

# Cancer Center Amsterdam call 2026

This program is made possible by the Stichting Cancer Center Amsterdam and aims to stimulate innovative research at the Cancer Center Amsterdam. Amsterdam UMC cancer research projects ranging from translational to clinical and quality of life projects can be submitted.

## Goal:

For preclinical projects:

- To stimulate early career researchers with highly innovative ideas. Projects should be high-risk/high-gain and not be ready to submit for funding elsewhere
- Note: Even for high-risk, high-gain projects, proposals should include some evidence of feasibility, such as preliminary data, prior related findings, or a well-supported scientific rationale, briefly described in the preproposal form.

For clinical/QoL projects:

- To stimulate early career researchers with feasible, highly clinically relevant and preferably innovative ideas. Projects should not be ready to submit for funding elsewhere.

## What can be applied for?

- Research projects for 1 or 2 years.
- Budget can be requested for personnel costs and materials. The maximum budget is €105,000 for a 1-year project and €210,000 for a 2-year project.
- Please note: funding CANNOT be requested for a PhD student.

## Conditions for Cancer Center Amsterdam research proposals

- Each researcher can submit only one project as first applicant.
- The first applicant must be within 10 years after completion of his/her PhD. (NWO Extension clause rules apply; 5 years extension for parenthood, training as medical specialist, care, or medical leave).
- As a PhD student, you may submit an application yourself for, for example, a postdoctoral position if your PhD defense takes place within 6 months after the preproposal deadline.
- The first applicant as well as the personnel working on the project must be employed at Amsterdam UMC at the start of the project.
- Attracting researchers using a Cancer Center Amsterdam grant is possible but they need to fulfill the criteria described above and be prime applicant.
- Researchers and group leaders can support multiple proposals as 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> applicant.
- Research must obviously be within the oncology domain and be fully aligned with the research focus areas or patient research groups of the Cancer Center Amsterdam.
- Phase III clinical studies require Quality of Life assessment.
- If METC or CCD approval is necessary for your study, it is advisable to obtain the approval as soon as possible. Funding will only start when this approval is given.
- The budget includes personnel and materials. ICT costs and congress visits are not covered.
- Part-time appointments should be well justified.

## Procedure Cancer Center Amsterdam call 2026

- Evaluation will be in 2 steps. First round is a pre-application phase in which the highest scoring projects will be selected for the full proposal phase. The second round involves full proposals, an internal review, and a short interview of the primary applicant with the respective committee.

- Projects fall into 2 categories; pre-clinical and clinical/QoL and will be evaluated by 2 separate dedicated committees.
- Pre-clinical projects will primarily be scored on innovation & quality, followed by feasibility, translation capacity and fit with Cancer Center Amsterdam.
- Clinical projects will be scored on innovation & quality, clinical impact and feasibility, including fit with Cancer Center Amsterdam patient populations.
- Final ranking will be made based on the review reports, ratings and the interview.
- The success rate within this call is approximately 25%

### Important dates

Deadline pre-proposals:

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 23:59, 2026**

Deadline complete project proposals:

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 23:59, 2026**

- Only applications submitted in the correct format will be reviewed (adhere to the maximum words per section, font Arial 10).
- Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the Cancer Center Amsterdam committee. Candidates of the best ranked pre-proposals are invited to write a complete project proposal (6 pages).