

AUF STARTSTIPENDIUM 2025: RESEARCH

Startstipendium grant for (bio-)medical talents of Amsterdam UMC from the Spinoza Fund of the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF)

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PART 1: CALL

Summary

For the third year, eight talented early-career researchers of each of the eight research institutes and an educational staff member of Amsterdam UMC will get the opportunity of receiving an [AUF Startstipendium](#) grant of max. €25.000 to advance their professional career. Please note that the grant can be used for hiring of personnel or buying of equipment for the project, but cannot be used for your own salary or appointment, and that regular overhead costs will be charged for costs budgeted to hire personnel. The awarded grants will be administered by the Amsterdam Research BV. This document only concerns the call for a **research project proposal**; a separate application form for educational projects is available via the [website](#).

This grant is offered by the Spinoza fund that is accommodated and managed by the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF). The grant is coordinated by the Research Policy Office. Research project proposals will be assessed by the Amsterdam UMC-AUF review committee that will advise the research institutes on who to nominate to the board of the AUF. The review committee consists of Amsterdam UMC researchers from all research institutes. Applicants need a statement of support from their department head. Per research institute, three candidates will be proposed to the directors, who will decide whom of the three to nominate to the AUF. A support letter for the nominated proposal by the research institute will be arranged by the coordinator of the Startstipendium. Applicants do not need to approach their research institute.

The CALL opens on the 17th of April 2025 and the deadline for applying is the 13th of June 2025 at 23:59h.

The Amsterdam University Fund and Amsterdam UMC take their respective Gender Equality Plans and Diversity & Inclusion policies into consideration during the selection procedure ([GEP/D&I Amsterdam UMC](#) - [GEP/D&I University of Amsterdam](#)).

Conditions

Conditions in relation to applicant eligibility

- You have previously received your PhD (max. 3 years ago, meaning between 13th of June 2022 and 13th of June 2025). In some cases, you are eligible while having received your PhD earlier. The total extension obtained cannot exceed 5 years, so you are ineligible for this grant in all cases if you received your PhD before 13th of June 2017. The valid reasons for extension are:
 - Extension of 18 months per child for biological mothers, 6 months for other parents (NWO Extension Scheme)
 - Long term sick leave (NWO Extension Scheme)
 - Education for clinical specialisation (NWO Extension Scheme)
 - Reduced research time because of clinical or education duties
 - Extension may also be granted in case you have made a switch to a significantly different field of research after performing postdoctoral research in a certain field (please reach out to rs-startstipendiumAUF@amsterdamumc.nl for an assessment whether this extension reason applies to you)
- You have a temporary contract as a postdoc or similar position with the Stichting Amsterdam UMC or the Amsterdam Research BV, for the full duration of your proposed project. Applicants with permanent contracts or guest appointments are excluded. Permanent contracts with an end date (or another condition by which the contract can be ended) at the Amsterdam UMC Research BV are considered temporary contracts.
- You have not previously received an Amsterdam UMC Starter Grant or AUF Startstipendium
- You are affiliated (on your PURE profile) with the Amsterdam UMC [research institute](#)¹ you are listing on your application

Conditions in relation to the project

- The application concerns an innovative, independent project with a maximum duration of two years (with a starting date after 1 November 2025 and before 1 June 2026).
- The application concerns a research project that can be used as a first step to apply for other grants from NWO, ERC or other research funders.
- The project budget was composed in collaboration with a project controller and contains an explanation of why this project can only be funded within this call.
- You are involved in only one application.

Conditions in relation to the submission

- The application is submitted via the webform on the [website of the Startstipendium](#).
- The application is complete (including appendices) and written in English.
- The application is submitted before or on June 13th 2025.

Planning

This provides an indication of the process concerning the AUF Startstipendium in 2025.

- Mid-April: Call open (communicated via Tulpintranet, Amsterdam UMC Research website, Amsterdam University Fund website, research institute newsletters, Postdoc Network newsletter, Amsterdam UMC Research BV newsletter, Yellow Pages grants newsletter)
- 23:59 on June 13th: Call closes

¹ Besides the departmental affiliation, all researchers *must also be affiliated* with at least one research institute and one research program (if the research institute has research programs). You can be affiliated with maximum two research institutes and maximum two programs per research institute. The Pure contact person of your [department](#) can affiliate you in Pure to a research institute and program. To register at a research institute, please contact the research institute directly via the [website](#) of the Research institutes. [More information](#).

- July to mid-August: Review by Amsterdam UMC-AUF Review Committee
- Mid-August to mid-September: Selection of one nominee per research institute by research institute director(s)
- Mid-October: Decision on the laureates by the board of the Amsterdam University Fund, followed by communication of the results to the applicants
- November: Communication of Startstipendium laureates to the broader public

Assessment

The Research Policy Office retains the ability to put applications that are resubmitted from previous AUF Startstipendium calls or the AUF Impact Call through a (partially) modified assessment process. Applications will be reviewed in multiple stages:

- Fulfilment of the eligibility criteria is assessed by the involved staff at the Research Policy Office;
- Eligible applications are reviewed by the Amsterdam UMC-AUF review committee, consisting of researchers from all research institutes;
- Top-3 applications per research institute are reviewed by the research institute directors to nominate a winning applicant;
- The Amsterdam University Fund board decides on the awarded nominees.

The review committee will use the following parameters to assess the quality of applications:

- The quality and feasibility of the research design
- The degree to which the research is innovative/distinctive
- The degree of potential societal impact
- Alignment with the listed research institute program
- Budget: Reasonable and responsible expected spending
- CV: In possession of the skills necessary to complete proposed research project

Contact

In case of questions, reach out to the coordinator of the AUF Startstipendium (Tobias Bartman, Research Policy Office) via rs-startstipendiumAUF@amsterdamumc.nl. All communications regarding your application will come from this email address.

Privacy policy

By taking part in the application procedure, you agree to share your personal details (CV) and research proposal with the involved staff (at both Amsterdam UMC and the Amsterdam University Fund) and reviewers. We (Amsterdam UMC Research Policy Office) will process your information confidentially and solely in the context of the grant. We will store your proposal and CV for a limited time (max. 6 years) before deleting the files. Winning applications are shared in full with the Amsterdam University Fund.

PART 2: APPLICATION FORM

*= mandatory

(...)= subtitle, containing extra information about the response to be filled in

Cursive = question type, if not a standard text field

Applicant details

Last name*	
Preposition	(e.g. van, de)
First name*	
Initials*	
Title(s)	(e.g. dr., MD, ir.)
Email address*	
Department*	
Telephone	
Preferred language of correspondence*	<i>Multiple choice: 1 option</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dutch English
Date of obtaining PhD degree*	<i>Date field</i>
Does the extension scheme apply to you?*	<p>(If you acquired your PhD degree before June 13th 2022 (3 years before the call deadline), you need to upload an extension form in the appendices section of this application. You can download this form from the webpage of the AUF Startstipendium and also find out more about the extension scheme.)</p> <p><i>Multiple choice: 1 option</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No
University affiliation*	<p>(Check your Pure profile if you are unsure)</p> <p><i>Multiple choice: 1 option</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Amsterdam Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Contracted at*	<p>(Almost all researchers with temporary contracts are employed by the Amsterdam UMC Research BV. Please note that for "Other" the organisation must be part of Amsterdam UMC.)</p> <p><i>Multiple choice: 1 option</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stichting Amsterdam UMC Amsterdam UMC Research BV Other (fill in)
Current function/role*	(e.g. postdoctoral researcher)
Current employment contract start date*	<i>Date field</i>

Current employment contract end date*

Date field

Link to Pure profile

(Acquire link via pure.amsterdamumc.nl)

Project proposal

Project title*	
Project summary English*	<i>Max. 250 words</i>
Project summary Dutch*	<i>Max. 250 words</i>
Expected start date of project*	(Grant decisions are made in October 2025, so start date can be after 1 November 2025 and before 1 June 2026) <i>Date field</i>
Expected end date of project*	(Maximum project duration is 2 years or 24 months) <i>Date field</i>
Project description of maximum 2000 words, on no more than 4 pages including illustrations, references and footnotes. *	<p>(Containing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project title 2. Summary English 3. Summary Dutch 4. Introduction 5. Problem statement and research aim 6. Methods/approach 7. Innovative/novel aspects 8. Expected results 9. Implications and relevance for research, healthcare and society 10. Alignment with Amsterdam UMC strategy regarding sustainability, diversity & inclusion, and digitalization/data use 11. Literature references 12. Research planning/timeframe) <p><i>Upload field, for Word or PDF</i></p>
Budget of the project*	<p>(Budget</p> <p>A reasonable and responsible budget is a core element of any grant application. Applicants are to reach out to their department's project controller (who can be found in this overview) to ensure a proper budget is drawn up. Make sure the project controller is aware that this funding cannot be used for the applicant's own salary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum budget of € 25.000 per application, with a project duration of maximum two years. • The Amsterdam Research BV will administer your project for Amsterdam UMC. • The applicant must already have a (temporary) appointment with Amsterdam UMC or the Amsterdam Research BV during which the project is performed. The funding cannot be used to finance one's own salary or appointment. It is possible to hire someone else

to take over some of your current obligations, to make yourself available for executing your Startstipendium project.

- Both material (e.g. software, equipment, gear) and personnel expenses are eligible for funding. It is possible to hire someone to perform a smaller part of the proposed research project, but we expect the applicant to lead on the project if it is granted. If you plan to hire personnel, the regular overhead costs apply and must be budgeted (pension and social security contributions, etc). In case of laboratory tests which can be performed internally, no higher amounts than the actual costs may be budgeted.
- In case the researcher leaves Amsterdam UMC before the end of the Startstipendium, the remaining budget reverts back to Amsterdam UMC for any ongoing obligations; the remainder will be transferred back to the Spinoza Fund of the Amsterdam University Fund.
- Provide a clear specification of the costs, without provisional amounts or unclear estimates.

The budget can, for example, be spent on (non-exhaustive list):

- Making yourself available for the project by hiring personnel (e.g. student assistant, lab assistant) to execute your other (teaching, research, lab) obligations during the Startstipendium project period (maximum of 2 years)
- Salary costs (including overhead costs) towards supporting personnel to work on the project (e.g. technician, student-assistant)
- Costs for facilities, (lab or other) tests, devices, etc.
- Trainings for the purpose of the project
- Outreach activities
- Publication costs)

Upload field, Word, PDF or Excel

Consulted project controller*	(Fill in the name of the project controller who advised you on the budget)
Total requested budget *	(Fill in an amount that is smaller than or equal to 25000)
Explanation on what the budget is being used for*	(Explain why the different costs are necessary for a successful project execution) <i>Max. 200 words</i>
Explanation why this project is especially suitable to be funded by the AUF Startstipendium, as opposed to other funding sources *	
Research institute alignment*	(In which research institute will your project be embedded?)

Multiple choice: 1 option

- Cancer Center Amsterdam
- Amsterdam Cardiovascular Sciences
- Amsterdam Gastroenterology Endocrinology Metabolism
- Amsterdam institute for Immunology & Infectious diseases
- Amsterdam Movement Sciences
- Amsterdam Neuroscience
- Amsterdam Public Health
- Amsterdam Reproduction & Development

With which research program(s) does your project align?*

(Please explain how your project will contribute to this field of research. Find each research institute's research programs via the Amsterdam UMC Research website.)

Appendices

CV*	(max 2 pages, containing at least information about previous education, employment, and recognition in the form of grants and prizes) <i>Upload field, Word and PDF</i>
Proof of PhD degree*	<i>Upload field, PDF and image</i>
Statement of support from head of department*	<i>Upload field, Word and PDF</i>
If applicable: AUF Startstipendium extension form	(Download from the web page on the AUF Startstipendium) <i>Upload field, Word and PDF</i>
Have you used generative AI in the writing/application process for this grant?	(If so, please use the 'Other' response option to explain what exactly you used this for.) <i>Multiple choice: 1 option</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No • Other (fill in)
I hereby declare that I have filled out this application truthfully and agree with the conditions as stated in the call and the application form.*	(If you fill in no, we will not consider your application.) <i>Multiple choice: 1 option</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No