Fondation du Pélican
sous l'égide de la Fondation de Luxembourg

Hippert Research Program
Call for Projects 2027

FONDATION DE LUXEMBOURG

Preamble



The **Fondation du Pélican de Mie and Pierre Hippert-Faber** ("Foundation") was created in 2010 by Mr. Pierre Hippert, in memory of his wife. A retired Luxembourg pharmacist, Pierre Hippert was passionate about science and the arts, and through his foundation, wished to support initiatives aimed at encouraging research, in particular, scientific and academic. While Pierre Hippert unfortunately passed away in 2021 at the age of 92, his vision continues to shine through his Foundation.

In this regard, the Foundation seeks **to provide long-term support to the fields of biomedicine and biotechnology.** Therefore, through its objectives and the Hippert Research Program, the Foundation launches its third Call for Research Projects to contribute to the **financing of research projects**, preferably at the University of Luxembourg.

For the 2027 Call, project proposals must focus exclusively on research into neurodegenerative diseases or cancer.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are research units, research laboratories or research entities affiliated with the University of Luxembourg.

The submitted projects can take place within the University of Luxembourg, or in the frame of partnerships. Project proposals can be based on a previously completed project if the goal is to deepen a new research trajectory and/or pursue an exploratory strategy in terms of scientific research. **However, the proposed project itself must not have started before the submission of the application.** The principal investigators (P.I.) of project proposals must be contractually affiliated with the **University of Luxembourg for at least 60% of their working time**.

Luxembourg public institutions are only eligible if they can offer for the full duration of the project, a non-permanent employment contract of at least 24 months for post-docs and at least 36 months for PhD candidates.

Research and development experts, laboratory technicians and other personnel supporting the work of PhD students and post-docs, must not exceed 33% of the total cost allocated to all the project's Human Resources (i.e. Total proposed budget for the project proposal including Pelicans funds).

The type of contract, permanent or non-permanent, does not apply to these previous categories. Research directors and other management positions are not eligible for funding.

The project proposal may be carried out in collaboration with one or more public research institutions in Luxembourg or abroad. Only Luxembourg-based collaborating institutions may receive funding from the Foundation. The total amount allocated to these institutions may not exceed 40% of the grant awarded by the Foundation.

The collaborating institution(s) in Luxembourg or abroad should ensure that they will be able to offer scientific guidance as well as office and /or laboratory space, when applicable.

Any additional Institutions based in Luxembourg which play a major role in the execution of the project should be listed under "Collaborating Institution(s)". The applicants are encouraged to establish links with clinicians (ideally based in Luxembourg) to develop as much of a translational research trajectory as possible.

The project proposal must be sufficiently detailed as to facilitate its evaluation by the assessors. **The project proposal duration must also be strictly limited to a maximum of 3 years.** The project budget must be detailed, especially if other partners are involved. The annual funding per project from Fondation du Pélican may not exceed **€250,000**. The total budget per project funded by the Fondation du Pélican for the total duration of the proposal may not exceed **€600,000**. The Fondation du Pélican may select a maximum of three projects. A guarantee of contribution or co-financing from the research partnership is greatly appreciated (e.g. contribution in kind, or other source of funding).

To summarize: the costs mainly covered in the framework of the project's duration and for its exclusive benefit include non-permanent positions for **PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers**, purchase of new equipment and software, material and laboratory rental, consumables for the benefit of the project's workplan/experimentation, research stays for the benefit of the project (duration limited to two months), trainings with regard to the need for new equipment, new research methods, etc.

Applicants must complete the official application form and the detailed budget template provided with the Call. Additional supporting documents may be submitted where relevant, provided they do not duplicate information already included in the application.

Selection Procedure

Applications will be evaluated by an independent jury of external scientific experts selected by the Foundation based on their expertise in the relevant research fields. The jury will submit its evaluations and recommendations to the Foundation's Management Committee, which will make the final funding decisions. These decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If the jury considers that none of the applicants qualify for funding, the Foundation may decide not to allocate the funds. The funding will be allocated to a research project/program, not an individual.

Selection Criteria

The members of the jury will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- Quality of scientific approach, work plan (Project Management), team members (competence & expertise), and other resources used (tools, equipment, etc);
- Recognized public interest and relevance of the subject;
- Project feasibility;
- Clear use of funds;
- Existence or not of any co-funding (external and/or internal funds);
- Validation of the ethics committee and the data protection committee (if needed),
- Writing quality and financial data consolidation.
- Clarity and quality of the application, including the consistency of financial information.

Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted online through the following link: **[Jotform application link].**

Applicants must complete the online application form and upload all mandatory supporting documents, including the completed detailed budget template.

The deadline for submitting applications is **31 January 2027, at 14:00 CET. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.**

Applicants must inform the Foundation of any changes to the research team during the evaluation process, as these may affect the assessment of the project proposal.

The successful applicant(s) will be informed of the final decision by **30 June 2027** and invited to present their research project at a kick-off meeting with the jury of independent experts, on a date to be communicated by the Foundation.

Annual and final reports will be contractually obligatory for the successful applicant(s).

Contact

For further questions, please write by email to project.request@fdlux.lu.

Due Diligence Practice

The Foundation will award grants to the selected research projects. Prior to the award of funding, a due diligence process will be conducted to verify the integrity and compliance of the beneficiary institutions.