

General regulation

Mandates 2025 for

Fundamental oncology research

- Purpose of the mandate

The purpose of this call is to support young researchers in carrying out a fundamental cancer research project, by granting them a **full-time postdoctoral mandate of up to four years maximum**. This mandate (non-renewable) aims to serve as a stepping-stone in the researcher's career in order to obtain a permanent academic position within a Belgian university.

- Terms and conditions

At the time of application submission, the candidate must:

- hold a **PhD**, issued by a university institution, in biomedical sciences, bioengineering, biotechnology or equal.
- and must be **younger than 40 years old** at the deadline of the submission of the application. He or she must conduct the research in a **Belgian university laboratory**, under the supervision of a tenured promoter from that university.

During the Mandate and within the framework of her/his research project, the candidate is authorized to program a stay abroad or any other interruption of the mandate for maximum 12 months. During this period the funding of the Foundation will be interrupted.

If the candidate breaks her/his contract within the university, this mandate will be terminated.

- Selection criteria

The fundamental research project proposed by the candidate within the frame of this mandate must contribute to a better understanding of cancer, with the prospect of possible long-term improvements in diagnosis or treatment.

The main criteria for evaluating applications will be:

- For the candidate:
 - Publications
 - Professional expertise
 - Role of the candidate in the development of the project

- For the project:
 - Innovation
 - Feasibility
 - Scientific quality

- **Financing coverage of the Mandate**

The postdoctoral mandate awarded by the Foundation against Cancer is intended for a maximum **duration of 4 years** and is not renewable. Financial overlapping with other funding is not allowed. If selected, an applicant who has applied also funding to other organizations for the same period or overlapping period, must make a choice and communicate his/her decision as soon as possible to the Foundation against Cancer.

If the candidate benefits already a mandate granted by another provider that she/he wish to finish before beginning the one proposed by the Foundation, the duration of the latter will be reduced by the number of months concerned.

The maximum funding for a postdoctoral fellowship in fundamental research is **€ 110,000 per year** and can only cover the full-time salary costs normally covered by the employing organization in charge of managing the staff of the laureate's host laboratory.

- **Mid-term evaluation**

Postdoctoral mandates in fundamental research are granted for 4 years. At mid-term, an interim scientific report needs to be sent to the Foundation against Cancer and will be submitted to the fundamental research Scientific Committee. Funding for the next 2 years requires a favorable evaluation of this scientific report. Evaluations may include on-site visits.

- **Submission procedure and selection of candidates**

Round 1: The application form must be completed online, in English, via the CC Tracker platform: <https://grants.cancer.be>.

The deadline for submitting applications is **March 10, 2025 at 1 PM**.

After validation of the application, the Scientific Committee will evaluate the application based on the different above-mentioned criteria and will preselect candidates for Round 2.

Round 2: Retained candidates will be invited to defend their project at the Foundation's headquarters on **June 12, 2025**. This oral presentation, with data-projection, will be in English and won't exceed 5 minutes. It will be followed by a Q&A session with the members of the Scientific Committee.

The result of the selection will be proposed by the Scientific Committee to the Board of Directors of the Foundation against Cancer for ratification.

The results will be communicated to the candidates end of **June 2025**. The mandate will start on the **1st of October 2025**.

- [Number of mandates available for the year 2025](#)

A maximum of 15 mandates will be granted.