

Fondation ARC Call For Proposals 2025

Recruiting international leaders in oncology

Leaders internationaux en oncologie

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

Contact: leaders@fondation-arc.org

Deadline for submission: **14th of February 2025 before 3pm**

1. Background and Objectives

To heighten France's competitiveness and extend its international reach 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 their teams 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 high quality 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 recommendations, **Fondation ARC** has emphasised improving the attractiveness of France's research structures as an integral and high-priority part of its scientific strategy. Since 2017, through recurring calls for proposals (referred to as CFPs), Fondation ARC has committed to attract internationally renowned researchers to establish their research teams in France. For more information on previous laureates, please visit the webpage: [Les leaders de l'AAP Recruiting International Leaders in Oncology | Fondation ARC pour la recherche sur le cancer \(fondation-arc.org\)](#)

The CFP is open to high quality comprehensive research including basic and translational research programs allowing the development of links between bench and bedside. The aim of the call is to allow a high-level researcher to move to France, in 2025, and develop an ambitious research programme within a French research structure.

The Fondation ARC considers this program to be a collaborative effort between the Fondation and host institutions, also in terms of financing of the newly created research group. To reflect the commitment of integration of the new group into its core research program, the host institution would ideally match the Fondation ARC budget – up to €1.5 million over a five-year period –, in terms of direct funding, cost of laboratory space, access to core facilities and additional personnel.

2. Details of the call

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

2.1 Criteria for the research structure

The "Recruiting International Leaders in Oncology" CFP is aimed to 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 new research programme in the field of oncology.

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

- *The research structures may only present one candidate.*
- *Allotting at least 50 m2 of immediately operational workspace in line with the project's specific needs, (specifically dedicated workspace and offices adapted to the project of the future team);*
- *The project must be hosted 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;*
- The host structure must provide clear and validated solutions for the permanent integration of the selected candidate;
- Providing a substantial funding to be used in line with the needs evaluated by the candidates:
 - o Allotting sufficient human resources given the project's needs (Ph.D. grants, post-doctoral fellowships, technical staff, etc.);
 - o 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.

The aim of this CFP is to ensure selected team leaders **remain in France in the long term**. As such, in addition to a rigorous and selective recruitment strategy, the research structure must commit to support the candidate as part of a long-term process.

The capacity of the host institute to support the project with appropriate means and to support the applicant for long term integration is an important parameter for evaluation and will be challenged by the committee during the audition.

2.2 Criteria for the Candidates profile

The "Recruiting International Leaders in Oncology" CFP targets are **top-tier researchers** recognised for their scientific career and world-class quality, their ability to establish and manage their own team and to conduct their research project independently.

- *Candidates must hold a Doctoral thesis (PhD) for more than 10 years and up to 25 years at the expected decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC (June 2025);*
- *The candidates chosen by the research structure must hold a position in a research structure abroad at the time of the opening of the call (October 2024);*
- The candidates should be free to move to France by the end of 2025;
- 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 and a research team);
- The candidates should have well-defined career objectives and should be willing 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

The candidate and the host institute will work in coordination to build the project. Applications must fall within the framework of research projects in oncology.

The application form must set out the following items in particular:

- The respect of the scientific strategy of the Fondation ARC to support state of the art basic and translational research with high potential for progress in cancer comprehension;
- 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 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 strategy for long term integration of the applicant in the French research system;

- The alignment between the project and the related funding plan (financial request should include duly justified annually planned expenses for the team setting-up, 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

Applications must be filled in English except the lay summary which must be written in French. They must be completed and submitted on time;

3 Project selection

3.1 procedure

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 includes several stages:

- Complete applications will be appraised by a Fondation ARC international *ad hoc* committee in a pre-selection phase:
- The **applicants** for the pre-selected projects will be interviewed in Paris (in face to face or remotely) **together with the heads** of the research structures by the Fondation international *ad hoc* committee.
- 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.

3.2 . Selection criteria

These criteria are meant to ensure that the application is meeting the Fondation ARC ambition for this CFP. In parallel to evaluating scientific excellence of the project and applicant, the jury will also challenge the solidity of the host institute commitment in terms of welcoming package and recruitment strategy.

- The relevance to the CFP on strengthening the research potential in the field of oncology within France;
- The research structure degree of excellence and scientific expertise
- The candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications, international network, collaborations...) and leadership skills;

- The scientific quality of the research project:
 - o project's ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer; relevance of the scientific issues and expected outcomes;
 - o Project's feasibility: project's alignment with the material, technical and human environment into which it might integrate;
 - o Quality of the project construction : work plan and management;
 - o Alignment between the project and the related funding plan;
- Quality of the relationship between candidate and the Research structure:
 - o appropriateness of skills brought together to carry out the project;
 - o Solidity of the permanent integration strategy;
 - o Strengthening of the research structure, added value of the new team and complementary fit with the teams in place;
 - o Level of financial commitment of the research structure;
 - o Alignment between the research structure contribution and the needs for the new team;
 - o Physical environment and manpower provided by the host institute for the project.

4 General funding terms

Funding provided by the Fondation ARC (up to 1.5 million €/5 years) will be dedicated solely to the research project 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.
 - o In case a candidate is recruited on a permanent contract during the funding, the additional net pay may be maintained. The part dedicated to the project leader's salary may be used to increase the impact and implementation of the project upon validation by the Fondation ARC;
- **Recruitment of additional staff** such as post-doctoral scientists, engineers, technicians or master students (but excluding PhD students), on fixed-term contracts by the host organisation and for the duration of the funding period.
 - o The recruited persons must have a contract of at least 12 months and the names and CVs of post-doctoral researchers must be transferred 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 Fondation ARC funding **will not cover indirect costs (overheads) of the fund management body**.

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1st 2025 at the earliest and December 31st 2025 at the latest.

All the research activities carried out with the support of Fondation ARC funding shall be in compliance with fundamental ethical and research integrity principles.

5 Evaluation of 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 ARC boards;
- Writing scientific reports to be sent to Fondation ARC annually;
- Participation of the project leader and/or members of their team in scientific events organised by Fondation ARC.

6 Application

6.1 Timeline

Launch of the call: **November 27th, 2024**

Return of complete applications: **February 14th, 2025**

Pre-selected candidates and structure heads auditions by the *ad hoc* committee: **May 2025**

Selection by the Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC: **05 June 2025**

Decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC: **19 June 2025**

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1st, 2025 at the earliest and December 31st, 2025 at the latest.

6.2 Submission procedure

To access and submit an application, the candidate must first contact us by email and provide information concerning the host institute at leaders@fondation-arc.org
A detailed template of the application form will be provided to candidates

Duly-completed application must be submitted through the dedicated site

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

by February 14th, 2025.

Automatically errors checking in the online application is done at the submission of the file. Final submission is required for evaluation (candidate will receive a receipt by email). Application can be modified as many times as needed until the deadline of the call for projects. Candidate must ensure to re-submit their application after modification (a new receipt is sent by email)