

PSL Young Researcher Starting Grant Call for proposals 2025

This call for proposals is aimed at young researchers with high potential, soon to be or recently recruited to PSL, by offering them funding to start their scientific activity.

This funding will be allocated to cover operating and personnel expenses relating to the winning researcher. It cannot, under any circumstances, be used to pay the salary of the winning researcher.

Projects must begin in Fall 2025 and must last a minimum of 2 years and up to 5 years. If necessary, the funding may be used over a period to cover the hiring of a doctoral contract (in this case, this must be specified in the application).

The maximum amount granted will be €150,000 (inclusive of tax, with the lead institution entitled to a management fee of 3% of eligible and justified expenditure, i.e. a maximum amount of €4,369).

For applications in Humanities and Social Sciences, it is possible to request funding of less than €150,000 if this better aligns with the specific needs and objectives of the project.

Eligible profiles :

- Researchers affiliated with research organizations, currently outside PSL University, who are preparing a mobility operation towards PSL University for a planned arrival as of the beginning of the academic year 2025 ;
- Researchers from outside PSL University who are in the process of being recruited by PSL University for a planned arrival as of the beginning of the 2024 academic year ;
- Tenured or contract researchers from Component Schools or associate members of PSL University (MCF or equivalent), or tenured researchers from research organizations within the PSL perimeter (CR or equivalent), recruited less than 2 years ago at the time of application.

Candidates, regardless of their profile, must have defended their doctoral thesis within the seven calendar years preceding the year of application submission.

- Maternity leave : an additional year of eligibility will be granted per child. A sworn statement or supporting document must be provided.
- Paternity leave : an eligibility extension may be granted, with duration determined on a case-by-case basis. Contact dir_recherche@psl.eu
- Disability : applicants with disabilities who defended their thesis more than 7 years before the application year may benefit from an eligibility extension (up to 12 years). This extension will be granted upon presentation of a Recognition of the Status of Disabled Worker (Reconnaissance de la Qualité de Travailleur Handicapé – RQTH) document or any equivalent proof.

Ineligible candidates :

- Researchers who are currently or have previously been recipients of an ERC grant.

Other eligibility conditions :

- The host institution of the applicant must be a component institution or an associate member of PSL University.
- The applicant's host laboratory must have a PSL University institution as its primary supervising entity. Only newly recruited permanent faculty members of a PSL University members who are not affiliated with a laboratory primarily supervised by PSL University may apply.
- The applicant's salary must be secured for at least 2 two years, starting from September 1, 2025, and covering the entire duration of the project.

Selection criteria :

The main criteria are the scientific excellence, originality, and ambition of the project. Candidates, who are expected to be among the best in their field, must be capable of securing a faculty position (in a higher education institution or a research organization – for those who are not yet in a permanent position) within 2 or 3 years and of becoming ERC laureates within 3 to 4 years.

The selection jury will evaluate applications based on its review of the application and the reports from international experts.

Submission conditions :

Project submission is done in a single step via the submission platform : [link](#) . Complete applications must be submitted on this platform **no later than Tuesday, April 22, 11:59 P.M.**

✓ To apply for the call, you will need to create an account on the submission platform. Your email address and the creation of a password will be required to track the progress of your application.

Language of application :

- The application must be written and submitted in English ;
- Recommendation letters must preferably be in English to facilitate international reviews ;
- Support letters from component institutions or associate members may be written in French.

To complete your application, in addition to filling out the required information directly on the platform, you must upload the following supporting documents in **.PDF** format on the submission platform:

- Detailed research project (free format)
- Budget expenditure
 - Specify if a doctoral student is planned to be hired
 - Did you obtain or request additional funding ? If so, please specify the overall financing plan of the project and the specific part of the project that will be financed by the PSL Young Researcher Starting Grant call
- Candidate's full resume

- Candidate's motivation letter
- 2 recommendation letters
- Letter of commitment signed by the President of the host institution (or his/her representative), guaranteeing that the researcher will be hosted, and that his/her salary will be guaranteed for at least two years.

Provisional Timeline :

- Tuesday, April 22, 11 :59 P.M. : closing of the submission platform, application submission deadline
- May 2025 : pre-selection jury and announcement of pre-selection results
- July 2025 : final jury, selection based on experts' reviews – announcement of final results

