
Falk Foundation Research Grant 2026 Fact Sheet

Falk Foundation e.V. offers a Research Grant endowed with 50,000 EUR to support **early-career individuals** and promote **innovative scientific research projects** in the field of **Gastroenterology and Hepatology**.

The **Falk Foundation Research Grant** is intended to support research projects with a duration of 2 years conducted within countries where Dr. Falk Pharma has affiliates that are recognized as Scientific & Educational Excellence Partners of the Falk Foundation e.V.. In 2026 the grant is **limited to applicants based in the following countries**:

Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Switzerland (CH), Germany (DE), United Kingdom (GB), Ireland (IE), Luxembourg (LU) and the Netherlands (NL).

Research projects are typically expected to be carried out at the applicant's home institution within one of these eligible countries.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, **the applicant must meet the following criteria**:

1. Applicants are early-career basic/clinical scientists
 - who hold a PhD and/or MD degree
 - and apply for the grant within five years of receiving their most recent doctoral degree (cut-off date: application deadline)
2. Applicants are based in one of the countries mentioned above
3. The applicant must submit an original research project proposal using the Grant Application Portal. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
4. Applicants' research projects need to demonstrate a translational emphasis in the medical field of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.
5. The applicant can apply for only one research project per call.

Submission Process

1. Applicants should submit a **proposal for an original research project** in English language using the Grant Application Portal containing the following information:
 - Name, address, work institution(s)
 - Research project title
 - Abstract including aims, methods and anticipated impact (max. 300 words)
 - State of the art and preliminary results (if available) (max. 900 words)
 - Objectives (max. 450 words)
 - Methodology and working plan with particular attention to feasibility (max. 1350 words)
 - Chronogram with mandatory milestones and specific deliverables of the research project aligned with work plan (duration max. 2 years) (max. 300 words)
 - Significance of the proposed research project in the field of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (max. 250 words)
 - Scientific background of the research group (max. 450 words)
 - Allocation of the Grant funds including personnel and consumables (Please also indicate the allocation of any additional funding used)

As well as the **following documents**:

- CV of the applicant (Applicants must ensure that the CV contains only professional information related to work qualifications, work experience and work location – no private address, private phone number or the like.)
 - Certificate(s) of doctoral degree(s)
 - List of publications
 - A confirmation letter from the institution (e.g., confirming that the applicant is employed by the institution, and that the applicant will receive the necessary scientific and administrative support, and equipment)
 - IRB approval (clinical/experimental) of the research project, if applicable and already available. If the IRB approval is not yet available, it must be submitted before the start of the research project.
 - Statement on the relevance of sex and/or gender to the research project (if applicable) and considerations on sustainability throughout the research process
 - Disclosure of additional funding
2. The deadline for submission of applications for the **Falk Foundation Research Grant 2026** is **31 March 2026 (23:59:59 UTC+2)**.
 3. Applications are reviewed and scored by National and International Falk Foundation Faculty Members – specialists in the field of Gastroenterology or Hepatology - according to the criteria described below (see section “Review Process”). The International Falk Foundation Faculty will be responsible for the final selection of the endorsed research project.

Review Process

1. All applications are reviewed and scored by National and International Falk Foundation Faculty Members based on the following criteria:
 - Originality and innovation
 - Methodology
 - Feasibility of the research project and budget - realistically achievable in 24 months and with the budget provided
 - Significance of the research project in the field of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
2. Applications need to fulfil the formal criteria: no indication of plagiarism, compliance with word limits, justified budget, IRB approval (if applicable).
3. Reviewing: Each research proposal will be reviewed by a minimum of two Falk Foundation Faculty Members. The applications will be scored according to the evaluation criteria (see point 1.) and reviewers can make comments on each application.
4. Scoring: Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: The International Falk Foundation Faculty makes the final selection of the Grant awardee.
6. Notification: Applicants are notified of the results in **July 2026**.

Payment Process

1. **Payment of the Grant funds (50,000 EUR)** is contingent upon the Falk Foundation Research Grant Agreement being signed by the Grant awardee, the research institution, and Falk Foundation e.V.. The payment will be made in **November 2026**.
2. The Grant funds will be paid to the institution the Grant awardee is employed at.

Terms

1. A total of **50,000 EUR** will be awarded per Grant. The Grant funds will be paid to the institution the Grant awardee is employed at. The Grant funds can be spent on consumables and/or personnel, in any case it has to be spent for the research project only as the Grant is earmarked to be used for the Grant awardee's research project.
2. The proposed research project must **not involve any collaboration with a pharmaceutical company**. This includes, for example, the use of compounds or materials provided by such companies.
3. Falk Foundation e.V. expects to be informed if applicants receive additional public funding for their research project; this is likely to be regarded as an "add-on" and should not conflict with funded activities. However, additional funding of the research project by a pharmaceutical company is not allowed.
4. The equipment, IRB approval (if applicable), availability of staff and/or internal cooperation partners (if applicable) required to implement the research project must be guaranteed. In case the stated requirements are not met, and this negatively affects the research project, the Falk Foundation e.V. reserves the right to reclaim the Grant funds.
5. Falk Foundation e.V. reserves the right to request a return of unused Grant funds in case of a serious impediment to research project progress such as a significant delay or if the Grant awardee withdraws from the research project or field, or similar disruption.
6. The Grant awardee is required to send Falk Foundation e.V. a **copy of any publication and presentation (oral or poster) resulting from the funded research project**. This notification should occur as early as possible, but no later than three weeks before the publication/presentation.
7. When presenting or publishing the results of the research project, Falk Foundation e.V. is to be acknowledged on all printed matters as contributing to the funding. **Please request a Logo from Falk Foundation e.V. for such purposes.**
8. The Grant awardee is expected to attend the Falk Foundation Symposium 245 on 30-31 October 2026 in Brussels, Belgium, to personally receive the Falk Foundation Research Grant certificate during the Award Ceremony. In addition, **the Grant awardee will briefly present the research project proposal at the symposium**. Hotel and travel expenses as well as the registration fee will be covered. All finalists are invited to a Falk Foundation symposium of their choice within the period up to the end of the following year. Hotel and registration fees will be covered.
9. The Abstract, a 300-word synopsis of the Grant awardee's research project (extracted from the online research project proposal) will be published on the Falk Foundation webpage and other Falk Foundation communication channels as well as communication channels of the FALK Group companies, such as Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH and its affiliates.
10. Additionally, a final synopsis of max. 300 words is due within six months of the Grant awardee's research project end-date and will be published likewise. A report template will be provided by Falk Foundation e.V. approximately 18 months after payment of the Grant.
11. **The Grant awardee will present the research project outcome at a Falk Foundation Symposium in 2028.**
12. **By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to the Terms and Conditions as defined in the Falk Foundation Research Grant 2026 Fact Sheet. Please be aware, that in case of winning the award, Falk Foundation e.V. is to be granted an exclusive, sub-licensable, especially to the FALK Group companies,**

such as Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH and its affiliates, perpetual, timely and territorially unrestricted, irrevocable license to use the results of the funded project, such as the abstract. The right to use the results granted includes, without limitation, the right to reproduce and process, to edit and redesign, to translate into foreign languages, to use in analog and digital form, and to publish on the Internet including social networks, applications for mobile devices or other programs. For the avoidance of any doubt, the license granted to Falk Foundation e.V. does not limit the winner and/or his/her institution in his/her rights to use the work results for any scientific and/ or educational reasons.

Falk Foundation Faculties

Falk Foundation Faculties are composed of Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists and reside within the country of the corresponding Dr. Falk Pharma affiliates which are recognized as Scientific & Educational Excellence Partners of Falk Foundation e.V..