
Start programme – ANRS MIE Virology and pharmacology network (New technologies group)

Call for applications

“Mobility & training grants for early-career researchers: training in advanced infectious diseases technologies” 2026

Terms & conditions

Application deadline:

26 June 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (Paris time)

Applications must be submitted by email to: bourses.nouvellestechno@anrs.fr

1. Purpose of the call for applications

1.1. Context of the call for applications

The rapid evolution of infectious diseases – particularly HIV, viral hepatitis, and emerging respiratory viruses – requires continuous adaptation of diagnostic and research tools. Advanced sequencing technologies and clinical metagenomics are now central to pathogen detection, surveillance, and therapeutic innovation.

However, access to hands-on training in these cutting-edge methodologies remains uneven, particularly for early-career researchers (ECRs). There is therefore a critical need to:

- facilitate technology transfer across expert laboratories;
- strengthen interdisciplinary and translational research skills;
- enhance integration of junior researchers into national networks such as ANRS MIE.

Within this framework, in the context of the [Start programme](#), the **ANRS MIE New technologies group (Virology and pharmacology network)** proposes the creation of **mobility and training grants** dedicated to immersive learning experiences in high-level partner laboratories.

This call for applications aims to support **early-career researchers** by funding **one-week mobility for hands-on trainings** in advanced technologies aligned with ANRS MIE priorities.

The programme specifically seeks to:

- promote the acquisition of **state-of-the-art experimental and analytical skills**;
- accelerate **technology dissemination within the ANRS MIE network**;
- strengthen **collaborative research dynamics**;
- support **career development and scientific autonomy of junior investigators**.

1.2. Training opportunities

Three dedicated one-week training tracks will be supported within French partner expert laboratories of the New technologies group network.

Clinical Metagenomics

- Unbiased pathogen detection
- Sample-to-result workflows
- Bioinformatics pipelines for clinical interpretation
- Applications in complex or undiagnosed infections

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of Respiratory Viruses

- Viral genome sequencing workflows
- Epidemiological surveillance and variant tracking
- Bio-informatic analysis

Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) for HIV

- HIV genome sequencing and resistance profiling

- Viral diversity
- Data interpretation in clinical and research settings

Each training placement will include:

- practical bench training;
- data analysis sessions;
- integration into ongoing research projects;
- mentorship by senior scientists.

2. Eligibility and selection criteria

Applicants must be **early-career researchers** (medical resident, clinical fellow/assistant professor, PhD student, postdoctoral researcher, or researcher within 10 years after PhD at the time of application).

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- scientific relevance to ANRS MIE priorities;
- coherence of the training project with career trajectory;
- quality and clarity of the motivation statement;
- potential for **knowledge transfer back to the home institution**;
- potential for contribution to **the ANRS MIE Virology and pharmacology network**.

3. Eligible expenses

The mobility grant may cover, within the limits of the allocated budget, and subject to validation by the selection committee:

- part or all of travel costs;
- part or all of accommodation costs.

The **maximum amount of financial support** is up to **€1,500** for one-week training.

4. Application guidelines

4.1. Required documents

- Completed **application form** (provided on the ANRS MIE website).
- Detailed **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**.
- List of **previous grants or fellowships** obtained.
- 1-page maximum **motivation statement** including:

- rational for choosing the training track;
- link with current or future research projects;
- expected impact on the applicant's career;
- added value for the applicant's home team.

4.2. Submission guidelines

The complete application must be prepared as a **single PDF file**.

The file should be named according to the following convention:

FirstInitial.LastName_TrainingGrants_CFA_2026.pdf.

Applications must be sent by email to bourses.nouvellestechno@anrs.fr with the following email subject line: *CFA – Training Grants for Early-Career Researchers*

4.3. Calendar

Application deadline: 26 June 2026 (12:00 p.m, Paris time)

Results: end of July 2026

Applicants will be informed of the results after evaluation by the ANRS MIE Virology and pharmacology scientific committee.

5. Commitments of laureates

The laureates will be integrated into the Start network, which brings together junior researchers supported by the ANRS MIE.

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 training and work. They will also be required to participate in any meetings organised by the ANRS MIE related to the monitoring of their grant.

6. Contacts

For any questions related to this call for applications, please contact the coordination team: bourses.nouvellestechno@anrs.fr