

# Pasqual Maragall Foundation–Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias Fellows Program

FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program  
2026 Call

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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# *Eligibility*

## **Which diseases may proposals to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program address?**

With Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (ADRD) we refer to the most common forms of dementia. The FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program will consider proposals focused on:

- Alzheimer's disease (AD)
- Frontotemporal degeneration (FTD)
- Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB)
- Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD)
- Vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia (VCID)
- Multiple-Etiology dementias (MED)

## **What is considered to be basic research?**

For the purposes of the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program, please refer to the following definition from [Eurostat](#), the statistical office of the European Union:

“Basic research is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.”

Please note that, as mentioned in the Request for Applications, although the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and Alzheimer's Association consider basic research to be fundamental in the quest to beat age-related neurodegenerative diseases, basic research is not eligible for funding in the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call.

**What do you mean by translational research? Would *in vitro* or *in vivo* evaluation of new drugs or drug formulation be eligible?**

By translational research we mean research undertaken with a particular application or use in view. As the *in vitro* or *in vivo* evaluation of new drugs or drug formulation would have a use in view, this would be considered eligible, providing of course that the drugs would be used to treat Alzheimer's disease or Alzheimer's disease related dementias, and the results of the project are not subject to any type of rights held by for-profit institutions at the time of submission.

**What is considered to be a public or non-profit research organization?**

Any public or non-profit organization that carries out research as part of its normal activity. Research does not need to be its primary activity. Examples: foundations, hospitals, research centers, universities. Host Institutions are required to submit documentation to confirm their public or non-profit status. Please see the Submission Guidelines for further details.

**I am employed by a hospital and a foundation manages all of its research activities. Is it possible for the foundation to be named as my Host Institution?**

Yes. Please select the Host Institution according to how your organization usually manages its grants. If your project is selected for funding, the Host Institution will be asked to submit documentation to clarify the relationship between the two organizations.

**Does a Principal Investigator need to have a permanent contract?**

No but they will need to have a contract for the duration of the proposed research project. If they do not have a contract at the submission deadline, or their current contract is due to end during the duration of the proposed research project, they need to confirm with their Host Institution that they will be supported for the full project duration should the project be selected for funding.

**If a Principal Investigator is currently working part-time for family/personal reasons, do they still fulfil the eligibility criteria of holding a full-time position?**

Applicants must be considered full-time employees based on their organization/ institution's definition of full-time.

**If a Principal Investigator is currently working at an organisation outside Spain, how is the criteria to be a full-time employee at a public or non-profit research organization in Spain met?**

In approving the application for submission, the Host Institution agrees to the conditions of the call. If the application is selected for funding, the Host Institution will need to demonstrate that the eligibility requirement for an applicant to hold a full-time position at a public or non-profit research organization in Spain will be met before the signature of the Grant Agreement.

**To be considered eligible, the Principal Investigator must not have held a position as an independent researcher at a public or non-profit research organization based in Spain for more than five years. Who do you consider to be an independent researcher?**

An independent researcher is allowed to manage research projects independently and to apply to competitive funding calls without a mentor.

**The Request for Applications states that at the submission deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI), Principal Investigators (PI) must be principal investigator on at least one active, competitive research grant, and that mentored awards and training grants do not qualify. What is meant by “mentored awards and training grants”?**

Mentored awards and training grants refer to grants with the inclusion of a mentor or supervisor. The researcher may be named as the Principal Investigator, but the award of the grant was also dependent on the inclusion of a mentor or supervisor role.

Examples of mentoring and training grants: Juan de la Cierva, Sara Borrell, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship.

Please note that this does not mean that researchers holding these awards are not eligible to apply to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program. Applicants may be beneficiaries of mentored awards and training grants, providing they meet all of the eligibility criteria, including the need to be the Principal Investigator on at least one active, competitive research grant at the submission deadline.

**Does a Ramon y Cajal count as an active, competitive research grant?**

Yes, it does. As the Ramon y Cajal grant is awarded to an individual researcher and does not require the inclusion of a mentor figure, it is considered as a competitive research grant in the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call.

**I have recently been awarded a grant but the project has not started yet. Can I still apply to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program?**

At the submission deadline for the LOI, all applicants must be Principal Investigator on at least one active, competitive research grant. Unfortunately, if the newly awarded grant is not active before the LOI submission deadline, you would be ineligible to apply to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call unless you are currently the PI on another active, competitive research grant.

**Is it possible to “share” the role of Principal Investigator?**

No. Only one researcher can be named as Principal Investigator. The role of co-PI does not exist in this call.

**What is considered to be a proven track record?**

A proven track record will include demonstrable achievements in terms of scientific publications, grants awarded as principal investigator, presentations at national and international conferences, awarded prizes, granted patents. Achievements may vary according to a researcher's area of research and career stage.

**Can an organization be named as Host Institution in multiple projects in the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call?**

Yes. There is no limit to the number of projects in which an organization may participate.

## *Funding principles*

### **Does the €400,000 include the contribution to indirect costs?**

Yes. The maximum grant award is €400,000 and this must cover direct and indirect costs.

### **If the duration of a research project is less than 4 years, can the maximum budget of €400,000 still be requested?**

Yes, the maximum funding is €400,000 regardless of the duration of the project. Every research project is different. Please determine the project duration based on the length of time required to carry out the proposed research project. Similarly, please calculate the project budget based on the funds required to undertake the research project. At Full Proposal stage, the justification of the budget requested to undertake the research project is subject to evaluation.

### **Do indirect costs (overheads) need to be 10% of total eligible direct costs?**

No. The maximum contribution to indirect costs (overheads) is 10% of the total eligible direct costs (personnel, travel, equipment, consumables, other direct costs, and subcontracting). It is not necessary for applicants to request the maximum contribution.

### **What does it mean that the “budget must be reasonable, clearly justified, and distributed according to the expected timeline of the research activities”?**

Reasonable: the budget requested should reflect the expected cost of executing the proposed research project taking into account the actual personnel, goods and services required. The organization's usual practices must be followed and under no circumstances should the costs be excessive.

Clearly justified: all direct costs included in the budget must be strictly necessary to carry out the research project and their direct relation to the project must be well explained.

Distributed according to the expected timeline of research activities: the budget distribution should be in line with the timeline of the proposed research activities rather than simply averaged over the duration of the project.

**Will the grant amounts awarded be the same as the grant amounts requested?**

Yes, normally the grant award will match the budget requested. However, the Foundation and the Association reserve the right to offer a grant for only part of the requested budget. This may happen if, for example, specific budget items seem excessive or unnecessary to execute the project. One of the questions that the evaluator is asked is if there is a clear justification of the funding requested to execute the proposed research project, taking into account resources already available.

**Is an external audit report required regardless of the budget requested?**

Yes, all expenditure must be audited. An audit report must be submitted with the final financial report.

**Does the external audit need to be carried out by the same company that audits the institution's annual accounts?**

No. The external audit company should be appointed according to the institution's usual practices.

**Is there a limit to the amount that can be spent on the audit of the project?**

No. As projects may vary in duration and budget, there is no limit. Please estimate the cost of the audit based on your organization's experience.

**Is it possible to include part of the Principal Investigator's salary in the budget?**

Yes. It is possible to include a contribution to the salary of the Principal Investigator, providing that they are employed by the Host Institution, there is no incompatibility with the original source of salary funds, the time budgeted is in line with the time dedicated to the project, there is no double funding (their salary is not already fully recovered by other grants), and the expenditure is incurred in line with the host institution's usual practices.

**Is it possible to include part of the salary of members of the Research Team, including those with permanent contracts?**

Yes, providing they are employed by the Host Institution, there is no incompatibility with the original source of salary funds, there is no double funding (their salary is not already fully recovered by other grants) and the expenditure is incurred in line with the Host Institution's usual practices. The amount requested should be proportional to the percentage of time that the team members dedicate to the research project. A detailed explanation for this type of cost is required at Full Proposal stage.

**Is there a limit to the amount of the budget that can be allocated to subcontracting?**

No. However, subcontracting costs in excess of 30% of the total eligible direct costs will be reviewed carefully and will need to be particularly well-justified.

**My project requires specific equipment that my laboratory does not have. Is it possible to request more than €10,000 per year for equipment purchases?**

As a general rule, equipment costs must not exceed €10,000 per year. However, if equipment exceeding this limit is strictly necessary for the execution of the project, applicants may contact us and we will consider their request.

# Application

## **Is it compulsory to use the online grants system?**

Yes, all applications must be submitted via the [online grants system](#).

## **Can an application be submitted in Spanish?**

No, all applications must be submitted in English.

## **Can supplementary documentation be submitted to support the application?**

No, only the requested documentation can be submitted. Additional documentation such as letters of support, letters of recommendation etc. cannot be submitted.

## **Does a Letter of Intent (LOI) need to be submitted before a Full Proposal?**

Yes, the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call is a two-stage application process. All applicants must submit a LOI and those whose LOIs are evaluated most favorably will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

**I have completed the eligibility quiz on the online grants system, answered "yes" to all of the questions and I see a message stating that I may not be eligible to apply. I am not sure what the problem is.**

The “correct” (eligible) answer to each question is not always “yes”. Please review the wording of the questions and your answers.

**I have completed the eligibility quiz on the online grants system, answered "yes" to all of the questions and I see a message stating that I may not be eligible to apply. I am not sure what the problem is.**

The “correct” (eligible) answer to each question is not always “yes”. Please review the wording of the questions and your answers.

### **How do I update the read-only information in the application form?**

There are various fields in the application information and track record tabs that are completed automatically with information from the user profiles. After updating the profile, the information in the application form will be updated automatically.

### **Why is it not possible to submit my application?**

Please click on the Validate button to identify any potential missing/incomplete information or attachments.

### **At what stage is Ethics Approval required?**

Approval from the appropriate ethics committee(s) is required before the relevant project activities are carried out. A copy of the approval does not need to be submitted at any stage of the application process. However, a copy of the approval will be requested before the start of any relevant project activities.

### **Is it possible to make changes to the research project at Full Proposal stage?**

No, no significant changes can be made to the research project. As a general rule, the publishable lay summary and scientific abstract provided in the Letter of Intent cannot be edited in the Full Proposal.

### **How do proposals aiming to analyze data from the BBRC's ALFA Study indicate this in the Letter of Intent (LOI) form?**

In the Project Overview section of the LOI, applicants must specify whether their project includes the use of the ALFA study. If the answer is yes, they must provide a detailed explanation of the data to be analyzed in the "Brief project description, including methodology" section of the online form. They will also be asked to complete an additional form (ALFA Data and Samples Request Form available on the online grants system) to indicate the data/data and samples they would like to access.

### **Where can I find more information about the BBRC's ALFA Study?**

More information about the ALFA Study can be found [here](#).

**Is it possible to request the prospective collection of samples from ALFA Study participants?**

Yes. Applicants wishing to request data or samples that are not currently collected as part of the ALFA Study should clearly state this in the additional tab of the ALFA Data and Samples Request Form (template available on the online grants system). The sample size, timeline, and data required must all be specified.

**Is it possible to add procedures to the ALFA Study?**

Yes. There is an additional tab in the ALFA Data and Samples Request Form (template available on the online grants system) for applicants to indicate any procedures they would like to add to the ALFA Study. Please provide as much detail as possible and include the sample size, timeline and data required.

# *Evaluation*

## **Are Projects including the BBRC's ALFA study viewed more or less favorably than others?**

No. All projects are evaluated based on their excellence.

## **Will each grant be awarded to a project focusing on a different call topic?**

Not necessarily. All projects are evaluated based on their excellence therefore more than one grant could be allocated to the same topic.

## **Why might an application be rejected before it is scientifically reviewed?**

All applications must fulfil the eligibility criteria for the call (please see section four of the Request for Applications). The eligibility of all applications is verified, and ineligible proposals will not be evaluated.

Incomplete applications will also be considered ineligible therefore it is important to ensure that all sections of the online form are fully completed.

Applications may also be rejected for failure to respect the application instructions, for example established character/page limitations, to ensure a fair competition for grant funding.

## **Is feedback provided to all applicants?**

All applicants are informed of the outcome of their LOI, but detailed feedback is only provided to applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal.

At Full Proposal stage, all applicants are provided with a detailed evaluation report and a descriptive score (e.g. good, very good or excellent).

## *Grant management*

**Are there any additional requirements for the Host Institution prior to signature of the Grant Agreement?**

Yes. The Host Institution will be required to provide additional documentation e.g., to demonstrate that it is up to date with its tax and social security obligations.

**Will it be possible to make changes to the budget during the life of the project?**

Yes, but prior approval will be required.

**Will unspent budget be automatically carried forward to the following year?**

Yes, but all budget variances must be explained in the annual financial reports.

## *Other questions*

**In case of questions not answered by the Request for Applications (RFA) or this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, who should be contacted?**

Please send an email to [researchgrants@fpmaragall.org](mailto:researchgrants@fpmaragall.org) or [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org) and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

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