

# FONDATION VAINCRE ALZHEIMER

## 2025 GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### Statement of Purpose:

In the European Grant Cycle, Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer (FVA) awards grants for basic, translational, and clinical research that studies the underlying mechanisms of, and possible therapeutic treatments for (specific) dementia(s). Projects are mainly evaluated on whether the proposed research is likely to improve our understanding of the pathophysiology and underlying mechanisms causing Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias and/or is likely to effectively promote therapeutic strategies. Note that **applications involving groups that focus on Alzheimer's Disease related dementias (ADRD) are strongly encouraged**. However, all applications are reviewed together on a competitive peer review basis.

It is understood that more senior dementia investigators will have other funding in related areas of research, but the application to Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer should not be used to simply subsidize these other efforts or to compensate for grant cutbacks. **Therefore, the applicant is advised to focus on a specific project that can be addressed in terms of a clear and well-defined hypothesis and specific aims and completed within a reasonable time.** Please keep this in mind when preparing the research/work plan section of the application.

### Terms and Restrictions for the grant application:

FVA grants are awarded to:

- Public universities
- Public research Institutions (EPST or EPSCP only)
- The group to which the Principal Investigator (PI) is affiliated (not to individuals).

Funds cannot be used for:

- Salary of the PI except for End of Thesis Grants
- Institutional or administrative overhead and other indirect costs
- Large capital equipment
- Construction of buildings
- VAT

### Board decision

To ensure that FVA is funding meritorious research proposals that have a high potential for success, the FVA Board of Directors (BOD) bases its funding decisions on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration. In line with this, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and BOD will only select only grants that have received a sufficient, pre-set high rank which guarantees the quality of the research. Applications that receive a lower score (ranking below "good", numerical score >2) get a low priority and will not be funded.

In addition, FVA strives to maintain a good balance in funding between:

- (i) Experience level of investigators (established versus junior/promising candidates)
- (ii) Topics/areas of study within the dementia research field
- (iii) Applications overlapping with research proposals funded by other organizations

### **Funding Overlap**

If the FVA proposal overlaps, partially or completely, with any current or new research funded by other granting organizations, the BOD will not fund the project. Overlap can be scientific or financial and concerns the PI, co-PI, and other collaborators of the project. The BOD accepts to fund FVA proposals that are scientifically and financially complementary to grants from other organizations. To avoid any funding overlap, FVA asks candidates for their applications presented to other organizations and their research projects currently funded by other organizations. **Failure to notify receipt of overlapping grants may result in reimbursement of the grant to FVA.**

### **Overview of the available grants:**

- [Research Grants](#) max. €100.000, duration between 1-2 years
- [PhD Fellowship Grants](#) max. €121.000, fixed duration of 3 years
- [Cross Border Grants](#) max. €200.000, fixed duration of 2 years
- [Early Career Grants](#) max. €50.000, duration between 1-2 years
- [End of Thesis Grants](#) max. €40.000, duration between 6 and 12 months

**Table 1: Grant applications submitted by tenured researchers: Research Grant, PhD Fellowship, and Cross Border Grant Specifications 2025**

	Research Grant	PhD Fellowship	Cross Border Grant
<b>Project duration</b>	1 or 2 years	3 years (fixed)	2 years (fixed)
<b>Maximum budget</b>	€100.000 for 2 years €50.000 for 1 year	Up to € 121.000	€200.000, divided over the PI and co-PI
<b>Budget distribution</b>	Half-yearly payments up to €25.000 are made by FVA. This can potentially be increased, see the conditions down below*.	Half-yearly payments up to €21.000 are made by FVA. Only the exact amount of the PhD salary costs will be reimbursed.	Max. budget split allowed PI:co-PI is 60:40  Half-yearly payments up to €33.500 are made by FVA. This can potentially be increased, see the conditions down below*.
<b>Funding specifications</b>	Cannot be used for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PI salary</li> <li>• Master M2 student salary</li> <li>• Part of a PhD student salary</li> </ul>	Funding exclusively reserved to pay the salary of a PhD student during the first 3 years of thesis, not solely for the end of a thesis.  You will be requested to submit the price list of your institution ( <i>grille tarifaire</i> ) as justification.  Co-funding of the PhD fellowship with a regional department is allowed.	Cannot be used for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PI salary</li> <li>• Master M2 student salary</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility criteria PI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works at a French University or research institution (EPST or EPSCP)</li> <li>• Holds the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor, “<i>Chaire de Professeur Junior (CPJ)</i>”** or higher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works at a French University or research institution (EPST or EPSCP)</li> <li>• Holds the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor, “<i>Chaire de Professeur Junior (CPJ)</i>” with HDR** or higher</li> <li>• Should be the supervisor of the thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works at a French University or research institution (EPST or EPSCP)</li> <li>• Holds the academic rank of tenured researcher, assistant professor, “<i>Chaire de Professeur Junior (CPJ)</i>”** or higher</li> <li>• See the “Cross Border Grant” paragraph down below for more information</li> </ul>

\* Max. 70% of the PI’s budget (and co-PI’s budget for Cross Border Grants) can be requested per year. However, since the payments are sent each half year, the institution to which the PI is affiliated will have to advance the amount should more funds be requested than the half-yearly €25.000 (Research Grants) or €30.000 (Cross Border Grants).

\*\* For CPJ contracts, the PI must ensure that their salary is covered for the duration of the grant.

**Table 2: Grant applications submitted by junior researchers: Early Career Grant and End of Thesis Grant Specifications 2025**

	<b>Early Career Grant</b>	<b>End of Thesis Grant</b>
<b>Project duration</b>	1 or 2 years	Between 6 and 12 months
<b>Maximum budget</b>	€50.000 for 2 years €25.000 for 1 year	€40.000 for 12 months €30.000 for 9 months €20.000 for 6 months
<b>Budget distribution</b>	Half-yearly payments up to €12.500 are made by FVA. This can potentially be increased, see the conditions down below***.	Half-yearly payments up to €20.000 are made by FVA. Only the exact amount of the PhD salary costs will be reimbursed.
<b>Funding specifications</b>	<p><u>Cannot</u> be used for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PI salary</li> <li>- Master M2 student salary</li> <li>- Part of a PhD student salary</li> </ul> <p>The PI must ensure that their salary is covered during the grant.</p>	<p>Funding <u>exclusively</u> reserved to pay the <u>salary</u> of a PhD student during the 4<sup>th</sup> year of their thesis.</p> <p>You will be requested to submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the salary list of your institution (<i>grille tarifaire</i>) as justification</li> <li>• doctoral contract of the student</li> <li>• if granted, a proof of registration in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of thesis at a French University</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility criteria PI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works at a French University or research institution (EPST or EPSCP)</li> <li>• Post-doctoral level (ATER included), maximum 10 years after obtaining the PhD, with some exceptions****</li> <li>• IR is also eligible</li> <li>• A junior researcher who just obtained a tenure position (CR or MCU) maximum 2 years after obtaining the position</li> <li>• If still a PhD student, the PI should obtain their PhD before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year in which they apply for this grant</li> <li>• Medical Doctors ≤40 years with MD and clinical research experience (publications as first or last author)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works at a French University or research institution (EPST or EPSCP)</li> <li>• PhD student in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of their thesis, requesting support for a 4<sup>th</sup> year. The PhD student is the PI of the End of Thesis Grant and therefore submits the application.</li> <li>• Has scientific or medical training (medicine, pharmacy or veterinarian).</li> </ul>

\*\*\* Max. 70% of the budget can be requested per year. However, since the payments are sent each half year, the institution to which the PI is affiliated will have to advance the amount should more funds be requested than the half-yearly €12.500 (Early Career Grants).

\*\*\*\* The 10 years are counted from the PhD date to the date of the beginning of the funding. For maternity leave(s), the effective elapsed time since the PhD defence will be reduced by 1 year per child. For paternity leave(s) the elapsed time will be shortened by the leave taken for each child born. For time taken off due to long-term illness, the elapsed time will be reduced by the duration of the absent period.

## Additional information for Research Grants, PhD Fellowships, and Early Career Grants

- See Table 1 for general specifications of Research Grants and PhD Fellowships, see Table 2 for general specification for Early Career Grants.
- The call for Research Grants, PhD Fellowships and Early Career Grants opens once per year and has two tiers. The 2025 call will open on 2 January 2025 and the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) is 30 January 2025 at 13:00 CET.
- There are no limitations to the number of Research Grants, PhD Fellowships, and Early Career Grants you can apply for or receive throughout your career. However, you can apply for 1 FVA grant only during the same grant cycle. Furthermore, a PI cannot be included in the personnel section of another application submitted in the same cycle to FVA, AFI (Germany), or AN (the Netherlands). They can be a consultant (time spent <5%) in other projects, which should be mentioned in the embedding section of the application.
- A new FVA grant cannot overlap in funding or in topic with that of an active FVA grant or with a FVA grant that has been extended. A PI may receive funding from only 1 FVA grant simultaneously. Grantees can submit a grant application (new or renewal) at the earliest 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their former grant.
- The starting date of the projects applied for should be between 1 January 2026 and 1 July 2026. Please note that any project starting after 1 January will already be considered as a budget neutral postponement. FVA allows a maximum budget-neutral postponement and extension of up to 1 year, divided as follows: 6 months for a postponement of the project start date and 6 months for an extension after the project has started. Projects cannot start before 1 January 2026 as the formal awarding only occurs at the end of the year in December (please also see Table 3).
- In the grant application, the scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The research plan should be efficiently worked out and it should be described in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.
- We strongly encourage applicants to discuss the project budget with a financial controller of their institute prior to applying, to make sure their budget is realistic and takes cost increases due to inflation into account. For PhD Fellowships specifically, an official confirmation from your research institute to verify the salary amount you are requesting (*grille tarifaire*) for the PhD student is required. This needs to be signed and approved by a financial controller or a similar responsible person of your institute.
- Researchers from the same lab requesting FVA funding can apply if there is no scientific/funding overlap. **However, please note that FVA will only fund 1 grant per lab per year.** Applicants from the same lab should be aware of this when applying for different FVA grants with varying application run times, such as an End of Thesis Grant. If an FVA End of Thesis Grant is granted and accepted in May, another FVA application from a lab member is no longer eligible for funding even if it would be recommended for funding.
- The PI should not include a [FVA](#), [AFI](#), or [AN](#) SAB member as collaborator of the study in the personnel section of their application or as a potential external reviewer in the second tier of the application phase. For ethical reasons a SAB member can be a consultant only (time spent <5%), which should be mentioned in the embedding section of the application. The SAB member will be excluded from the review of the project.
- Please note that FVA applicants and grantees can be requested to review future FVA, AFI or AN applications that fit their expertise.

## Grant Cycle Procedure – Review of Research Grants, PhD Fellowships, and Early Career

### Grants:

Awards are granted based on scientific merit and quality of the applicant's research proposal, and its relevance for improving our understanding of the aetiology of Alzheimer's Disease or other related dementias. Funding decisions are based on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration. FVA uses a two-tier peer-reviewed process in which applicants are first asked to submit a short summary of their project (LOI). The applicants that have submitted the best LOIs are subsequently asked to submit full applications.

In the first tier the LOIs are reviewed and selected based on feasibility of the research plan, the applicant's past performance, and relevance of the topic for Alzheimer's Disease or other related dementias, as assessed by 3 members of the European SAB. **FVA will preselect a maximum of 2 investigators of the same research team.**

Upon selection, applicants are invited to submit a full proposal that will be peer reviewed by 3 members of the European SAB, as well as a 4<sup>th</sup> external expert. The scope and main aims of this full proposal should not differ significantly from the LOI submitted in the first tier. In October, the applications and evaluations are discussed and ranked in a joint meeting of the European SAB. **FVA will select a maximum of 1 investigator of the same research team for funding.**

For the submission of the proposals, FVA uses an online grant application portal which can be found [here](#). Please see Table 3 below for more details on the Grant Cycle timelines for 2025.

**Table 3: Timetable European Grant Cycle 2025: Research Grants, PhD Fellowships, and Early Career Grants**

Call for applications with LOI open	2 January 2025
<b>Deadline</b> for LOI	30 January 2025 at 13:00 CET
Confirmation LOI was received and is eligible is sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Within 3 weeks
Request for full application or denial letters are sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Late April / early May 2025
<b>Deadline</b> for full applications (subject to change)	17 June 2025 at 13:00 CEST
Confirmation full application was received and is eligible is sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Mid July 2025
Final decision is communicated to the applicants by FVA	December 2025*
Research project start	Between 1 January and 1 July 2026

\*Usually, applicants will be notified in writing of the FVA BOD's decision concerning their application by early December, but at least before **December 31<sup>st</sup>**.

FVA reserves the right to deny applications if they do not adhere to the Funding Guidelines or the mission of FVA. FVA staff is not authorized to provide information on eligibility check outcomes, priority scores, ranking, or likelihood of funding of applications prior to written notification of applicants. Please do not contact FVA or SAB members to request such information. Your application will be handled in a confidential way at all times.

## Additional information for Cross Border Grants – aimed at the French part of the CBG

- See Table 1 for general specifications of Cross Border Grants.
- The call for Cross Borders grants opens once per year, in January, and has two tiers. The 2025 call will open on 2 January 2025 and the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) is 30 January 2025 at 13:00 CET.
- CBGs are awarded to international collaborative projects between two researchers: a PI working in France, and a co-PI working in any other country different than the PI's country (Germany, the Netherlands or any other country). For a co-PI working in France, the PI must work in Germany or the Netherlands. These projects should benefit from this international collaboration, which should be highlighted in the project application. Articles resulting from this collaboration should also be published jointly.
- Each organization funds in its own country, meaning FVA will exclusively fund the part of the CBG project that is done by the researcher working in France. The other part of the project will be funded by the organisation that corresponds to the location of the collaborator, respectively:
  - Alzheimer Forschung Initiative (AFI)                      Germany
  - Alzheimer Nederland (AN)                                      The Netherlands
  - BrightFocus Foundation (BFF)                                  Other countries

The PI working in France will need to adhere to these FVA Funding Guidelines, the co-PI will need to adhere to the Funding Guidelines of their respective funding organisation. These can be found here:

- AFI: [AFI Research Funding](#)
- AN: [AN Call Biomedical Research](#)
- BFF: should adhere to the Funding Guidelines of the PI's funding organisation.
- No funding can go to any person or entity on the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC)'s Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List. Researchers working in the following countries are excluded from applying for Cross Border Grants:
  - Iran
  - Iraq
  - Kuwait
  - Lebanon
  - Libya
  - Qatar
  - Russia
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Syria
  - Yemen
- The duration of the project is 2 years and the project should be active for the majority of this time period in both research groups. The starting date of the projects applied for should be between 1 January 2026 and 1 July 2026. Please note that any project starting after 1 January will already be considered as a budget neutral postponement. FVA allows a maximum budget-neutral postponement and extension of up to 1 year, divided as follows: 6 months for a postponement of the project start date and 6 months for an extension after the project has started. Projects cannot start before 1 January 2026 as the formal awarding only occurs at the end of the year in December (please also see Table 4).
- The maximum allowed split of the total budget between the PI and co-PI is 60:40, with a maximum budget of €200.000. This means that the maximum amount that can be requested by the PI is €120.000, resulting in a minimum amount that has to be requested by the co-PI of €80.000. Furthermore, both the PI and the co-PI can request a maximum of 70% of their specific part of the total budget in 1 year of the project. We strongly encourage applicants to discuss the project

budget with a financial controller of their institute prior to applying, to make sure their budget is realistic and takes cost increases due to inflation into account.

- In order to determine who will be the PI and co-PI, the collaborators should take the following into account:
  - The PI of a CBG should carry out their part of the project in either France, Germany, or the Netherlands. There are no location restrictions for the co-PI, as long as it differs from the PI's country.
  - The PI of a CBG should request at least 50% of the total budget. If a PI and co-PI are both working in either France, Germany, or the Netherlands and are both requesting 50% of the total budget, they can decide themselves who will be the PI and the co-PI. Both researchers will receive all communication regarding the application and funding decision. The co-PI will not have to submit a separate application.
- There are no limitations to the number of Cross Border Grants you can apply for or receive throughout your career. However, both the PI and co-PI can only apply for 1 FVA, AFI, or AN grant during the same grant cycle. It is not allowed for either the PI or co-PI to be included in the personnel section of another FVA, AFI, or AN grant application submitted in the same cycle. They can be a consultant (time spent <5%) in other submitted projects, which should be mentioned in the embedding section of the application.
- A new FVA grant cannot overlap in funding or in topic with that of an active FVA grant or with a FVA grant that has been extended. A PI may receive funding from only one FVA grant simultaneously. Grantees can submit a grant application (new or renewal) at the earliest 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their former grant.
- Researchers from the same lab requesting FVA funding for a CBG can apply if there is no scientific/funding overlap. **However, please note that FVA will only fund 1 grant per lab per year.** Applicants from the same lab should be aware of this when applying for different FVA grants with differing application run times, such as an End of Thesis Grant. If an FVA End of Thesis Grant is granted and accepted in May, another FVA application from a lab member is no longer eligible for funding even if it would be recommended for funding.
- In the grant application, the scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The research plan should be efficiently worked out and it should be described in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.
- The PI should not include an [FVA](#), [AFI](#), or [AN](#) SAB member or a BFF Scientific Review Committee (SRC) as collaborator of the study in the personnel section of their application or as a potential external reviewer in the second tier of the application phase. For ethical reasons a SAB member can be a consultant only (time spent <5%), which should be mentioned in the application's embedding section. The SAB member will be excluded from that project's review.
- Please note that FVA applicants and grantees can be requested to review future FVA, AFI, or AN applications that fit their expertise.



## **Grant Cycle Procedure – Review of Cross Border applications:**

Awards are granted based on scientific merit and quality of the applicant’s research proposal, and its relevance for improving our understanding of the aetiology of Alzheimer’s Disease or other related dementias. Funding decisions are based on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration.

FVA, AFI, AN, and BFF use a two-tier peer-reviewed process in which applicants are first asked to submit a short summary of their project: Letter of Intent (LOI). The applicants that have submitted the best LOIs are subsequently asked to submit full applications.

In the first tier the LOIs are reviewed and selected based on feasibility of the research plan, the applicants’ past performance, and relevance of the topic for Alzheimer’s Disease or other related dementias, as assessed by 3 members of the European SAB. **FVA will preselect a maximum of 2 investigators of the same research team.**

Upon selection, applicants are invited to submit a full proposal that will be peer reviewed by 3 members of the European SAB, as well as a 4<sup>th</sup> external expert. The scope and main aims of this full proposal should not differ significantly from the LOI submitted in the first tier. In October, the applications and evaluations are discussed and ranked in a joint meeting of the European SAB. **FVA will select a maximum of 1 investigator of the same research team.**

FVA, AFI, and AN all have a dedicated CBG budget that allows them to fund at least 1 CBG project between their country and another one. BFF has a dedicated CBG budget to fund at least 3 CBG projects, ideally 1 with each of the 3 other organisations. Proposals will be funded in accordance with the final ranking order, starting with the highest ranked that is recommended for funding. When going down this ranking order, it will be verified for each proposal that is recommended for funding if sufficient budget is still available from the involved two organisations. In the case that the remaining budget is no longer sufficient, the organisations will decide if they increase the dedicated budget for the call. If this is not possible, the proposal will not be funded.

For the submission of the proposals, the organisations use a common online grant application portal which can be found [here](#). Please see Table 4 below for more details on the Grant Cycle timelines for 2025.

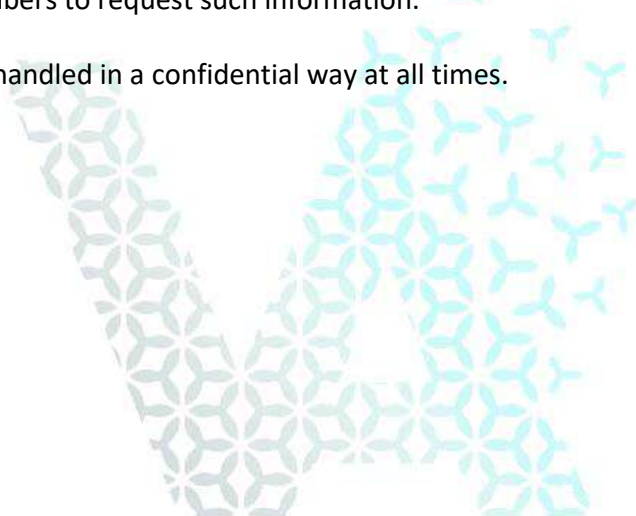
**Table 4: Timetable European Grant Cycle 2025: Cross Border Grants**

Call for applications with LOI open	2 January 2025
<b>Deadline</b> for LOI	30 January 2025 at 13:00 CET
Confirmation LOI was received and is eligible is sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Within 3 weeks
Request for full application or denial letters are sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Late April / early May 2025
<b>Deadline</b> for full applications (subject to change)	17 June 2025 at 13:00 CEST
Confirmation full application was received and is eligible is sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Mid July 2025
Final decision is communicated to the applicants by the organisations	Late November / early December 2025*
Research project start	Between 1 January and 1 July 2026

\*All CBG applicants will be notified in writing of the funding decision concerning their application on the same day by all 4 organisations. This can only be done after the funding decision has been made official by the CEO / BOD of each organization. The organisations strive to be ready to communicate this decision around late November or early December, but will make sure the applicants have been informed by December 31<sup>st</sup> at the very latest. The exact outcome date is usually known in June and will be communicated to CBG full proposal applicants after their submission in the second tier.

FVA reserves the right to deny applications if they do not adhere to the Funding Guidelines or the mission of FVA. FVA staff is not authorized to provide information on eligibility check outcomes, priority scores, ranking, or likelihood of funding of applications prior to written notification of applicants. Please do not contact FVA or SAB members to request such information.

Your application will be handled in a confidential way at all times.



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## Additional information for End of Thesis Grants

- See Table 2 for general specifications of End of Thesis Grants.
- The call End of Thesis Grants opens once per year and has only 1 tier. The 2025 call will open on 2 January 2025 and the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) application is 30 January 2025 at 13:00 CET.
- There are no limitations to the number of End of Thesis Grants you can apply for or receive throughout your career. However, applicants can apply for 1 FVA grant only during the same grant cycle. Furthermore, a PI cannot be included in the personnel section of another application submitted in the same cycle to FVA, AFI (Germany), or AN (the Netherlands). They can be a consultant (time spent <5%) in other projects, which should be mentioned in the embedding section of the application.
- A new FVA grant cannot overlap in funding or in topic with that of an active FVA grant or with a FVA grant that has been extended. A PI may receive funding from only 1 FVA grant simultaneously. Grantees can submit a grant application (new or renewal) at the earliest 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their former grant.
- End of Thesis projects applied for can start between the date of the BOD decision until up to 1 year after the approval. Please also see Table 5.
- In the grant application, the scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The research plan should be efficiently worked out and it should be described in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.
- In order to submit an End of Thesis Grant application, you will require an official confirmation from your research institute to verify the salary amount you are requesting (*grille tarifaire*). This needs to be signed and approved by a financial controller or a similar responsible person of your institute.
- Researchers from the same lab requesting FVA funding can apply if there is no scientific/funding overlap. **However, please note that FVA will only fund 1 grant per lab per year.** Applicants from the same lab should be aware of this when applying for different FVA grants with differing application run times compared to the End of Thesis Grant. If an FVA End of Thesis Grant is granted and accepted in May, another FVA application from a lab member is no longer eligible for funding even if it would be recommended for funding. The applicant should also take into account that the thesis supervisor should always be mentioned as 'Key Personnel Member' in the application's personnel section. This could conflict if the thesis supervisor is also applying for FVA funding (see page 5 and 8).
- The PI should not include a [FVA](#), [AFI](#), or [AN](#) SAB member as collaborator of the study in the personnel section of their application or as a potential external reviewer in the second tier of the application phase. For ethical reasons a SAB member can be a consultant only (time spent <5%), which should be mentioned in the embedding section of the application. The SAB member will be excluded from the review of the project.
- Please note that FVA applicants and grantees can be requested to review future FVA, AFI or AN applications that fit their expertise.

## Grant Cycle Procedure – Review of End of Thesis applications:

Awards are granted based on scientific merit and quality of the applicant's research proposal, and its relevance for improving our understanding of the aetiology of Alzheimer's Disease or other related dementias. Funding decisions are based on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration.

FVA uses a 1 tier peer-reviewed process for End of Thesis Grants in which applicants are asked to only submit a LOI proposal. This application will be peer reviewed by 3 members of the European SAB and scored based on the feasibility of the research plan, the applicant's past performance (in the PhD thesis) and relevance of the topic for Alzheimer's Disease or other related dementias. **FVA will select a maximum of 1 investigator of the same laboratory.**

For the submission of the proposals, FVA uses an online grant application portal which can be found [here](#).

Please see Table 5 below for more details on the Grant Cycle timelines for 2025.

**Table 5: Timetable European Grant Cycle 2025: End of Thesis Grants**

Call for applications with End of Thesis LOI open	2 January 2025
<b>Deadline</b> for End of Thesis LOI	30 January 2025 at 13:00 CET
Confirmation LOI was received and is eligible is sent to the applicant by the European Grant Manager	Within 3 weeks
Final decision is communicated to the End of Thesis applicants	Late April / May 2025*
Research project start	Before 1 April 2026

\*Usually, applicants will be notified in writing of the FVA BOD's decision concerning their application by May, but at least before **June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

FVA reserves the right to deny applications if they do not adhere to the Funding Guidelines or the mission of FVA. FVA staff is not authorized to provide information on eligibility check outcomes, priority scores, ranking, or likelihood of funding of applications prior to written notification of applicants. Please do not contact FVA or SAB members to request such information.

Your application will be handled in a confidential way at all times.



## Additional information and rules after funding approval

### Shifting dates of the grant

After the approval of the grant the grantee should inform FVA immediately if the project is delayed (max. 6 months).

### Budget

The project will receive funds **only when operational**.

Grant payments are made on a half-year basis.

If budget revisions are necessary, requests must be made in writing to FVA with a clear justification:

- A cost-neutral prolongation (6 months maximum)
- Transfers of more than € 2.000 from one budget category to another requires FVA approval

FVA prefers that grant funds be expended in a timely manner in accordance with the research plan presented in the grant application. If there is more than 15% of the total grant award remaining in the grant account at the end of the grant period, permission may be requested to extend the grant period with no increase in funding. A written requests/justification must be submitted for this.

### Overlapping Grant Awards

FVA awards funds only that **FVA is the main financial supporter of the research project for which funding was requested. Co-funding of complementary, non-overlapping approaches are possible and should be clearly explained and justified in the application. If the applicant does not provide all the requested information regarding these complementary funding sources, their application is not eligible for further review.** FVA does not allow its grants to be used for identical and/or overlapping research projects that are already funded by another source without written FVA permission and full knowledge.

In order to avoid funding overlap, FVA reserves the right to ask candidates for applications submitted to other organizations and for research project currently funded by other organizations.

Failure to report the receipt of overlapping grant funds during the grants period may require, as determined at the sole discretion of FVA, the return of all, or part of, the funding awarded by FVA to the grantee. Furthermore, the grantee is responsible for all costs of FVA in obtaining the return of the grant award funds including but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees incurred.

### Human/Animal Research Subjects

FVA requires that research supported by FVA meets or exceeds national regulations regarding the use of human subjects or animals in research. Applicants must provide written certification of approval by the appropriate Ethic Commission before funding begins.

Concerning research involving animals, FVA requires that applicants follow the "Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments" (ARRIVE) guidelines.

Applicants who wish to use post-mortem human brain tissues are strongly encouraged to request samples from the national biobank [Neuro CEB](#). Your samples request will be evaluated by members of the FVA SAB (review period ~2 weeks).

### Sharing of Reagents

FVA believes that biological reagents (e.g. recombinant DNA clones, cultured cell lines, hybridoma cell lines, mutant or unique organisms etc.) developed during the course of FVA-sponsored research must be made available to qualified investigators after the publication of reports using or describing the reagents. These materials represent a valuable resource for the scientific community at large, paid for by the generous contributions of FVA's donors. The availability of these reagents directly affects the ability of the members of the scientific community to replicate the experiments of others and the pace and cost of future research. Therefore, FVA requires that the PI and the grantee institution accept the responsibility of providing biological reagents developed during the course of FVA-sponsored research to investigators who request them.

### Public Education and Acknowledgement

FVA is a publicly supported charitable organization funded by donor contributions and has an active public education program that informs donors and other interested individuals about the research we sponsor. Information provided to the public by FVA may include the title of the project, the name and institutional affiliation of the PI, the amount of the award, and the non-technical project description provided by the applicant. Therefore, the non-technical description should not contain confidential information. The submission of this application shall be deemed consent of the applicant to the publication of this information should a grant be awarded. Awardees are aware that they may be asked by FVA to assist in the information of the general audience, e.g. by providing information on new developments in their research field or by giving an interview, a presentation or lecture at meetings and events, lab tours or workshops supported by FVA. Photos of the PI and his/her team must be made available without restrictions.

All publications, papers, book chapters or presentations, resulting from research sponsored by FVA must be acknowledged as follows: "*Funding was provided by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer*", followed by the grant application number.

### Open Access Publication

FVA supports open access and follows the national French law (Loi n° 2016-1321 du 7 octobre 2016 pour une République numérique). We strongly encourage researchers to publish in open access journals or to publish in a repository that is freely accessible.

### Discontinuation of Grant Funding

Although FVA has committed grant funding for the stated term of the grant, it reserves the right to discontinue the grant at any time in the event the work performed is in breach of the terms and obligations stated herein.