



# Amsterdam Public Health

## APH Strategic Research Call for Proposals 2026-2027

September, 2025

Amsterdam Public Health



Amsterdam UMC



VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
AMSTERDAM



UNIVERSITY  
OF AMSTERDAM

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# 1. APH Strategic Research Call 2026-2027

## 1.1 Scheme 2026-2027

We issue a call for research proposals that fit within the strategic goals of the Amsterdam Public Health research institute (APH) and its research programs. The 2026-2027 scheme offers room for 4 two-year Postdoc Fellowships.

## 1.2 Strategic scope: Core values of APH

For this strategic research call, the scope of the proposal must be linked to at least one of three selected core values of APH, which you can find below. The fourth core values has been excluded from the scope of this call. The core values are described in more detail in the [APH Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#). In the application form the choice for the core value(s) needs to be explained and motivated. Applications that incorporate all core values will not automatically be reviewed higher; the strength of the motivation also plays a crucial role.

- Sustainable scientific excellence  
APH pursues high-quality research performed by well-equipped researchers with a commitment to sustainability, respecting planetary boundaries, upholding ethical standards, and transparency in research.  
⇒ *Proposals focus on promoting sustainability with regard to planet and people, or research integrity.*
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
APH embraces diverse perspectives and fosters inclusive research and an inclusive working environment to promote fairness and address health disparities across all populations and generations.  
⇒ *Proposals focus on research that aims to increase inclusiveness (e.g. inclusiveness in research, inclusiveness in society).*
- Engaging partnerships  
APH fosters collaborations across sectors, disciplines, and regions and engages communities and societal stakeholders to address public health challenges effectively on both local, national and international levels.  
⇒ *Proposals include central multi-, inter-, or transdisciplinary approaches and collaboration with societal partners that are essential to answer the research question.*

# 2. Guidelines for applicants

## 2.1 Who can apply?

A postdoctoral researcher (defined as: PhD defense must have been taken place up to 8 years\* prior to the deadline of this call) affiliated with APH working on project funding and with a temporary position at the VU, Amsterdam UMC, or a temporary or permanent position at Amsterdam UMC Research BV can submit an application for a fellowship. The PhD defense must have taken place up to 8 years prior to the deadline of this call, this means that your PhD defense must have taken place on or after October 31, 2017. Assistant professors or PIs are not eligible to apply. The candidate should be affiliated to the APH research institute, which will be checked in the output registration system Pure.

APH postdocs who will be granted with the APH postdoc fellowship have the opportunity and are stimulated to make use of APH resources, such as the talented community of APH researchers, data from APH cohorts (Amsterdam Cohort Hub), registries or other. The APH granted postdoc fellows are expected to actively contribute to their affiliated APH research program and/or fulfill a prominent role, for instance in the APH Senior Program Councils. The granted APH postdoc fellows are expected to provide a mid-term progress presentation at one meeting of APH Board of Directors or APH Program Leaders.

\* An APH Extension arrangement applies to the post-PhD period. See chapter 3.2 for more information.

## 2.2 What can you apply for?

The 2026-2027 scheme offers room for 4 two-year Postdoc Fellowships. The topic and design of the research project should be a logical continuation of previous scientific work of the applicant.

A postdoctoral researcher should dedicate his/her/their working time at an APH affiliated department during 2 years on a research project, funded for a maximum of 50% by APH and matched by the applicant's department/supervisor and/or by (an) external (non-)academic partner(s) involved. The matched amount must be financial, and cannot be in-kind. The total budget that an application for a Postdoc Fellowship may propose amounts to a maximum of €200.000.-, spread over 2 years, of which a maximum of €100.000.- (50%) can be financed by APH. The budget should be spent on salary costs of the candidate. Additionally, a bench fee of up to €6.000.- per year and a single societal impact budget of €10.000.- is available. All applications must consider the following terms:

- The maximum amounts mentioned above take into account the different internal surcharge rates that apply to direct funding (i.e., APH funding and in some cases the funding matched by the department) and other funding (i.e., the funding matched by external partners and, in some cases, the department). Which means no additional overhead costs.
- Depending on the proposed structure for funding matching and/or the salary scale of the proposed candidate, the budget applied for may be lower than the maximum amount stated above. This may not be supplemented with materials or other costs.
- Only budget plans verified by the department's financial advisor/controller will be accepted. In case the department will match the funding, you must involve the controller specialized in '*1e geldstroom*'. In case an external partner will match the funding, you must involve the controller specialized in '*Overige geldstromen*'.
- The bench fee is an additional budget (up to €6.000.- for each year) separate from the salary budget, intended to cover project-related costs such as materials, data access, software, costs for additional personnel (e.g., students, assistants), etc.
- The societal impact budget (€10.000.-) is intended to perform impact activities to improve the societal impact of the research project. Creating impact means ensuring that scientific research contributes beyond academia, benefiting society at large. This involves translating findings into policy changes, practical solutions, or other improvements for individuals and communities. Impact can be small or large, immediate or long-term. Examples include: Dissemination of your scientific findings to society, event organization outside of research setting, co-creation with the target population of your research and stakeholders and (co-)creation of tools, protocols or guidelines.

## 2.3 When to apply?

The call will open on Monday **September 1, 2025** and closes Friday **October 31, 2025, 12:00 hrs.** Decisions on awarded grants will be announced at latest Monday December 1, 2025. The final starting date of the granted research project is March 1, 2026.

## 2.4 How to submit?

Applications must be submitted by email to [aph@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:aph@amsterdamumc.nl) no later than Friday **October 31, 2025, 12:00 hrs.**

Applications include:

- An **Application form** (fully completed and signed) <<**DOWNLOAD APPLICATION FORM**>>

and the following attachments:

- **(A) Motivation letter by the candidate** (max. 1 A4), specifying the candidate's expertise and competencies and the link to the proposed project <<**DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE A**>>
- **(B) Personal development plan** (max. 1 A4), specifying the candidate's personal development points and a training plan <<**DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE B**>>
- **(C) Research proposal** (max. 2 A4), containing a work plan, timeline, budget plan and publication plan for at least 3 publications (or 2 publications and 1 societal impact product) <<**DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE C**>>
- **(D) Letter of intent by head of department** hosting the fellowship
- **(E) Letter of intent by external financial partner(s)** financially involved in the research project (*if applicable*)
- **(F) APH Extension arrangement form** (*if applicable*) <<**DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE F**>>

The application documents must be completed in English. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

## 3. Assessment procedure

### 3.1 General procedure

The submitted proposals will be checked for eligibility by the APH Support Office. Eligible proposals will be reviewed on sufficient overall quality (yes/no; without scoring or ranking) by the APH Board of Directors. Proposals that are reviewed as having sufficient overall quality are selected. In case the APH Board of Directors considers a proposal as insufficient, an independent review committee will be asked for advice on overall quality. Proposals with insufficient overall quality will be declined.

Proposals of overall sufficient quality will enter a lottery, in which the APH Board of Directors will randomly select (via an independent software) 4 proposals that will be funded.

### 3.2 Eligibility criteria

The submitted proposals will be checked for eligibility by the APH Support Office.

#### Eligibility criteria

The applicant:

- submits a complete Application Form including all (signed) attachments: (A) Motivation letter, (B) Personal development plan, (C) Research proposal, (D) Letter of intent by head of department, (E) Letter of intent by external financial partner(s) (*if applicable*) and (F) APH Extension arrangement form (*if applicable*);
- is currently registered and affiliated as APH researcher (in the output registration system Pure);
- has a temporary position at Amsterdam UMC/VU (VU Faculty of Science/VU Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences) or temporary/permanent position at Amsterdam UMC Research BV or finished a PhD trajectory within APH;

- is a postdoctoral researcher: the PhD defense must have taken place up to 8 years prior to the deadline of this call, i.e., your PhD defense must have taken place on or after October 31, 2017 (APH Extension arrangement applicable, see below);
- submits a budget plan with 50% monetary matching by applicant's department/supervisor or an external partner.

### **APH's Extension arrangement**

If your PhD defense has taken place more than 8 years ago as of the deadline of this call, it is possible to extend this 8-year eligibility period by up to a maximum of 5 additional years. This extension applies only in case of the following rules and eligible situations:

#### General rules

- Extensions can only be granted for circumstances that began in or after the date of your PhD defense.
- The total maximum extension period allowed is 5 years.
- Extensions are calculated in full months, rather than in exact days.

#### Eligible situations for extension

1. Pregnancy, parenthood, and care for children (including biological mothers, fathers, and other parents with a child living in their household).
2. Care leave for family members, defined as a period during which you provided significant care or support to a close family member (such as a partner, parent, child, or other household member) with a serious health condition or disability, requiring your active involvement.
3. Illness, defined as serious or chronic conditions that significantly impact your ability to work or conduct research. Common short-term illnesses, such as a cold or minor infections, do not qualify.

If any of these situations apply to you, please complete and submit the [APH Extension arrangement form](#) along with your application.

## **3.3 Review criteria**

Eligible proposals will be reviewed on overall quality by the APH Board of Directors.

#### Review criteria

The research proposal:

- fits within the overall strategy of APH and at least one APH research program;
- has a clear and strong alignment with one of the three above mentioned core values of APH;
- has an original research question and an innovative character;
- is of high scientific quality;
- has potential societal impact;
- will be executed by a suitable and motivated candidate assessed by the motivation letter and the personal development plan.

### 3.4 Timeline

September 1, 2025	Opening call for proposals
October 31, 2025	Submission deadline (12:00 hrs.)
November 3-5, 2025	Check on eligibility criteria by APH Support Office
November 6-14, 2025	Check on review criteria by APH Board of Directors
November 17-20, 2025	If applicable: secondary review of proposals with insufficient overall quality by independent review committee (insufficient overall quality proposals will be declined)
Nov 25-Dec 1, 2025	Lottery: random selection of proposals with sufficient overall quality for funding by APH Board of Directors and decision sent to applicants
March 1, 2026	Final starting date of the granted research projects

## 4. Contact and other information

### Scientific questions

For scientific questions about the call for proposals please get in touch with:

**Prof. dr. Cécile Boot**

Director of Amsterdam Public Health research institute

Email: [crl.boot@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:crl.boot@amsterdamumc.nl)

### Procedural questions

For questions about the application, please get in touch with the APH policy officers via [aph@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:aph@amsterdamumc.nl)

For more information and the application form and templates visit the [APH website](#).