

Gustave Roussy Foundation – CRIS cancer Foundation Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme. Call for Applications 2026

Introduction

Calling for applications to the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**, CRIS Cancer Foundation and Gustave Roussy Foundation are partnering to offer an exciting opportunity for a talented early career clinician scientist to develop their academic skills and expertise, placing them on a firm footing for a career as an independent clinical academic.

Candidates must be specialist clinicians, young investigators with some research experience and with the potential to develop transformative research and high potential for setting their team at Gustave Roussy Institute when finishing this Programme.

The aim of the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** is to provide competitive financial conditions and incentives for the early career of talented emerging young clinician scientists to lead projects, developing their research skills, academic skills, expertise and leadership on all types of cancer pathologies at the Gustave Roussy Institute.

This unique opportunity provides a pathway towards independence whilst facilitating collaborative research which ultimately translates to patient benefit.

Call for Applications

Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer run the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** call, to award **1 research grant**, covering a **three-year period**, for the purposes of incentive clinical scientists to develop their career at the Gustave Roussy Institute.

The **call for applications** opens on **15th April 2026** and closes on **16th June 2026** at 15pm (Central European Time - CET).

Beneficiaries can take up their position at the host institution as soon as the resolution of the call is published. In duly justified cases of force majeure, this start date may be postponed, subject to individual assessment by CRIS and GRF. The start date must be communicated to the Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer Foundation prior to that date

Programme resources

The maximum grant awarded will be €210,000, which will be spread over three annual instalments of up to €70,000 a year

The **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** would finance:

- a. **Salary:** Labour contract, to cover labour costs corresponding to the contract or intensification in the working hours of the investigator at Gustave Roussy Institute, This cost represents the research part of the working contract of the Investigator with Gustave Roussy Institute and includes Social Security contributions and any other amounts payable by the institution, as well as the gross remuneration of the beneficiary.

→ **Costs associated with the research project** (a maximum of €70,000 per year) including:

- Hiring Personnel (staff)
- Equipment acquisition and maintenance
- Consumables
- Outsourcing of technical services
- Publication and dissemination expenses
- Travel expenses and allowances
- Other costs

The annual amounts proposed in the budget may not exceed a maximum of €70,000 per year.

In **no case may indirect costs** associated with the project be applied by the Gustave Roussy Foundation.

These amounts will be subject to the corresponding legal tax retention.

The contractual relationship between the applicant and the Gustave Roussy Foundation shall comply with the provisions of the legislation in force at any given time.

The researcher is the named recipient of the funding and shall be recruited by Gustave Roussy Institute.

Requirements for applicants

Project

Candidates must provide an overview of the research strand associated with the call for applications and which will be the object of the funding associated with the programme.

The project should demonstrate a high level of scientific and technical quality.

Nationality

The **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** is open to clinical scientists of all nationalities as long as their career and project is carried out at Gustave Roussy Institute.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to the submission of applications:

- A researcher **may apply just one submission to GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** in the same call for applicants.
- Only researchers developing, or willing to develop, their career at Gustave Roussy Institute can be the beneficiary of the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**. The candidate does not necessarily need to be employed by the Gustave Roussy Institute at the time of application. However, the Gustave Roussy Institute must indicate in a letter that it accepts the candidate to carry out his or her activities there.
- Candidates must carry out the research project in person, at the Gustave Roussy Institute. Clinical practice and research must be carried out on a full-time basis at the Gustave Roussy Institute.
- This programme is not compatible with other contracts, paid jobs or grants from any other agency, except contracts with the Gustave Roussy Institute. This does not prevent the researcher from applying for any other type of grant or project to fund the research project itself or members of their research group. In any case, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer should be made aware of any joint funding
- Candidates' clinical practice workload may not exceed 50% of their working day.
- Any breach of ethical considerations will lead to immediate termination of funding and said individuals will not be allowed to reapply to the programme.

Documentation required for the application

Candidates can access the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** call for Applications information and templates, at:

- Gustave Roussy website:

<https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/grf-cris-clinical-scientist-emerging-leader-programme>

- CRIS cancer website:

<https://criscancer.org/cris-fellowships> selecting **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** button.

All applications must be **submitted by email** to RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr and convocatorias@criscancer.org during the application submission period for the 2026 call for applications.

All applications must provide the **documentation completed entirely in English**.

The documents to be submitted are as follows:

- a. Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** (no more than 4 pages).
- b. Research Project.** The provided **template** must be used (**Maximum 5 pages**).

The report must not exceed 5 pages. The bibliography and figures do not count for the maximum number of pages. The format of the text should be as follows:

- Din A4.
- Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial or Helvetica.
- Font size 11 or 12.
- Single line spacing.
- Margins: 2 cm on either side.

- c. Project budget.** The provided excel **template** must be used. A **financial audit** at the end of the project may be included in the budget. **Indirect costs cannot be included**.
- d. Labour contract, or Letter of acceptance from the Gustave Roussy Institute** signed by the managing director or scientific director of the centre guaranteeing institutional support for the researcher and the research strand of the project. The **template** provided must be used.
- e. Declaration on ethical issues.** The provided **template** must be used.

These documents may be provided in the language in which they were issued, but if they are in a language other than English, French or Spanish, they must be accompanied by a certified translation to English.

Selection process

The selection process is designed to identify outstanding candidates regardless of their origin, gender, nationality, or other aspects that could skew the selection. The goal is to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality throughout the process.

All applications that meet the necessary conditions will be evaluated by expert scientists. The members of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** choose proposals, according to their own criteria, the research project must have a measurable impact on patient outcome and patient management, and candidates that provide evidence of the greatest merits and abilities.

Candidacies shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria specified below in the section on **General evaluation criteria**.

GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee

The **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** will be in charge of the last part of the evaluation process and will be composed of scientists from various disciplines of the highest scientific standard.

The evaluation committee shall consist of a Chairperson and, at least, three other members participating in the evaluation and a secretary lead of the committee.

The **Secretary Lead**, in addition to coordinating and monitoring the evaluation process, will perform the following tasks:

- Distribute the candidacies to the evaluators considering the expertise of each evaluator and the research area of the candidate.
- Ensure that each evaluator fills in a questionnaire for each application received.
- Ensure the evaluators who participate in the evaluation process do not present a conflict of interest with the candidates.
- Draw up a final report.

The **Evaluators** will meet at the end of the evaluation process, review and discuss all the finalist applications, and define the final awardee.

Stages of evaluation

There are three to four rounds of evaluation:

1. Administrative Evaluation

First Evaluation Stage is about the eligibility of all proposals received, rejecting those that do not meet the criteria published in the terms and conditions of the call for proposals.

There will then be a period during which any outstanding documentation will be requested, or any corrections or clarifications should be made.

All rejected applications will receive an email detailing the reason for rejection.

2. Written Proposal Evaluation

At the Second Evaluation Stage, candidates will be reviewed by two different evaluators from the panel of experts (two members of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee**).

The allocation of candidates to each member shall be performed by the Secretariat Lead based on the expertise of the members. In case any conflict of interest with the proposed candidates (e.g. Applicant being a member of their research group or institution), shall inform the Secretariat Lead for project substitution.

3. Evaluation Meeting

The Third Evaluation Stage consists of the meeting held, virtually, by the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** members. Based on the scores and comments assigned during the written proposal evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will deliberate on which proposals/candidates are of most interest, and the need (or not) of performing interviews to determine the awarded applications.

4. Interviews (optional)

The last Evaluation stage consists of the interviews held to the top scored finalists. This stage is not mandatory. If the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** considers it necessary to interview the applicants for deciding the awardees, the top-scored candidates will be contacted by the committee for interview.

After discussion of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** about final candidates and proposals, evaluators will vote and perform a ranking of the proposals. The best candidate will be selected for the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**.

Please note that, the evaluation decision will be final and not subject to appeal

General evaluation criteria

In general, three main questions will be considered:

- the excellence, capability, creativity, and potential of the candidate.
- the quality, innovation, and potential of the project.
- the impact of the candidacy.

The weight of each criterion to the score will be:

- Candidate (50%)
- Proposal (30%)
- Impact (20%)

These criteria will be applied in the Written Proposal Evaluation, in the Evaluation Meeting and, in case it occurs, in the Interview. In addition, these criteria will be evaluated based on the following table. Please note that only those applications with very good scores (above 75 points) will be considered to be awarded:

Rating	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very Good	Excellent
SCORE	0-19	20-49	50-74	75-89	90-100
Candidate (50%)	Candidate shows very low motivation and no evidence of originality or creativity. Lacks independence. Previous contributions are minimal, not relevant, or absent	Limited motivation and weak evidence of creative thinking. Partial independence but still reliant on supervision. Previous contributions are modest or of low impact.	Adequate motivation and some evidence of originality. Demonstrates reasonable independence. Previous contributions are relevant with moderate impact.	Strong motivation and clear ability to generate original and creative ideas. High level of independence. Solid and impactful research contributions.	Exceptional motivation and outstanding originality and creativity. Fully independent researcher. Significant and high-impact contributions to the field.
Proposal (30%)	Proposal lacks originality and innovation. Methodology is inappropriate or unclear. No consideration of interdisciplinarity or gender dimension. Feasibility is unrealistic. Host institution lacks capacity.	Limited innovation; mostly incremental. Methodology has important weaknesses. Weak integration of interdisciplinarity or gender aspects. Feasibility is questionable. Institutional support is limited.	Reasonably innovative proposal. Methodology is generally appropriate with some limitations. Some consideration of interdisciplinarity/gender. Feasibility is acceptable. Host institution is adequate	Highly innovative and potentially transformative. Strong and appropriate methodology. Clear integration of interdisciplinarity and gender where relevant. Feasible with well-justified design and resources. Strong institutional support.	Outstandingly original and transformative project. Methodology is cutting-edge and fully aligned with objectives. Excellent integration of interdisciplinarity and gender dimension. Feasibility is robust and convincingly demonstrated. Host institution provides optimal environment and support.
Impact (20%)	No clear impact on candidate's career. No translational relevance. Dissemination plan is absent or inadequate.	Limited impact on career development. Weak or unclear translational potential. Dissemination plan is poorly defined.	Moderate impact on career development. Some translational relevance. Dissemination plan is acceptable but not fully developed.	Strong impact on career progression. Clear translational potential with possible clinical relevance. Well-structured dissemination plan.	Outstanding impact on candidate's future career across sectors. High translational value with strong potential to influence clinical practice. Comprehensive, clear, and effective dissemination strategy.

Appointment

The list of Beneficiaries chosen by means of the Evaluation Stage shall be published on the websites of Gustave Roussy (<https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/grf-cris-clinical-scientist-emerging-leader-programme>) and CRIS cancer (<https://criscancer.org/cris-fellowships>) in the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** section.

In the event that the chosen beneficiaries decide not to take part in the programme, the respective grant shall be awarded to the next highest-scoring candidate as ranked by the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee**.

GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer reserve the right to declare a post null and void if none of the highest-scoring candidates fulfils the requirements of the programme.

Obligations

The beneficiary shall undertake to collaborate in communication activities and events organised by Gustave Roussy Institute/Foundation and CRIS cancer related to these programmes.

Except for reasons of force majeure, the recipients will undertake to attend the official awards ceremony for the Programmes.

At any time, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer reserves the right to request accreditation, asking the candidate to provide the original documents or certified copies of any document indicated in the application or curriculum.

Follow up and monitoring

Annually beneficiaries should provide to CRIS and GRF the following documentation:

- Impact report: to collect key information on scientific progress, in order to monitor the project's development and assess the scientific and clinical impact of CRIS-GRF funding.
- Scientific and technical report: to describe the progress of the project throughout the duration of the programme.
- Financial report: Host institutions will provide a detailed economic report breaking down the costs of activities carried out by the investigator.

At the end of the programme, beneficiaries must submit the corresponding final versions of the above reports, together with a final financial audit report issued by an independent external auditor, certifying that the awarded funds have been used in accordance with the approved budget and the terms and conditions of the call.

Data protection and privacy

Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS fully comply with current legislation on the protection of personal data.

The personal data of the researchers or any other individual listed in the application documents will be incorporated onto the GRF/CRIS database and will only be used for the evaluation of proposals or GRF/CRIS information and further grant dissemination. By applying, the participant agrees for information about the Project to be incorporated onto the GRF/CRIS database.

To learn more about the transfer of data and how applicants may exercise their rights, you may request additional information by emailing RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr and convocatorias@criscancer.org and you may also exercise your rights of access, correction, or erasure of your personal data, as well as limit or contest the processing of said data

Observations

The submission of an application for this funding presupposes the candidate's express acceptance of these terms and conditions. Any breach of these conditions may lead to termination of the application or programme, revocation of the funding, and, where applicable, reimbursement of the funds received.

Beneficiaries must comply with data management and funding rules; failure to do so, including cases of double funding, may result in corrective measures or reimbursement. Data generated under the project must be managed in accordance with applicable regulations, deposited in an appropriate repository, and made openly accessible whenever possible, in line with FAIR principles, with beneficiaries retaining ownership while granting GRF-CRIS a non-exclusive licence for research and policy purpose.