

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FRONTIERS Investigator Program Hungary - 2026

Groundbreaking discoveries and disruptive technologies have the power to shape the future of humankind. Such breakthroughs are most likely to emerge where creative minds converge with long-term funding security for high-risk endeavors.

The **FRONTIERS Top Research and Talent Development Foundation** was established in 2025 with the mission to fund top-tier research in an international network centered in Hungary. FRONTIERS' mission is to finance excellent research across all areas of natural sciences; medical and health sciences; engineering and technology; and agricultural and veterinary sciences (in line with the Frascati Manual 2015 by OECD), attracting the brightest minds to Hungary across all research career stages.

### 1. RESEARCH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The FRONTIERS Foundation calls for proposals for the FRONTIERS Investigator Program, targeting researchers with an outstanding track record who are interested in **establishing an internationally competitive, sustainable research group in Hungary** within the framework of **full-time engagement**. The research group will be provided world-class support for research at the frontiers of science and technology and for mentoring outstanding young talent and to spawn the next generation of FRONTIERS Investigators. Investigators are expected to publish impactful results in high-profile scientific and technical journals and seek opportunities for knowledge transfer toward real-world applications.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Researchers with a PhD degree in any of the above listed fields.
- Applicants must be **current or past ERC grant holders, with priority given to current ERC grant holders**. Past ERC grant holders are requested to submit their final report accepted by the ERC. Alternatively, researchers can also apply who are current or past holders of an individual excellence research grant as Principal Investigator with a comparable funding amount to an ERC Grant (funding period of at least 3 years and a total budget of at least 1.5 million USD), awarded outside the European Union and associated countries<sup>1</sup>. In the latter case, supporting documentation about this non-EU research grant must also be submitted. The Foundation reserves sole discretion to determine comparability.
- Successful candidates will be requested to concentrate their **research at a research institution in Hungary as a prerequisite for receiving the FRONTIERS Investigator Grant**. FRONTIERS will assist in selecting the appropriate host institution and in negotiating favorable conditions for hosting the new FRONTIERS Investigator group.

Applicants who fail to meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated scientifically, and they will be informed immediately after the eligibility check.

### 3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be submitted in English via the online electronic submission portal of the FRONTIERS Foundation ([www.frontiers.hu](http://www.frontiers.hu)). The deadline for electronic submission is 16:00, 14 May 2026 (CEST).

For further information regarding the full application procedure, applicants are requested to contact the FRONTIERS Foundation at [research@frontiers.hu](mailto:research@frontiers.hu).

<sup>1</sup> Associated countries are Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

By submitting the proposal, the Applicant declares intention to establish its primary residence in Hungary throughout the financing period. The FRONTIERS Investigator research group will be affiliated with a research institution in Hungary<sup>2</sup> as well as the FRONTIERS Foundation and it will be run administratively by the latter. The Foundation will assist successful applicants in finding an appropriate host institution in Hungary.

**The application package must include:**

- personal data of the applicant (name, year of birth, citizenship, country of residence, contact details, name of current employer, PhD degree, and year of its acquisition),
- basic data of the proposal (project title, primary field of research, a short project summary and a summary using an easily accessible language for the general public),
- the URL link to the Google Scholar publication profile of the Applicant,
- the selection of the 3 most significant original research publications of the Applicant with first or corresponding authorship of the Applicant, including a full author list, and full bibliographic data. Review papers, roadmaps, and news & views-type scientific publications are not eligible for this section,
- a maximum two-page CV focusing on researcher jobs, publication summaries, PhD supervisions, recognitions, and technology transfer activities of the Applicant,
- a one-page narrative statement about the most significant research, development, and innovation results of the Applicant,
- a maximum two-page funding ID containing the most significant, funded research grants of the Applicant, declaring the title, the grant period, and the differences and similarities between the given grant and the FRONTIERS Investigator proposal,
- a three-page FRONTIERS Investigator research plan according to the template provided in Annex1 of this Call for Proposals,
- in case of the Applicant having an already closed ERC Grant (or another individual excellence grant comparable to ERC funding), the final evaluation of the ERC or other comparable project must also be uploaded.
- Proposals failing to meet the A4 page limits above (with at least 11-point font size) will be considered invalid and will be rejected after the quality check process without being reviewed.
- Applicants should refrain from submitting any unsolicited annexes or other content (e.g., recommendation letters or expressions of interest).

**Disclaimer**

Submission of a proposal does not constitute an offer of employment, a guarantee of appointment and financing, or create any contractual or employment rights. All terms of appointment, including the employment relationship with the Foundation, salary, funding, research support, obligations, and any procedural or reporting requirements, will be governed exclusively by a written Letter of Appointment issued by the Foundation, which must be accepted by the selected candidate before the appointment becomes effective.

**4. RESEARCH BUDGET**

The FRONTIERS Foundation provides a yearly flat budget of 200M HUF for a maximum project period of 60 months. If the project starts in 2026, a proportional amount will be provided for the first and last financial year of the project.

Should the financed research require the acquisition of expensive instrumentation, the FRONTIERS Investigator may request additional support on top of the yearly flat budget, at the expense of their overall

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<sup>2</sup> As defined in Act LXXVI of 2014 on Scientific Research, Development and Innovation (the RDI Act). Eligible research institutions are Hungarian universities and research institutions of the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN).

budget of 1000M HUF available for the entire 5-year financing period. In exceptional cases, FRONTIERS Investigator(s) may (jointly) apply for extra support for the purchase of large research equipment. Priority will be given to joint applications.

The FRONTIERS Foundation provides an internationally competitive salary package, within the Foundation's compensation framework, to be negotiated individually with successful Applicants.

Eligible spending includes salaries for the FRONTIERS Investigator, researchers, technicians, and research students; consumables; investments in laboratory and computing equipment; instruments; instrument repair; maintenance; and rental costs. Research support services, travel costs, per diem fees, conference participation, dissemination, and scientific publication costs are also eligible.

## 5. EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS

The FRONTIERS Jury, composed of internationally renowned experts, will evaluate the applications of eligible candidates primarily on the grounds of scientific excellence; the research, development, and innovation track record of the Applicant; as well as the groundbreaking nature of the project proposal. The evaluation process will be in line with the relevant rules and policies of the FRONTIERS Foundation.

## 6. REPORTING AND POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF FINANCING

- Applicants must submit the list of publications, internal invention disclosures and submitted intellectual property applications every calendar year during the project.
- The final report must be submitted no later than 4.5 years after the start of the financing. The last 100M HUF instalment of the Investigator budget will be provided upon the Foundation's acceptance of the final report.
- An application for an extension of the financing over the first financing period must be submitted no later than 4.5 years after the start of the project. Eligibility for such an extension depends on the prior submission of an ERC grant application and submission of the final report of the Investigator Project. Successful acquisition of an ERC grant during the financing period implies an automatic extension – subject to the Foundation's approval and financing availability – of the Investigator Grant for another 5-year period, provided that the grant holder continues his/her full-time employment contract as FRONTIERS Investigator with primary residence in Hungary.

## 7. COMPLAINTS

No legal remedy may be sought concerning the substance of the decision on the evaluation results of the call.

### Information on how to file a complaint

The Applicant may submit a complaint to the Foundation related to the proposal evaluation or to the adoption of the financing decision. A complaint may be submitted exclusively in writing within 15 days from the receipt of the notification or decision of the Funder. No excuse application may be submitted for failure to meet the deadline for filing a complaint.

The complaint may be submitted by post, addressed to FRONTIERS Foundation (address: 1093 Budapest, Czuczor u. 2-10.), or, in the case of a document signed with a qualified electronic signature by the entitled person or their authorized representative, by e-mail to the following e-mail address: [research@frontiers.hu](mailto:research@frontiers.hu) (In the case of representation by an authorized representative, the document authorizing representation, signed with a qualified electronic signature, must also be attached.) No complaint may be submitted after 15 days from the occurrence of the contested action or omission.

The complaint must contain the following:

- a) the name and registered office or residential address of the person submitting the complaint,
- b) the data necessary to identify the concerned by the complaint,
- c) a description of the contested action or omission,
- d) the facts serving as the basis of the complaint and the precise identification of the legal provisions infringed by the contested or omitted action, and
- e) in the case of non-electronic communication, the signature of the person submitting the complaint.

The Funder shall reject the complaint without substantive examination if:

- a) it was submitted after the deadline,
- b) it was not submitted by an entitled person,
- c) it is identical in content to a previous complaint,
- d) it does not contain the data specified above,
- e) it was submitted against a decision adopted in relation to a previous complaint,
- f) it was submitted in connection with the professional evaluation,
- g) the complaint is filed exclusively against an infringement that cannot be remedied by repeating the contested procedure.

The complaint shall be decided within 30 days from its receipt. The deadline for the decision may be extended once by up to 30 days, and the person submitting the complaint must be informed.

If the Foundation agrees with the content of the complaint, it shall take the necessary measures to eliminate the situation contested therein.

If the Foundation does not agree with the content of the complaint, it shall provide a brief written summary of the grounds of rejection. The evaluation of scientific merit remains within the Foundation's discretion and is not subject to further appeal.

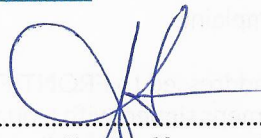
Note: By submitting a proposal, the Applicant acknowledges that submission does not create any contractual or employment rights.

## 8. LEGAL BASIS FOR PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The FRONTIERS Foundation shall process the personal data included in the application, as well as the personal data obtained during the evaluation of the application and in connection with the proposed project, in accordance with the applicable legislation, in particular Act CXII of 2011 on the Right to Informational Self-Determination and Freedom of Information, and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons concerning the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR).

Any changes to the applicant's personal and/or contact data should be communicated immediately to the following e-mail address: [research@frontiers.hu](mailto:research@frontiers.hu).

Budapest, April 02, 2026



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**Ferenc Krausz**  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Frontiers Top Research and Talent Development  
Foundation

## Annex 1

### Instructions for the research plan document for the FRONTIERS Investigator Program

The maximum length of the research plan document is 3 pages with a font size of 11 points. Required section headings are indicated with bold type.

1. **Introduction.** Motivation and international context of the proposed research.
2. **5-year research plan.** Summary of planned research efforts, including main research questions to be answered, and addressing the high-risk/high-reward nature of the research.
3. **Gantt Chart.** A 5-year Gantt chart with major milestones of the proposed project.
4. **Methods and resources.** Research methods to be used and laboratory/human resources needed to answer research questions, including the planned composition of the FRONTIERS research group.
5. **Group members.** Brief introduction of future members of the research group in Hungary. (This section is only required if any of the future group members are already known.)
6. **Collaborations.** Description of key research collaborations to realize the project.
7. **Technology transfer plan.** This section is only required if technology transfer is planned during the project.
8. **References.** A list of a maximum of 20 literature references with a full author list, indicating own papers of the Applicant appearing in the reference list. (The reference list does not count toward the maximum page count.)

