

Call for projects Fondation ARC

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS 2026

Postdoctoral fellows in France

Submission site: <https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>

Contact: ai@fondation-arc.org

Spring session 2026

Online deadline: 3rd of February 2026- 3pm

Autumn session 2026

Online deadline: mid-September 2026 (to be confirmed)

1. Background and objectives

Each year, as part of its policy to support cancer research, the Fondation ARC supports ambitious and original research projects within the framework of its calls for "individual grants for young researchers". These projects may come from any public research laboratory and cover all fields and disciplines involved in cancer control, from basic and translational research to clinical research including epidemiology and social sciences.

The aim of this call for projects "Postdoctoral fellows in France" is to support young researchers in carrying out their cancer research project as part of a postdoctoral fellowship in a laboratory located in France. The funding covers the salary of the laureates during the duration of the project.

Applications may concern:

- Postdoctoral internships directly at the end of the thesis (PhD) for a period of 24 or 36 months maximum
- Postdoctoral internships to come to France for experienced postdoctoral fellows who have spent at least 24 months abroad as part of a previous postdoctoral internship.

2. Type of supports proposed by the Fondation ARC

YOUNG POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW (PDFI): 1st postdoctoral internship after the PhD defence

Eligibility and admissibility criteria

- Profile: candidates from either scientific or medical background who obtained a university PhD at the starting date of funding by the Fondation ARC.
- Host laboratory must be in France. Host laboratory must be different from the thesis lab.
- Previous laboratory may be in France or abroad
 - In case of a PhD in co-tutelle, please provide, in the application, information on all the laboratories involved in the thesis. All laboratories are considered as previous labs.*
- Mobility: candidate must change of location of their research structure (mandatory). A change of geographical location is recommended.
- A thematic evolution between the thesis work and the postdoctoral project is recommended
- The starting date of the funding must be **no later than 12 months after the PhD defence date** (spring session: defence after 1st October 2025 / autumn session: defence after 1st April 2026). If an

extended leave, such as maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave, of more than 90 days, has occurred after obtaining the PhD, the Fondation will study requests for derogations on a case-by-case basis and on justification.

- The starting date of the funding must be **no later than 12 months after the date of arrival in the host laboratory**. If an extended leave, such as maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave, of more than 90 days, has occurred after the arrival in the host lab, the Fondation will study requests for derogations on a case-by-case basis and on justification.
- The candidate is required to have at least one 1st author publication accepted or under revision from the PhD (a confirmation letter/mail from the editor has to be provided in the application file). The article drops off on platform like bioRxiv do not satisfy this criterion.

Financing terms and conditions

- Funding duration: 24 or 36 months maximum, non-renewable.
- Fixed-term contract (full-time CDD contract).
- Employer: body in charge of managing the personnel of the host laboratory (CNRS, INSERM, University, etc.), subject to its acceptance, in particular within the framework of the limited cumulative number of years on fixed-term contracts (CDD).
- Starting date of funding for spring session 2026: between 1st October 2026 and 1st April 2027
- Starting date of funding for autumn session 2026: between 1st April 2027 and 1st October 2027
- Maximum funding amount: 4 767€ per month (57 204 € per year). The effective funding amount is variable according to the employer organization. It includes the gross salary and the employer's contributions for the duration of the funding according to the grid of the employer organization which establishes the employment contract. The funding is paid to the employer organization.

EXPERIENCED POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW (PDF2): grant to settle in France from abroad

Eligibility and admissibility criteria

- Profile: candidates from either scientific or medical background who obtained a university PhD at the starting date of funding by the Fondation ARC.
- Host laboratory must be in France.
- Previous laboratory must be located abroad
- A thematic evolution between the previous work and the proposed project in the application is recommended
- **Duration of the previous postdoctoral internship must be of at least 24 months** in the previous laboratory abroad before the starting date of funding by the Fondation ARC.
- The starting date of the funding must be **no later than 7 years and no earlier than 2 years after the PhD defence date** (spring session: defence after 1st October 2019 / autumn session: defence after 1st April 2020). If an extended leave, such as maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave, of more than 90 days, has occurred after obtaining the PhD, the Fondation will study requests for derogations on a case-by-case basis and on justification.
- The starting date of the funding must be **no later than 12 months after the date of arrival in the host laboratory**. If an extended leave, such as maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave, of more than 90 days, has occurred after the arrival in the host lab, the Fondation will study requests for derogations on a case-by-case basis and on justification.
- The candidate is required to have at least one 1st author publication accepted or under revision from the previous postdoctorate (a confirmation letter/mail from the editor has to be provided in the application file). The article drops off on platform like bioRxiv do not satisfy this criterion.

Financing terms and conditions

- Funding duration: 24 months, non-renewable.
- Fixed-term contract (full-time CDD contract).

- Employer: body in charge of managing the personnel of the host laboratory (CNRS, INSERM, University, etc.), subject to its acceptance, in particular within the framework of the limited cumulative number of years on fixed-term contracts (CDD).
- Starting date of funding for spring session 2026: between 1st October 2026 and 1st April 2027
- Starting date of funding for autumn session 2026: between 1st April 2027 and 1st October 2027
- Maximum funding amount: 6 417€ per month (77 004 € per year). The effective funding amount is variable according to the employer organization. It includes the gross salary and the employer's contributions for the duration of the funding according to the grid of the employer organization which establishes the employment contract. The funding is paid to the employer organization.

3. Selection of projects

Choice of the National Expert Commission

The applicant must choose the National Expert Commission (CN) best suited for the evaluation of his/her project. The choice of the commission is made in the application. The choice is indicative; the expert commission may be modified for thematic reasons or in case of links of interest with a member of the commission (*i.e. if the young researcher's supervisor or team leader is a member of a national commission, the application cannot be assessed by this commission. It is up to the young researcher and his/her supervisor to choose the most appropriate alternative committee for the project submitted*).

- Commission nationale 1 : Immunologie ; Onco-hématologie ; Microbiologie
- Commission nationale 2 : Génétique des tumeurs
- Commission nationale 3 : Biologie cellulaire
- Commission nationale 4 : Signalisation ; Métabolisme cellulaire ; Cibles thérapeutiques ; Pharmacologie
- Commission nationale 5 : Recherche clinique ; Innovations diagnostiques et thérapeutiques ; Epidémiologie ; Sciences humaines et sociales

For information, the disciplinary fields of the national commissions are listed at the end of the notice and in the FAQ of the submission site: <https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org/accueil/faq/consultation>; section « Comité Expertise »

Composition of the national commissions is available online: <https://www.fondation-arc.org/les-commissions-thematiques-nationales>

Selection procedure

After verification of their eligibility for the call for projects, the application files are submitted for expert appraisal by the competent scientific commissions. All applications are assessed in accordance with the Code of Ethics and the procedure for preventing and managing links of interest established by the Fondation ARC.

After expertise and classification, the Scientific Board reviews the selected projects. The final list validated by the Scientific Board is proposed to the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC for funding decision.

Selection criteria

The selection of applications is based on all the following criteria:

- Compliance with eligibility and admissibility criteria.
- The applicant: training and diplomas, publications, career plan, motivation.
- The host laboratory: scientific environment, publications, notoriety, cancer expertise. Funding requests from candidates for the same team will be subjected to special arbitration.
- The scientific project: positioning (scientific quality, relevance in oncology, innovative character), content (quality of the work plan, mastery of the subject and concepts, adequacy of the chosen methodology), coherence (technical feasibility, feasibility within the set deadlines, realistic objectives for the duration of the requested funding)

4. Terms of application

Financing setting up

- Postdoctoral fellowships cannot be combined with funding from other agencies. Applicants who have made applications to more than one funding agencies for the same period or part of that period must, if they are granted one, notify the Fondation ARC as soon as possible of their choice. If the Fondation ARC is not selected, the funding lapses and cannot be deferred. All subsequent applications will be the subject of a resubmission according to the timetable set by the Fondation ARC.
- The employing body is the body in charge of managing the personnel of the host laboratory (CNRS, INSERM, University, etc.), subject to its acceptance, in particular within the framework of the limited accumulation of years on fixed-term contracts. Eligible host laboratories must belong to one of the following types of organization: public research organization (university, EPST, EPIC, etc.); charities (associations, foundations, etc.); Public or private non-profit health organizations (CHU, CH, CLCC, etc.).
- The gross salary and employer contributions are the responsibility of the Fondation ARC by agreement with the employer organization that establishes the employment contract.
- Important: the choice of the employing organization must be the subject of particular attention on the part of the postdoctoral fellow and his/her host laboratory who must ensure with the future employing organization the eligibility for recruitment of the candidate. It will also be necessary to check whether the maximum funding amount provided by the Fondation is sufficient to cover the full cost of the fixed-term contract and, if necessary, to consider co-financing options.

Change of administrative situation and/or thematic

Any change in administrative situation or thematic during the funding period must be notified to the Fondation ARC as soon as possible by email to the following address: suivi-ai@fondation-arc.org (example: recruitment by an organization, abandonment of the project, resignation, etc.).

Evaluation of funded projects

At the end of the funding period, the Fondation ARC will request a final scientific report.

The laureates may be asked to answer a follow-up survey of their career.

At the end, or during funding, publications and communications resulting from the project citing the Fondation ARC for its support may be sent to the address ARCEvaluation@fondation-arc.org.

Communication rules

All written (thesis, poster, publication, etc.) or oral (seminar, congress, etc.) communications concerning the results of the funded research project must mention the financial participation of the Fondation ARC.

Publications from projects funded by the Fondation ARC should cite the funding in the acknowledgements: "This work has been supported by the Fondation ARC Cancer Research (grant n°)".

The lay summary is essential to ensure that the general public involved in project funding is informed of current advances in cancer research. It can be used by the Fondation ARC in communication activities targeting donors, members and the general public.

5. Schedule of the call for projects

	Spring session 2026	Autumn session 2026
Opening of the call for projects	10 December 2025	June 2026
Deadline for applications submission – 3 pm	3 February 2026	Mid-September 2026
Meeting of Scientific Board	28 April 2026	24 November 2026
Meeting of Board of Directors	12 May 2026	14 December 2026
Posting of the list of selected projects on the Fondation ARC website. Notification by e-mail to the applicant and his/her scientific leader (to the email addresses indicated in the application file).	May 2026	December 2026
Setting up of the funding	4 th trimester 2026	2 nd trimester 2027

6. Terms of submission

The application, including all the requested information needed for the evaluation of the project, must be prepared according to these guidelines and submitted online on the Fondation ARC dedicated website accessible at the address:

<https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>

Automatically errors checking in the online application is done at the final submission of the file. Application will be appraised only if the candidate does final submission. At final submission, candidate received a receipt by email to his/her email address. Candidate can modify their submitted application as many times as needed until the deadline of the call for projects. Candidate must ensure after modification to re-submit their application (a new receipt is sent by email)

Be aware that after the call for projects deadline, no modification in the application form is possible

However, until the meeting of the Scientific Board, candidate may contact us at ai@fondation-arc.org to notify:

- An evolution of the publications: letter of acceptance, or decision of favourable revision (join the editor letter)

Candidate may withdraw his/her application at any time through his/her account online

For further information regarding the eligibility and admissibility criteria:

ai@fondation-arc.org

For further information concerning the online website:

contactAAP@fondation-arc.org

COMPOSITION OF THE APPLICATION FILE

Must be submitted online: <https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>

Application can be written in English; one exception, the lay summary must be written in French.

*. Mandatory information

NB: The number of characters indicated is a maximum, spaces not included

Information may vary according to the type of individual grants [PDF1: young postdoctoral fellow ; PDF2: experienced postdoctoral fellow]

Step: Candidate

Information about the candidate

- Last name and first name*
- Date of birth and nationality*
- Contact details (contact email during the period of the requested funding, secondary email and phone number) *.
- ORCID¹ number of the candidate
- Information on the current employer

Education of the candidate

- Information on PhD*: starting date, graduation date or intended date, thesis supervisor, doctoral school, university of registration
PDF1: PhD must have been awarded no earlier than 12 months prior of the starting date of the funding
PDF2: PhD must have been awarded no earlier than 7 years and no later than 2 years prior of the starting date of the funding (candidate must have spent a minimum of 24 months abroad in his/her previous postdoc).
- Other training (if relevant): title, graduation date or intended date, establishment of registration

Cover letter* (3000 characters)

Resume

- Short CV (3 000 characters) *optional*
- Attached pdf document* (5 Mo maximum)

Scientific communications of the candidate: *applicants must have at least one 1st author publication accepted or under revision in a peer-reviewed journal from the PhD (PDF1) or the previous postdoctorate (PDF2) – a letter or email of the editor is required for papers under revision**

- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals (reverse chronological order): authors – journal – year – title –PMID number; *10 publications maximum. Underline the candidate's name in the authors list.*
For accepted publications, indicate the PMID number
For publications under revision or in press, letter or email of confirmation from the editor must be attached (format PDF, 5Mo maximum).
- Other scientific communications: oral presentations or posters at congresses...

Step: Scientific Identification

- Type of research* (multiple choice)
- Thematic and disciplines* (1 min to 5 choices max ranked top down)
- Choice of the national expert commission*. Indicate your choice among the 5 thematic national commissions of the Fondation. 1 or 2 possible choices. NB: the choice of the commission is indicative; the expert commission may be modified for thematic reasons or in case of links of interest with a member of the commission. For information, the disciplinary fields of the national commissions are listed at the end of the notice.
- Age group of the studied population* (multiple choice)
- Localisations of tumours studied in the project* (multiple choice)

¹ Pour plus d'information voir : <https://orcid.org>

- Classifications CSO² associated with the project* (1 min to 2 max)
- Keywords (in both French and English)* (3 min to 5 max)

Step: Scientific Project

- Title of the project in French and English*
- Acronym
- Scientific abstract* (Context and hypothesis, methodology, expected results, etc.) (1 200 characters)
- Description of the intended work: Hypothesis, expected results ; please highlight the scientific background, the stakes and relevance to research in oncology, the innovative aspects and feasibility of the project.* (10 000 characters)
- Bibliography* (3 000 characters)
- You may attached figures (up to 2 files format jpeg, jpg, gif ou png less than 5Mo each). Ensure that the image is correctly downloaded by checking the final pdf of your application)
- Schedule specifying the key steps and expected results by semester (please do not insert table)* (5 000 characters)

Step: Laboratories

Host laboratory of the candidate*: *must be in France*

- Name of the structure/institute/university – address – direction (last and first name)
- Lab name (Unit or department...) – address – direction
- Administrative body for lab in France : INSERM or CNRS or University or other
- Research team and team leader (name, title, status, affiliation, email, phone)
- Supervisor of the young researcher (name, title, status, affiliation, email, phone) ; Provide the resume of the supervisor (format PDF, 5 Mo maximum)
- Organigram of the lab or team as a list of staff to assess the scientific environment of the young researcher (number of MCU, CR, DR, Professors, etc.) ; (format PDF, 5 Mo maximum)
- List of the other applications submitted by the team for a same session (last name, first name, type of financial grant, and title of the project).

Publications of the host laboratory or the host team*

- Major publications in peer-reviewed journals, reverse chronological order and name of the supervisor underlined: authors – journal – year – title –PMID number; *1 to 10 publications.*
For accepted publications, indicate the PMID number
For publications under revision or in press, letter or email of confirmation from the editor must be attached (format PDF, 5Mo maximum).

Previous laboratory of the candidate* : *must be abroad for PDF2 applications*

- Name of the structure/institute/university – address – direction (last and first name)
- Lab name (Unit or department...) – address – direction
- Administrative body for lab in France : INSERM or CNRS or University or other
- Research team and team leader (name, title, status, affiliation, email, phone)
- Supervisor of the young researcher (name, title, status, affiliation, email, phone) ; Provide the resume of the supervisor (format PDF, 5 Mo maximum)
- Departure date from previous laboratory
- For PDF2 : Total duration (in months) spent in the previous laboratory abroad (candidate must have spent a minimum of 24 months in his/her laboratory abroad)

Step: Funding

- Type of the requested funding support*
- Intended starting date of the funding*
- Arrival date in the host laboratory*

² Pour plus d'information sur la classification CSO (Common Scientific Outline) voir <https://www.icrpartnership.org/cso>

Arrival date in host laboratory must not be earlier than a maximum of 12 months prior to the intended starting date of funding. The arrival date in the host laboratory cannot be later than the intended starting date of funding

- Certified cost of funding by management organisation*: ask your management organization to provide the official salary grid in effect and attached it as annexe (pdf format).
NB: This value is asked for information and does not represent the amount asked or granted by the Fondation ARC
- Other funding requests: specify if application has been submitted to other funding bodies.

Attached documents (files must be .pdf < 5 Mo)

- Motivated letter of acceptance from the director of the host laboratory signed by the director of the host laboratory.*
- Letter of recommendation from the direct supervisor of the candidate in the host laboratory signed by the candidate's direct supervisor in the host laboratory.* **The letter must state which funds are secured and available to the laboratory to carry out the proposed research project.**
- Letter of recommendation from the director and / or supervisor of the candidate from the laboratory of origin signed by the director and / or manager.*

Lay summary = Fiche résumé grand public (MUST BE IN FRENCH)

Texte de vulgarisation scientifique accessible au grand public, publiable sur tout support de communication.

- Titre de projet vulgarisé publiable sur tout support de communication* (140 caractères)
- En donnant le contexte national et international, quels sont les grands enjeux scientifiques et médicaux dans lesquels votre projet s'inscrit ? * (1000 caractères)
- Quels sont les résultats préliminaires, issus ou non de votre laboratoire, qui guident votre projet ? * (400 caractères)
- Quels sont les objectifs de votre travail de recherche et comment procéderez-vous pour les atteindre (préciser les innovations technologiques utilisées si pertinent) ? * (1000 caractères)
- Projetez-vous sur le long terme, votre projet devrait contribuer à... : * (plusieurs choix possibles)
 - o Explorer/valider/optimiser des approches thérapeutiques
 - o Prévenir la survenue d'un cancer o Faciliter la détection de la maladie, sa caractérisation précise (information diagnostique)
 - o Stratifier les patients en fonction de la gravité de leur maladie (information pronostique) o Prédire la réponse ou la résistance des patients à un traitement donné
 - o Mieux prévoir ou gérer les effets secondaires des traitements anti-cancéreux
 - o Améliorer la qualité de vie pendant et après la prise en charge
 - o Autre...
- Quelles nouvelles recherches pourraient découler de votre projet ? * (400 caractères)
- Comment percevez-vous le rôle de la Fondation ARC dans le soutien des travaux de recherche en cancérologie en France ? * (500 caractères)
- Toute(s) information(s) supplémentaire(s) que vous souhaiteriez partager (facultatif) (500 caractères)

Je suis informé(e) qu'en cas de financement, le contenu de ce « Résumé grand public » pourra être utilisée par la Fondation ARC dans des actions visant le grand public, les donateurs, les abonnés aux différents supports de communication de la Fondation et je donne expressément mon accord à cette utilisation

Final submission of application

Final submission of the application

Reminder: application will not be appraised if final submission is not done. Note that candidate can modify their submitted application as many times as needed until the deadline of the call for projects. Candidate must ensure after modification to re-submit their application.

DISCIPLINES ET THEMATIQUES DES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES

CN1 Immunologie, Onco-hématologie, Microbiologie	CN2 Génétique des tumeurs	CN3 Biologie Cellulaire	CN4 Signalisation ; Métabolisme cellulaire ; Cibles thérapeutiques ; Pharmacologie	CN5 Recherche clinique ; Innovations diagnostiques et thérapeutiques, épidémiologie ; sciences humaines et sociales
Hématopoïèse ; Oncohématologie	Génétique des cancers	Biologie cellulaire	Signalisation	Essais cliniques
Immunité ; Onco-immunologie	Cycle cellulaire ; Mitose ; Méiose	Apoptose	Récepteurs hormonaux ; hormones	Essais précliniques
Immunothérapie	Epigénétique	Autophagie	Récepteurs membranaires ; ligands	Innovations thérapeutiques
Vaccins ; Anticorps thérapeutiques	Oncogènes ; Gènes suppresseurs de tumeurs	Différenciation cellulaire	Cibles thérapeutiques	Chirurgie
Thérapie cellulaire	Surveillance et réparation des dommages de l'ADN	Prolifération cellulaire	Agonistes ; Antagonistes ; Inhibiteurs	Chimiothérapie
Greffes	Organisation du génome (télomères, centromère...)	Migration cellulaire	Chimie biologique	Radiobiologie ; Radiothérapie
Microbiologie	Recombinaison	Transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse	Pharmacologie ; Pharmacogénomique ; pharmacodynamique	Prévention ; Dépistage ; Santé Publique
Virus oncogènes	Réplication	Mécanotransduction	Structure ; Biologie structurale	Biomarqueurs ; Méthodes diagnostiques
	Régulations transcriptionnelles	Invasion tumorale ; Métastase	Vectorisation ; nanoparticules	Facteurs prédictifs ; Facteurs pronostiques
	Régulations post-transcriptionnelles	Trafic intracellulaire	Métabolisme cellulaire	Imagerie médicale
	ARN non codant	Communication intercellulaire ; Adhésion	Métabolisme oxydatif ; Radicaux libres	Soins de support
		Sénescence	Régulations post-traductionnelles	Qualité de vie
		Angiogenèse		Epidémiologie
		Cellules souches		Méthodes biostatistiques
		Biologie du développement		Sciences Humaines et Sociales ; Oncopsychologie ; Economie de la santé