

General Regulation for Cancer Research Grants

The Foundation against Cancer (FAC) awards grants for Fundamental or Translational & Clinical Cancer Research conducted in Belgium.

Project selection is conducted in two phases:

- **First phase – Letter of Intent:** Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent to the FAC by the prescribed deadline. Letters of Intent will be reviewed and preselected by members of one of the two Scientific Committees (Fundamental Research or Translational & Clinical Research). Applicants will be notified of the pre-selection results by email. Pre-selected applicants will then be invited to submit a Full Application Form to the FAC by a specified deadline.
- **Second phase – Full Application:** Full Application Forms will be evaluated by the members of the relevant Scientific Committee and by three external international referees appointed by the Committee. The final selection of projects will be made by the relevant Scientific Committee during a plenary session.

Requisites for participation

Researchers affiliated with a research facility under the authority of a Belgian institution: a university, a public utility foundation, a research institution or a private foundation, a hospital facility subordinate to a Belgium university, are eligible to submit a research proposal, provided that the research is conducted in Belgium and has no direct commercial purpose.

At no time may an applicant be the beneficiary of more than one grant awarded by the FAC for Fundamental or Translational & Clinical Cancer Research. Consequently, applicants who are beneficiaries of an FAC Fundamental or Translational & Clinical Cancer Research Grant that remains active beyond December 2026 are not eligible to submit a new proposal.

Applicants may not submit concurrent applications for both a Fundamental Research Grant and a Translational & Clinical Cancer Research Grant.

An applicant, whether acting as lead applicant or co-applicant, may thus submit only one research project for the Scientific Grant call 2026.

Letter of Intent and Full Application Form

A Letter of Intent may be submitted either by a single Applicant or by multiple Co-Applicants, each affiliated with a different Belgian organization. Research funding may be shared jointly by institutions located in different regions of Belgium.

For projects submitted by multiple Co-Applicants, one Lead Applicant ⁽¹⁾ must be designated. The Lead Applicant will serve as the primary contact person for the FAC regarding the scientific aspects of the project. Both the Lead Applicant and each Co-Applicant ⁽²⁾ are responsible for the financial management of the activities conducted at their respective institutions.

The Lead Applicant and all Co-Applicants must hold a permanent postdoctoral position, that is, they must be permanent research staff with a PhD at a university, hospital, or research institute and possess full scientific and financial autonomy for the entire duration of the requested funding period. Applicants or Co-Applicants who are retired or plan to retire during the course of the project or who has become Prof. Emeritus at his institution are not eligible.

Each Applicant or Co-Applicant may designate one Co-Promoter in the application. The Co-Promoter must be affiliated with the same university or institution as the respective applicant. While a Co-Promoter may provide scientific supervision of the project, they hold no financial responsibility. A researcher may serve as Co-Promoter for multiple submitted projects. A Professor Emeritus can be Co-Promoter for one or multiple projects.

The initial choice of either the Fundamental **or** Translational & Clinical Research track is final, as the Letter of Intent cannot be transferred between Scientific Committees.

The Letter of Intent and the Full Application Form must be written in **English**. In the Full Application Form, the lay summary must be written in French or Dutch.

¹ **Lead Applicant:** The Lead Applicant is the individual who formally submits the grant application. The Lead Applicant serves as the scientific leader of the project and bears primary responsibility for the intellectual direction, scientific execution, and financial management of the grant.

² **Co-Applicant:** A Co-Applicant is a researcher participating in a multicentric grant application who makes a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research. The Co-Applicant is responsible for the scientific and financial aspects of the research activities conducted at their respective university, hospital, or research institute and must be affiliated with an institution distinct from that of the Lead Applicant.

Research project Content

The project must provide clear potential for a better understanding of how cancer is initiated, progresses or resist treatments, or for better diagnosis, treatment, or patient quality of life. Its scientific merit must be of the highest standard, with original objectives and innovative approaches. The project should constitute a major research endeavor for the applicant and their research team.

Duration of the Grant

Applicants may request funding for a period of **two to four years**. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to reduce the proposed duration if deemed appropriate.

Scientific evaluation of the project

The scientific evaluation of each project is conducted by the members of the FAC Scientific Committee for Fundamental Research or by the FAC Scientific Committee for Translational & Clinical Research. The principal evaluation criteria include:

- the scientific relevance and originality of the project;
- the previous research accomplishments, track record, and publications of the applying team;
- the quality of the scientific environment supporting the applying team.

By submitting a research project to this call, applicants authorize the FAC to share the application and all attachments with international referees who are free of any conflict of interest.

Costs covered by the funding

Funds granted by the FAC may be used to cover the costs directly associated with the execution of the project, as detailed in the Full Application Form. This includes, but is not limited to, the remuneration of scientific and technical personnel, laboratory supplies and products, and the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of scientific and technical equipment required for the project.

Overspending beyond the total approved budget is not permitted. However, substantiated transfers between budget categories – such as salaries, consumables, or equipment – may be allowed with prior written authorization from the FAC.

The expenses listed under 'Other' in the Full Application Form are intended exclusively for the purchase of computer equipment, participation in conferences or congresses, and publication costs directly related to the project. Amounts requested in this category may under no circumstances be reallocated to other budget items, such as salaries, consumables, or equipment.

Overhead

The research organization, regardless of its legal status, **is not permitted to deduct overheads** or indirect costs - such as laboratory or office rent, access to scientific journals and databases, or general administration expenses - from the funds granted by the FAC.

Maximum requested amount

The maximum funding that may be granted per project, whether unicentric or multicentric, shall **not exceed € 150 000 per year (VAT inclusive)**.

Beneficiary financial account

Upon submission of the funding request, the applicant must provide an account number of the beneficiary. This account must **imperatively** be allocated to an institution having the status of nonprofit association, public utility foundation or private foundation, with consent of its legal representative, or of the university head or its legal representative.

The applicant will attach to the application a duly completed and signed financial identification sheet (FIS), dated no more than one year prior.

The FAC reserves the right to request a copy of the bank account details of the holder (nonprofit association, public utility foundation or private foundation).

Obligations of the Researcher

By submitting a request for funding the applicant agrees to comply with all requirements set forth in the granting regulations.

If selected by FAC for funding, the beneficiary will be required to sign funding agreement, thereby committing to:

- Submit the fully executed agreement, signed by all relevant parties, within the following time frames after announcement of the selection results: no later than 6 months for a unicentric project; no later than 12 months for a multicentric project.

Failure to meet this deadline will result in the automatic cancellation of the agreement.

- Provide an intermediary report halfway through the agreed project duration, outlining the progress of the research and detailing the upcoming steps up until the conclusion of the project. This report must include a financial statement, validated by the financial director of the research institution, specifying the amount and nature of the expenses incurred to date.
- Submit a final scientific report and a final financial report within two months following the completion of the agreement between the research institution and the FAC.
- The researcher may be requested to contribute, free of charge, to FAC activities where their involvement is deemed beneficial.
- For communication purposes, the researcher agrees to provide the FAC with any scientific publications related to the funded research project, immediately upon acceptance by an editorial board. The researcher further agrees to provide the FAC with any press releases concerning the project prior to their publication.
- The researcher is required to acknowledge FAC funding in all publications, oral presentations, and poster presentations related to the funded research project.

Commitment of the FAC to the research team

The FAC processes all personal data submitted by applicants in strict confidence and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Applicants may consult the FAC's Privacy and Data Protection notice, available on the application platform, for detailed information on how their data is collected, stored, and used.

Result of the selection

The selection of projects is carried out by the relevant Scientific Committees. The selection outcomes are submitted to the Board of Directors of the Foundation against Cancer for final approval.

Decisions regarding the rejection of a project, partial funding, or reduction of the proposed project duration are final, and no appeal or rebuttal will be considered.