

Grants

Types of grants

There are two types of funding schemes:

Pilot or exploratory grants

For early stage research projects built on preliminary data or small projects that complement larger primary projects.

Advanced grants

For larger breakthrough projects with substantial preliminary data.

Who can apply?

Principal investigators of any nationality and that hold a long term appointment within an academic institution, at least for the duration of the research project. Applicants must demonstrate an excellent track record and submit an outstanding proposal.

Twice a year, the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune launches calls to support fundamental, translational and clinical research projects that will strengthen the understanding, deepen the knowledge and/or will explore new therapeutic approaches for Down syndrome and other genetic diseases with intellectual disability.

The **Autumn call is exclusively dedicated to Trisomy 21 research**, while the **Spring call** is aiming at supporting fundamental, translational and clinical research programs related to research **intellectual deficiencies** of genetic origin solely with the **exclusion of Trisomy 21**.

2026 Spring Call

From 1 to 28 February 2026

What projects are eligible?

Research proposals should cover at least one of the following areas:

Innovative fundamental research addressing the aetiology, pathogenesis and progression of the studied disease(s) condition and will generate new relevant knowledge of the disease(s).

Translational research answering a question of major interest that can have a positive impact on the health of patients.

Clinical research including early phase clinical studies, ancillary studies based on initiated or completed clinical trials, and studies involving patients in the pathophysiological analysis of their disease. These studies should generate novel strategies for diagnosis, therapy and/or rehabilitation.

Epidemiological studies including case-control, cohort, cross-sectional and intervention studies.

Neuropsychology studies and development or application of new techniques.

Only research projects focusing on the above topics will be considered for funding. Event proposals are possible throughout the year by completing this form in accordance with the guidelines.

** The funds provided by the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune cannot in any way be used to purchase or make use of human embryonic or fetal tissues or another biological material obtained through abortions, IVF or human cloning or to create new human germinal cells.**

How are projects selected?

Projects will be evaluated and ranked by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune. External experts will be asked to review the projects if needed.

The Board of Directors of the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune will take the final decision based upon the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board and external reviewers.

Selection is based on compliance with the eligibility criteria, scientific excellence, novelty, feasibility and potential impact on clinical or therapeutic applications.

How much money is awarded?

Both schemes provide funding for up to 2 years:

Pilot or exploratory grants

€50.000 over 2 years

Advanced grants

€80.000 over 2 years

The number of funded projects will depend on the annual budget allocated by the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune to the calls.

When can I apply?

Spring Call

Open in February and is dedicated to **intellectual deficiencies of genetic origin solely**, with the **exclusion of Trisomy 21**.

Intellectual deficiencies such as Fragile X syndrome, Cri du chat syndrome, Rett syndrome, Williams-Beuren syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Angelman syndrome, Smith-Magenis syndrome among others. Autism not linked to the above diseases is excluded from this call.

Autumn Call

Open from early-July to early-September and is exclusively dedicated to research on Trisomy 21.

How to apply?

Applications can only be submitted through our [online application system](#).

Downloads

[FJL-Grants – Application Guidelines](#)

[FJL-Grants – Project file template](#)

[FJL-Grants – Certificate of compliance with the guidelines](#)

APPLY NOW FOR GRANT

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Funded projects

All years (1997-2025)

Number of projects: 875

Total Amount: €29.577.828

FUNDED PROJECTS 2025

FUNDED PROJECTS 2024

FUNDED PROJECTS 2023

FUNDED PROJECTS 2022

FUNDED PROJECTS 2021

FUNDED PROJECTS 2020

FUNDED PROJECTS 2019

FUNDED PROJECTS 2018

FUNDED PROJECTS 2017

FUNDED PROJECTS 2016

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