

# **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**

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

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# 1. Definitions

Please find below a definition of various terms used throughout this document:

- **Foundation** – the Pasqual Maragall Foundation.
- **Association** – the Alzheimer’s Association.
- **Funders** – the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and the Alzheimer’s Association.
- **Program** – the Pasqual Maragall Foundation–Alzheimer’s Association Alzheimer’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease Related Dementias Fellows Program (FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program).
- **Call** – the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call.
- **AD/ADRD** - Alzheimer’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease Related Dementias.
- **Host Institution** – an organization with overall responsibility for a research project [i.e., the organization (or future organization) of the Principal Investigator].
- **Principal Investigator (PI)** – the researcher responsible for the submission of the application and the overall execution of the research project.
- **Research Team** – a group of individuals at an institution, led by a PI, who undertake activities to directly contribute to the research project.
- **Research Organization** – an organization that carries out research as part of its usual activity (e.g., research center, foundation, university, hospital).
- **Organization Manager** – the individual appointed by an organization’s legal representative to be responsible for the management of the organization’s profile and the approval of applications to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program on the online grants system.
- **Letter of Intent (LOI)** – the first stage of the application process that is open to all researchers and institutions complying with the eligibility criteria (section 4).
- **Full Proposal** – the second stage of the application process that is only open to invited applicants, selected based on the assessment of the LOIs received during the first stage.
- **Grant Agreement** – the agreement to be signed between the Host Institution, the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and the Alzheimer’s Association specifying each party’s rights and obligations.

## 2. Foreword

This document includes the rules that will govern the applications for the Pasqual Maragall Foundation–Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD) Fellows Program, and the procedure of selection and award of the grants.

### 2.1. The Pasqual Maragall Foundation

**The Pasqual Maragall Foundation** is a private, non-profit organization that was created in April 2008 in response to the commitment made by Pasqual Maragall (former mayor of Barcelona and former president of the Government of Catalonia) by publicly announcing that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

The Foundation has a dual mission: to promote research to prevent Alzheimer's and other age-related neurodegenerative diseases, and to offer solutions that improve the quality of life of affected people, their families and their caregivers.

All this is possible thanks to the support of several entities and more than 117,000 recurring donors who contribute financially. Their support is essential to continue working for a future without Alzheimer's, since scientific research is the only way to overcome the disease.

For more information, please visit the [Pasqual Maragall Foundation website](#).

### 2.2. The Alzheimer's Association

**The Alzheimer's Association** was founded in 1980 by a small group of family members caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease. These individuals united in disappointment with the quality of information available to them and in dissatisfaction with the lack of medical and social awareness of this devastating condition. Two years after its founding, the fledgling organization funded its first research grant, awarding a total of about \$80,000 to a handful of investigators. Since then, the Association has grown into the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research. Today, the Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and related dementia – by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

As the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's and all other dementia research, the Association is currently investing over \$430 million, over 1100 research projects in 56 countries. Funded projects now explore the broadest possible spectrum of biological approaches to understanding, preventing and treating Alzheimer's and all other dementia; social and behavioral strategies for ameliorating the effects of dementia on individuals and their families and professional caregivers; clinical studies; and adaptive technologies.

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

Alzheimer's disease (AD) and other related dementias (ADRD) are a growing social challenge and strongly diminish the quality of life of affected people as well as the people around them. The Foundation and the Association are convinced that strengthening the scientific community committed to preventing or curing Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias is the optimal way to defeat them. Together they launched the Pasqual Maragall Foundation–Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD) Fellows Program to actively contribute to the growth of a robust, innovative, and collaborative scientific community focused on advancing the understanding and treatment of Alzheimer's and related dementias.

The FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program offers outstanding early- and mid-career researchers (less than 15 years past their doctoral degree) the opportunity to access significant research funding to establish or consolidate their independent lines of AD/ADRD research at a public or non-profit organization based in Spain. This innovative initiative is designed to allow and encourage top researchers to consolidate their scientific career in Spain. At the same time, the Program offers an attractive opportunity for outstanding researchers worldwide to join research institutions in Spain, a hub for cutting-edge research in AD/ADRD.

The Program aims to support outstanding individual researchers to undertake excellent translational and clinical research projects. Although both funding organizations consider basic research to be fundamental in the quest to beat Alzheimer's and other related dementias and the Alzheimer's Association funds research around the world, the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 call is focused on translational and clinical research and studies that are focused on basic research are not eligible.

## 3. The FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call at a Glance

- The FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call aims to support **outstanding early- to mid-career investigators** (no more than 15 years past their doctoral degree) to undertake **translational and clinical research** focused on **AD/ADRD**.
- The budget for the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call is €800,000.
- A **maximum of €400,000** will be awarded to each project.
- The proposed research projects shall have a **duration of up to four years**. Continuation of the grant is contingent upon the timely submission of satisfactory reports.
- Application is via a **two-stage application process**: submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) followed by the submission of a Full Proposal upon invitation as described in section six of this document.

### 3.1. Timeline FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call\*

| Stage  | Date   |
|--|--|
| Call opens   | 23 March 2026  |
| LOI submission deadline                                | 13 May 2026 12:00 (noon) CEST  |
| LOI results announced, and Full Proposals invited      | July 2026  |
| Full Proposal submission deadline (by invitation only) | Early October 2026<br>Invited applicants will always be granted at least four weeks to prepare the full proposal |
| Full Proposal results announced to applicants          | December 2026  |
| Results announced publicly                             | To be confirmed in collaboration with awardee, FPM and ALZ   |

\*Dates may be subject to change. Applicants will be kept informed of any relevant changes.

- Applications must be submitted by a **Principal Investigator (PI)** undertaking or wishing to undertake their research at a public or non-profit Research Organization based in Spain.
- At both stages of the application process, applications must be approved by the Organization Manager of the Host Institution (the organization where the project will be carried out) before the submission deadline.
- If the results of a project are subject to any type of rights held by for-profit institutions at the time of submission, the project is ineligible to be submitted to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call.
- The Projects must address at least one of the following topics focused on **Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias**:
  - Translational research to develop new drugs and build preclinical evidence.
  - Biofluid biomarkers.
  - Neuroimaging biomarkers.
  - Digital biomarkers.
  - Epidemiological studies.
  - Genetic risk factors.
  - Development of novel research tools and resources.
  - Immunity & Inflammation.
  - Modifiable risk factors.
  - Novel approaches to risk assessment, diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
  - Disease prevention.
  - Biological processes and molecular pathways associated with disease initiation, progression, or outcome.
  - Tools to predict risk prediction, disease severity and disease protection.
  - Non-pharmacological interventions.
  - Neuropathological studies.
  - Real World Data initiatives.
  - Multidisciplinary approaches that cross pollinate these areas.
  - Any other topic related to Alzheimer's disease and/or other related dementias.

- Applicants are welcome to request to analyze data from, or add procedures to, the ALFA (for Alzheimer's and Families) Study, the flagship study of the Foundation's research, sponsored by "la Caixa" Foundation and a past recipient of Alzheimer's Association funding. There is a specific section of the online application form (Project Overview tab) to indicate the data (and samples if applicable) that they would like to access. In addition to the standard evaluation procedure, these applications will be reviewed by the Director of the Foundation's Strategic Research Funding Office to ensure their feasibility and identify any potential conflicts of interest. More information about the ALFA Study can be found in the "ALFA Study and nested Sub-studies" document.
- Please check the eligibility criteria (section four) before applying.
- Should you have any questions regarding your application or eligibility, please first read this Request for Applications carefully and consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document available on the Funders' websites.



If your question is not answered, please do not hesitate to contact us at [researchgrants@fpmaragall.org](mailto:researchgrants@fpmaragall.org) or [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).

## 4. Eligibility

### 4.1. Applicants

Principal Investigators (PI) may be of any nationality and must meet the following requirements:

- To be in possession of a doctoral degree (PhD) and have obtained it no more than 15 years ago. Please note that this eligibility period (January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2025) may be extended in certain circumstances (please see section 7.3 for more details).
- To be considered a full-time employee at time of award, based on their organization/institution's definition of full-time.
- To 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.
- To have a proven track record (demonstrable achievements, for example, significant publications as main author, presentations at prestigious national and international conferences, awarded prizes, granted patents) in the topic of research proposed.
- To conduct translational or clinical research on Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.
- At the submission deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI), to be principal investigator on at least one active, competitive research grant. Mentored awards and training grants, i.e., projects including the role of a mentor or supervisor, do not qualify.
- To have the approval of the Host Institution to submit the project to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that an individual can only submit one project in the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call.

### 4.2. Institutions

Each application must be approved by the public or non-profit Research Organization based in Spain where the PI wishes to undertake the research project. This institution is referred to as the **Host Institution** in the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program.

The **following rules apply to Host Institutions:**

- Only public or non-profit Research Organizations in Spain are eligible to be Host Institutions. For-profit entities cannot be Host Institutions. Organizations are required to submit documentation to confirm their public or non-profit status.
- There is no limit to the number of applications that a Host Institution may submit.
- All participating organizations must be willing to support their PI(s) throughout the project lifecycle and provide the appropriate scientific and administrative environment to carry out the project.

## 5. *Funding Principles*

- The budget for the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call is €800,000.
- Projects may have a duration of up to four years. The duration of the research project should reflect the expected timeframe of research activities but please note that the minimum project duration is two years.
- Applicants may request a grant of up to €400,000 for a four-year project. The amount requested should reflect the level of expenditure required to undertake the proposed research.
- The FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program grant is expected to be the main financial support for the proposed research project. However, projects forming part of a larger project are allowed if it can be clearly demonstrated that there will be no double funding. For this reason, applicants are asked to provide details of other financial support (awarded and requested) during the application process.
- The €400,000 may cover the eligible costs of the research project including a maximum flat-rate contribution of 10% of the total eligible direct costs towards indirect costs (overheads).
- The budget must be reasonable, clearly justified, and distributed according to the expected timeline of the research activities. The correct allocation of the budget will be an evaluated criterion during the selection process.
- All expenditure must be incurred in line with the Host Institution's usual practices and be supported by a full audit trail, including invoices or other supporting documentation, and proof of payment.
- It will be a requirement to submit a financial and a technical report within two months following the end of each annual reporting period.
- All declared expenditure must be audited. An audit report must be submitted with the final financial report. The external audit costs are eligible project costs.
- The Funders reserve the right to conduct internal audits.
- Except for the cost of the audit report, all expenditure must be incurred during the agreed grant period.

- The grant will be paid according to the approved budget distribution. The first grant payment will be transferred to the Host Institution after signature of the Grant Agreement. Subsequent payments will be subject to the approval of the annual financial and technical reports and will be transferred until the threshold of 80% of the grant has been reached. The balance of the grant will be transferred following approval of the final reports.
- Any unspent grant funds must be returned to the Funders following approval of the final financial report.
- The Funders appreciate that changes may be required throughout the life of the project. For this reason, it will be possible to submit change requests to be evaluated by the Foundation and Association.
- The main focus of the Funders will be on monitoring the scientific activities of the projects. However, to ensure that the grant is exclusively spent on approved project activities, financial controls are also required.
- As a general rule, all expenditure directly related to the project will be considered eligible, providing it is incurred in line with the Host Institution's usual practices.
- The proposed budget may be distributed between the following budget headings: Personnel, Travel, Equipment, Consumables, Other direct costs, Subcontracting and Indirect costs (Overheads). Please note that VAT cannot be charged to the project.
- Additional information regarding eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the following table but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

|                  | Eligible costs   | Ineligible costs   |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>PERSONNEL</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Salary or contribution to the salary and social security costs of the PI</li> <li>⊗ Salary and social security costs of personnel required to undertake the research project (personnel employed specifically for the project as well as personnel already employed by the institution)</li> <li>⊗ Compulsory end of contract indemnity payment but only the part that corresponds to the time the person dedicated to the project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Salary costs during extended periods of absence (longer than 90 days)</li> <li>⊗ Recruitment costs of project personnel</li> <li>⊗ Bonuses (payments in addition to an employee's usual salary, for example for achieving objectives or as a result of an organization's financial performance)</li> <li>⊗ Employment visa costs</li> </ul> |

|               | Eligible costs   | Ineligible costs |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| <b>TRAVEL</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for PI and Research Team members and personnel hired for the project, related to:</li> <li>⊙ Communication, dissemination and outreach activities (including conferences to present project results)</li> <li>⊙ Training courses related to project activities</li> <li>⊙ Other travel strictly necessary to carry out the research project e.g., meetings with collaborators</li> <li>⊙ Travel visa costs</li> <li>⊙ Travel insurance costs but only for travel to countries that do not accept the European Health Insurance Card</li> <li>⊙ Compulsory end of contract indemnity payment but only the part that corresponds to the time the person dedicated to the project</li> </ul> |                  |

|                  | Eligible costs  | Ineligible costs   |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>EQUIPMENT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Equipment strictly necessary for the execution of the project. As a general rule, equipment costs must not exceed €10,000 per year. Any purchases exceeding this limit require prior approval from the Funders. The full cost may be charged to the project, regardless of the depreciation period of the item purchased</li> <li>⊗ Specialist software required to undertake the research project</li> <li>⊗ Renting or leasing of equipment strictly necessary for the execution of the project</li> <li>⊗ Specific hardware required for the research project <i>e.g.</i>, high specification computer for data management, hard drives for data storage</li> <li>⊗ Costs associated with repairs and maintenance of the equipment purchased for the project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Standard computer hardware and software (<i>e.g.</i>, Microsoft Office)</li> <li>⊗ Construction or renovation costs</li> <li>⊗ Furniture</li> </ul> |

|                    | Eligible costs  | Ineligible costs  |
|--------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONSUMABLES</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Laboratory materials</li> <li>⊗ Health care materials</li> <li>⊗ Animal models</li> <li>⊗ Cell lines</li> <li>⊗ Any other consumables directly related to the project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ General office supplies (stationery, printer ink or toner...)</li> </ul> |

|                           | Eligible costs   | Ineligible costs  |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| <b>OTHER DIRECT COSTS</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Internally invoiced services according to officially approved rates</li> <li>⊗ Open Access publication fees</li> <li>⊗ Courier costs (samples and documentation) directly related to the research project</li> <li>⊗ Animal housing costs</li> <li>⊗ Conference registration fees</li> <li>⊗ Compensation fees for study volunteers</li> <li>⊗ Insurance costs directly related to the project</li> <li>⊗ Organization of communication, dissemination and outreach activities and events (room hire, catering...)</li> <li>⊗ Costs related to the protection of the project's results</li> <li>⊗ Costs for photocopying/printing clearly identifiable as directly related to the project <i>e.g.</i>, printing of questionnaires</li> <li>⊗ Membership fees for associations, professional organizations, societies etc.</li> <li>⊗ Other direct costs required to undertake the project (if in doubt, please contact us)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ Rent for laboratory/office space</li> <li>⊗ General utilities (electricity, water, telephone etc.)</li> <li>⊗ PhD tuition fees and other academic fees</li> <li>⊗ General training courses</li> <li>⊗ Books, journals and magazine subscriptions</li> <li>⊗ Gifts for study volunteers</li> <li>⊗ Bank fees</li> </ul> |

|                       | Eligible costs  | Ineligible costs |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>SUBCONTRACTING</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ External audit costs for the audit of the financial reports</li> <li>⊗ External services associated with publications (manuscript review, correction, translation...)</li> <li>⊗ Any other external services required to carry out the project. Please note that subcontracting costs in excess of 30% of an organization’s total eligible direct costs will be reviewed carefully and will need to be particularly well-justified</li> <li>⊗ Other direct costs required to undertake the project (if in doubt, please contact us)</li> </ul> |                  |

|                                   | Eligible costs  | Ineligible costs |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>INDIRECT COSTS (OVERHEADS)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊗ A maximum flat-rate contribution of 10% of the total eligible direct costs (personnel, travel, equipment, consumables, other direct costs and subcontracting)</li> </ul> |                  |

## 6. *Application and Selection*

### 6.1. General Considerations

Application to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program is via a two-stage application process: submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) followed by the submission of a Full Proposal upon invitation.

The entire process of application, review and selection of projects will be carried out in English therefore all information must be submitted in English.

Applications must be made via the [online grants system](#) and include online forms and templates to be completed and uploaded as converted PDF files. Please read the Request for Applications and Submission Guidelines carefully before starting your application.

Prior to completion of the LOI online, some brief questions must be answered as part of an initial eligibility check. It is the responsibility of the applicant to answer these questions correctly. A full eligibility check will be carried out following receipt of the submitted LOI.

Under no circumstances may the applicants contact any of the evaluators involved in the selection process in order to obtain information on any aspect related to the Program. If this happens, the candidate may be excluded from the Call and/or any future calls.

Decisions to dismiss an application at any stage of the evaluation process are final. There is therefore no appeals process. The application and selection process has been designed to ensure that grants are awarded to the applicants and research projects demonstrating the highest level of scientific excellence. Rejection does not imply a negative assessment of the application.

## 6.2. Application and Selection Procedure

### 6.2.1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

Applicants are asked to complete and submit their LOI via the [online grants system](#).

The LOI consists of an online form including the following information:

- Basic information about the project (title, publishable lay summary, scientific abstract...)
- Information about the track record of the PI
- Information about the research project with a 9,000-character limit, including:
  - Background (maximum of 1,500 characters including spaces)
  - Specific aims of the project (maximum of 1,500 characters including spaces)
  - Brief project description, including methodology (maximum of 2,000 characters including spaces)
  - Novelty of the project (maximum of 2,000 characters including spaces)
  - Impact of the project (maximum of 2,000 characters including spaces)

In addition to the track record information included in the online form, a narrative CV (template available on the online grants system) must be uploaded for the PI.

Please note that the following rules apply to the narrative CV document:



- **Font:** Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri
- **Font size:** at least 11 points
- **Line spacing:** at least single line

No detailed budget breakdown is required at the LOI stage.

Following submission, all LOIs will be checked for completeness and subjected to a full eligibility check. Applicants will receive confirmation as to whether their LOI fulfils eligibility criteria and has moved forward to the scientific review stage. Please note that no further changes can be made to applications after the submission deadline. Incomplete LOIs will be declared ineligible.

Representatives from the Funders will evaluate all eligible LOIs according to the criteria detailed in section seven. Projects aiming to analyze data from, or add procedures to, the ALFA Study, the flagship study of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation's research center, will also be assessed for feasibility and any potential conflicts of interest.

The highest-ranking LOIs will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. It is expected that the total requested budget of proposals invited to submit a Full Proposal will be around three times the available Call budget.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their LOI, but feedback will only be provided to applicants who are invited to present a Full Proposal.

## 6.2.2. Full Proposal

Full Proposals are submitted by invitation only. Invited applicants are asked to complete and submit their Full Proposal and upload the required accompanying document (template will be provided) via the [online grants system](#).

Full Proposals will include the following information:

- An online form detailing available resources, the project budget, budget justification, and an ethical checklist.
- A ten-page offline document related to the project including the information below:
  - Background, including problem statement and overall aim of the project.
  - Project description, including methodology and workplan.
  - Novelty of the project.
  - Impact of the project.
  - Research team.
  - Communication, dissemination, exploitation, and data sharing plans.

Ethics and security issues, references and supporting figures do not count towards the page limit.

However, no more than four pages of supporting figures can be included.

Please note that the following rules apply to the offline document:



- **Font:** Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri
- **Font size:** at least 11 points
- **Line spacing:** at least single line

Following submission, all Full Proposals will be checked for completeness and their eligibility verified. Applicants will receive confirmation as to whether their Full Proposal fulfils eligibility criteria and is moving forward to the scientific review stage. Please note that no further changes can be made to applications after the submission deadline and incomplete Full Proposals will be declared ineligible.

External experts of recognized international prestige in the AD/ADRD field will evaluate the full proposals according to the criteria detailed in section seven. Suitable reviewers will be selected based on the topic(s) and the keywords provided by the applicants.

The highest-ranking Full Proposals will be invited to sign a Grant Agreement with the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and the Alzheimer's Association.

At this stage a full evaluation report and a descriptive score (e.g., good, very good or excellent) will be provided to all applicants.

If a selected PI waives the grant, the Funders may contact the next highest- scoring applicant.

In the highly unlikely event that proposals are not deemed by the external reviewers to be of sufficient quality for funding, the Funders reserve the right to not award grants on this occasion.

Following communication of the grant award, the Host Institution and Principal Investigator of each awarded project will be asked to provide the required documentation to allow the Grant Agreement to be prepared.

Details of the selected applicants and their projects will be published on the websites of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and the Alzheimer's Association.

## 7. Evaluation Criteria

Evaluators will be selected based on the topic and the keywords provided in the online application form.

### 7.1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

**Representatives from the Funders** will award the Letters of Intent (LOI) a score for each of the following evaluation criteria:

#### PI Track Record (40%)

- Ability to successfully execute the project based on demonstrable scientific expertise.
- Demonstrable independency to lead research projects and teams (awarded and executed research grants, mentorship of researchers...).
- Relevance of contributions to the generation of knowledge and ideas in the area of research proposed (*e.g.*, publications, new methodologies, findings from previous research projects...).
- Relevance of other contributions (development of others, contributions to the wider research and innovation community, contributions to broader audiences and towards wider social benefit).

#### Scientific Excellence (40%)

- Degree of novelty of the research project proposed.
- Quality of the research project proposed.
- Clarity of the hypothesis and objectives.
- Potential of the project to generate highly relevant results.
- Extent to which the proposal is ambitious yet realistic.

## Impact (20%)

- Scientific impact of the project in terms of its potential contribution to advancement of the research field.
- Potential impact on society.

## 7.2. Full Proposal

**External experts** will award the Full Proposals a score for each of the following evaluation criteria:

### Research Team (25%)

- Capacity of the Research Team to ensure project implementation (e.g., level of experience, complementary expertise, sufficient Research Team members).

### Scientific Excellence (25%)

- Degree of novelty of the research project proposed.
- Quality of the research project proposed.
- Clarity of the hypothesis and objectives.
- Potential of the project to generate highly relevant results.
- Extent to which the proposal is ambitious yet realistic.

### Implementation (25%)

- Quality of the work plan including logical structure, feasibility of the timescales proposed and the inclusion of quantifiable information to allow for progress to be monitored.
- Access to sufficient infrastructure and resources to carry out the project in the organization.
- Clear justification of the funding requested to execute the proposed research project and its distribution during the life of the project, taking into account resources already available.
- Identification of critical risks and quality of the contingency plan to be executed.
- Well addressed ethical issues.

## Impact (25%)

- Scientific impact of the project in terms of its potential contribution to advancement in the research field.
- Potential impact on society.
- Extent to which the expected impact can be quantified and is credible.
- Quality of the communication, dissemination, exploitation, and data sharing plans and their suitability for the research project proposed.
- If applicable, clarity of the intellectual property strategy.

### 7.3. Extension to Doctoral Degree Eligibility Period

As stated in section 4.1, the eligibility period for applicants to have obtained their doctoral degree (PhD) may be extended beyond 15 years in certain circumstances. A researcher can request an extension to the 15-year doctoral degree eligibility period for the following reasons:

- Maternity - eligibility period extended by 18 months per child born since the doctoral degree was obtained. If the leave taken was longer than 18 months, the extension will be for the actual duration of time taken as leave. The same applies for child adoption.
- Paternity leave - eligibility period extended by the actual duration of time taken as paternity leave since the doctoral degree was obtained. The same applies for child adoption.
- Long-term (over 90 days) illness - eligibility period extended by the actual period of sick leave taken or by the actual period of compassionate leave taken to care for a seriously ill close family member since the doctoral degree was obtained.
- Other exceptional circumstances - considered on a case-by-case basis. If you think your circumstances may warrant an extension of the eligibility period, please contact us for advice before applying.

Detailed information on the documentation to be submitted to support each request can be found in the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD 2026 Call Submission Guidelines at the Foundation's and Association's websites.

## 8. Grant Management Obligations

The obligations of the PI and the Host institution will be clearly outlined in the Grant Agreement they will sign with the Funders before the start of the project. Some key obligations are provided below:

**The Host Institution is responsible for** ensuring that the following obligations are met:

- Administrative and financial management of the grant in line with the Program's rules.
- Requesting approval for any changes to the proposed budget.
- Submission of annual financial reports.
- Submission of an external audit report with the final financial report.
- Informing the Funders about the protection or registration of any projects results as intellectual or industrial property. If the results derived from the funded project are exploited and profitable, the Host Institution will allocate 12.5% of any and all gross revenue to the Foundation and 12.5% to the Association, in order to allow them to support more research in the future.

**The PI is responsible for** ensuring that the following obligations are met:

- Execution of the project according to the Full Proposal approved and in compliance with ethical principles and other applicable regulations.
- Submission of annual technical reports.
- Attendance at review meetings to discuss the project's progress if requested by the Funders.
- Approval from the relevant ethics committee(s) obtained before any project activity raising an ethical issue starts (copies of the approval(s) will be requested).
- Attendance at communication and dissemination events directly related to their research project.
- Acknowledgement of the Foundation, the Association and the Program in all communication and dissemination activities.

Please note that these are not exhaustive lists and that all grant management obligations will be specified in the Grant Agreement.

## 9. *Dissemination, Communication and Outreach Responsibilities*

### 9.1. General commitment to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program

The recipient of the award is committed to collaborating in dissemination, communication, outreach, and fundraising activities related to their research project or the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program. Some key requirements are detailed below.

#### Acknowledgements

- Dissemination, communication, and outreach activities in any form (audio-visual materials, press releases, posters, flyers, webpages, publications, etc.) must include the following text: “This project received funding from the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and the Alzheimer’s Association under the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program (Grant Agreement Number 202X-XXXX)” and whenever possible the logos of the Funders.

#### Dissemination of results

- Grant recipients will inform the Funders of the results of their research, including scientific papers, awards, conferences, etc. This communication must be made in advance. The Funders will discuss with the PI the appropriate communication strategy, channels etc.
- Open access to all scientific publications relating to the project must be ensured.

Please note that these are not exhaustive lists, and that dissemination, communication and outreach, and data and resource sharing responsibilities will be fully specified in the Grant Agreement.

## 10. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Both data privacy and information confidentiality are important aspects for the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and the Alzheimer's Association. The processing of personal data will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the data protection regulations, specifically Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and Organic Law 3/2018 of December 5 on the protection of personal data and guarantee of digital rights.

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation and Alzheimer's Association will process all personal data collected for the purposes of this Call, which include, among other related purposes:

- Management of the application and evaluation process.
- Financial and scientific follow-up of awarded projects.
- Promotion of the Program and its results at Spanish, European and international levels.
- Any legal obligations of the Foundation or the Association resulting from its role as the provider of grant funds.
- Understanding of the current research climate in the fields of Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease related dementias.

For more detailed information about the processing, communication and deletion periods of your registered personal data, please see our [privacy policy](#).

## *11. Acceptance of the Call Conditions*

- The submission of an application to the FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call signifies the acceptance of its conditions by the participating institution and researcher.
- The detection of non-compliance of any of the conditions of the Call may result in the Funders rejecting the application or cancelling the awarded grant (with the request of the return of any grant amounts already transferred if deemed appropriate).
- The Foundation and Association, acting jointly, shall hold the exclusive right of final interpretation of the information contained in the Request for Applications and the right to make changes to the wording of this document if clarifications are required.

# FPM–ALZ AD/ADRD Fellows Program 2026 Call