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## Start programme – Fellowships Scheme 2026

### Call for applications

#### "Doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD grants – Emerging infectious diseases"

### Terms & conditions

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*The information contained in these terms and conditions is taken from the ANRS MIE reference document entitled "Modalités d'organisation administrative, scientifique et financière de l'ANRS MIE" (MOASF), which sets out the financial regulations governing grants awarded by the ANRS MIE, available on the [ANRS MIE website](#). These terms and conditions detail the specific information related to the 2026 call for applications for "Doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD grants – Emerging infectious diseases" organised as part of the Start Programme's Fellowships scheme to support junior researchers.*

#### Application deadline:

**25 March 2026 at 11:59 p.m. (Paris time)**

Applications must be submitted electronically via the [Apogée platform](#) (section "Allocation de recherche Flash").

## Summary

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<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. Context.....	3
1.2. Scope of the 2026 call for applications .....	4
<b>2. General terms and conditions .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1. Eligibility criteria.....	4
2.2. How to submit applications .....	5
2.3. Managing body .....	6
2.4. Selection procedure.....	6
2.5. Evaluation criteria .....	6
2.6. Calendar.....	7
<b>3. Funding.....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1. Doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD grants.....	7
3.2. Funding terms and conditions .....	8
3.3. Funding deadlines .....	8
<b>4. Commitments of laureates .....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1. Integration into the ANRS MIE Start network (junior researchers).....	8
4.2. Scientific and financial reports .....	9
4.3. Publications .....	9
4.4. Promotion of open science .....	10
<b>5. Contacts.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Context

The ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases (ANRS MIE) supports the attractiveness of research careers in its areas of focus<sup>1</sup> and in all scientific disciplines, in France and internationally, by promoting scientific excellence and innovation.

As part of this initiative, the ANRS MIE launched the [\*\*Start programme\*\*](#) in 2024 to accompany and support the next generation of researchers. This support has been defined as a strategic priority<sup>2</sup> for the ANRS MIE, and the agency is mobilising resources and implementing specific actions to encourage the engagement and development of junior scientists in its research areas.

The objectives of the Start programme are as follows:

- to contribute to the training of junior scientists interested in the ANRS MIE's research topics;
- to encourage and support these researchers in pursuing and developing new research work within the agency's scope;
- to facilitate their integration into the research ecosystem by strengthening links between junior researchers and the wider scientific community.

Among the actions dedicated to training, the Start programme's **Fellowships scheme** provides funding for individual grants for junior scientists wishing to train in research.

In this context, the ANRS MIE is organising the **2026 call for applications (CFA) for "Doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD grants – Emerging infectious diseases"**.

This CFA is a continuation of the calls for applications dedicated to the funding of doctoral grants on emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) organised since 2022 by the ANRS MIE<sup>3</sup> and includes, for the first time, the funding of postdoctoral grants and fourth year of PhD grants.

In 2026, a maximum of 15 grants will be awarded to support doctoral and postdoctoral projects on emerging infectious diseases.

Candidates with doctoral or postdoctoral projects focusing on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs or tuberculosis are invited to submit their applications as part of the ANRS MIE's biannual

<sup>1</sup> Research on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs, tuberculosis, emerging infectious diseases

<sup>2</sup> "Support and promote the involvement of junior researchers and their professional development" (Objective No. 7 of the ANRS MIE Strategic Guidance Document 2023-2027:  
<https://anrs.fr/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/anrs-orientation-strategique-fr-def.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> 2022 and 2023 CFAs (arbovirus theme, in partnership with the Arbo-France network), 2024 CFA (arbovirus and modelling themes, in partnership with the Arbo-France network and Modelling CA), 2025 CFA (EIDs theme)

generic call for projects by submitting a research grant application (AR):

<https://anrs.fr/en/funding/all-calls-for-proposals/>

## 1.2. Scope of the 2026 call for applications

The call for applications is open to doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD projects focusing on **emerging infectious diseases (EIDs)**. The emerging or re-emerging nature of the pathogen(s) studied must be justified. Projects focusing on arboviruses, viral haemorrhagic fevers and respiratory viruses are particularly encouraged.

The following, notably, are not eligible under this CFA:

- projects focusing on antimicrobial resistance (AMR);
- projects focusing on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs or tuberculosis.<sup>4</sup>

**All research disciplines and approaches** are eligible under this CFA.

Projects proposing innovative approaches are particularly encouraged, including:

- modelling epidemic dynamics to deepen understanding of the complex mechanisms of disease spread and improve strategies for preventing, anticipating and managing future epidemics;
- the use of artificial intelligence applied to EIDs research to improve surveillance, early detection and the development of countermeasures;
- One Health research approaches integrating human, animal and environmental dimensions.

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## 2. General terms and conditions

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### 2.1. Eligibility criteria

The CFA is open to applicants of all nationalities.

To be eligible for this call for applications, candidates must:

- be affiliated with a French public higher education and/or research institution or group of such institutions, or with a French private institution accredited to award national doctoral degrees and contributing to the public service missions of higher education and research, as defined in Article L. 732-1 of the Education Code<sup>5</sup> ;

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<sup>4</sup> Candidates with doctoral or postdoctoral projects focusing on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs or tuberculosis are invited to submit their applications as part of the ANRS MIE's biannual generic call for projects by submitting a research grant application (AR): <https://anrs.fr/en/funding/all-calls-for-proposals/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/la-qualification-d-etablissement-d-enseignement-superieur-prive-d-interet-general-eespiq-46277>

- have submitted a complete application file, within the specified time limits, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in these regulations and falling within the scope of the AAC.

In the case of an application for a doctoral grant, the candidate must also:

- hold or be in the process of obtaining at least a national master's degree or equivalent (proof of degree completion must be provided at the time of funding);
- be enrolled or in the process of enrolling in a French doctoral school.

In the case of an application for a fourth year of PhD grant, the candidate must also:

- hold at least a national master's degree or equivalent;
- be enrolled in a French doctoral school;
- have completed three years of doctoral study at a French university.

**Each candidate may submit only one application under this call for applications.**

Applications from individuals who have already received one or more doctoral or postdoctoral research grants from ANRS MIE (all subjects combined) for a cumulative period of three years are not eligible under this CFA.

## 2.2. How to submit applications

**The application must be completed by the candidate and submitted by them in their own name.**

The application must be submitted online via the [Apogée platform](#) (section “Allocation de recherche Flash”).

**The deadline for submitting applications is 25 March 2026 (11:59 p.m. Paris time).** No additional documents will be accepted after the closing date.

The application must be written entirely in English (fields to be completed on the Apogée platform and documents to be uploaded – application form, CV, cover letter, letter of recommendation, etc.) and include all the information necessary for its scientific and administrative evaluation.

The application file includes:

- a detailed research proposal specifying the candidate's role (template available for download on the ANRS MIE website);
- the candidate's CV, highlighting experience and training relevant to the proposed doctoral/postdoctoral/fourth year of PhD project;
- a cover letter written by the candidate indicating their interest in completing a doctoral/postdoctoral/fourth year of PhD project on the proposed topic;
- a letter of support from the host laboratory detailing the candidate's potential, their ability to carry out the doctoral/postdoctoral/fourth year of PhD project within the laboratory, and specifying the context of the recommendation and the link with the

candidate;

- a certificate provided by the managing body confirming the candidate's employability for the entire duration of the funding requested;
- [for applications for a fourth year of PhD grant only] a certificate from the employer confirming that the candidate has been awarded a doctoral contract at a French university for three years.

Applicants must inform the ANRS MIE as soon as possible if they obtain other funding after submitting their application, so that their application under this call for applications can be suspended as soon as possible.

### **2.3. Managing body**

The legal entity to which the applicant is affiliated (i.e. the managing organisation/employer) must be specified in the application.

The ANRS MIE recommends that all candidates contact the human resources department of their laboratory's managing organisation to verify their employability for the entire duration of the funding before applying under this CFA. A certificate provided by the managing organisation must be submitted for this purpose.

### **2.4. Selection procedure**

- The ANRS MIE verifies the eligibility of applications.
- An independent, multidisciplinary international scientific committee evaluates and ranks the applications received.
- The ANRS MIE selects the laureates based on the committee's recommendations and in line with the agency's overall strategy. The ANRS MIE takes particular care to ensure diversity in the projects selected, notably in terms of affiliated laboratories, pathogens studied, gender of project leaders, etc.

A waiting list may be established in order to offer funding to another candidate in the event of withdrawal and if time permits.

### **2.5. Evaluation criteria**

For doctoral and postdoctoral grants, the evaluation focuses on:

- the doctoral/postdoctoral project: its innovative and original nature, its excellence and relevance to the state of science and the national and/or international context, the clarity of its objectives, its feasibility, and its collaborative dimension;
- the candidate's profile: their expertise and academic background and suitability for the doctoral/postdoctoral project, their motivation for the project, and their career prospects;
- the host institution: its qualities and expertise;

- the quality of the application file.

For fourth year of PhD grants, the evaluation focuses on:

- the relevance and justification of a fourth year of PhD work;
- the candidate's profile: their expertise, motivation, and career prospects;
- the host institution: its qualities and expertise;
- the quality of the application file.

## 2.6. Calendar

Application deadline: **25 March 2026** (11:59 p.m. Paris time)

Publication of results: June 2026

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## 3. Funding

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### 3.1. Doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD grants

The funding awarded will cover:

- the **salary of the laureate** (including social security contributions), in accordance with the pay scales applied at the host institution and in compliance with the regulations<sup>6</sup>, for a period of:
  - 36 months for doctoral grants;
  - 24 months for postdoctoral grants;
  - 12 months for fourth year of PhD grants;
- a **fixed budget of €5,000 for operating expenses** for the use of the laureate (not applicable to fourth year of PhD grants).

The operating expenses allowance covers, for example:

- publication costs associated with scientific articles related to the laureate's doctoral/postdoctoral project and for which they will appear among the authors of the publication;
- expenses related to the laureate's participation in conferences/seminars related to the doctoral/postdoctoral project, including travel expenses incurred as a result of such participation;
- costs for specific training deemed necessary by the laureate and the supervisor for the completion of the doctoral/postdoctoral project.

This operating budget may not be used as a personnel or research budget for the project.

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<sup>6</sup> In particular, the decree of 26 December 2022 amending the decree of 29 August 2016 setting the amount of remuneration for doctoral students on contract.

### 3.2. Funding terms and conditions

Research grants accepted for funding will result in the payment of a subsidy by the ANRS MIE to **the supervisory body of the beneficiary's host laboratory** (the "managing body"). This subsidy will enable the body to open and finance a fixed-term contract, such as a doctoral/postdoctoral contract, for the beneficiary.

**All successful candidates must therefore contact their managing organisation, in accordance with the deadlines in force within the institution, in order to prepare for the implementation of their fixed-term contract**, which must take place within the minimum and maximum time limits mentioned in the following point ("Funding deadlines").

The successful candidate shall provide the ANRS MIE with the name and contact details of their managing organisation within the same timeframe, so that the funding can be arranged.

The grants awarded are *intuitu personae*. If the successful candidate withdraws after the award decision has been made, the grant may not be transferred to a third party.

The grant covers the employer's cost of the fixed-term contract (excluding environmental costs) for the entire duration of the allowance, plus €5,000 in operating expenses for the laureate, if applicable, as well as management fees within the limits indicated below.

As a matter of principle, the ANRS MIE requests that the managing bodies waive or limit to the strict minimum the management fees they charge on the awarded subsidy. If it is strictly impossible for the managing body to agree to this waiver, the management fee rate will **be between 0% and 8%** of the total amount of subsidised expenditure.

### 3.3. Funding deadlines

The laureate may take up their position **no earlier than three months** after the publication of the CFA results and **no later than six months** after, provided that the administrative steps following acceptance of the application have been completed within the required time frame.

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## 4. Commitments of laureates

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By accepting funding from ANRS MIE, laureates undertake to comply with the following terms and conditions.

### 4.1. Integration into the ANRS MIE Start network (junior researchers)

The laureates will be integrated into the Start network, which brings together junior researchers supported by ANRS MIE, for the duration of the grant. They may be invited to participate in meetings organised by the network or by the agency's [scientific facilitation groups](#), and to

present the progress of their work. They will also be required to participate in any meetings organised by the ANRS MIE relating to the monitoring of their grant.

#### 4.2. Scientific and financial reports

The laureate shall send the following to the ANRS MIE:

- a **mid-term scientific report** (for grants lasting more than 18 months), including a progress report on their work and research prospects, as well as publications related to their doctoral/postdoctoral project;
- a **final scientific report**, within three months after the end of their doctoral/postdoctoral/fourth year of PhD grant, including a final activity report, publications associated with their project, the title and date of their PhD thesis defence (for doctoral and fourth year of PhD grants), and a reasoned opinion from their laboratory director highlighting the laureate's career prospects.

The funding management body will provide the ANRS MIE with the corresponding financial reports, in accordance with the terms specified in the grant award document.

In addition, the recipient must inform the ANRS MIE at any time of any changes in their administrative situation.

At the end of the project, a financial statement will be requested from the organisation managing the grant: any unused funds will be returned by the managing organisation to the ANRS MIE.

#### 4.3. Publications

Any publication or communication produced as part of the doctoral/postdoctoral project must mention the financial support provided by the ANRS MIE using the following wording, including the ANRS MIE grant identifier:

“Cette étude a bénéficié d'une subvention de l'ANRS MIE (Programme Start – Dispositif Fellowships – Allocations doctorales, postdoctorales et de quatrièmes années de thèses – Maladies infectieuses émergentes 2026 – ANRS-R-AR1-XXXX).”

“This study was supported by a grant from the ANRS MIE (Start Programme – Fellowships scheme – Doctoral, postdoctoral and fourth year of PhD grants – Emerging infectious diseases 2026 – ANRS-R-AR1-XXXX).”

These publications must be indicated in the scientific report(s).

To obtain the ANRS MIE logo: [information@anrs.fr](mailto:information@anrs.fr)

#### 4.4. Promotion of open science

In 2024, the ANRS MIE updated its open science policy (National Plan for Open Science 2021-2024 and joint commitments signed with the French National Research Agency (ANR), the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (Anses), the National Cancer Institute (INCa), the Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME) and, recently, the Foundation for Medical Research (FRM)).

In this context, the laureate (and the PhD supervisor, if applicable) undertakes to make peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from the ANRS MIE-funded project available under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) or equivalent licence, using one of the following three publication channels:

- in a native open access journal;
- in a subscription journal under a "transformative agreement" or "transformative journal";
- in a subscription journal with deposit of the publisher's version or accepted for publication ("postprint") in the HAL open archive under a CC-BY licence, implementing the Non-Transfer of Rights Strategy.

In addition, the laureate (and the PhD supervisor, if applicable) undertakes to:

- depositing the full text of these scientific publications in the HAL national open archive no later than the time of publication (version accepted for publication or publisher's version) and mentioning the ANRS reference of the research project from which they originate (e.g. ANRS-R-AR1-XXXX);
- providing a Data Management Plan (DMP). The purpose of this request is to prepare the data for possible sharing and dissemination in accordance with the principle of "as open as possible, as closed as necessary". The plan can be entered and updated on the DMP OPIDoR portal, preferably using the structured, machine-readable template. A first version of the DMP must be submitted to ANRS MIE within six months of the project start date. This plan must be updated as necessary, at least at the end of the project and at the halfway point. This obligation to submit a DMP continues after the expiry of the funding agreements.

The ANRS MIE encourages the submission of initial versions, pre-publications ("pre-prints"), to open platforms or archives and the use of permanent or unique identifiers (e.g. DOI, HAL Id or ORCID).

Finally, the ANRS MIE reminds applicants that publication fees or Article Processing Charges (APCs) are eligible for operating funding awarded to successful applicants (see Funding section), with the exception of those relating to hybrid journals (subscription journals with no current agreement).

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## 5. Contacts

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For any questions about the terms and conditions, the submission and evaluation procedure, and the communication of results relating to this call for applications:

**Research Support and Infrastructure Department – Calls for Projects Unit:** [aap@anrs.fr](mailto:aap@anrs.fr)

For any technical questions about the Apogée platform (submission of applications):  
[apogee@anrs.fr](mailto:apogee@anrs.fr)