

Fondation ARC Call For Proposals 2019

Recruiting emerging leaders in oncology

Leaders de demain en oncologie

Application submission deadline: March 14th 2019

1. Background and Objectives

To heighten France's competitiveness and extend its international renown in the field of cancerology, it is essential that the skills already present in the country be strengthened and enriched through programmes that welcome top-tier researchers and help them establish in France. To develop and revitalise research potential in the field of cancer, all key players involved in the fight against the disease, from donor agencies to research laboratories and research funding bodies, should be committed unanimously.

Fondation ARC pour la recherche sur le cancer is France's leading foundation dedicated entirely to cancer research. It supports work in all areas of cancerology research (prevention, screening, diagnosis, etiology, treatment, post-cancer, etc.), from basic to clinical research, as well as in epidemiology and economic and social human sciences. In particular, Fondation ARC is interested in research likely to speed up discoveries and discovery transfer processes, and bring about new treatments and new preventive and therapeutic approaches.

For several years now, in line with its Scientific Board and Scientific Strategy Committee, Fondation ARC has emphasised improving the attractiveness of France's research structures as an integral and high-priority part of its scientific strategy. Through recurring calls for proposals (referred to as CFPs), Fondation ARC is committed to attracting new scientific talents to France, so that they establish their research teams and develop the most innovative projects. This support has already allowed several internationally renowned researchers to base their teams within French research entities.

Translational research, which ensures continuity between fundamental and clinical research, currently holds an important position in the sphere of biomedical research. The Fondation ARC has thus chosen to put it at the heart of its strategy and wishes in particular to encourage translational bench-to-bedside and/or bedside-to-bench research so as to improve knowledge of the main pathological processes in play and turn basic scientific results into therapeutic actions for patients

This year's CFP will allow a high-level researcher from abroad to move to France, in 2019, and develop an ambitious translational research programme within a French research structure. The proposed project must provide for the team's long-term presence and must strengthen the research potential of the host facility.

The Fondation ARC considers this program to be a collaborative effort between the Foundation and the host institution, also in terms of financing of the newly created research groups. Ideally the host institution would match the Fondation ARC budget -up to €1.5 million over a five-year period-, which can be in terms of cost of laboratory space, access to core facilities and additional personnel. A substantial sum to be used at the discretion of the appointed group leader should be part of the package.

This will reflect the commitment of the host institution towards integration of the new group into its core research program.

2. Details of the call

Applications that do not meet the following eligibility requirements, indicated in red, will not be considered for review. (The other criteria are not prohibitive, they are however advised).

2.1 Criteria for the research structure

The "Recruiting Emerging Leaders in Oncology" CFP is aimed at French research structures located within France, composed of internationally renowned teams offering the critical mass necessary to this programme's ambition and who wish to develop a translational research programme in the field of oncology in the best possible way.

It is expected that the host structures make substantial commitments to guarantee the team and research project the best hosting conditions, including:

- Allotting at least 50 m² of immediately-operational work space in line with the project's specific needs, (specifically dedicated work space and offices adapted to the project of the future team);
- The project must be submitted by an academic research structure governed by a public research institution (University, EPST - public body for scientific purposes, or EPIC public body for industrial or commercial purposes, etc.), a non-profit organisation (association, foundation, etc.) or a public health institution in France;
- Allotting sufficient human resources given the project's needs (Ph.D grants, post-doctoral fellowships, technical staff, etc.);
- Allotting material resources (running costs and small equipment) as part of the project;
- Facilitating access to the site's shared services and technological platforms (technical assistance, usage time, etc.).
- Providing support for complementary funding requests ;
- Providing a substantial sum to be used at the discretion of the appointed group leader.

The research structures may only present one candidate. This candidate must meet their needs in terms of skills development as well as the criteria set out in this CFP in paragraph 2.2.

In addition to a rigorous and selective recruitment strategy, the host structure must also propose solutions for the long-term integration of the selected candidate. The aim of this CFP is to ensure selected team leaders remain in France in the long term and as such, the research structure must commit to supporting the candidate as part of a long-term process. The aim is to recruit, when possible, the team leader to a position as Director of Research or University Professor before the end of the five-year period.

2.2 Candidates profile

The "Recruiting Emerging Leaders in Oncology" CFP is aimed at top-tier researchers recognised for their scientific career and world-class quality, able to form their own team and conduct their research project independently.

Candidates must have an established status within the scientific community, thanks to their research, the quality of their publications, their recognition in their field, and the human qualities shown in mobilizing a lab team (for example: last authorship publication or /and significant experience in managing an independent project).

- Candidates must have defended their Doctoral thesis (PhD) for more than 10 years and up to 20 years at the time of they started the awarded project in France.
- Candidates must hold a position abroad as of the opening of the call (October 2018).
- The candidates chosen by the research structure must hold a position abroad as of the opening of the call (October 2018).
- The candidates must be free to move to France if possible by the end of 2019.
- The candidates should have well-defined career objectives and are encouraged to participate in the open recruitment competitions for higher education and research bodies in France.
- The candidates are expected to make a significant investment in the success of the project: they must do their utmost and devote the vast majority of their research time to this project during the support period.

2.3 Criteria for the project

Requests must fall within the framework of translational research project in oncology.

The candidate and the host institute will work in coordination to build the project.

The application form must set out the following in particular:

- The research structure level of scientific excellence and expertise;
- The procedure implemented to select the future team leader;
- The position of the new team within the research structure and its added value;
- The respect of the scientific strategy of the Fondation ARC to support translational research in oncology.
- The candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications) and leadership skills;
- The scientific quality of the research project (ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer, feasibility);
- The adequation between the project and the related funding plan (financial request should include details duly justified annually planned expenses for the team installation, potential recruitments and for the implementation of the project);

The contribution of the research structure, stated in detail and set out in numbers (material, human, financial resources, etc.), as well as the other funding sources envisaged.

2.4 Criteria for the application form

- The applications must be completed and submitted on time, by email, and in the requested format;
- Unless otherwise specified, project applications must be filed in English;

3 Project selection procedure

3.1 Selection criteria

- The relevance to the CFP with particular emphasis on strengthening the translational research potential in the field of oncology within France;
- The research structure degree of excellence and scientific expertise as reflected by the quality of its scientific publications, technological environment and scientific activities at the site.
- The candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications, international network, collaborations...) and leadership skills;
- The scientific quality of the research project:
 - Ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer; relevance of the scientific issues and expected outcomes
- The project's feasibility:
 - Project's alignment with the material, technical and human environment into which it might integrate);
 - Quality of the project construction (work plan and management...)
 - Alignment between the project and the related funding plan...
- Quality of the Candidate / Research structure relationship:
 - Appropriateness of skills brought together to carry out the project;
 - Strengthening of the research structure, added value of the new team;
 - Complementary fit with the teams in place, added value of the team's being based in the new structure, etc;
- Level of financial commitment
- Alignment between the research structure contribution and the needs for the new team.
- Physical environment and manpower provided by the host institute for the project

3.2 Project selection procedure

All the applications meeting the eligibility requirements will be evaluated respecting the ethics charter and the conflict of interest prevention and management procedure set out by the Fondation ARC.

The selection procedure several stages:

- The complete applications will be appraised by a Fondation ARC international ad hoc committee in a pre-selection phase.
- The project leaders for the pre-selected projects will be interviewed in Paris together with the heads of the research structures by the Foundation international ad hoc committee (the heads of host bodies may be represented by a third party in the case of justified unavailability).
- Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC, based on the ad hoc committee's opinion, will put the selected project up for vote by the Board of Directors.

4 General funding terms

Funding provided by the Fondation ARC (up to 1.5 million €/5 years) will be dedicated solely to the candidate and be used to cover:

- All or part of the project leader's salary, according to the scale in effect for EPSTs (public body for scientific purposes) and, where applicable, additional net pay not to exceed 1,200 euros/month. Should a candidate be recruited on a permanent contract, the project funding may be maintained and used to increase the impact and implementation of the project. This modification will be subject to validation by the Fondation ARC.
- Recruitment of post-doctoral scientists, engineers, technicians or master students on fixed-term contracts for by the host organisation, for the duration of the funding period. The recruited persons must have a contract of at least 12 months and the names and CVs of post-doctoral researchers must, be given to the Fondation ARC by the start of the work contract.
- Material resources: running costs and equipment (when the equipment unit costs exceed €200K, substantiation will be requested: estimate, possible joint-financing plan, scientific justification);
- Travel expenses (maximum 4% of the total request).

Note that the Fondation ARC will not cover indirect costs (overheads) of the fund management body. They may be part of the contribution of the host facility.

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1st 2019 at the earliest and December 31st 2019 at the latest.

Fondation ARC expects responsible conduct of research from its awardees. All the research activities carried out with the support of a Foundation Fellowship shall be in compliance with fundamental ethical and research integrity principles.

5 Evaluating funded projects

The projects funded by the Fondation ARC are subject to scientific and financial monitoring for as long as they are active which includes:

- Commitment by the laureate to present their research results upon the request of the Fondation boards ;
- Writing scientific reports to be sent to the Fondation ARC annually;
- Intermediate evaluation based on a scientific report and an interview with the chosen candidate;
- Participation of the project leader and/or members of their team in scientific events organised by the Fondation.

6 Communication rules

As part of this CFP, in order to guarantee the visibility of the Fondation ARC and to consolidate the "emerging leaders" network, the newly created team shall clearly display the Fondation ARC in its title.

Team members funded by the Fondation ARC formally agree to communicate about the support provided by the Fondation ARC regardless of the other bodies who are supporting the research

and/or teams of the laboratory as a whole. The support of the Fondation ARC must be displayed on the website of the research facility and of the team or researchers involved in the project. It is mandatory that any written communication (theses, posters, etc.) or oral communication (seminars, conferences, etc.) regarding the work produced by the funded research project must mention the financial involvement of the Fondation ARC.

Publications that come out of projects funded by the Fondation ARC must cite the funding in the acknowledgements: "This work has been supported by the Fondation ARC pour la recherche sur le cancer.

The French-language summary aimed at the general public included in the application file is essential for informing donors who help fund projects about the current advances in oncology research. It may be used by the Fondation ARC for communication with the general public.

7 Application

7.1 Timeline

Return of complete applications: March 14th 2019

Launch of the call: October 2018

Pre-selected candidates and structure heads auditions by a Fondation ARC ad hoc committee: mid-May 2019

Selection by the Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC: May 2019

Decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC: June 2019

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1st 2019 at the earliest and December 31st 2019 at the latest.

7.2 Submission procedure

The application form must be requested by email at
leaders@fondation-arc.org

Duly-completed application form must be submitted by email by March 14th 2019.
You will receive confirmation of receipt; please contact us if you do not receive confirmation.

The original page bearing signatures must be sent by postal mail before April 17th 2019 (date as per postmark).

Contact for submission and any questions related to the CFP:
leaders@fondation-arc.org

Address for submission of original page bearing signatures
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