

# Fondation ARC Call For Proposals 2024

## Recruiting international leaders in oncology

### Leaders internationaux en oncologie

Submission site: <https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>

Contact: [leaders@fondation-arc.org](mailto:leaders@fondation-arc.org)

Deadline for submission: **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 before 3pm**

## 1. Background and Objectives

To heighten France's competitiveness and extend its international reach in the field of cancerology, it is essential that the skills already present in the country be strengthened and enriched through programmes that welcome top-tier researchers and help them establish their teams in France. To develop and revitalise research potential in the field of cancer, all key players involved in the fight against the disease, from donor agencies to research laboratories and research funding bodies, should be committed unanimously.

Fondation ARC pour la recherche sur le cancer is France's leading foundation dedicated entirely to cancer research. It supports work in all areas of cancerology research (prevention, screening, diagnosis, etiology, treatment, post-cancer, etc.), from basic to clinical research, as well as in epidemiology and economic and social human sciences. In particular, Fondation ARC is interested in high quality research likely to speed up discoveries and discovery transfer processes and bring about new treatments and new preventive and therapeutic approaches.

For several years now, in line with its Scientific Board and Scientific Strategy Committee recommendations, Fondation ARC has emphasised improving the attractiveness of France's research structures as an integral and high-priority part of its scientific strategy. Since 2017, through recurring calls for proposals (referred to as CFPs), Fondation ARC has committed to attract internationally renowned researchers to establish their research teams in France. For more information on previous laureates, please visit the webpage: <https://www.fondation-arc.org/actualites/recruiting-international-leaders-oncology>.

The CFP is open to high quality comprehensive research including basic and translational research programs allowing the development of links between bench and bedside. The aim of the call is to allow **a high-level researcher to move to France, in 2024**, and develop an ambitious research programme within a French research structure.

The Fondation ARC considers this program to be a collaborative effort between the Fondation and host institutions, also in terms of financing of the newly created research group. To reflect the commitment of integration of the new group into its core research program, the host institution would ideally match the Fondation ARC budget - **up to €1.5 million over a five-year period** -, in terms of direct funding, cost of laboratory space, access to core facilities and additional personnel.

## 2. Details of the call

Applications that do not meet the following eligibility requirements, indicated in *italic*, will not be considered for review. The other criteria are not prohibitive, they are however strongly advised.

### 2.1 Criteria for the research structure

The "Recruiting International Leaders in Oncology" CFP is aimed to French research structures located within France, composed of internationally renowned teams offering the critical mass necessary to this programme's ambition and who wish to develop a new research programme in the field of oncology.

It is expected that the host structures make substantial commitments to guarantee the team and research project the best hosting conditions, including:

- *Allotting at least 50 m2 of immediately operational workspace in line with the project's specific needs, (specifically dedicated workspace and offices adapted to the project of the future team);*
- *The project must be hosted by an academic research structure governed by a public research institution (University, EPST - public body for scientific purposes, or EPIC public body for industrial or commercial purposes, etc.), a non-profit organisation (association, foundation, etc.) or a public health institution in France;*
- Allotting sufficient human resources given the project's needs (Ph.D. grants, post-doctoral fellowships, technical staff, etc.);
- Allotting material resources (running costs and small equipment) as part of the project;
- Facilitating access to the site's shared services and technological platforms (technical assistance, usage time, etc.);
- Providing support for complementary funding requests;
- Providing a substantial funding to be used at the discretion of the appointed group leader.
- *The research structures may only present one candidate.*

This candidate must meet their needs in terms of skills development as well as the criteria set out in this CFP in paragraph 2.2.

The host structure must also propose solutions for the long-term integration of the selected candidate. The aim of this CFP is to ensure selected team leaders remain in France in the long

term. As such, in addition to a rigorous and selective recruitment strategy, the research structure must commit to support the candidate as part of a long-term process.

## 2.2 Candidates profile

The "Recruiting International Leaders in Oncology" CFP targets are top-tier researchers recognised for their scientific career and world-class quality, their ability to establish and manage their own team and to conduct their research project independently.

- *Candidates must hold a Doctoral thesis (PhD) for more than 10 years and up to 25 years at the expected decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC (June 2024) ;*
- *The candidates chosen by the research structure must hold a position in a research structure abroad at the time of the opening of the call (October 2023);*
- Candidates must have an established status within the scientific community, thanks to their research, the quality of their publications, their recognition in their field, and the human qualities shown in mobilizing a lab team (for example: last authorship publication or /and significant experience in managing an independent project and a research team).
- The candidates must be free to move to France by the end of 2024;
- The candidates should have well-defined career objectives and should be willing to participate in the open recruitment competitions for higher education and research bodies in France in case of their funding by the Fondation ARC;
- The candidates are expected to make a significant investment in the success of the project: they must do their utmost and devote the vast majority of their research time to this project during the support period.

## 2.3 Criteria for the project

**The candidate and the host institute will work in coordination to build the project. Applications must fall within the framework of research projects in oncology.**

The application form must set out the following items in particular:

- The research structure level of scientific excellence and expertise;
- The procedure implemented to select the future team leader;
- The position of the new team within the research structure and its added value;
- The respect of the scientific strategy of the Fondation ARC to support state of the art basic and translational research with high potential for progress in cancer comprehension;
- The candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications) and leadership skills;
- The scientific quality of the research project (ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer, feasibility);
- The alignment between the project and the related funding plan (financial request should include duly justified annually planned expenses for the team setting-up, potential recruitments and for the implementation of the project);

- The contribution of the research structure, stated in detail and set out in numbers (material, human, financial resources, etc.), as well as the other funding sources envisaged.

## 2.4 Criteria for the application form

- The applications must be completed and submitted on time;
- The applications **must be filled in English except the lay summary which must be written in French**

## 3 Project selection procedure

### 3.1 Selection criteria

- The relevance to the CFP on strengthening the research potential in the field of oncology within France;
- The research structure degree of excellence and scientific expertise as reflected by the quality of its scientific publications, technological environment and scientific activities at the site;
- The candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications, international network, collaborations...) and leadership skills;
- The scientific quality of the research project: project's ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer; relevance of the scientific issues and expected outcomes
- Project's feasibility: project's alignment with the material, technical and human environment into which it might integrate;
- Quality of the project construction (work plan and management...);
- Alignment between the project and the related funding plan;
- Quality of the Candidate / Research structure relationship and appropriateness of skills brought together to carry out the project;
- Strengthening of the research structure, added value of the new team and complementary fit with the teams in place;
- Level of financial commitment of the research structure and alignment between the research structure contribution and the needs for the new team;
- Physical environment and manpower provided by the host institute for the project.

### 3.2 Project selection procedure

All the applications meeting the eligibility requirements will be evaluated respecting the ethics charter and the conflict of interest prevention and management procedure set out by the Fondation ARC.

The selection procedure includes several stages:

- The complete applications will be appraised by a Fondation ARC international *ad hoc* committee in a pre-selection phase;
- The project leaders for the pre-selected projects will be interviewed in Paris (in face to face or remotely) together with the heads of the research structures by the Fondation international *ad hoc* committee (the heads of host structures may be represented by a third party in the case of justified unavailability);
- Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC, based on the *ad hoc* committee's opinion, will put the selected project up for vote by the Board of Directors.

## 4 General funding terms

Funding provided by the Fondation ARC (up to 1.5 million €/5 years) will be dedicated solely to the research project and be used to cover:

- All or part of the project leader's salary, according to the scale in effect for EPSTs (public body for scientific purposes) and, where applicable, additional net pay not to exceed 1,200 euros/month. In case a candidate is recruited on a permanent contract, the additional net pay may be maintained, and the part dedicated to the project leader's salary may be used to increase the impact and implementation of the project. This modification will be subject to a validation by the Fondation ARC;
- Recruitment of additional staff such as post-doctoral scientists, engineers, technicians or master students but excluding PhD students, on fixed-term contracts by the host organisation and for the duration of the funding period. The recruited persons must have a contract of at least 12 months and the names and CVs of post-doctoral researchers must be transferred to the Fondation ARC by the start of the work contract;
- Material resources: running costs and equipment (when the equipment unit costs exceed €200K, substantiation will be requested: estimate, possible joint-financing plan, scientific justification);
- Travel expenses (maximum 4% of the total request).

Note that Fondation ARC funding **will not cover indirect costs (overheads) of the fund management body.**

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at the earliest and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 at the latest.

All the research activities carried out with the support of Fondation ARC funding shall be in compliance with fundamental ethical and research integrity principles.

## 5 Evaluating funded projects

The projects funded by the Fondation ARC are subject to scientific and financial monitoring for as long as they are active which includes:

- Commitment by the laureate to present their research results upon the request of the Fondation ARC boards;
- Writing scientific reports to be sent to Fondation ARC annually;

- Participation of the project leader and/or members of their team in scientific events organised by Fondation ARC.

## 6 Application

### 6.1 Timeline

Launch of the call: **October 2023**

Return of complete applications: **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Pre-selected candidates and structure heads auditions by the *ad hoc* committee: **April/May 2024**

Selection by the Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC: **23 May 2024**

Decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC: **19 June 2024**

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the earliest and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the latest.

### 6.2 Submission procedure

To access and submit an application, **the candidate must first contact us by email and provide information concerning the host institute** at [leaders@fondation-arc.org](mailto:leaders@fondation-arc.org)

*A detailed template of the application form will be provided to candidates*

Duly-completed application must be submitted through the dedicated site

<https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>  
**by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

*Automatically errors checking in the online application is done at the final submission of the file. Application will be appraised only if the candidate does final submission. At final submission, candidate received a receipt by email to his/her email address. Candidate can modify their submitted application as many times as needed until the deadline of the call for projects. Candidate must ensure after modification to re-submit their application (a new receipt is sent by email)*

*Be aware that after the call for projects deadline, **no modification in the application form is possible.***

Contact for submission and any questions related to the CFP:

[leaders@fondation-arc.org](mailto:leaders@fondation-arc.org)

For further information concerning the online website:

[contactAAP@fondation-arc.org](mailto:contactAAP@fondation-arc.org)