

STARTSTIPENDIUM 2026: RESEARCH

Startstipendium grant for early-career research talent of Amsterdam UMC, funded by the Spinoza Fund managed by the UvA Fund (UvA Fonds)

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PART 1: CALL

Summary

For the fourth year, research grants of max. €25.000 will be available for the Startstipendium:

- Startstipendium Research: 8 grants will be awarded to a talented early-career researcher of each of the eight [research institutes](#);
- Startstipendium Impact: 1 grant will be awarded as the UvA Faculty of Medicine nomination for the UvA Fund Impact Call. The grant available within the Startstipendium Impact will have a stronger focus on translating knowledge to societal impact through one or more of the [following themes](#): Strong society, Green futures and Healthy generations. It uses the same application form, with a few extra sections to be filled in if you also want to be eligible for the Startstipendium Impact.
- Startstipendium Onderwijs (education): 1 grant will be awarded to an educational project on the theme “Education that connects”. Information on this grant is provided separately as the terms and conditions are different from the research grants described above. Find the corresponding information on the [website](#).

All research grants within the Startstipendium are intended to kickstart research careers for researchers who have received their PhD less than 3 years ago. 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 grant is offered by the Spinoza fund that is accommodated and managed by the UvA Fund. The grant is coordinated by the Research Policy Office.

The CALL opens around the 14th of April 2026 and the deadline for applying is the 12th of June 2026 at 23:59h.

The UvA 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](#)). All applications are also expected to adhere to the Amsterdam UMC ambitions on Sustainability in research as described [in the position paper](#). This can be operationalized by applying elements of the Sustainable Research Cycle described in the paper.

Conditions

Conditions in relation to applicant eligibility

- You have previously received your PhD (max. 3 years ago, meaning between 12th of June 2023 and 12th of June 2026). 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 12th of June 2018. The valid reasons for extension follow the [NWO Extension Clause](#) and do require a completed attachment in the application. Summary of reasons:
 - Caring responsibilities as a parent: Extension of 18 months per child for biological mothers, 6 months for other parents
 - Care leave: extension for reduced working hours
 - Prolonged illness: extension for reduced working hours
 - Training for clinical specialisation: extension for training time
- 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, UvA Fund Startstipendium, UvA Fund Impact Call or prestigious personal early career grant (e.g. NWO Veni)
- 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 project with a maximum duration of two years (with a starting date after 1 November 2026 and before 1 June 2027).
- The project described in the application is independent from other projects, or the connection with existing projects (or pending funding applications) is described.
- 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.
- 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 12th 2026.

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](#).

Planning

This provides an indication of the process concerning the Startstipendium in 2026.

- 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 12th: Call closes
- July to mid-August: Review by Startstipendium Review Committee
- Mid-August to mid-September: Selection of one nominee per category (research institute or Impact)
- Mid-October: Decision on the laureates by the board of the UvA Fund, followed by communication of the results to the applicants
- November: Communication of Startstipendium laureates to the broader public

Assessment

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 Startstipendium review committee, consisting of Amsterdam UMC researchers from all research institutes;
- Top-3 applications per category (research institute or Impact) are reviewed by the relevant directors to nominate a winning applicant;
- The UvA Fund board decides on the awarded nominees.

The application will be reviewed using the following parameters to assess the quality:

- The quality and feasibility of the research design
- The degree to which the research is innovative/distinctive
- The degree of potential societal impact (for Impact: in relation to described themes Greef futures, Strong society, Healthy generations)
- Alignment with sustainability in methods and topic
- 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 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 UvA 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. Awarded applications are shared in full with the Amsterdam University Fund.

PART 2: APPLICATION FORM

- = subtitle, containing extra information about the response to be filled in

Cursive = question type, if not a standard text field

Applicant details

First name

Surname

Email address

Preferred language of correspondence

- *Multiple choice: Dutch, English*

Date of obtaining PhD degree

- *Date field*

Does the extension scheme apply to you?

If you acquired your PhD degree before June 13th 2023 (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 UvA Fund Startstipendium.

- *Multiple choice: Yes, No*

Department

Current role/function

Contracted at

Almost all researchers with temporary contracts are employed by the Amsterdam UMC Research BV. Please note that for "Other" the organization must be affiliated with Amsterdam UMC.

- *Multiple choice: Stichting Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam UMC Research BV, Other (fill in)*

Current employment end date

To receive the grant, your employment must last until the end of your proposed project. If this is not the case, a letter confirming your continued employment will be requested from your department head when your proposal would be nominated to the UvA Fund board.

- *Date field*

Link to Pure profile

Project proposal

Project title**Project summary**

English

- *max 250 words*

Project summary

Dutch

- *max 250 words*

Expected start date of project

Between 1 November 2026 and 1 June 2027

- *Date field*

Expected end date of project

Maximum project duration is 2 years or 24 months, and the project is expected to end before your contract ends.

- *Date field*

Project description

Explain the project's objective(s), approach/methodology, novel/innovative aspects and the expected results and/or outputs.

- *Max 1200 words*

Implications and relevance for research, healthcare and society

Explain how your research will positively impact research (e.g. by laying the groundwork for more/other research), healthcare, and society. It is possible to mention what groups of people can benefit, how your research could be implemented in practice and policy, or anything else that shows the relevance of your research.

- *Max 200 words*

Sustainability in research

Explain how your research takes into account environmental sustainability, e.g. by following insights from the position paper Sustainability in research and the Sustainable Research Cycle (available via [this link](#)).

- *Max 200 words*

Impact

If you want your proposal to also be eligible for the Startstipendium Impact, please indicate here and fill in the following sections.

- *Multiple choice: yes, no*
- *If yes, show the next two questions in this section. If no, this is the last question of section 'Project proposal'.*

Impact theme

Indicate which themes are represented in your proposal

- *Multiple choice, multiple responses: 1: Green futures, 2: Strong society, 3: Healthy generations*

Relation to theme

Explain how your proposal relates to the applicable themes, without repeating your section on 'Implications and relevance for research, healthcare and society'. Refer to that section if necessary.

- *Max 200 words*

Project budget

A reasonable and responsible budget is a core element of any grant application. The budget is only eligible if the Startstipendium budget template is used, which can be found on the website. 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.

- 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 UMC 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.
- Generally, the costs of this project are advanced by the Research BV and will be reimbursed based on the actual costs after the project is finished. It is possible to arrange exceptions in communication with the UvA 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

Total requested budget (in euros)

- *Value equal to or below 25000*

Explanation why this project is especially suitable to be funded by the Startstipendium, as opposed to other funding sources

- *Max 200 words*

Research institute alignment

With which research institute does your Startstipendium project align?

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](#).
- *Max 200 words*

Additional uploads

CV

Max 2 pages, containing at least information about previous education, employment, and recognition in the form of grants and prizes

- Upload field, Word and PDF

Proof of PhD degree

Do not upload your full PhD thesis. Please upload a copy of the statement or declaration you received from the university confirming receiving the title of PhD.

- Upload field, PDF and image

Statement of support from head of department

- Upload field, Word and PDF

If applicable: Startstipendium extension form

- Download from the [Startstipendium website page](#)
- *Upload field, Word and PDF*

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.

- Multiple choice, 1 option: 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.

- Multiple choice, 1 option: Yes, No