen fields for that year are invited to submit names of candidates for the prizes.

Four prizes each worth CHF 750,000 are available. Half of the prize must be used to finance research projects preferably carried out by young scholars or scientists.

Nominations must be submitted by the closing date of 15 March 2026. Self-nominations are not accepted.

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

Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize Open to Applications

Fund ID: S5773

Launched in 2006, the annual Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize is an award for young writers, aimed at encouraging creative talent around the world. Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea and was a successful poet in the UK and overseas. The prize is a registered charity.

The prize is awarded to a single author who is deemed by the judges to have written the best commercially published original volume of English language poetry, collection of short fictional stories, fictional novel or novella, radio script, or screen play. More than one work may be entered per author.

Entries must be submitted by publishers on behalf of eligible authors. Entry is open to all authors of any nationality and based in any country. The author must be aged between 18 and 39.

A book by a single author must be commercially published for the first time in the English language between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.

The main prize winner will receive £20,000 and each finalist will receive £500.

Entries for the 2026 prize must be submitted by the deadline of 7 November 2025.

December Deadline Set for Two Grants in Japanese Studies Offered by the Japan Foundation

Fund IDs: S16139, S1340

The Japan Foundation promotes international cultural exchange between Japan and the rest of the world and provides financial support for Japanese studies overseas and intellectual exchange. The Foundation has now opened applications for its two annual funding schemes: the **Japanese Studies Fellowship Program** and the **Grant Program for Japanese Studies Projects**.

The **Japanese Studies Fellowship Program** provides outstanding foreign scholars and researchers in the field of Japanese studies with opportunities to conduct research in Japan, with the aim of supporting them and promoting Japanese studies overseas. Applicants must hold nationality or permanent residency in countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan. The initiative supports three categories of researchers:

- 'Long-term' researchers conducting research related to Japan (4 to 12 months in duration).
- 'Short-term' researchers conducting research related to Japan, whose projects require them to travel to Japan to carry out research, gather materials etc intensively over a short period of time (21 to 89 days in duration).
- Doctoral candidates conducting research related to Japan, who have completed (or will have completed by the beginning of the fellowship) the necessary coursework, and find it necessary to visit Japan to complete their dissertations (4 to 12 months in duration).

For long-term researchers and doctoral candidates, the support available comprises airfare, a departure and settling-in allowance totaling ¥300,000, insurance, monthly stipend, accompanying dependent allowance and enrolment fees. For short-term researchers, there is a per diem of ¥17,000 per day, plus airfare and insurance.

The **Grant Program for Japanese Studies Projects** is designed to promote Japanese studies overseas by providing grants to non-profit organisations, such as higher education institutions and research institutions, that are implementing Japanese studies activities.

Projects (including online projects) must fall into any of the following four categories:

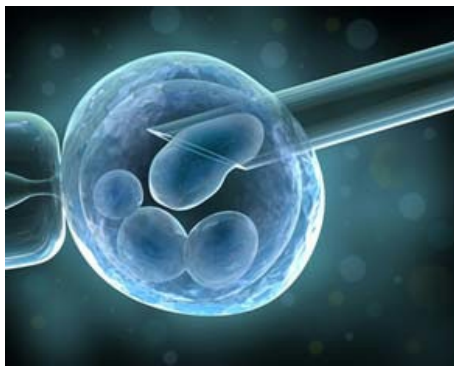
- Research or conferences on Japan; study or training in Japan; or publications that promote and contribute to the development of Japanese studies.
- Inviting scholars or researchers from Japan or other countries to deliver lectures on Japanese studies.
- Purchase of books and materials on Japanese studies.
- Other relevant projects that would further promote and expand the horizon of Japanese studies and interest in Japan.

The scheme is open to non-profit organisations based in any country (except Japan, the United States and countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Japan), including academic institutions from university level upwards, research institutions or academic societies.

Grants are available to partially cover travel expenses, meeting expenses, honoraria and other direct expenses (for purchasing materials etc). No minimum or maximum funding levels are stated by the funder, and the grant amount will be decided upon consideration of each project's scale and necessity.

Applications for both programmes must be submitted by the deadline of 2 December 2025 (13:00 JST).

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



Biotechnology and Biology

Applications Invited for Translational Research to Develop Gene-Based Therapies for Cystic Fibrosis

Fund ID: S25435

Emily's Entourage (EE) is a US non-profit organisation that supports research to develop therapies for people with cystic fibrosis (CF) who do not benefit from CFTR-modulators, including those with rare and nonsense mutations.

EE is inviting applications for the 2025 round of its Translational Grant Programme and is seeking proposals from researchers based anywhere in the world for translational research in identified high-need areas, including nucleotide-based therapies, innovative inhaled antimicrobial formulations and overcoming immune recognition for gene therapy delivery systems.

The grants award critical seed funding of up to \$220,000 over two years to support researchers pursuing innovative strategies with the potential to accelerate the development of gene-based therapies and drug-delivery mechanisms for CF.

Areas of specific interest for the 2025 call for applications include:

- **Nucleotide-Based Therapies** - support for innovative approaches for nucleotide-based therapies for CFTR correction, including, but not limited to:
 - Gene editing platforms (CRISPR, base editing, prime editing) formulated for inhaled and systemic delivery with enhanced lung deposition and cellular uptake;
 - Novel encapsulation technologies including lipid nanoparticles, polymeric carriers, and hybrid delivery systems optimised for nebulisation;
 - Immune-evasive formulation strategies incorporating immune-suppressive excipients, stealth coatings, and targeted delivery to specific lung cell populations;
 - Next-generation viral vectors (AAV, lentiviral, adenoviral) with reduced immunogenic profiles and enhanced lung tropism.
- **Novel Inhaled Formulations for Staphylococcus aureus and CF Pathogens** - for research to address the current need for innovative inhaled antimicrobial formulations and delivery systems. Priority targets include MRSA, nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM), and other high-burden CF pathogens. Proposals are sought for research into novel formulation approaches, including, but not limited to:
 - FDA approved antimicrobials formulated specifically for pulmonary delivery;
 - Advanced liposomal and lipid-based formulations of existing antibiotics for enhanced lung penetration and sustained release;
 - Sustained-release formulations enabling extended antimicrobial activity with reduced dosing frequency;
 - Combination inhaled therapies integrating antimicrobial-adjuvant combinations;
 - Novel inhaled antifungal formulations addressing fungal co-infections and emerging resistance patterns.
- **Understanding Immunogenicity in CF Nucleotide-Based Therapies** - nucleotide-based therapies for CF encounter significant obstacles from immune recognition and safety issues that can substantially reduce treatment effectiveness. There is critical need for insights to advance research on safe, effective, and repeatable gene therapy delivery systems. Proposals are sought for research that overcomes current barriers to successful gene therapy administration, enabling patients to receive multiple treatments safely and effectively over time, including, but not limited to:
 - Understanding of pre-existing immunity and treatment-induced immune reactions;
 - Immunosuppressive approaches to reduce immune system activation;
 - Novel strategies to bypass immune recognition.

Eligible applicants are faculty, based at academic institutions anywhere in the world, who have a doctoral qualification and good track record of peer-reviewed publications and extramural funding. Collaborative research by investigators with experience in gene-targeting strategies within or outside of the CF field is strongly encouraged.

Applications should be submitted by the deadline on 31 October 2025.

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

Fyssen International Scientific Prize in Cognition Open for 2025

Fund ID: S5758

The Fyssen Foundation is a French charitable organisation that supports research into the processes underlying and leading to cognition, including work in such disciplines as ethology, palaeontology, archaeology, anthropology, psychology, logic and neuroscience.

The Fyssen International Prize is awarded on an annual basis to recognise world-leading researchers who have furthered understanding of specified aspects of cognition.

Each year's competition focuses on a specific topic; the topic for the 2025 Prize is:

- Neurobiological foundations of human cognition.

The 2025 Prize will be awarded to a scholar who has significantly advanced understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms which endow humans of their cognitive abilities.

Candidates should be internationally recognised and may be based anywhere in the world. Each must be nominated by an established scientist.

Nominations for the 2025 prize must be submitted to the Fyssen Foundation by the deadline of 7 November 2025.

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

Awardees Announced for 2025 Lasker Awards and Dates Confirmed for 2026 Competition

Fund ID: S16316

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is an American non-profit organisation dedicated to improving health by accelerating support for medical research through recognition of research excellence, advocacy and education. The Foundation celebrates scientists, clinicians and public servants who have made major advances in the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, cure or prevention of human disease. The Foundation also runs educational programmes to promote scientific collaboration to the public.

The Lasker Awards have been awarded annually since 1945 to living persons who have made major contributions to medical science or who have performed public service on behalf of medicine. The 2025 Lasker Awards winners have now been confirmed in each of the three available categories:

Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award: For a fundamental discovery that opens up a new area of biomedical science. The 2025 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award was given to Dirk Görlich (Max Planck Institute, Germany) and Steven L McKnight (UT Southwestern Medical Center, United States). The award was granted to these scientists for discoveries that exposed the structures and functions of low-complexity domains within protein sequences, revealing new principles of intracellular transport and cellular organisation.

Lasker-DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award: For a major advance that improves the lives of many thousands of people. The 2025 Lasker-DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award was given to Michael J Welsh (University of Iowa, United States), Jesús González (formerly at Vertex Pharmaceuticals) and Paul A Negulescu (Vertex Pharmaceuticals) for research into triple-drug therapy for cystic fibrosis. The scientists contributed to the development of a novel treatment for cystic fibrosis which combines three drugs, rendering cystic fibrosis a manageable condition.

Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science: For research accomplishments and scientific statesmanship that engender the deepest feelings of awe and respect. This award is only presented in odd-numbered years. The 2025 Lasker-

Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science was given to Lucy Shapiro (Stanford University School of Medicine, United States) for developing an innovative approach to bacterial cell biology, as well as demonstrating exemplary leadership at the national level. The award recognises Shapiro's 55-year career in biomedical science and her founding of Stanford's Department of Developmental Biology.

The nomination window has also now been confirmed for the 2026 Awards. In addition to the basic and clinical awards, the **Lasker-Bloomberg Public Service Award** will be open for nominations. The prize is given for: improving the public's understanding of medical research, public health or healthcare; playing a major role in the support of policy, legislative or other initiatives that accelerate progress in medical science or health; providing or generating support for medical science or public health; and/or for benefiting the lives of many people through public health practice.

Nominees may be from any country in the world. Nominations may be submitted by colleagues familiar with the nominee(s)'s work and with the relevant field of research (or area of public service). Nominations of women and minorities are encouraged. Lasker Awards are highly competitive and are bestowed on individuals whose work opens new areas of biomedical science or public service.

The awards carry an honorarium of \$250,000 for each category.

Nominations for the 2026 Awards may be submitted between 3 November 2025 and 2 February 2026.

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

Nominations Invited for Lush Prize for Work to Replace Animal Testing in Toxicology Research

Fund ID: S4924

The Lush Prize is a collaboration between Lush and the Ethical Consumer Research Association (ECRA). Lush is a UK-based toiletries and cosmetics retailer. ECRA is a not-for-profit co-operative based in the UK.

The prize is aimed at organisations, institutions and individuals to reward their achievements in science and campaigning that has sought to end or replace animal testing, particularly in the area of toxicology research. Entries are accepted from anywhere in the world, for projects that have taken place anywhere in the world.

Awarded biennially, the prize financially rewards initiatives and campaigning projects that seek to end or replace animal testing across the following categories:

- **Science Prize:** For individuals, research teams or institutions for work most likely to lead to practical non-animal tests which could be accepted by regulators.
- **Young Researcher Prize:** For young scientists (up to 35 years of age) focused on an animal-test free future.
- **Training Prize:** For individuals, teams or organisations establishing training programmes in using non-animal methods.
- **Public Awareness Prize:** For individuals, teams or institutions raising awareness of animal testing.
- **Lobbying Prize:** For exceptional individuals, groups or organisations pushing for change.
- **Black Box Prize:** For a key breakthrough in human toxicity pathways research.

In addition, there are a number of non-financial awards:

- **Andrew Tyler Award:** Available for outstanding contributions towards ending animal testing.
- **Political Achievement Award:** Open to elected political officials at any level and in any country who have made a major contribution towards the ending or replacement of animal research and testing.
- **Health Charity Project Award:** For work that has created important new insights or techniques in the last 18 months.
- **Major Science Collaboration Award:** For international collaborations looking to develop non-animal techniques or approaches more widely and in the longer term.

Applications are invited from organisations, research institutions and individual researchers worldwide that are focused on ending the use of animal testing, research into non-animal tests or promoting the use of non-animal tests. Candidates can nominate themselves or their own organisation. Nominations on behalf of other people or organisations are not accepted (apart from for the Political Achievement award).

The total prize fund is £250,000, which will be shared across all categories. The Young Researcher Prize offers £10,000 to each winner. For the Lobbying Prize, Public Awareness Prize, Science Prize and Training Prize, £50,000 is available in each category to be shared between the winners. In any prize cycle where there is a major breakthrough in toxicology leading to the replacement of animal tests, the Black Box Prize of up to the entire £250,000 fund can be awarded to the individual or team responsible.

Entries for the 2026 prize must be submitted by the deadline of 28 November 2025.



Economic and Social Research

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Launches Strategic Call for Capitalisation

Fund ID: S22292

INTERREG Central Europe is a transnational cooperation programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European territorial cooperation goal of cohesion policy. The programme funds transnational cooperation projects which are able to develop, prepare and implement joint solutions to common problems and challenges.

INTERREG Central Europe has launched its final call for proposals titled *Strategic Call for Capitalisation* with the objective: '*to reduce the effects of borders on flows and functional linkages among central European regions, for a more competitive and resilient central Europe.*'

The call will target all four programme priorities and nine specific objectives of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE programme and aim to tailor existing outputs and results of both Interreg transnational and cross-border projects to current and emerging needs. Its goal is to maximise territorial and policy impact by reducing the effects of borders on flows and functional linkages among central European regions.

Projects funded under the call will be recognised as 'Operations of Strategic Importance', ie flagship initiatives that make a strong contribution to programme objectives and demonstrate the tangible benefits of EU cooperation. The projects should unlock synergies, strengthen networks, boost visibility and attract political attention, ensuring that successful ideas go further and reach wider. Above all, they must clearly show how they add value beyond what has already been achieved.

As a minimum requirement, projects must explicitly take up existing outputs and results from:

- At least two Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects funded under the first and second calls of the 2021-2027 programme.
- At least two Interreg cross-border cooperation projects that address internal central European borders (download list of cross-border programmes addressing internal central European borders).

The indicative ERDF budget is €23 million. An individual project's ERDF budget cannot exceed €1 million. Projects should last between 18 and 24 months.

Applications must be submitted by 27 November 2025.

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

Fulbright-Schuman Opens 2026-2027 Grant Cycle for Research and Study in the United States

Fund ID: S10896

The Fulbright Schuman Program funds advanced study, research and teaching in the field of US-EU relations and EU political affairs. It is administered by the Fulbright Commission in Belgium and is jointly financed by the US State Department and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission.

Fulbright Schuman Grants are available to citizens of any EU Member State who have been invited to study, research, or lecture by an American university or non-profit research institution on a topic relevant to US-EU relations or EU policy/political affairs. Activities must observe an issue of common concern and must be relevant to at least two EU Member States.

Two categories of applicant are eligible:

- Student category - for those who hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree but without a PhD.
- Scholar category - for those with a PhD (or who will have one by their scheduled departure to the US).

All candidates must be proficient in English and have had a minimum of three months academic or professional experience in two or more EU Member States.

Grants are available for:

- Predoctoral research and study - usually for nine months, ie one academic year.
- Postdoctoral research - between three and nine months.
- Postdoctoral lecturing - between three and nine months.

EU citizens are each allowed to apply for only one Fulbright grant per year.

Awards consist of a monthly stipend of €4,000 for scholars or €3,000 for students, plus an allowance of €2,000 for travel costs, as well as visa sponsorship and health benefits.

Applications to the 2026-2027 award cycle must be submitted by the deadline of 1 December 2025 (12:00 CET).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview; successful candidates shall be officially notified in March 2026.

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

Policy: Review of EU Smart Specialisation Strategies

The European Court of Auditors has published a [review](#) of the EU's [smart specialisation policy](#), the regional strategy framework with €70 billion earmarked for 2014-2027 to boost R&D in EU regions. Since 2014, smart specialisation has served as a condition for accessing cohesion funding, requiring regions to identify their unique strengths and align innovation spending with them.

According to the report, the approach has succeeded in steering projects towards stated priorities, with many funding calls and supported activities reflecting regional strategies. The system is now more firmly embedded in the 2021–2027 programming period, but weaknesses remain in oversight and coherence. The auditors found no mechanism at EU level to ensure that regional priorities are consistent with broader industrial and research agendas, such as green technologies or critical digital infrastructure. The Commission's role is largely limited to checking compliance, rather than guiding or enforcing alignment.

A core element of the policy, the entrepreneurial discovery process, is intended to bring together businesses, universities and governments in shaping priorities. The review shows that while the process adds value, in many regions it is treated as a one-off exercise or seen as administratively burdensome, particularly where innovation capacity is weaker.

The report also points to uneven cooperation between regions. Platforms such as the Smart Specialisation Community of Practice have supported networking, but participation is patchy and some sectors, including health, lack dedicated EU platforms to foster collaboration. Monitoring and evaluation are inconsistent, with regions applying divergent indicators and little EU-level assessment of the overall impact of smart specialisation.

The auditors conclude that the policy has helped focus innovation investments but argue that stronger governance, clearer priorities and more effective cooperation will be needed if it is to fully support EU-wide research and industrial goals.

Annemie Turtelboom, the ECA Member responsible for the review said:

'Smart specialisation helps regions to focus their efforts on self-selected priorities. However, at a time when the EU budget is being revamped, with new emphasis on industry and defence, the existing framework means that little is done to assess the value of those priorities or whether they align with the EU's wider goals.'

'It is crucial to reconcile bottom-up and top-down approaches, and to ensure that measures actually implemented in the regions are consistent with decisions taken at EU level. Otherwise, we will simply fail to achieve a more strategic and effective use of EU funds.'

IAST Research Fellowships: Applications Open for 2026/2027 Academic Year

Fund ID: S25635

IAST is a research institute within the University of Toulouse that focusses on the multidisciplinary study of human behaviour. IAST fosters research into human behaviour in the context of anthropology, biology, economics, history, law, mathematics, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology.

The Institute is looking for early career researchers with a strong research background in their own discipline, but open to engaging in interdisciplinary research activities. Successful applicants will have to demonstrate an interest in, and a commitment to, at least one of the other disciplines of IAST. All research interests relevant to the broad study of human behaviour are welcome, but special consideration will be given to interests aligned to areas covered by existing research teams at the institute, including: History; evolutionary biology; anthropology; political science; psychology; and sociology. IAST values communication between disciplines.

For the 2026/2027 call, applicants must be active researchers who have obtained or are expected to obtain their PhD after December 2022 and before September 2026. If the applicant is expected to obtain their PhD between October and December 2026, the start of the fellowship will be postponed accordingly.

Fellows are provided with office space, computer facilities and a two-year fixed term contract.

The application deadline is 15 November 2025.

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

Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) Programme Launches New Call for Interdisciplinary Research Teams

Fund ID: S19908

Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) is an initiative established by the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NETIAS) and involves several academic institutions in Europe. The programme is designed to foster teams of excellent early-career researchers who work on new ideas to understand and to tackle current or emerging societal challenges.

The programme offers research teams the opportunity to meet for short research stays at different participating institutes to develop their ideas and network with fellows and the local research community. Collaborations with stakeholders outside academia including industry, policymakers, and NGOs are encouraged.

Eligible to apply are teams of three to five early career researchers. This may also include stakeholders outside academia. Each team must include participants from at least two different countries (including non-European countries). There are no restrictions on nationality.

The Principal Investigator (team leader) must hold a stable research position at an institutions of higher education or research institutions in the EU, the UK, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, the Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. For the 2026 call, the Principal Investigator must have obtained their PhD between January 2016 and September 2025. No team member can have obtained their doctorate before January 2016.

Over a period of up to three years, participating teams will benefit from a series of short research stays for exchange and networking at participating institutions. CAT will cover travel and accommodation expenses for the team for a maximum of six research stays of up to two weeks each. These meetings should take place two to three times a year.

Applications for the 2026-2028 call close on 14 October 2025.

British Council Launches Call for UK Universities to Lead the Innovation for African Universities Enterprise Programme

Fund ID: S28005

The British Council's [Going Global Partnerships programme](#) aims to build stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems by supporting partnerships between universities, colleges, education policy makers, civil society organisations and industry partners around the world. The partnerships aim to bring together organisations in the TVET sector from the UK and overseas to share their knowledge and expertise, and to collaborate on projects that focus on enhancing approaches to skills development internationally.

Forming part of this programme, the British Council is seeking an experienced higher education institution (HEI) in enterprise and innovation development to design and deliver a capacity-strengthening programme. This structured and adaptive programme will involve mentoring for 16 university student teams (five students each) from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. These selected teams are working on projects in digital enterprises, green enterprises, social enterprises, or a combination thereof, and their ventures are currently at various stages of development.

The call for applications is open to UK universities working in collaboration with research and higher education institutions from South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, or Kenya.

UK led institutions must be one of the following:

- A higher education provider with degree awarding powers.
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations.
- Any public or private organisations with a role in the TVET/further education (FE) systems.

One grant of up to £60,000 is available.

Applications should be submitted before the deadline of 31 October 2025 (17:00 GMT).

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

Policy: Guild Calls for EU to Defend Academic Freedom

The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities has issued a position paper urging the European Union to take stronger action to protect academic freedom. [Defending the Resilience of Europe's Research Systems Against the Growing Attacks on Science Worldwide](#) warns that universities across the continent are increasingly vulnerable to political and ideological pressures, and argues that the EU must act if it is to maintain its global leadership in research and uphold its democratic values.

The Guild acknowledges the EU's recognition of academic freedom but insists that rhetorical support is no longer enough. It calls for a clear and coherent strategy that combines legal and policy measures to reinforce institutional autonomy and ensure that researchers are free from interference. The document also highlights the importance of supporting academics at risk, suggesting that existing schemes such as [MSCA4Ukraine](#) and the [SAFE \(Supporting At-Risk Researchers with Fellowships in Europe\) project](#) could provide the foundation for permanent European-level programmes.

The timing of the paper aligns with consultations on the EU's next Research and Innovation Framework Programme (FP10). By making academic freedom a central issue in these discussions, the Guild aims to shape the long-term funding and policy environment for European research. Recent monitoring initiatives in the European Parliament point to a growing appetite for structural measures, but the Guild's position paper presses for a shift from monitoring and debate to concrete commitments.

Jan Palmowski, Secretary General of The Guild said:

'It is crucial that the European Commission, and Ursula von der Leyen personally, have recognised the importance of academic freedom for the future of Europe. To ensure we can achieve this fully, we propose a clear strategy to maximise our support for researchers within Europe, and from other parts of the world, appropriate to the infringements they face.'

Commonwealth Master's Scholarships Open for 2025 Applications

Fund ID: S14259

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) manages the UK's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), an international programme of Scholarships and Fellowships offered to citizens of other commonwealth countries by member countries' governments.

The aim of the Commonwealth Master's Scholarships is to support candidates from low and middle income Commonwealth countries for full-time Master's study at a UK university. The programme is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The scholarships enable talented and motivated individuals to gain the knowledge and skills required for sustainable development, and are aimed at those who could not otherwise afford to study in the UK. The scholarships are offered under the six [CSC development themes](#):

- Science and technology for development.
- Strengthening health systems and capacity.
- Promoting global prosperity.
- Strengthening global peace, security and governance.
- Strengthening resilience and response to crises.
- Access, inclusion and opportunity.

The applicant should apply to study at a [UK university which has a part funding agreement with the CSC](#) for a specific programme of research for 36 months of full-time study only.

To be eligible to apply for the Fellowship, nominees must:

- Be a citizen of or have been granted refugee status by an eligible Commonwealth country, or be a British Protected Person.
- Be permanently resident in an eligible Commonwealth country.
- Be available to start their academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September/October.
- By September, hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard, or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (usually a Master's degree). Those applying for a second UK Master's degree will need to provide justification as to why they wish to undertake the study.
- Be unable to afford to study in the UK without this scholarship.

Applicants will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as possible after the end of the award.

Each scholarship provides funding including approved airfare from the applicant's home country to the UK and return at the end of the award, full tuition fees, and a stipend.

Applications should be submitted by 14 October 2025.

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

Policy: European Commission Agrees Seven Sectoral Proposals for Long-Term EU Budget

The European Commission has adopted a second funding package covering seven sectoral proposals, completing the framework for the next long-term EU budget for 2028-2034.

The announcement follows the €2 trillion proposal in July 2025 for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) covering 2028-34, which contained proposals to nearly double the budget of the next research and innovation framework programme - the successor to Horizon Europe - to €175 billion for the period 2028-34.

The latest package covers the following seven areas:

- **The Single Market and Customs Programme** - This programme will receive a budget of €6.2 billion, double the current level, and will combine five previously standalone programmes, namely: the Single Market Programme (SMP); Customs; Customs Control Equipment Instrument; Fiscalis; and the Union Anti-Fraud Programme, into one coherent strategy designed to preserve EU economic security. The ambition is to streamline and exploit more synergies between the various actions and provide more flexible and agile financing to enhance and deepen the Single Market, strengthen the Customs Union, and protect the financial and economic interests of the EU and its Member States, more cost-efficiently.

- **The Justice Programme** - With a budget of €798 million - double the current level - the Justice Programme will enhance judicial training and facilitate judicial cooperation while supporting the digitalisation of justice at Union level, thereby enhancing the efficiency of cross-border judicial procedures as well as access to justice within the Union. It will also support cross-border actions to prevent and combat corruption.
- **The Euratom Research and Training Programme** - Euratom will have a budget of €6.7 billion for the duration of the programme until 2032, although the proposed amount for the entire future MFF will be €9.8 billion. Over half of this budget will be allocated to ITER, the most ambitious fusion project in the world. The remainder will be dedicated to improving and supporting nuclear safety, security and safeguards, radiation protection, management of radioactive waste, non-power applications of nuclear science, such as in healthcare, and maintaining the critical skills the nuclear sector needs to advance.
- **The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and Decommissioning** - This new instrument will have a budget of nearly €1 billion and combines the existing Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and the Decommissioning Programme.
- **The Nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania (Ignalina programme)** - This programme assists Lithuania in implementing the decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, which has two Chernobyl-type reactors. The primary objective is to dismantle and decontaminate the equipment and reactor shafts, as well as safely manage radioactive waste resulting from the decommissioning activities and legacy waste. The programme will also build expertise and support knowledge sharing to decommission other European reactors equipped with graphite cores.
- **The Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland** - This programme will see its budget doubled to nearly €1 billion and continue to represent a separate and reinforced instrument under the next MFF, reflecting the strategic importance of the cooperation with the 13 OCTs as they play a key role as strategic outposts of the Union in their geographical areas.
- **The Pericles V Programme** - This programme will help to prevent and combat counterfeiting and counterfeiting-related fraud, while also adapting to new and evolving threats, thereby strengthening the trust of citizens and businesses in the integrity of the euro.

Piotr Serafin, Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration, said:

'With today's package, we complete a budget proposal that reflects Europe's priorities reaching well into the next decade. It gives the Union the means to invest in competitiveness, resilience and security, and to support a more independent and prosperous Europe in the years to come. We look forward to discussing our proposals with the European Parliament and the Council.'

The future long-term EU budget will be discussed by Member States in the Council on a unanimous basis, with the consent of the European Parliament for the MFF.

The announcement can be read in full at the [European Commission](#) website.

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

Georg Arnhold Senior Fellowship for Sustainable Peace Now Open

Fund ID: S18965

The Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI - *Georg-Eckert-Institut - Leibniz-Institut für internationale Schulbuchforschung*) conducts international, multidisciplinary and application-oriented research into school textbooks and educational media, centring on approaches drawn from historical and cultural studies.

The **Georg Arnhold Senior Fellowship for Education for Sustainable Peace** offers senior researchers in the field of peace education a research stay at the Georg Eckert Institute in Braunschweig, Germany. The main objective of the programme is to foster international scholarly exchange as well as to translate research findings into practical recommendations for those active in conflict resolution, thereby contributing to civil society capacity building.

Eligible to apply are outstanding senior scholars in the fields of humanities, political and social sciences, education sciences or law. Applicants must have excellent knowledge of English. Candidates whose work focuses on educational media and transformation societies are especially welcome to apply. Individuals with extensive, high-level international experience (of at least five years) in government or non-governmental organisations or in international organisations are also supported.

The grant consists of a monthly stipend of up to €3,300 for a period of six months.

Applications close on 14 November 2025.

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

ACU Early Career Conference Grants Open for Applications

Fund ID: S14469

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is an international university network that aims to promote and support excellence in higher education for the benefit of individuals and societies throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

The ACU Early Career Conference Grant is awarded to emerging academics employed at ACU member organisations to support attendance at a conference. The conference must be a recognised academic conference in a field relevant to the applicant's area of expertise.

Applicants should be early career academics employed by an [ACU member university](#) and be within seven years of the start of their employment in an academic role.

Applicants should identify a conference that they would like to attend in a [Commonwealth country](#), taking place between February 2026 and January 2027. Applicants must be either chairing a session, presenting a paper or presenting a poster as part of their conference attendance to be considered for a grant.

Applicants must also:

- Choose the Sustainable Development Goal(s) which relate most closely to their research and describe how their research can contribute to achieving these goals.
- Explain the reasons for their choice of conference and how it will benefit their career goals.
- Explain how they will share the knowledge gained by participating in the conference.

Grants of up to £2,000 are available.

Applications should be submitted by the 4 November 2025 (15:00) deadline.

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

Daimler and Benz Foundation Provides €1.5 Million for Ladenburg Research Projects on Experiential Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence

Fund ID: S21690

The **Ladenburg Research Networks** (*Ladenburger Kolleg*) support interdisciplinary research projects carried out by several working groups at a number of different research organisations in Germany and abroad. The programme offers members of the research network the freedom to autonomously determine their own research programmes. Members of the cluster regularly meet at the foundation.

As part of the programme, Daimler und Benz Stiftung issues regular calls with different thematic focus areas.

The topic of the new call is '**The Role and Significance of Experiential Knowledge in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**'.

Funding is provided for interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary and, where appropriate, cross-border research consortia that systematically investigate and document the potential of experiential knowledge in an increasingly digitized, data-driven, and automated world.

Project ideas can come from various fields of application in which implicit knowledge plays a key role, such as industrial production, nursing, agriculture, skilled trades or disaster control. Of particular interest is how experiential knowledge works in critical decision-making situations, which formats and methods of transfer have proven successful (eg learning partnerships, simulations, case studies) and how it can be secured, communicated and meaningfully supplemented in combination with digital technologies (especially AI).

Consortia should consist of several research groups at different scientific institutions in Germany and abroad. Projects should bring together perspectives from various disciplines. This includes practically oriented cooperation with external partners such as companies, vocational training institutes, or public institutes in order to ensure the relevance, transferability, and sustainability of the research results.

Proposals may be submitted by independent research group leaders, professors and junior professors at universities and non-profit, non-educational research institutions in Germany.

A grant of up to €1.5 million is provided for a period of three years.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 31 October 2025.

Driving Urban Transitions European Partnership Launches Fourth Joint Call for Proposals

Fund ID: S24209

The Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) European Partnership is a programme of [JPI Urban Europe](#) and a financed [European Partnership](#) under Horizon Europe. DUT involves national and regional policy makers, funders and urban-related policy agencies to invest in urban R&I and strengthen a European innovation ecosystem for urban transitions.

DUT is now inviting applications for its fourth joint transnational call for proposals to support transnational research and/or innovation projects that help cities tackle urban challenges and transition towards a climate neutral and resilient future for all.

Projects are expected to focus on urban areas (including peri-urban areas) in the context of achieving climate neutral and resilient cities and their issues and challenges. Where appropriate, they may also consider the effects and impact on other territories like rural areas or consider urban-rural relationships.

Projects should contribute to one or more of the following three thematic areas:

15-minute City

- Next steps for multimodal urban mobility, building on the travel experience
- Reimagining parking - transforming urban parking policies
- Mobility policymaking in context of radical contestation

Circular Urban Economies

- Resilient green and social infrastructure
- Sustainable tourism - circular benefits and challenges
- Public procurement to foster urban greening and circularity

Positive Energy Districts

- Driving a just transition: PED strategies in social and subsidised housing
- Ensuring positive socio-economic impact: PEDs in local economies and energy markets
- PEDs in urban heating and cooling strategies

The call welcomes a wide range of scientific disciplines such as strategic urban research, applied urban research and urban innovation. A project must have at least three partners from three different countries and include a municipality or local authority.

The following countries are participating in the call:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tunisia

- Türkiye

A total of €44 million is allocated to the call. Projects may be funded for a maximum of 36 months. There are no fixed minimum or maximum limits for a project size. Medium sized projects with a total budget request from all involved Funding Agencies in the range of €1-2 million are typically expected, though total project costs can be lower or higher. However, funding limits exist for many Funding Agencies.

An [information day](#) was held on 9 September 2025 to provide a comprehensive introduction to the DUT Call 2025 and guidance on how to apply for funding.

Applications should be submitted by the 17 November 2025 deadline.

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



Engineering and Physical Sciences

Dates Confirmed for 2026 Cosmetic Victories Competition

Fund ID: S14153

The Cosmetic Victories Competition is an annual international competition sponsored by the Cosmetic Valley-ESSEC endowment fund. This fund was set up in 2013 to promote French research and to contribute to the development of employment in the perfume and cosmetics field.

The competition, set to open applications for its 11th edition, aims to reward and promote students, researchers, start-ups and SMEs in charge of innovative projects related to the perfume and cosmetics industry. Within the framework of the competition, two prizes are awarded:

- **The Academic Prize:** for the most relevant project that meets the new technical challenges of the cosmetic industry. This prize is open for PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers.
- **The Industry Prize:** for the best cosmetic innovation of the year. This prize is open to managers of business-creation projects, innovative start-ups and SMEs.

The competition welcomes research and innovation projects on the following themes: Ecological Transition and Societal Impact; Optimisation of Product, Human, and Environmental Interactions; and Advanced Technologies and Digitalisation.

Each prize consists of a cash reward of €10,000. Prize holders may be supported by Cosmetic Valley to develop their project by facilitating collaborations and providing connections with the cosmetics accelerator [Beauty Hub](#). Prize holders will also receive international exposure through major national and international press coverage.

Submissions for the 2026 Prize must be made between 15 October 2025 and 31 January 2026.

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

Nominations Invited for 2026 Thieme-IUPAC Prize in Synthetic Organic Chemistry

Fund ID: S12943

The Thieme-IUPAC Prize in Synthetic Organic Chemistry is presented once every two years on the occasion of the IUPAC International Conference on Organic Synthesis to honour a scientist whose research has had a major impact in synthetic organic chemistry.

It is given on the basis of scientific merit for independent research dealing with synthesis in the broadest context of organic chemistry, including organometallic chemistry, medicinal and biological chemistry.

The prize is sponsored jointly by the Thieme Group, The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), and the editors of SYNTHESIS, SYNLETT, SYNFACTS, and Science of Synthesis.

Eligible candidates are scientists within the first 15 years of their independent research career.

The award value is €5,000.

Nominations for the 2026 Prize (17th edition) must be submitted by the deadline of 12 December 2025.

DECHEMA Prize: €20,000 for Advances in Chemical Technology and Biotechnology

Fund ID: S17853

DECHEMA Gesellschaft für Chemische Technik und Biotechnologie (DECHEMA Association for Chemical Technology and Biotechnology) is a charitable membership organisation dedicated to promoting technological and scientific exchange between actors in the area of biotechnology and chemical technology in Germany.

The annual DECHEMA Prize is presented for outstanding research achievements in the area of technical chemistry, process engineering, biotechnology and chemical equipment studies. The focus is on early to mid-career researchers who have not yet secured a permanent professorship or comparable position. Key criteria include originality as well as scientific and technological advancement of the nominee's work.

Nominations are open to all members of the public. Direct applications are not possible. The award is offered for research carried out at a European institution. This may include institutions of higher education, non-educational research institutions as well as organisations in the industry.

The DECHEMA award offers a cash prize of €20,000.

Nominations are open until the deadline of 31 October 2025.

Policy: Consultation to Evaluate and Review the European Chips Act

The European Commission has launched a public consultation and call for evidence to underpin the evaluation and review of the [European Chips Act](#). Stakeholders from across the semiconductor ecosystem are invited to submit feedback, data, and proposals to inform a possible legislative revision.

The Chips Act, adopted in 2023, seeks to bolster Europe's resilience and sovereignty in semiconductor technology by supporting research, incentivising investment in production, and strengthening supply chain security. However, rapid shifts in market dynamics, advances in AI and chip design, and geopolitical pressures have prompted calls to reassess the framework's performance.

In launching the consultation, the Commission emphasises its commitment to the 'Better Regulation' principles - seeking to ensure the Act remains effective, efficient, relevant, coherent, and of genuine EU added value. Respondents are encouraged to provide quantitative evidence, case studies, and sector-specific analyses.

All actors along the semiconductor value chain - from design houses, fabs, equipment suppliers, and industrial users (eg, in automotive, telecom, healthcare, energy) to SMEs, research institutions, NGOs, and national authorities - are strongly invited to participate. The Commission underscores that broad, evidence-based feedback will be critical to ensuring the Chips Act evolves in step with Europe's strategic ambitions.

Inputs will help shape the Commission's evaluation report and guide any proposed amendments, which could be tabled as early as Q2 2026.

The consultation is open until 28 November 2025.

ERA-NET Cofund in Quantum Technologies (QuantERA III) Launches 2025 Call

Fund ID: S11644

QuantERA III is a transnational funding network supported by the European Commission dedicated to advancing basic and applied research in Quantum Technologies (QT). The successor to QuantERA I and QuantERA II, which were ERA-NET Cofunds supported by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, QuantERA III unites more than 40 Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) from over 30 countries in Europe and beyond and aims to foster collaboration and strengthen the quantum ecosystem with sustainable funding.

QuantERA has launched its 2025 call for proposals to boost cross-border collaboration and accelerate breakthrough research and cutting-edge engineering in QT.

The Call comprises of two topics:

- Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR), aimed at establishing the foundational principles for QT of the future.
- Applied Quantum Science (AQS), where the goal is to take known quantum effects and established concepts from quantum science, translate them into technological applications, and develop new products.

Projects are expected to address one or more of the following research areas:

- Quantum communication.
- Quantum computing.
- Quantum simulation.
- Quantum sensing and metrology.
- General quantum science.

Projects are expected to start at 1-4 Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and achieve an end TRL in the range of 1-6 commensurate with the Call topic.

A total of €53 million is available through the call. The typical total project cost is expected to be in the region of €2.5 million. Proposals requesting other amounts are also welcome and will be considered. The grant for one legal entity being a partner organisation in one or more project consortia in the Call cannot exceed €1 million. Projects are expected to last for 24 to 36 months.

The following countries are participating in the call: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom.

Consortia composed of three eligible partners from at least three QuantERA Partner countries participating in a call are eligible to apply. The standard consortium comprises three to six partners. The consortium as a whole must be eligible with respect to transnational rules and national rules.

Eligibility requirements, national/regional topics of interest, eligible costs and funding provisions may vary according to the respective funding organisation's regulations. Project partners must therefore refer and adhere to their own regional/national regulations and scientific remits, as detailed in the relevant regional/national announcements.

In order to facilitate the process of forming research consortia, QuantERA offers applicants a [PartnerSearch Tool](#), which can be used by projects looking for partners and partners looking for projects.

Applications should be submitted by the 5 December 2025 (17:00) deadline.

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

Lloyd's Register Foundation Small Grants Scheme Opens for Second 2025 Round

Fund ID: S19919

The Lloyd's Register Foundation (LR Foundation) was established in 2012 through the profits of the Lloyd's Register Group Ltd. The Foundation aims to support engineering-related research, training and education that makes a real difference in improving the safety of the critical infrastructure modern society relies upon.

The LR Foundation Small Grants Scheme provides funding for small projects relating to the [charitable mission of the Foundation](#). Support is available for projects with a potential to lead to future collaborations, clear knowledge exchange or to create/accelerate impact.

Funding is specifically available to:

1. Initiate, build or consolidate partnerships with an array of organisations in relevant sectors eg policy, practitioner, industrial, commercial and community.
2. Test out ideas through pilot studies, proof of concept projects or activities targeting policy, business and the third sector.

Grants are available to organisations (which may defer grants to individual researchers or groups), including higher education institutions and research organisations. Grants can be made to support research globally.

Funding of up to £10,000 is available. Projects should last no longer than 12 months.

Applications for the second 2025 round should be submitted by the 10 November 2025 deadline.

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



Medical Research

Association for Creatine Deficiencies Fellowships Open for Applications

Fund ID: S20253

The Association for Creatine Deficiencies (ACD) is a US-based non-profit organisation with a mission to eliminate the challenges of Cerebral Creatine Deficiency Syndromes (CCDS) through education, advocacy and medical research.

ACD's Fellowships aim to support research related to CCDS. All topics will be considered, but preference will be given to proposals that facilitate progress to the clinic (eg method/assay development for biomarkers, model/reagent development, drug screening etc).

The overarching goal of the fellowship scheme is to fund opportunities that have the potential for translational success. To this end, awardees must focus on advancing therapeutic discoveries for creatine deficiency disorders.

As part of this opportunity, ACD fellows will be introduced and required to present their work at a special session at the 2026 CCDS Virtual Conference. Eligible applicants are researchers worldwide.

Each fellowship award carries a letter of recognition and funding for one year for \$15,000 to \$30,000. Funding will begin on 1 February 2026.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 15 November 2025.

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

Deadline Announced for FOREUM International Fellowship Applications in Rheumatology

Fund ID: S22783

FOREUM Foundation for Research in Rheumatology, based in Switzerland, is an independent research organisation working in the field of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. FOREUM is supported by EULAR, the European League Against Rheumatism.

As part of FOREUM's commitment to funding and promoting scientific research into rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) and fostering links between rheumatology units in different countries, the International Fellowships have been established to develop research capacity and train high-calibre applicants in RMD research.

The fellowships are intended to fund excellent research projects in the field of RMDs that address any basic, translational or clinical aspects of these conditions. The fellow will be supported for a period of 12 months to visit the host centre (first stage) and, upon successful completion, for another 24 months in the home centre (second stage). The fellow will be mentored and trained in specific techniques, models or patient data by the team of the host centre that is required to successfully conduct the project.

The applicant must be a rheumatologist, rheumatologist in training or health professional in rheumatology, and must be appropriately linked to RMD research in a [EULAR member country](#).

The host centre must be in a EULAR member country that is different from the country of the applicant's home centre. The host centre must have a high-level research profile in the field to enable the fellow to be exposed to innovative research technology and an inspiring collaborative scientific environment.

Fellows can receive up to €150,000 for a period of 36 months.

There is a two-stage application process consisting of a mandatory Letter of Intent followed by an invited full application.

Letters of Intent must be submitted by the deadline of 2 November 2025.

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

Biennial AACR Anna D Barker Fellowships in Basic Cancer Research Open for Applications

Fund ID: S11064

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 Anna D Barker Basic Cancer Research Fellowship is intended to encourage and support postdoctoral or clinical research fellows to carry out a mentored basic cancer research project over a two-year period. The ambition is to help fellows establish a successful career path in cancer research. The research proposed for funding may be in any area of basic cancer research.

There are no citizenship or geographic requirements, although AACR membership is required.

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. Applicants must also work under the auspices of a mentor at an academic, medical, or research institution anywhere in the world.

Applications will be accepted from researchers who will hold, at the start of the grant term, a mentored research position with the title of postdoctoral fellow, clinical research fellow, or the equivalent, and will have completed their most recent doctoral degree within the past three years. Applicants with a medical degree must have completed their most recent doctoral degree or medical residency - whichever date is later - within the past three years.

The award has a value of \$110,000 over two years to support the salary and benefits of the fellow while working on a mentored basic cancer research project. A partial amount of funds may be designated for non-personnel expenses, such as research/laboratory supplies, equipment, publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project, and other research expenses.

Letters of Intent should be submitted by the 4 November 2025 deadline.

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

European Partnership for Brain Health to Launch Two Multinational Translational Calls for Proposals in 2026

The Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth has announced that the forthcoming European Partnership for Brain Health (EP BrainHealth) will launch two calls for proposals for multinational translational research projects in early 2026.

CSA BrainHealth is a two-year European Commission-funded programme running from 1 November 2023-25 that acts as the preparatory phase of a new European Partnership for Brain Health. BrainHealth is formed of 21 participants from 11 countries with the goal of fostering a European partnership to promote global brain health.

EP BrainHealth will gather 51 partners from 31 countries, with the common goal of improving brain health, from prenatal stages to advanced age, in order to prevent and cure brain diseases and improve wellbeing of people living with neurological and mental disorders in Europe and beyond.

The two calls to be launched in early 2026 by EP BrainHealth will focus on the following areas:

- Call 1: Biological, social and environmental factors that impact the trajectory of brain health across the lifespan – in the field of neurological, mental and sensory disorders.
- Call 2: Biological, social and environmental factors that impact the trajectory of brain health across the lifespan – in the field of neurodegenerative disorders.

More details regarding scope, participating funders and eligibility rules will be made available in early December.

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

November Deadline Announced for 2026 INCa Call for Biology and Science of Cancer Projects (PLBIO)

Fund ID: S16034

France's Institut National du Cancer (INCa - National Cancer Institute) was created in 2004 and is the health and science agency responsible for cancer control in France. Its goals include reducing the incidence of avoidable cancers and the number of cancer deaths, improving the quality of life of people with cancer during and after their illness and reducing inequalities related to cancer.

INCa's annual Biology and Science of Cancer (PLBIO) call targets projects on any biology topic related to cancer and has the following objectives:

- Support projects that are original (both in terms of objective and approach), ambitious and feasible.
- Strengthen multidisciplinary scientific research by bringing together biomedical teams and partner teams from other scientific disciplines.
- Stimulate research on emerging and innovative topics leading to new perspectives on understanding cancer.

The call seeks basic research projects and is open to all areas of biology and scientific disciplines that contribute to the fight against cancer in order to enable the development of new knowledge on cancerous disease, to develop new oncology tools and to open up new therapeutic perspectives.

Projects must involve at least two research teams from different research units and/or organisations in France, each belonging to one of the following types of organisation:

- Public research organisations (universities, Public Scientific and Technological Establishments - EPST, and Public Industrial and Commercial Establishments - EPIC etc).
- Non-profit organisations (associations, foundations etc).
- Health establishments, whether private or not (university hospitals - CHU, regional cancer centres - CRLCC, and hospitals - CH etc).

Following an agreement signed between INCa and the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in Taiwan, collaborative projects involving French and Taiwanese researchers will also be supported. The participation of foreign teams (other than Taiwanese teams) and industry/for-profit organisations is possible as long as they provide their own funding.

The duration of funded projects must be either 36 or 48 months. Funding may be used for personnel costs, operating expenses and consumables, equipment purchases under €150,000 and administrative costs. Full details regarding how projects are financed can be found in the [INCa Funding Regulations document](#).

Letters of Intent should be submitted by 3 November 2025.

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

Alzheimer's Association/ASNR Launch Grant for Imaging Research in Alzheimer's and Other Neurodegenerative Diseases ****NEW****

Fund ID: S28026

Based in the US, the Alzheimer's Association seeks to treat, prevent and cure Alzheimer's disease through research grant funding, enhancing care and support, and promoting brain health.

Together with the American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR), the Association offers the Imaging Research in Alzheimer's and Other Neurodegenerative Diseases funding programme. The goal of this programme is to provide support for the advancement of the field of imaging in Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases by providing support for early stage pilot projects that will advance research to support the development of new novel imaging tools, to advance imaging-based research and to provide funding for novel and innovative imaging data analysis.

Applications are open internationally to neuroradiologists (MD, MD/PhD, DO) and scientists (PhD) with faculty appointments in radiology departments, including instructor, assistant, associate and full professor levels.

Three awards, each with a maximum budget of \$200,000 (including no more than 10% indirect costs), are available for a one-year duration.

Letter of Intent should be submitted by the deadline of 30 October 2025.

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

FOREUM Launches €600,000 Funding Call to Advance Women's Health in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Disorders ****NEW****

Fund ID: S28029

FOREUM Foundation for Research in Rheumatology, based in Switzerland, is an independent research organisation working in the field of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). FOREUM is supported by the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR).

The FOREUM Advancing Women's Health in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Disorders (RMDs) Call recognises the importance of women's health across the life course in determining RMD onset, trajectory, outcomes and day-to-day impact. Many RMD conditions disproportionately affect women and bring unique impacts and risks including pregnancy complications, heightened cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.

Funded studies may be clinical, epidemiological or translational. Proposals should start from and focus on a clearly articulated unmet medical need and aim to provide solutions for the identified challenge. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the aim is to catalyse transformative research that will ultimately benefit women living with RMDs.

FOREUM primarily encourages collaboration across Europe and therefore requires multi-centre project applications involving partners from at least three different countries. The call is open to participants from [EULAR membership countries](#). The Principal Investigator should also come from a EULAR membership country.

Centres from non-EULAR membership countries can participate as partners in exceptional cases (eg when specific scientific expertise is needed), but are not eligible to receive research funding.

Recipients can receive up to €600,000 for a period of up to three years.

There is a two-stage application process consisting of a mandatory Letter of Intent followed by an invited full application.

Letters of Intent must be submitted by the deadline of 26 October 2025.

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

Policy: New Report on Global Health R&D Delivery

High-income countries have invested about \$71 billion in global health research and development since 2007, generating substantial economic returns but leaving the vast majority of funding within their own borders, according to a new report from Impact Global Health. [The Ripple Effect: How Global Health R&D Delivers for Everyone](#) reviews government spending on neglected diseases, emerging infections and women's health, showing that almost 90 per cent of investment remains in high-income countries. Three-quarters is retained in the country of origin, with only a fraction flowing directly to low- and middle-income partners.

The analysis finds that the \$64 billion retained domestically has stimulated more than \$500 billion in wider economic activity, while also supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs and crowding in significant private sector investment. Patent activity linked to these programmes is expected to reach around 20,000 filings. The report also highlights examples of innovations developed for low-income settings that later proved valuable in high-income countries, including vaccine adjuvants, viral vector platforms and diagnostic systems that were deployed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While emphasising the benefits to donor countries, the study warns that the current funding model risks entrenching inequities and limiting long-term resilience. It calls for greater investment in research infrastructure, skills and regulatory systems in low- and middle-income countries, alongside financing mechanisms that channel resources directly to local institutions. Sustained commitment from high-income governments is seen as essential to ensure that global health R&D continues to deliver both international and domestic benefits.

By underlining the economic and scientific gains already achieved, the report positions global health research as a strategic investment for high-income countries, while urging a more balanced approach that strengthens capacity across the global R&D system.

2026 Deadlines Announced for Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) Therapeutics Funding Schemes

Fund IDs: S11713, S18662, S12309

Founded in 1998 and based in the US, the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) seeks to rapidly accelerate the discovery of drugs to prevent, treat and cure Alzheimer's disease.

ADDF's three therapeutics funding programmes provide support for research organisations worldwide to advance therapeutic and biomarker development for Alzheimer's and related dementias. The three schemes are:

- **Neuroimaging and CSF Biomarker Program:** Aims to further develop and validate established biomarkers for which there is a clear clinical need in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The scheme prioritises biomarkers with a defined context of use, a clear advantage over other relevant biomarkers and a path to commercialisation and/or clinical use.
- **Drug Development Program:** Support for non-clinical studies and early phase clinical trials that test promising pharmacological interventions and devices for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Both disease-modifying and symptomatic agents will be considered.
- **Alzheimer's Prevention Program:** Seeks to investigate whether the use or choice of interventions may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Support is available in the following areas: precision prevention and risk reduction; combination therapy studies; and comparative effectiveness research.

Application is open to researchers and clinicians based in academic medical centres, universities, biotechnology companies (existing companies and new start-ups) and non-profit organisations worldwide. For academic applicants, industry partnerships are strongly encouraged.

Awards vary between the programmes, with funding of up to \$5 million available depending on the stage and scope of research. Project duration also varies and multi-year proposals can be considered.

Application is via a two-stage process consisting of a Letter of Intent followed by an invited full proposal.

The 2026 Letter of Intent deadlines are 2 February and 14 September.

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

MND Association Biomedical Research Project Grant Open for Applications

Fund ID: S3916

The Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association has opened the 2025 call for applications for Biomedical Research Project Grants, which offer up to £375,000 to support research, in all relevant disciplines, to investigate Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and related conditions.

The MND Association funding programme supports research aimed at advancing understanding of the causes of MND to elucidate disease mechanisms and facilitate the translation of therapeutic strategies from the laboratory to the clinic, focusing on four strategic priorities: Identifying therapeutic targets; Developing a treatment pipeline; Understanding clinical progression; Improving standards of care.

Applications are invited for high quality research that aims to answer a single question, or small group of related questions, with the potential to deliver significant and measureable advances in understanding and treating classical MND (eg ALS, PMA, PLS). Proposals related to other conditions may be considered if a direct benefit to MND research can be demonstrated.

Grants are up to £120,000 per year for projects at institutes located outside of London (to a maximum of £360,000 over three years) and £125,000 per year for projects based at institutes within London (to a maximum of £375,000 over three years). Applications for higher levels of grant may be submitted with prior agreement of the MND Association.

The grants are primarily aimed at researchers based at research institutions in the UK or Ireland, however applications will also be accepted from institutions outside of the UK and Ireland for projects that involve a significant aspect of collaboration with a UK/Ireland institute and are unique in concept or design (ie no similar research should currently be performed in the UK/Ireland).

Summary applications for this application round must be submitted by the deadline on 31 October 2025.

Fondation Maladies Rares and KAT6 France Launch International KAT6 Research Call ****NEW****

Fund ID: S28021

Fondation Maladies Rares (Foundation for Rare Diseases) is a non-profit umbrella organisation created in 2012. Its overall mission is to promote, coordinate and support research on rare diseases to alleviate the social and therapeutic isolation of individuals afflicted with rare diseases and thus improve their daily lives.

In collaboration with KAT6 France, a patients' association for those affected by KAT6 syndrome in France and the French-speaking world, Fondation Maladies Rares has launched a call for proposals to support and stimulate research on KAT6 syndrome (divided into KAT6A and KAT6B syndromes). The call aims to support innovative, transdisciplinary, basic, translational or clinical research programmes into the syndrome. All biomedical science disciplines are eligible. The call seeks to support any research aimed at the pathophysiological understanding of the disease, the improvement of diagnosis, the development of better management modalities and/or the development of therapeutic strategies.

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a researcher belonging to a public research organisation (including structures dedicated to research within healthcare institutions) anywhere in the world. The PI will typically be a statutory researcher with a permanent position. If not, they must provide proof of an employment contract with the organisation managing the funds that runs for the entire project duration plus six months.

The project provides financial support up to €30,000 for a maximum duration of 24 months.

The application deadline is 6 January 2026.

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

Melanoma Research Alliance Special Team Science Award on Early Detection, Diagnosis and Risk Stratification of Melanoma ****NEW****

Fund ID: S28020

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) and Rising Tide Foundation for Clinical Cancer Research (RTFCCR) are co-funding a Special Opportunity Team Science Award to fund clinical validation studies or pilot (phase I) clinical trials aimed at improving melanoma early detection, diagnosis, and risk stratification.

RTFCCR and MRA have identified early detection and accurate diagnosis of melanoma, and the identification of high-risk patients whose primary tumours are most likely to progress, as significant areas of unmet need. The purpose of this call is to solicit high quality proposals for clinical validation studies or phase I clinical trials using new or improved imaging technologies, biomarkers, monitoring algorithms, diagnostic or screening tests, or devices. Studies proposing the use of technologies that are easily scalable are encouraged.

The maximum funding request is \$900,000 over three years. It is expected that MRA and RTFCCR will co-fund two awards under this RFA.

The awards will support innovative approaches, with preliminary data, where funding is required to advance the validation of tests, technologies, or devices. Applications are welcomed from all research groups with a track record in melanoma. Patient involvement must be actively demonstrated throughout the full life cycle of the work, including protocol design, planning and dissemination.

Examples of the clinical utility of the tests include, but are not limited to:

- Improving stratification criteria for patients with melanoma who are at high-risk of recurrence or progression.
- Diagnostic or early-stage melanoma prognostic factors (biomarkers).
- Improving diagnosis and risk stratification of rare and more aggressive subtypes of melanoma across different skin colours, with a focus on acral and nodular subtypes.

The following criteria must be met for the proposed study:

- The study should validate newly identified tests, test methods, devices, biomarkers, or technologies (eg, imaging

technologies, AI).

- At the time of application submission, the study needs to have preliminary data proving the association between the proposed test or detection marker and melanoma.
- Patient and/or caregiver partners must be involved in study design and execution, and the proposal must involve a patient involvement plan.

PIs must hold a full-time faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or above at an academic or other non-profit research institution and show clear evidence of an independent research programme. Investigators need not be specifically trained in melanoma research, but should be working in an environment capable of conducting high-quality, high-impact melanoma research.

Research teams applying for a Team Science Award must be multidisciplinary and consist of two or more established PIs, a Young Investigator with complementary expertise, and a mentor for the Young Investigator. Teams may consist of investigators from the same institution, or different institutions, and may be international.

Applicants should note that this RFA is additional to the standard 2025 MRA Team Science Award RFA and the four associated Team Science Award Special Opportunity Notices (Translational Research to Advance Acral Melanoma; Translational Research to Advance Uveal Melanoma; UK-based Awards; Israel-based Awards).

Letters of Intent for this RFA must be submitted to MRA by 27 October 2025.

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

International Otto Löwenstein Research Award 2026 Now Open for Applications

Fund ID: S22145

Bundesverband Rehabilitation (BDH - Federal Association for Rehabilitation) is a German organisation that supports people with neuro-disabilities via social rehabilitation and research in neurorehabilitation.

The biennial Otto Löwenstein Research Award honours outstanding research in neurorehabilitation, neuropsychology and psychopathology by junior scientists.

The following thematic areas are given priority:

- Translational research with high clinical application potential.
- Observational or experimental clinical study (non-RCT or RCT).
- Evidence synthesis (including meta-analyses).
- Healthcare research.

Clinicians, researchers and allied health professionals below the age of 40 are eligible. The award is open to researchers worldwide. The award committee will consider doctoral theses, habilitation theses and peer-reviewed papers that were published in the last two years. Submissions may be written in English or German.

Award winners receive a sum of €5,000.

The application deadline is 15 April 2026.

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

Submissions Welcome for Franco-German One Health Cancer Research Prize

****NEW****

Fund ID: S24023

The Deutsch-Französische Hochschule/Université Franco-Allemande (DFH/UFA - Franco-German University) is a network of higher education institutions (HEIs) in Germany and France. Its aim is to promote research cooperation between the two countries by supporting researcher exchange and binational study programmes or research activities

In partnership with Fondation Mérieux and with support from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a prize is offered on the topic of One Health. The Prize will recognise interdisciplinary cooperation on topics related to human, animal and environmental health. The work may be at a Franco-German, European or international level. The 2026 edition of the competition is focused specifically on cancer, though it covers a large, interdisciplinary spectrum within this domain, from oncology and epidemiology to the humanities and social sciences. The central objective of the prize is to find ways to improve health and to achieve better care.

Applications are open to pairs of Franco-German young researchers (up to 10 years of professional experience post-PhD). Applicants must have produced research work at the intersection of various fields (biology, chemistry, medicine, pharmacy, philosophy, history, law etc). This work should be attestable by objective indicators of research and/or innovation, eg publications or reports in peer-reviewed journals, research protocols, or diplomas.

The prize money totals €10,000 and will be split between the two awardees (€5,000 each). It will be awarded at a ceremony at the IARC in Lyon on 19-21 May 2026.

The application deadline is 30 November 2025.

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

MQ Fellows Award in Mental Health Research Open for Applications

Fund ID: S12297

The MQ Fellows Award provides funding over three years to support early career researchers conducting bold, innovative research that aims to improve understanding of mental health to improve prevention, detection and treatment of mental illness. Projects can span basic/biomedical, clinical or public mental health research in any discipline relevant to mental health science.

Eligible applicants are researchers and clinical academics who have between three and seven years of postdoctoral research experience and demonstrate a strong record of productivity appropriate to their career stage, with evidence of upward career progression and clear plans to establish an academic research niche.

The fellowship awards are a total of £250,000 over three years to fund salary for the applicant and research support staff, direct research costs and other necessary expenditure.

Applicants must be based at a university, university hospital, research institute or other independent research organisation and be able to dedicate between 50% and 100% WTE to the fellowship over a 36 month period (1 September 2026 to 31 August 2029).

For the 2026 Fellows Awards, the focus areas of interest include:

- Mental Health of Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults.
- Digital and Emerging Technologies in Mental Health.
- Eating Disorders.
- Suicide and Self-harm.

Applicants from the United States and Canada are also able to apply to conduct research focused on Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy, as applied to post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by the deadline on 12 December 2025.

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

Up to \$150,000 Available in WADA's 2026 Social Science Research Grant Program

Fund ID: S5609

Established in 1999 and based in Canada, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is an international independent agency responsible for combatting doping in sport. Its key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code.

WADA's Social Science Research (SSR) Grant Program (SSRP) is a key tool through which the Agency facilitates and funds social science research that develops evidence-informed approaches to clean sport and doping prevention. Objectives for the programme are established in WADA's [Social Science Research Strategy 2025-2029](#), which aims to maximise benefits for WADA stakeholders and address challenges within the field of social science research as it relates to clean sport.

Based on an athlete-centered model that identifies six overarching levels of influence, the SSR grant programme centres around the following 12 research priorities:

- **Athlete:** Athlete pathway and experience, and clean sport behaviours.
- **Athlete Support Personnel (ASP):** Role and influence of ASP, and experience of ASP in clean sport.
- **Education Programmes:** People investment in anti-doping and effectiveness of anti-doping/clean sport.
- **World Anti-Doping Program:** WADA Doping Prevention Model and anti-doping policy impact.
- **Sport Environment:** Sport policy and evolution of sport practices.
- **Society:** Horizon scanning and non-sport influences.

Applications should feature a primary research priority that is aligned with one of those listed above, though others may be considered with a strong rationale. Applications are invited from Principal Investigators and organisations of all types (universities, colleges, small businesses, for-profit organisations, not for profit organisations etc) based in any country.

Grants are available in three distinct tiers of investment. The tier is defined by the scale and scope of the research project. The tiers and grant levels are:

- **Tier 1:** Providing an evidence base to inform international anti-doping policy and practice, and facilitating international research exchange across academic disciplines - grants of between \$75,000 and \$150,000.
- **Tier 2:** Contributing to programme or intervention development or improvement at national level or within a single sport to support the prevention of doping - grants of between \$20,000 and \$75,000.
- **Tier 3:** Investing in smaller scale research projects to pilot or examine the viability of interventions or desk-based research, particularly projects led by early career researchers or targeting under-funded regions - grants of up to \$20,000.

Applications for all tiers must be submitted by the deadline of 24 November 2025 (23:55 UTC).

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

Policy: WHO and ANRS MIE Outline 10 Research Priorities in Response to Ebola Outbreak in DRC

On 4 September 2025, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola following the identification of a spate of cases in Kasai Province. The following day, the WHO and France's ANRS MIE convened a Filovirus Collaborative Open Consortium (CORC) Scientific Consultation, bringing together experts from the DRC and the international community in order to assess the outbreak and develop joint research priorities to address it.

The discussions that took place reflected a double imperative: supporting effective, real-time outbreak response; and strengthening long term preparedness for future filovirus epidemics. During the meeting, a range of topics were addressed, including the current outbreak, the national and international response, the state of clinical trials and therapeutics, and vaccine research. The discussions resulted in the development of 10 research priorities:

1. Strengthen rapid diagnostics and laboratory capabilities
2. Advance therapeutic evaluations
3. Accelerate clinical trial approvals and regulatory preparedness
4. Optimise clinical care and supportive therapies
5. Expand understanding of pathophysiology and clinical complications
6. Enhance research on pre and post-exposure prophylaxis

7. Continue licensed vaccine deployment and next generation development
8. Expand research on treatment centre design and operational innovation
9. Scale up training, preparedness and data sharing
10. Support research in social science and community engagement

The priorities are to be pursued through coordinated platforms such as the Filovirus CORC and Partner Trials. It is hoped that this coordination will reinforce immediate response efforts and enable countries to be better prepared for future outbreaks.

Breakthrough T1D Issues Three New Funding Calls for Diabetes Researchers

Fund IDs: S27998, S27995, S27996

Breakthrough T1D has issued three new Requests for Application to invite proposals for clinical trials and research studies to address key knowledge gaps in the development of therapies and management of type 1 diabetes (T1D). The calls focus on insulin dose, cardiovascular disease in T1D, and continuous ketone monitoring (CKM).

Applicants can be based anywhere in the world and must have an MD, DMD, DVM, PhD, or equivalent degree, and hold a faculty position or equivalent at a college, university, hospital, medical school or other research facility. There are no citizenship requirements. Applications from for-profit entities or industry collaborations with academia are also encouraged.

Requests for funding are submitted under Breakthrough T1D's Strategic Research Agreement (SRA) or Industry Discovery and Development Programme (IDDP) funding mechanisms. Projects funded under the SRA (for non-profit research institutions), may also include up to 10% for indirect costs.

'Studies Assessing the Clinical Meaningfulness of Insulin Dose in Type 1 Diabetes' offers a maximum of \$750,000 over two years for studies, including large scale data analyses and mechanistic clinical trials, to investigate and define the effects of insulin dose and insulin dose reduction on acute and long-term T1D outcomes.

Research appropriate for this RFA includes, but is not limited to:

- Analysis of data from sources (eg registries, completed clinical trials, electronic health records, medical claims) that allow for assessment of the relationship between insulin dose and relevant clinical outcomes.
- Retrospective cross-sectional, retrospective longitudinal, and prospective observational studies.
- Clinical trials to assess mechanistic hypotheses about the effects of insulin dose on relevant outcomes.

The Letter of Intent deadline for this RFA is 5 November 2025.

'Clinical Trials to Advance Therapies for Cardiovascular Disease in Type 1 Diabetes' is seeking proposals for up to \$3 million over three years for clinical trials to assess the safety and efficacy of promising therapies for cardiovascular disease, including heart failure, in people with T1D. Therapies may be repositioned, repurposed, in development, or already approved.

Research appropriate for this RFA includes, but is not limited to:

- Proof of concept trials evaluating CVD outcomes of novel therapies in people with T1D.
- Pilot T1D clinical trials evaluating therapies with demonstrated efficacy for CVD in non-T1D populations.
- Trials evaluating therapies in stratified samples of people with T1D likely to have the most favourable benefit-risk profile given the therapy's mechanism of action.
- Trials evaluating therapies targeted to T1D-specific aspects of CVD pathophysiology, eg autoimmunity and its cardiac sequelae.
- Innovative trial designs to overcome the feasibility challenges (duration, number of participants, budget) of conducting traditional CVD trials.
- Mechanistic clinical studies that will enable subsequent trials with validated surrogate endpoints.
- Ancillary studies to existing or planned T1D-focused clinical trials to collect mechanistic, imaging, or biomarker data relevant to cardiovascular risk.
- Inclusion of people with T1D in existing or planned clinical trials evaluating drugs for CVD in a non-T1D population.
- Inclusion of people with T1D in company-sponsored trials.
- Post-hoc analysis of people with T1D included in ongoing or completed trials, especially cardiovascular outcome trials.
- Mechanistic interventional trials exploring the link between autoimmunity and cardiovascular disease in T1D, aimed at identifying and validating druggable pathways and informing whether a specific therapy ought to be pursued for T1D.
- T1D-focused real world studies collecting efficacy and safety data on therapies with expected CVD benefits.

The Letter of Intent deadline for this RFA is 29 October 2025.

'Studies Addressing Clinically Relevant Questions About Ketones and the Use of Continuous Ketone Monitoring in Type 1 Diabetes' is offering up to \$1.5 million over three years for studies that address clinically relevant questions about ketones and the use of continuous ketone monitoring (CKM) in T1D, focusing on the clinical meaningfulness of ketone patterns for individuals in various physiologic and therapeutic contexts across the natural history of T1D, and the potential for CKM to prevent diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and improve other acute or long-term outcomes.

Research questions appropriate for this RFA include, but are not limited to:

- Can CKM reduce the incidence or severity of DKA in people with T1D?
- Can CKM data inform automated insulin delivery system algorithms for enhanced safety and glucose control?
- Can the addition of CGM-derived glucose data to CKM data improve algorithms or guidance for DKA prevention?
- How can education strategies, combined with CKM data, enhance recognition and timely response to elevated ketone levels?
- Can CKM metrics enhance the prediction of progression from early stages (stages one and two) to stage three T1D?
- Can CKM metrics help prevent DKA at the onset of stage three in individuals identified at early stages?
- Are CKM metrics associated with the development of (or, conversely, protection from) long-term diabetic complications?
- Do sub-clinical ketone patterns predict DKA or other clinical outcomes?
- Can CKM identify subpopulations of people with T1D at high risk for acute or long-term complications?
- Can CKM data elucidate poorly understood aspects of T1D pathophysiology?
- Can CKM be used to demonstrate risk of (or protection from) ketosis/DKA from adjunctive therapies besides SGLT inhibitors?
- Does wearing a CKM impact rates of ketosis and DKA, glucose control, and/or quality of life?
- Can CKM guide insulin dosing strategies around exercise to prevent ketosis and time out of glucose range during and after exercise?

The Letter of Intent deadline for this RFA is 12 November 2025.

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

Paul Martini Award 2026 Honours Research in Clinical Pharmacology with €50,000

Fund ID: S18033

Paul-Martini-Stiftung (Paul Martini Foundation) is a charitable foundation dedicated to pharmaceutical research. It is designed to offer a communication platform for exchange between industrial research and non-commercial research organisations such as universities.

Annually, the foundation presents the **Paul Martini Award** (*Paul-Martini-Preis*) to researchers working in the area of clinical pharmacology. The award honours outstanding research achievements in the development of new drug applications, the identification of new drug targets and the optimisation of therapeutic regimens. This includes the development and application of clinical-pharmacological methods for the assessment of therapeutic measures as well as therapy studies and their socio-economic aspects. Particular consideration will be given to work that already contains results for use in humans.

Applications are open to researchers internationally though the focus is on German-speaking countries.

Work submitted for consideration must meet the following criteria:

- Research is completed.
- Work is in press or was published within the last two years.
- Applicant is primary author or senior author.

The award comprises a cash prize of €50,000.

Applications for the 2026 award must be submitted by the deadline of 6 November 2025.

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

Wellcome Leap and Pivotal Announce \$100 Million Partnership to Accelerate Breakthroughs in Women's Health

Wellcome Leap, the US-based non-profit innovation organisation for human health, and Pivotal, the organisation founded by philanthropist Melinda French Gates, have [announced a \\$100 million partnership](#) aimed at transforming women's health research. The collaboration will focus on high-burden areas such as cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disorders and mental health - conditions where women are disproportionately affected yet underfunded.

Although women live longer than men, they spend on average nine years in poor health, which is 25% more than men. Despite this disparity, only 1% of global health research funding in 2020 was directed towards women's health conditions beyond cancer. This new initiative, which will launch two major programmes in 2026, raises Wellcome Leap's investment in women's health to \$250 million. The organisation has set an overall target of mobilising \$1 billion in philanthropic capital for women's health breakthroughs.

Founded by Wellcome in 2020, Wellcome Leap applies a fast, milestone-driven model inspired by DARPA, the US agency credited with pioneering transformative technologies such as the internet and GPS. Within five years, Leap has launched 12 programmes across 30 countries, engaging more than 160 institutions worldwide. Its women's health programmes to date include initiatives to halve stillbirth rates, reduce lifetime Alzheimer's risk by 50% and cut the time to diagnose heavy menstrual bleeding from five years to five months.

Closing the women's health gap is widely recognised as both a moral and economic imperative. Analysts estimate that improving health outcomes for women could contribute more than \$1 trillion annually to the global economy by 2040. Achieving this ambition, however, will require sustained collaboration between philanthropists, researchers and institutions worldwide.

Commenting on the partnership, Melinda French Gates said:

'Women's health is chronically underfunded, chronically under-researched, and, as a result, not well understood. We need to look at this broken status quo through new eyes and stop tolerating women's pain and suffering ... With Wellcome Leap's proven model, we expect to see outcomes years - even decades - sooner than we would through other approaches. This is a unique chance for funders and partners to step up and be part of something truly revolutionary.'

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

António Champalimaud Vision Award: Three Organisations Share 2025 Prize

Fund ID: S16142

The António Champalimaud Vision Award is an international award offered by the Champalimaud Foundation, a biomedical research foundation based in Lisbon, Portugal. The Award is presented alternately for contributions to overall vision research (in even numbered years) and contributions to the alleviation of visual problems, primarily in developing countries (in odd numbered years). The award may be given to a local, national, regional or international research organisation that can demonstrate having produced high-impact results.

For the 2025 competition, the Foundation sought to recognise groups that have contributed to the fight against blindness and visual impairment, primarily in developing regions, as well as groups that have developed innovations or new technologies that impact on the quality of life of blind or visually impaired people. The competition invited applications from around the world.

Three organisations have been awarded the 2025 Vision Award: Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and its SightFirst programme; the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB); and the Fred Hollows Foundation (Australia). The three organisations are recognised for their longstanding commitment to the prevention and treatment of blindness worldwide. The Award notes their sustained commitment, complementary approaches and collective leadership in the domain.

The award money totals €1 million. The award may be used in any way that furthers the contributions of the recipients.

The next edition of the Award is scheduled to open for applications in November 2025.

Applications Open for 12 Month AACR-QuadW Foundation Sarcoma Research Fellowship

Fund ID: S10276

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-QuadW Foundation Sarcoma Research Fellowship supports research that is translational or clinical in nature with direct applicability and relevance to sarcoma, with the aim of enabling researchers to establish a successful career path in this field.

Proposed research projects should develop personalised, therapeutic options for the treatment of sarcoma patients. Investigators utilising novel experimental tools and techniques geared toward better understanding sarcoma in an effort to elucidate the mechanisms of currently available therapies, and/or to identify new therapeutic targets are encouraged to apply. Emphasis will be placed on proposals involving research with immediate clinical applications, including those with predictive biomarker studies.

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 or professional degree. They must work under the auspices of a mentor at an academic, medical, or research institution anywhere in the world.

Applications will be accepted from researchers who will hold, at the start of the grant term, a mentored research position with the title of postdoctoral fellow, clinical research fellow, or the equivalent, and will have completed their most recent doctoral degree within the past five years. Applicants with a medical degree must have completed their most recent doctoral degree or medical residency - whichever date is later - within the past five years.

AACR membership is required. Non-members interested in this grant opportunity must submit a satisfactory application for AACR Associate Membership by the deadline.

The award has a value of up to \$60,000 for one year. It is expected that one fellowship will be funded. Eligible project costs include salary and benefits of the fellow while working on mentored sarcoma research project. A proportion of the funds may be designated for non-personnel expenses, such as research/laboratory supplies, equipment, publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project, and other research expenses.

Applications must be submitted by the 18 November 2025 (13:00 Eastern Time) deadline.

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

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) Invites Applications for Innovation Seed Fund Grants

Fund ID: S5751

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) is a UK-based charity that works in the area of hearing loss and tinnitus. It campaigns, funds research, provides support, advice and information, and supplies communication services and training.

RNID's Innovation Seed Fund Grants support innovative pump-priming research projects studying the causes, treatment and diagnosis of hearing loss, tinnitus and other hearing-related conditions. Through the scheme, RNID seeks to support novel research ideas with the aim of making them more competitive and able to secure follow-on funding.

Grants also support small-scale projects at the translational stage, such as proof-of-concept studies or pre-clinical validation studies, as long as they have the aim of making novel approaches more competitive for further funding. Translational research is defined by RNID as research that seeks to advance and apply discoveries from basic research through preclinical studies towards clinical trials. Development of drugs, diagnostics and devices are welcomed.

All proposals should be able to demonstrate how they will contribute to ultimately bringing benefit to people with hearing loss, tinnitus or other hearing-related conditions. They should be highly novel and/or innovative. Potentially risky ideas are welcome.

The scheme is open to applicants from any university, research institute or small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) worldwide.

Requests of up to £10,000 will be considered. The funding duration is a maximum of one year.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 6 November 2025 (17:00 GMT).

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

GloPID-R Launches New Programme for Global Research Improving Pandemic Preparedness (GRIPP)

Fund ID: S27974

The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Diseases Preparedness (GloPID-R) is an international initiative launched in Brussels, Belgium in 2013 on the recommendation of the Heads of International Organisations (HIROs). The objective of the organisation, which is funded through the EU's Horizon Europe programme, is to anticipate and prepare for future threats from emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

GloPID-R operates a programme titled Global Research Improving Pandemic Preparedness (GRIPP). The GRIPP programme has launched its first call for proposals, titled 'Outbreak ready: Accelerating clinical trial site readiness in LMICs', with the objective of strengthening the clinical research ecosystem to improve clinical trial practices in support of preparedness for outbreaks of emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases. The call aims to operationalise the agreements set out in the [World Health Assembly Resolution 75.8 \(PDF link\)](#) to improve the quality and coordination of clinical trials. Aligned with the [GloPID-R Funders Living Road Map for Clinical Trial Coordination \(PDF link\)](#), the call seeks to strengthen clinical trial capacity in LMICs during inter-epidemic periods by accelerating innovation, ethics and collaboration. Projects will support existing investments in clinical trial research made by GloPID-R members in LMICs. Specifically, projects should deliver results contributing to the following GAP-CTS Actions:

- Action 4: Enable effective trials through adoption of innovative designs and digital technologies.
- Action 6: Improve coordination and streamlining of regulatory and ethics review.
- Action 9: Expand international health research and clinical trial collaboration.

The call is funded by the following countries and organisations: France (ANRS MIE); United Kingdom (Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)); United States (Gates Foundation); South Korea (National Research Foundation (NRF)/Korea Research Institute of Bioscience & Biotechnology (KRIBB)); and South Africa (South Africa Medical Research Council (SAMRC)).

Each proposal must be submitted by a consortium of organisations (minimum 2, maximum 4) including one organisation currently funded by a [GloPID-R Member](#) to conduct clinical trials (phase I-III) focused on (re-)emerging diseases of epidemic potential and at least one organisation from a LMIC.

Specific requirements apply for projects funded through the French, South Korean and South African participating funders:

- France: ANRS MIE will only fund consortia involving a French organisation.
- South Korea: The funders (NRF and KRIBB) will only fund South Korean researchers or organisations.
- South Africa: SAMRC will only fund South African researchers or organisations.

The total call budget is €2 million. Each project selected will receive €100,000-€500,000 in funding, including overheads (maximum of 8%). The maximum project duration is 24 months.

Applications for the first GRIPP call must be submitted by 14 November 2025.

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

Barth Syndrome Foundation Opens 2026 Research Grant Programme

Fund ID: S15881

The Barth Syndrome Foundation (BSF) is a US-based, world-wide volunteer organisation dedicated to saving lives through education, advances in treatment, and finding a cure for Barth syndrome.

The BSF Research Grant Program is administered by the Barth Syndrome Foundation and co-funded by its international affiliates (Barth Syndrome Trust UK, Barth Syndrome Foundation of Canada, Association Syndrome de Barth France and Barth Italia Onlus).

Within the framework of this programme, grant funding is available for innovative research that addresses the basic, translational, and clinical research challenges of Barth syndrome. In particular, BSF seeks to provide seed grant funding to young and established investigators in order to generate the preliminary data required for successful follow-on funding available from major grant-making institutions.

Eligible applicants are independent investigators (eg faculty appointment) at all professional levels; there are no geographical limitations. Pre-doctoral candidates and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to apply.

The maximum individual grant is \$100,000 (inclusive of any indirect costs) for a duration of between one and three years. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the direct costs.

Applications to the 2026 grant programme must be submitted by 31 October 2025.

Funding decisions are scheduled to be announced in March 2026.

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

Osteosarcoma Institute (OSI) Opens 2025-2026 Grant Cycle for Scientific Research and Clinical Trials

Fund IDs: S18030, S22612, S25600, S18031

The Osteosarcoma Institute (OSI) is a US-based organisation established in 2017 with the goal of improving the outcomes of patients with osteosarcoma.

OSI funds scientific research and clinical trials through a portfolio of grant programmes, four of which are available under the the 2025-2026 grant cycle:

1. Preclinical/Translational grant - funding for projects that will identify biological dependencies in osteosarcoma that can be targeted in patients. OSI anticipates that funded projects will include the use of novel laboratory approaches and bioinformatic tools applied to osteosarcoma cells, a diversity of *in vivo* models across species and human patient samples. Grants have a value of up to \$500,000 over two years.
2. High-Risk/High-Impact grant - funds innovative osteosarcoma drug development research that may fall within any part of the drug development pathway, and seeks to deliver curative outcomes to patients with osteosarcoma. Grants have a value of between \$25,000 and \$125,000 for one year, and may support the following types of research:
 - Proposals that may mature into a successful traditional OSI grant submission.
 - An existing relationship that makes the development of a therapeutic asset in biopharma feasible.
3. Correlative Science grant - funding for studies that seek to generate data in support of clinical trials seeking to improve event-free survival of recurrent and metastatic osteosarcoma patients. Grants have a value of between \$200,000 and \$500,000 over two years.
4. Clinical Trials grant - funding to conduct a phase 1/2 or phase 2 clinical trial to test a novel therapeutic approach to treat patients with relapsed/refractory osteosarcoma. Proposed trials may be carried out in a single institution, a clinical trials consortium, or through existing clinical trial infrastructure. The maximum grant is \$800,000 over a period from two to three years.

All these grants are available to non-profit institutions and organisations anywhere in the world.

Applicants must hold an MD/PhD or equivalent and be appointed as faculty (or equivalent) at an academic institution. They must also have a suitable track record of publication and funding.

Letters of Intent to the 2025-2026 grant cycle must be submitted by the deadline of 24 October 2025 (12:00 Eastern Daylight Time).

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal by the deadline of 15 April 2026.

OSI expects to announce its funding decisions in July 2026.

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

Alzheimer's Association/MJFF Launches Bridge Funding for Disrupted Neurodegenerative Research Grant Programme (BFDN)

Fund ID: S27959

As large nonprofit funders of research in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and related disorders, the Alzheimer's Association and the Michael J Fox Foundation (MJFF) have launched the Bridge Funding for Disrupted Neurodegenerative Research (BFDN) grant programme. Recent changes to US federal government-sponsored research funding has presented challenges to ongoing research initiatives and the future of the biomedical research enterprise. The Alzheimer's Association and the MJFF recognise the importance of maintaining continuity of funding for these projects to enable further scientific progress.

Their joint funding programme therefore aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure support for early career researchers, who have not yet had the opportunity to fully establish their laboratories and position their projects for ongoing funding.
- Provide bridge or interim funding for salaries and other direct costs for research projects focused on Alzheimer's disease, Frontotemporal Dementia, Parkinson's disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies, atypical Parkinson's and/or other related disorders that have been impacted by a series of changes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

To be eligible for funding, both US and international projects must have been impacted by changes in NIH funding. Applicants must be able to demonstrate research disruption based on recent US federal funding challenges and the financial need for their continued research programme to move forward. Proposed projects must identify a single primary investigator (PI), who qualifies as an early stage investigator (ESI) based on the NIH definition. This is a PI who has completed their terminal research degree or end of postgraduate clinical training, whichever is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as a PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.

Funding is available for projects with durations of between 3 and 12 months. A minimum or maximum budget is not specified.

Letters of Intent are accepted on a rolling basis and should be submitted by the 15th of each month (or the following Monday, if the 15th falls on a weekend) by 17:00 ET to be considered within the same month.

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

APDA Opens Applications for Two Parkinson's Disease Research Grants

Fund IDs: S23207, S23208

The American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) is a US-based advocacy organisation for sufferers of Parkinson's disease and their families, founded in 1961.

APDA has opened applications for two of its international research grants programmes, both providing funding for research into Parkinson's.

APDA Research Grants

APDA Research Grants are intended to support research aimed at developing new insights into Parkinson's disease, including its pathophysiology, its aetiology and/or potential treatments for the disease. Grant proposals can address research questions anywhere along the pipeline from basic science to rehabilitation-focused projects. APDA seeks to promote the entry of new investigators into the field of Parkinson research and to support novel ideas in the field that are worthy of investigation. APDA is particularly interested in applications from researchers who are new to the field of Parkinson's disease.

Applications are welcome from researchers around the world. Eligible applicants are research scientists (MD, MD/PhD or PhD) in the field of Parkinson's research.

The grant has a value of up to \$75,000 for one year.

APDA Diversity in PD Research Grant

APDA Diversity in Parkinson's Disease (PD) Research Grants are intended to study the health inequities and/or differences among under-studied PD communities across the spectrum of ethnicity, ancestry, geography, socio-economic conditions and gender. Current research has established the following:

- Diagnosis of PD among some under-studied communities is delayed.
- Some under-studied communities are less likely to receive quality PD care.

- Clinical trial enrolment among certain under-studied communities does not match their representation in the population.
- Differences in clinical features, response to treatment, co-morbidities, prevalence, natural history, genetics and biomarkers among various under-studied PD populations have not been fully explored.

Projects should address one of these four issues. Projects can be designed to detect inequities or differences, to understand the reasons for the inequities or differences or to test an intervention to improve disparities.

Applications are welcome from around the world. Eligible applicants are research scientists (MD, MD/PhD or PhD) in the field of Parkinson's disease.

The grant has a value of up to \$75,000 for one academic year.

The Letter of Intent deadline for both programmes is 28 November 2025.

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

PTEN Research Launches Call to Improve Understanding of PHTS

Fund ID: S26250

PTEN Research Foundation is a UK-registered charity that supports research to develop treatments for PTEN hamartoma tumour syndrome (PHTS), a rare autosomal dominant genetic condition caused by a mutation of the PTEN gene. The charity's goal is to improve the lives of individuals and families living with PHTS by funding clinical, pre-clinical and basic research projects that will improve understanding of the condition and support the development of potential treatments.

PTEN Research provides funding for periodic Targeted Calls that address specific research questions to help further the Foundation's strategy and aims. The 2025 call has been launched to honour the life, work and legacy of Prof Charis Eng, a pioneer of PTEN Hamartoma Tumour Syndrome (PHTS) research who dedicated the majority of her career to advancing both clinical and molecular understanding of the syndrome. This call will support academic research proposals that aim to progress the understanding of the mechanisms that contribute to the variable clinical presentation of PHTS.

Funding is available for project proposals that aim to:

- Explore opportunities to identify and/or undertake preliminary validation of biomarkers for PHTS that could predict symptom onset, occurrence, or progression/severity of symptoms at the individual level.
- Elucidate the mechanisms of clinical heterogeneity that may include assessment of how different PTEN variants and other genetic, molecular, or cellular mechanisms contribute to and are associated with the clinical spectrum associated with PHTS.

The call is open to preclinical and clinical research proposals. Applications must clearly articulate how the proposed research outcomes can be translated to provide future clinical solutions that will provide benefit to people with PHTS, enabling early intervention and improved outcomes.

There are no geographical restrictions on applications. Grants are generally awarded to Principal Investigators (PIs) who hold an MD or PhD and have an established research programme in a recognised academic or clinical research institution.

Collaborative proposals are welcomed, in which case a lead organisation must be identified. For those applicants who do not have previous expertise in PHTS or PTEN, the inclusion of collaborators or advisors with complementary expertise in these areas is favourable.

Individual projects can request a maximum of £270,000 (or the equivalent in the host institution's local currency). Projects with a duration of two to three years will be supported.

Funding is intended to support all essential direct costs relating to the project, including staffing, consumables, equipment, travel and publication costs.

Alongside this targeted call, PTEN Research also offers Innovation Awards on an ongoing basis to support clinical, pre-clinical and basic research projects that align with the Foundation's [strategic research focus](#) but are not within the scope of current Targeted Calls. Applicants for Innovation Awards may either submit a short application form or discuss their proposal with the Foundation directly. Only projects that represent exceptional research opportunities that are aligned with the charity's research strategy will be invited to submit a full grant application.

Project proposals for the Targeted Call in Honour of Prof Charis Eng should be submitted by the 25 November 2025 deadline.

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

Stiftung Michael's New Funding Line Supports Visits to European Epilepsy Centres

Fund ID: S27947

Stiftung Michael (SM - Michael Foundation) supports scientific research into the causes of seizure disorders and the most appropriate methods of treating them, while also combating their individual and social consequences in Germany.

The **Focused Michael Fellowship** supports young physicians and researchers from Europe to study and gain experience at a German or other European epilepsy center for a period of at least six weeks. The aim is to learn clearly defined clinical procedures (such as advanced EEG diagnostics or epilepsy-related imaging) or participate in research projects.

Eligible to apply are early career researchers and physicians in Europe who are below the age of 40.

The fellowship grants up to €2,250 plus a travel allowance of up to €300.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

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



Natural Environment

Oklahoma City Zoo Opens 2025 Global Grant Call for Early Career Amphibian Research

Fund ID: S24226

Oklahoma City Zoo is a zoological park in Oklahoma, United States, and funds global nature conservation projects to fulfil its vision statement of 'a world where people, wildlife and wild places thrive'. It is overseen by the Oklahoma City Zoological Trust.

The Oklahoma City Zoo runs the annual Conservation Action Now (CAN) Grant to support the conservation of imperiled species, habitats and their surrounding communities around the world through species preservation, research and education.

Grants are awarded based on proposal merit and in accordance with one or more of the following purposes:

- Conservation education - Building an awareness of a conservation programme that can bring about change.
- Scientific research - In-situ or ex-situ research projects that have a direct impact on conservation of an imperiled species or habitat in its native location.
- Species preservation - Direct care or work with an imperiled species in-situ or ex-situ which results in an improved capability to preserve that species in its native habitat.

For the 2025 call, projects must involve research and/or conservation of amphibians. Funded activities must benefit the conservation of amphibian species and/or their habitats.

Funding is usually given to individuals, institutions and organisations in any country worldwide, however, in 2025, grants will be awarded exclusively to early career professionals, defined as those currently enrolled in a graduate programme (eg MSc, PhD, DVM) or those who were awarded a graduate degree no earlier than 2020.

Grants of up to \$2,500 are available.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 12 December 2025 (23:59 CST).

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

AXA Issues 2025-26 Global AXA Chair Call, Offering up to €1 Million for Innovative Environment, Health and Socioeconomic Research

Fund ID: S7736

AXA Group is a multinational investment banking firm based in Paris, France, that engages in global investment banking, investment management, insurance and other financial services. The AXA Research Fund, part of the AXA Foundation for Human Progress, is AXA Group's global scientific philanthropy initiative.

The Health Philanthropy Programme of the Mutuelles d'Assurances AXA was launched in 2022 to drive significant advancements in health by funding innovative research projects in France. The Health Philanthropy Programme, along with the AXA Research Fund, are now part of the AXA Foundation for Human Progress. In 2025-26, for the first time, these two departments are collaborating to fund innovative research through the AXA Chair opportunity. There are two distinct categories under the 2025-26 AXA Chair call:

1. Global Category - supports international transdisciplinary research in climate and environment, health, and socioeconomics.

2. Health in France - supports health-related research projects conducted in France by French institutions.

The AXA Research Fund Chair Scheme seeks to support outstanding senior scientists and significant transdisciplinary advancements in the development of a research area within a host institution in line with the institution's long-term strategy. It aims to create a full-time academic position in the host institution and foster a step-change in the career of the appointed AXA Professor. Projects should demonstrate scientific originality and be innovative in nature. There should be the potential to strengthen international academic networks.

Applications are accepted from academic institutions based in any country (universities and higher education institutions) registered with the [World Higher Education Database \(WHED\)](#) and public research organisations (eg national research institutes, centres etc).

The prospective Chairholder is expected to be at least 10 years post-PhD. They must demonstrate academic excellence, have strong and proven expertise aligned with the submitted research topic, and have a sound track record in publications, scientific commitment and academic collaboration.

A maximum of €200,000 per year for five years is available (ie up to €1 million in total).

There is a two-stage application process consisting of a mandatory Expression of Interest proposal followed by an invited full application.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by the deadline of 10 October 2025 (16:00 CET).

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

HawkWatch International Opens Applications for Global Raptor Research and Conservation

Fund ID: S20921

Established in 1986, HawkWatch International (HWI) is a US-based non-profit organisation that aims to conserve raptors through education, long-term monitoring and scientific research.

The HWI Global Raptor Research and Conservation Grant supports projects addressing global raptor research and conservation priorities. HWI wishes to support local researchers working on priority raptors to close critical knowledge gaps and/or implement effective conservation strategies. Projects do not need to fulfil both of these aims directly, but it must be evident how they will contribute to improving the conservation status of the target species. Projects are required to be:

- Focused on a single species of raptor that is recognised as a high priority species for research and conservation.
- Led by the applicant, who should be a citizen or permanent resident of the country or region where the project will take place, and is associated with a registered NGO and/or university in the country where the project will take place.

Grants fund ecological research that increases understanding of how the most threatened, unique and understudied raptors live, interact with their environments and respond to threats. Projects may include studies on diet, movement ecology, breeding biology, habitat use or population dynamics. For priority species with little or no scientific study to date, surveys to assess population status and distribution are also encouraged. The ultimate goal is to generate insights that strengthen understanding of raptors and provide information for effective conservation planning.

Projects must be located in countries outside the United States, Canada or Europe. They must be led by an applicant who is a citizen or permanent resident of the country/region and who is associated with a registered NGO and/or university in the country where the project will take place.

Up to \$3,500 is available. Up to three candidates can be funded per year. Grant outputs must be completed within 18 months of receiving the grant.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 15 January 2026.

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

Institut de France Launches the Fondation Luciole Grand Prize to Award Contributions to the Ecological Transition ****NEW****

Fund ID: S28024

The Fondation Luciole (Luciole Foundation) operates in the field of training, helping deprived children and adults to acquire skills enabling them to find their independence, as well as in the field of environmental protection, promoting awareness and fostering the protection of nature and the environment. The Foundation operates under the aegis of the Institut de France

The Fondation Luciole's Grand Prize aims to recognise social initiatives or scientific research dedicated to the ecological transition, in France and internationally, particularly in the following areas:

- Protection of nature and biodiversity.
- Ecological transition, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry, transportation, energy, consumption and communal living.
- Prevention of natural or health hazards.
- Education on the ecological transition.

The Prize is open to the following groups, regardless of nationality:

- To a legal establishment (organisation, association), engaged in non-profit social initiatives, whether public or private sector.
- To one or more natural persons (maximum three), engaged in non-profit social initiatives, whether public or private sector, presenting their project collectively.
- To a team of scientific researchers, represented either by a legal person (laboratory or institute), whether in the public or private sector.

The Prize consists of a grant of €100,000, which is intended to enable the winner to increase their capacity to work toward the objectives of their research project.

Applications should be submitted before the deadline of 18 December 2025.

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

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Launches Third Joint Transnational Call for Proposals

Fund ID: S24750

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) is a Horizon Europe co-funded European Partnership that aims to boost the transformation towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy by 2030, while creating and supporting the conditions for a healthy ocean for all by 2050.

SBEP is now inviting pre-proposals in response to its third joint transnational call for proposals titled 'Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy's Competitiveness'. The call aims to support transnational research and innovation projects for a period of 36 months addressing one of the following five priority areas:

1. Digital Twins of the Ocean at regional sub basin scale.
2. Transitioning the blue economy sectors, and the development of the coexistence and the marine multi-use infrastructures.
3. Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level.
4. Blue Bioresources: sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and new bio-based products.
5. Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses.

Projects must be impact-driven contributions to the transformation into a blue economy for a more resilient future and towards carbon neutrality targets, following an impact pathway approach.

Proposals are strongly recommended to consider a minimum of the following two European sea-basins: the Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and North Sea, and to assess the project proposal's impact and potential replication/scalability on various sea basins. Proposals can target European regional seas such as Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, the Arctic, Barents Sea, Celtic Sea, etc.

The call pools national and regional financial resources through the participation of 38 participating funding organisations from 28

countries combined with the contribution from the EU. The following countries are participating: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Slovakia. The total estimated budget is €43,495,835.

To be eligible, research consortia must include partners from a minimum of three independent legal entities from three different countries participating in a call. The projects must involve at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

Self-funded partners including partners from countries (and/or regions) not participating in a call are eligible, but these do not contribute to the minimum eligible consortium size.

SBEP has developed a [Partner Search Tool](#) to enable potential applicants to find a partner or a project to join.

Pre-proposals should be submitted by 17 November 2025.

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

Water4All Launches Joint Transnational Call on Water and Health

Fund ID: S23396

The European Partnership Water Security for the Planet ([Water4All](#)) is a co-funded partnership under Horizon Europe.

The fourth joint transnational call for research and innovation projects focuses on the general theme of 'Water and Health'. The aim of the call is to address key challenges related to the link between water and human health, including water quality, contaminants, and water treatment technologies.

Research and innovation proposals submitted under the Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call are required to address at least one of the following topics:

- Topic 1: Waterborne contaminants and health risks: occurrence, behaviour, interactions and vulnerability.
- Topic 2: Innovative tools and technologies for water quality and exposure monitoring.
- Topic 3: Water treatment and exposure mitigation.
- Topic 4: Governance, socio-economic innovation, and policy integration for water and health.

The 2025 call structure includes an additional modality for Early Career Researchers, which focuses on developing capacities for talented early career researchers by giving them an opportunity to act as leaders of the project consortium. The principal criterion for the early career researcher acting as coordinator is to have obtained their PhD less than 10 years before the launch of the call.

To be eligible, each consortium must be composed of at least three eligible partners that request funding from participating funding partner organisations from three different countries participating in the call. Projects must involve at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries as recipients of the financial support. The upper limit of eligible project partners per consortium is seven (including one self-funded partner).

A global budget of approximately €36.6 million has been reserved for the call. The following countries have agreed to participate:

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom.

The call follows a two-step application procedure, with a closing date for mandatory pre-proposals of 13 November 2025 (15:00 CET).

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

Biodiversa+ Launches New Joint Research Call on Ecosystem Restoration

Fund ID: S22578

The fifth Biodiversa+ transnational joint research call focuses on 'Restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity, and connectivity' (referred to as BiodivConnect).

BiodivConnect covers restoration efforts for biodiversity in all types of ecosystems and habitats, in all regions of the world (encompassing all realms (terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater)), supporting high quality research and innovation projects on biodiversity and ecosystem restoration with holistic, systemic, and integrated approaches.

The call is arranged into three main topics that partly overlap. Project proposals can address one or more of these main topics:

- Topic 1: Setting restoration targets and measuring success.
- Topic 2: Scaling and transferability of nature restoration efforts.
- Topic 3: Long-term sustainability of restoration efforts.

To be eligible, research consortia must include teams from a minimum of three countries financially participating in the call (and requesting support from minimum of three different funding organisations), including at least two from EU Member States or EU Associated Countries.

A global budget of over €40 million has been reserved by participating countries together with the European Commission.

The countries participating in the call are:

Austria, Belgium, Brazil (pending), Bulgaria (pending), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Greece (pending), Hungary, Iceland (pending), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal (pending), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Tunisia and Türkiye (pending).

The aim of the call is to fund medium-sized projects that have an average total budget of typically €1.2 - €1.5 million. The project duration is three years.

Each research partner in a project requesting funding under this call must comply with the eligibility criteria and rules of its national/regional funding organisation.

The call has a two-step application procedure, with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals at the first step and submission of invited full proposals at the second step.

The closing date for the submission of pre-proposals is 7 November 2025 (12:00 CET).

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

British Council Launches Funding for ISPF Legal Amazon Workshops Between the UK and Brazil

Fund ID: S27979

The ISPF Legal Amazon Workshop programme is an International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) call delivered by the British Council in association with the [Amazonia+10](#) partners in Brazil. The programme aims to support the research and academic environment through bilateral collaboration between the UK and Brazil. Grants are designed to provide financial support to bring together a UK/Brazil bilateral cohort of early career researchers to take part in workshops to meet three overarching objectives:

- Support international development relevant research.
- Contribute to capacity building of early career researchers and support building or strengthening UK-Brazil networks for early career researchers.
- Establish new research links or significantly develop existing links, with the potential for longer term sustainability.

Potential workshop topics could include, but are not limited to biodiversity, climate changes, bioeconomy or biotechnology, improving the living conditions of the Amazon population, and land use.

Workshops must take place between 15 March 2026 and 31 December 2026, and have a minimum duration of three days. The maximum number of participants per workshop is 40.

Each workshop should be co-ordinated by two leading or established researchers (principal applicants): one from the UK and one from

Brazil (based in the Legal Amazon). Principal applicants must be permanent employees of one of the following:

- A not-for-profit higher education institution.
- A UK higher education institution (all UK higher education institutions are eligible).
- A not-for-profit research organisation. A Catapult Centre (in the case of the UK principal applicant).

Grants are available up to a value of £55,000, and may be used to cover international and domestic travel costs for workshop participants, subsistence, and event costs. Applicants can request an additional grant contribution of up to £500 for tackling barriers to participation, diversity and inclusion.

Proposals should be submitted by the deadline of 21 October 2025 (11:00 BST).

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

AQUARIUS Launches TNA Programme for Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems Research

Fund ID: S27168

AQUARIUS is a four-year Horizon Europe-funded project that targets and supports research and innovation activities that contribute to the objectives, regional scope and implementation of the EU Mission '[Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#).' The project provides access to a diverse suite of integrated research infrastructures to address challenges and explore opportunities for the long-term sustainability of Europe's marine and freshwater ecosystems.

AQUARIUS offers free transnational access to European research infrastructures to support research that informs evidence-based marine and freshwater policies, with the ultimate goal of protecting ecosystems, reducing pollution, and promoting a sustainable blue economy. Projects must contribute to at least one of the Mission objectives in the following regions:

- To protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems (Atlantic/Arctic and Danube river system lighthouse).
- Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters (Mediterranean sea basin lighthouse).
- Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular (Baltic and North sea basin lighthouse).

The second responsive AQUARIUS call focuses on key challenges identified for call 1 that affect more than one of the lighthouse regions. This approach is designed to ensure flexibility in terms of cross-cutting topics and regions and to be more responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of the research community and stakeholders.

The call challenges are as follows:

- **Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources** - Promoting the responsible use of marine and freshwater resources through the balanced management of fisheries, aquaculture and water systems.
- **Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity Restoration** - Focus on conserving aquatic habitats, enhancing aquatic biodiversity, and supporting the recovery of degraded ecosystems.
- **Pollution Reduction and Circular Solutions** - Addressing the reduction of chemical, nutrient, and plastic pollution in aquatic habitats, while promoting circular economy approaches and waste minimisation.
- **Climate Resilience and Multi-Stressor Adaptation** - Supporting the adaptation to climate impacts and cumulative environmental pressures in aquatic environments through nature-based solutions and stressor assessments.
- **Sustainable Blue Economy and Innovation** - Promoting the development of eco-friendly marine industries, such as renewable energy, green shipping, tourism, and aquaculture.
- **Inclusive Governance and Public Engagement** - Emphasising the importance of involving communities, integrating local knowledge and raising awareness of sustainable policies and measures.

While applicants are welcome to submit proposals that incorporate large super-integrated and ambitious projects that request access to and integrate several research infrastructures, applications for smaller projects requesting only a single infrastructure are also welcome.

The budget per project could be in the order of up to €1 million, or more for larger projects that integrate multiple infrastructures.

Applicants should be submitted by the 28 October 2025 deadline.

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

POLARIN: Polar Research Infrastructure Network Launches 2025 Transnational Access Call

Fund ID: S13248

POLARIN is an international network of polar research infrastructures and their services aiming at addressing the scientific challenges of the polar regions. The network includes a wide array of complementary and interdisciplinary top level research infrastructures: Arctic and Antarctic research stations, research vessels and icebreakers operating at both poles, observatories, data infrastructures and ice and sediment core repositories.

POLARIN provides integrated, challenge-driven, and combined transnational access (TA) to its infrastructures to facilitate interdisciplinary research on complex processes. Challenge-driven access calls allow either in person or remote multi-platform access, as follows:

- **In-person access** means free of charge, transnational (or cross-border) access to research infrastructures or installations for selected user groups. The access includes the use of the RI, and the logistical, technological and scientific support and the specific training for researchers using the infrastructure.
- **Remote Access** is a form of Transnational Access in which the user(s) do not visit the infrastructure/installation physically themselves; instead, the users are either provided with reference materials or samples, get access to a high-performance computing facility, or receive the data from the study that the staff of the infrastructure/installation has conducted according to their research plan and protocol.

It is also possible to combine in-person and Remote Access, meaning that users physically visit the station and set up the required field experiments/monitoring, after which study continues by using Remote Access.

The user group leader, and at least the 80% of the users must work in countries other than the country(ies) where the legal entity operating the requested infrastructure is based (when the infrastructure is composed of several research facilities, operated by different legal entities, this condition must apply to each facility), except when access is provided by an International organisation, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), an ERIC or similar legal entities with international membership.

User teams with more than four users must include researchers from at least two different countries. Access to users not working in an European Union Member State or Horizon Europe associated country is limited to 20% of the total units of access provided by the project.

The maximum duration of granted access at a RI is limited to the units of access offered in POLARIN and must in any case be less than three months.

Applications to the second Transnational Access Call should be submitted by the 30 October 2025 deadline.

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



Science and Technology

New BMFTR Call Supports German-Taiwanese Research Collaboration in Artificial Intelligence ****NEW****

Fund ID: S28045

As part of its broader strategy to internationalise science and research, Germany's Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) has launched a new bilateral funding initiative in collaboration with Taiwan's National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The programme supports joint German-Taiwanese research and innovation projects in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), thus fostering long-term R&D&I partnerships between institutions in both countries.

The initiative is embedded within Germany's High-Tech Agenda and the FITS2030 framework programme, and seeks to strengthen collaborative research while advancing cutting-edge developments in AI. Funding is available for projects addressing a broad range of topics, including decentralised AI, advanced learning models, smart manufacturing, agriculture, and AI-assisted simulations.

Two funding lines are available:

- **Funding line 1:** Research collaborations between academic and research institutions, focusing on methodological innovation.
- **Funding line 2:** R&D projects by consortia with involvement from academia and industry, targeting high-risk or pre-competitive development for cross-technology applications.

Any funded project must bring together partners from both countries.

BMFTR will cover the German side of the projects with grants of up to €600,000 for consortia in funding line 1 and up to €1.2 million for consortia in funding line 2. Non-commercial applicants can expect to receive full funding of project-related costs. Funding levels for industry partners are lower and require investment by the applicant organisation.

The application procedure follows a two-stage process, beginning with the submission of outline proposals, followed by invitations to submit a full funding application for selected consortia.

The deadline for submissions of outline proposals to both national funders is 12 December 2025.

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

ERC Consolidator Grants Open for Applications

Fund ID: S21414

The European Research Council (ERC) is part of the Pillar I (Excellent Science) strand of Horizon Europe. The ERC provides attractive, long-term funding to support investigators and their research teams pursue excellent, bottom-up research in any discipline.

The ERC operates five main grant programmes to support projects and investigators at progressive stages of development: Starting Grants, Proof of Concept Grants, Consolidator Grants, Advanced Grants and Synergy Grants.

The 2026 edition of the ERC Consolidator Grants are now open for applications. The grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators (PIs) at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. Applicant PIs must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Funding is for frontier research in any field. Proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries, pioneering ideas that address new and emerging fields and applications that introduce unconventional, innovative approaches are particularly encouraged.

Eligible PIs should have successfully defended their first PhD more than 7 and less than 12 years prior to 1 January 2026.

Investigators must have already shown research independence, such as by having produced several important publications without the participation of their PhD supervisor. PIs must intend to spend at least 40% of their working time on the ERC project and at least 50% of their time in an EU Member State or associated country.

PIs of any age and nationality may apply to carry out research in a host institution established in an EU Member State or associated country. The researcher may be residing in any country in the world at the time of application, but the host institution must be in an EU Member state or associated country.

The 2026 budget for Consolidator Grants is €673 million to fund an estimated 328 grants. Applicants may request up to a maximum of €2 million for a period of five years, in addition to a maximum of €1 million in additional start-up costs to move country, purchase major equipment or access large facilities.

For Principal Investigators currently based in non-associated third countries relocating to the EU or an Associated Country to take up their ERC grant, the maximum additional funding may be up to €2 million.

Applications must be submitted by the 13 January 2026 (17:00 Brussels time) deadline.

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

Policy: Publication of Roadmap for Strengthening Franco-German Cooperation

The German Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR - Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space) and the French Ministère chargé de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR - Ministry for Higher Education and Research) have signed a cooperation roadmap to strengthen research ties between the two countries in a number of key areas. The roadmap was agreed during the 25th Franco-German Ministerial Council, held in Toulon, France on 28-29 August 2025.

The agreement is the fruit of several months of work between the two countries. During the 8th Forum on Franco-German Research Cooperation on 16 June 2025 in Berlin, Germany, the two Ministries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in research, technology, innovation and space, four areas representing the key components of Franco-German relations. The Forum also provided the opportunity to showcase the successful collaboration between the Museums of Natural History in both Paris and Berlin and enabled discussion on the topic of research security.

In 2024, the two countries launched joint programmes in two areas: hydrogen research and next-generation batteries. These programmes are now producing initial results and are expected to obtain European and industrial links, contributing to the development of a technologically sovereign, competitive and sustainable value chain in Europe. The roadmap commits to building on these programmes and expanding collaboration into energy research.

Looking ahead, the two countries have identified three areas for increasing cooperation: Artificial intelligence (AI), nuclear fusion research and disruptive innovations. To strengthen AI research, the countries will establish a governance that enables strategic scientific foresight, making the countries more attractive for international talent and launching strategic research and innovation projects. Nuclear fusion research will be strengthened by enabling cooperation between French and German institutions in specific fields to accelerate the maturation of essential fusion energy technologies. Finally, the countries intend to strengthen cooperation in disruptive innovation by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices while exploring opportunities for joint research.

The two Ministries will reconvene at the next Forum meeting in the first half of 2026 to discuss further cooperation opportunities.

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

Policy: UK and US Agree Tech Prosperity Deal

The UK and US have announced a joint Tech Prosperity Deal focused on accelerating advances across AI, quantum, healthcare, and energy. Its goals include speeding up drug discovery, improving treatments (such as for cancer and rare diseases), and delivering cleaner, more resilient energy through nuclear and fusion. The agreement also aims to reduce regulatory hurdles for nuclear projects to help deliver jobs, investment and energy security.

As part of the pact, major US tech companies are committing £31 billion to boost the UK's tech infrastructure — including data centres, advanced computing hardware like GPUs, and developments in semiconductors and AI. This investment builds on previous UK government tech/AI investment totalling around £44 billion. Key initiatives include:

- Creation of a new AI Growth Zone in the North East of England, with potential for thousands of new jobs and billions in private investment.
- Collaboration between UK and US firms, including UK firm Nscale partnering with NVIDIA OpenAI to deliver the Stargate UK project, and with Microsoft to deliver the UK's largest AI supercomputer.
- Investments by Microsoft, Google, CoreWeave, Salesforce, and others in data centres, AI R&D, cloud infrastructure, and related operations.

As part of the pact, the UK and US will unite to forge joint research schemes to further the use of AI to allow for targeted treatments and other shared priorities.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said:

'This Tech Prosperity Deal marks a generational step change in our relationship with the US, shaping the futures of millions of people on both sides of the Atlantic, and delivering growth, security and opportunity up and down the country.

'By teaming-up with world-class companies from both the UK and US, we're laying the foundations for a future where together we are world leaders in the technology of tomorrow, creating highly skilled jobs, putting more money in people's pockets and ensuring this partnership benefits every corner of the United Kingdom.'

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

Applications Open for 2026 Vitalik Buterin PhD and Postdoctoral Fellowships in AI Existential Safety

Fund IDs: S25625, S25598

The Future of Life Institute is a non-profit organisation that funds research in management and prevention of catastrophic events resulting from transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology and nuclear technology.

The Institute runs two Fellowship programmes in partnership with the [Beneficial AI Foundation \(BAIF\)](#) which aim to support research in AI Existential Safety carried out by PhD and postdoctoral candidates.

The **Vitalik Buterin PhD Fellowship programme** aims to support PhD students undertaking AI existential safety research by providing funding throughout their PhD programme. The Institute is looking for novel research project that address AI existential safety or existing projects targeting AI existential safety research for which no other funding is currently available. In addition, the programme provides workshops and networking opportunities for fellows to encourage interaction with other researchers in the field.

Funding is available to cover five years of a PhD programme, with the possibility of an extension. Annual funding covers the tuition, fees and the PhD stipend up to \$40,000 for universities in the US, UK and Canada. An additional fund of \$10,000 is available for research related expenses (eg travel and computing).

Applicants and host universities may be based anywhere in the world. Stipend amounts for universities outside the US, UK and Canada will be adjusted to match local conditions.

The **Vitalik Buterin Postdoctoral Fellowship programme** aims to support postdoctoral researchers also undertaking AI existential safety research.

The funding period is three years, subject to annual renewals based on satisfactory progress reports. Funding includes an annual stipend of \$80,000 for universities in the US, UK and Canada. An additional fund of \$10,000 is available for research related expenses (eg travel and computing).

Applicants and host universities may be based anywhere in the world. Stipend amounts for universities outside the US, UK and Canada will be adjusted to match local conditions.

The submission deadline for the PhD programme is 21 November 2025 (23:59 ET).

The submission deadline for the postdoctoral programme is 5 January 2026 (23:59 ET).

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

Policy: European Commission Launches Strategy to Strengthen Europe's Research and Technology Infrastructures

The European Commission has adopted a new strategy to provide a coordinated approach to European research and technology infrastructures in order to boost European leadership in scientific excellence and technological innovation.

The strategy also aims to ensure scientists, researchers, innovators and industry have easy access to Europe's leading facilities, high-quality data and tailored services, and to encourage world-class researchers and innovators to ['Choose Europe'](#).

Research and technology infrastructures facilitate breakthrough science and innovation and provide unique testing and validation environments for startups, scaleups, and industry, helping to close Europe's innovation gap with global competitors and strengthen resilience, economic security, and strategic autonomy in crucial technologies.

However, building and maintaining such infrastructures is complex and increasingly costly, at a time when global competitors are investing heavily in large-scale infrastructure. The strategy therefore sets out a coordinated European approach to pool resources, avoid duplication, and strengthen accessibility and collaboration across borders for these infrastructures.

This strategic approach is also designed to consolidate Europe's position as a global research and innovation leader, helping to attract top talent through the Choose Europe initiative. It will further help safeguard EU strategic policy priorities and competitiveness, and advance Europe's role as a trusted partner in international cooperation.

The strategy builds on the findings of the Draghi report on ['The Future of EU competitiveness'](#) and the ['Align, Act Accelerate'](#) report by the Commission Expert Group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe, which both underlined the importance of research and technology infrastructures. It aligns with and supports EU initiatives to strengthen research, innovation and competitiveness, such as the [EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy](#), and the upcoming [AI in Science Strategy](#), [European Innovation Act](#), and [European Research Area Act](#).

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

'An ambitious and coordinated European approach to research and technology infrastructures is crucial for us to remain a global leader in excellent science and in technology innovation. With our new strategy we will ensure that scientists, researchers and innovators across Europe, including startups and scaleups, have easy access to state-of-the-art facilities and tailored services to develop and test their products and services.'

Further details of the strategy are available at the [European Commission website](#).

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

Choose France for Science: Launch of Call for Chairs of Excellence

Fund ID: S27978

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.

As part of the [France 2030](#) investment plan, the French Government has entrusted ANR with the operation of the [Choose France for Science platform](#), which enables universities, schools and research organisations to apply for co-funding to host international researchers. The initiative was established to address an international context that has created the conditions for an unprecedented wave of mobility among researchers worldwide.

Within the framework of Choose France for Science, ANR has launched a programme for Chairs of Excellence aimed at high level researchers and engineers working outside of France, with the objective of providing funding for them to undertake new large scale projects in France. The chair positions will enable the researchers to develop their research programmes and allow them to apply for significant European research calls.

The programme is seeking established researchers, engineers of a very high level and, as an exception, managers of complex international scientific projects. Eligible researchers must be conducting their research activity outside of France. Higher education and research establishments, as future employers, will identify research profiles. The establishments will be the beneficiaries of ANR funding. To be eligible, they must be based in France and be one of the following: higher education and/or research establishments (public or non-profit), or groups of such establishments; scientific cooperation foundations; or healthcare establishments (public or non-profit).

Research must address priority themes for France (France 2030 strategies and thematic areas of the programme agencies). A particular focus will be placed on the following themes: Health research; climate, biodiversity and sustainable societies; digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI); space studies; agriculture, sustainable food, forests and natural resources; decarbonised energy; digital components, systems and infrastructures. The research chair must, within two years of taking up the position, apply for a competitive high-level European or international call (ERC, EIC Pathfinder etc).

ANR will fund up to 50% of the total project cost (including the salary of the research chair if they do not hold a permanent position). The maximum funding provided by ANR to a project is €2.5 million. Chairs will have a duration of three years.

Applications may be submitted at any time.

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

ERC Awards 478 Starting Grants in 2025 Round of Funding

Fund ID: S21412

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced the results of the latest round of its Starting Grants, which enable early career researchers (ECRs) who have two to seven years' experience after their PhDs to conduct frontier research in any field in EU Member States and Associated Countries. Awards are issued based on scientific merit, judged according to the ground breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of applicants' proposals.

Individual grants of up to a maximum of €1.5 million are available for a period of five years. Additionally, up to €1 million can be requested to cover:

- Eligible 'start-up' costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant.
- Purchase of major equipment.
- Access to large facilities.
- Other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.

The ERC is awarding 478 Starting Grants out of 3,928 proposals, representing a 13% increase in demand on the previous year's call and a success rate of 12.16%, down from the previous year's rate of 14.2%. The grants will support projects in all disciplines of research from medicine and physics to social sciences and humanities. Projects supported include:

- Improving adult ADHD diagnosis, led by Kelli Lehto at the University of Tartu, Estonia.
- Understanding how plants thrive under natural sunlight, led by Nicoletta Liguori at ICFO, Spain.
- Urban Expulsion Regimes: Understanding the Lived Experiences of Housing Insecurity in European Cities, led by Eva Swyngedouw, Free University of Brussels (VUB), Belgium.
- The Politicization of Low-Carbon Technologies, led by Lukas Fesenfeld, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland.
- Do fetuses perceive social stimuli? A magnetoencephalography investigation of the prenatal mind, led by Joel Frohlich, University of Tübingen, Germany.

Successful projects have been awarded at universities and research centres in 25 countries across Europe, with the majority in Germany (99 grants), the Netherlands (51), the UK (60), the Netherlands (44), and France (41). A total of 51 different nationalities are represented among the grantees, notably Germans (87 researchers), Italians (55), French (33), and UK and Spanish researchers (32 each).

President of the European Research Council Prof. Maria Leptin said:

'All these bright minds and the plethora of brilliant ideas that they will go after really inspire me, and so does their scientific creativity. It also gives hope that Europe empowers them and backs them. Yet, we could do more! Only 12% of all proposals in this competition are being funded, even if many more are excellent. More investment in this type of science is needed for Europe to reach its full potential.'

Further details of the successful awards are available at the [ERC website](#).

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars: Applications Open for 2026-2028 Cohort

Fund ID: S16450

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) is a Canadian-based, international research institute established in 1982. Its mission is to bring together researchers from across disciplines and borders to address important challenges facing the world.

Within the framework of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars programme, researchers will have the opportunity to expand their network, to collaborate across disciplines and to explore novel ideas with unrestricted research support. The 2025 call for applications is focused on the following areas:

- Child and Brain Development
- CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human
- Future Flourishing
- Humanity's Urban Future
- Learning in Machines & Brains
- Quantum Materials

Applications are welcome from around the world. Eligible applicants are researchers with a PhD (or equivalent) and within the first five years of a full-time academic position from anywhere in the world. Applicants must be fluent in spoken and written English.

The maximum funding is CAD \$100,000 in unrestricted research support for a duration of two years.

Applications must be submitted to CIFAR by 5 November 2025 (12:00 Eastern Standard Time).

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

French Institute of Denmark Opens Applications for Three Franco-Danish Collaborative Mobility Programmes

Fund IDs: S27966, S24351, S24350

The Institut français du Danemark (French Institute of Denmark), based in Copenhagen, is the French cultural centre of Denmark. The Institute encourages dialogue and exchange between France and Denmark in the domains of culture, language and scientific research. In cooperation with French and Danish partners, the Institute supports and develops new Franco-Danish projects and collaborations.

The **Blâtand Programme** was established with the objectives of develop scientific exchange between France and Denmark, encouraging the emergence of collaborative research and mobility and helping French researchers extend their international networks. The main aim of the programme is to 'prospect' and to create new contacts through research visits, rather than to support existing collaborations. Successful applicants will receive a grant of up to €1,500, intended to exclusively cover travel and living costs for the visit.

The **IFD SCIENCES Programme** is a sister programme of the Blâtand programme. While the Blâtand programme aims to establish connections between French and Danish researchers, the IFD SCIENCES programme seeks to promote collaborations between researchers in France and Denmark with already established connections. Successful applicants will receive a grant of up to €3,000. This may constitute a maximum of 50% of the total project budget. The programme will make contributions towards international travel and living expenses and towards any costs related to organising workshops or seminars.

For both programmes, proposals may be made in any scientific discipline (humanities and social sciences, history, linguistics, economics, physics, chemistry, biology etc). For 2026, priority will be given to projects focused on the following topics:

- Computer science, quantum computing and artificial intelligence (AI).
- Climate change and energy.
- Health and biotechnologies.
- The Arctic and the oceans.

New for 2026, the **Polar and Ocean Sciences Programme** also aims to encourage the emergence of collaborative research and mobility and helping French researchers extend their international networks. Projects in the research areas of polar and ocean sciences,

and all sciences related to these topics, including humanities or economy, are eligible for funding. Grants of up to €1,500 are available, intended to cover travel and accommodation expenses related to the visit of the French affiliated researcher to Denmark, or of the Danish, Faroese or Greenlandic affiliated researcher in France.

Applications for all programmes must be submitted by 1 December 2025.

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

Keeping up to date

In addition to your regular bulletin, ResearchConnect offers you other ways of ensuring that you always have up-to-date funding information at your fingertips. These include:

- **News service**

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