

Generet Award for Rare Diseases 2026

REGULATIONS



- Art. 1 On the initiative of the Generet Fund managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, **a prestigious Award will be granted to support a research project in the field of rare diseases.**
- Art. 2 Rare diseases are considered to be life threatening or chronic conditions which affect no more than 1 person out of 2.000. For this call, rare cancers and rare adverse drug events will **not** be taken into account.
- Art. 3 **The Award amounts to 1.250.000 € over 4 years.** However, a first instalment of 750.000 € will be credited for 2 years. The second instalment of 500.000 € will be subject to the positive evaluation of a mid-term scientific, financial and communication report. The laureate is also requested to submit a final report at the end of the project.
- Art. 4 Eligible expenses encompass personnel costs, running costs and equipment. A maximum of 10% in overheads may be applied to this amount. These overheads are included within the Prize money and are not added on top of it. If any overheads are to be taken, this must be explicitly stated in the agreement between the Fund Generet and the beneficiary.
- Art. 5 Portability of the Award: The holder could keep the benefit of the Award if he/she transfers his/her research activities to another eligible Belgian institution (cf. below). The Award cannot follow the holder if he/she transfers his/her research activity to a private company or abroad.
- Art. 6 Eligibility rules pertaining to applicants:
 - Candidates must be:
 - Internationally established investigators with outstanding scientific achievements and multiple seminal contributions in the field of rare diseases
 - Internationally established investigators with outstanding scientific achievements and multiple seminal contributions in common diseases, who can demonstrate that their research will have a substantial added value for rare diseases and can accelerate research in this particular field.
 - Applicants must have a scientific seniority of min. PhD + 10 years at the deadline of the call (career breaks, such as maternity leave or long-time illness, not included).
 - Applicants must be affiliated to a Belgian University or a Belgian University Hospital or an eligible Research Institute (cf. annex).
 - Applicants must provide the evidence of their affiliation to their institution until December 31st, 2030 and not reaching the retirement limit during the project.

- Applicants may submit a proposal as Principal Investigator and be partner in other applications at the same time.
 - Former laureates cannot reapply to the Generet Award as Principal Investigator but can be partners in other applications (at the earliest 4 years after being laureate).
- Art. 7 The research project should aim at a better understanding of the processes (causes and mechanisms) underpinning rare diseases and translating fundamental discoveries into better prevention, diagnosis or treatment for patients. Research can encompass all stages from bench to bedside.
 - Art. 8 Beyond a better understanding of the disease, translation of the research results into benefit for the patients is a key objective of the Generet Fund. As such, a clear description of the translational strategy is a plus.
 - Art. 9 The following aspects of the research project are encouraged and considered as valuable features (though they are not strictly mandatory):
 - Multidisciplinarity: referring to the use and application of different scientific disciplines as a substantial element of the research methodology.
 - Multicentric cooperation: referring to the close collaboration with centres of excellence located in Belgium or abroad. In case of international collaboration, the researcher working in the Belgian Institution must remain the coordinator of the project. However, up to 30% of the Grant's amount could be outsourced for supporting international or intranational expenses (personnel costs and running costs) including the private sector if they charge at cost price.
 - Art.10 The Award will be granted by the Steering Committee of the Generet Fund on basis of the recommendation of an international and independent Jury. Max. 2 representatives of the Generet Fund, managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, will attend the meeting as observers.
 - Art. 11 The Award cannot be divided amongst several laureates. If no suitable candidate can be identified, the Award will not be granted.
 - Art. 12 Proposals will undergo a two-step application procedure encompassing a phase of pre-proposal (open to all) and a phase of full proposal (accessible to shortlisted applicants from the first stage).
 - Art. 13 **Pre-proposals have to be submitted electronically on 20 April 2026 midnight (CET)** at the latest. The online form is available on the web platform www.generetaward.be. The form must be filled using English.
 - Art. 14 Any problem or dispute arising from the eligibility of submitted applications or from granting the Award will be settled by the Generet Fund, whose decision in these respects will be final.
 - Art. 15 The scientific outlines, presentations and evaluation reports generated in the frame of the Generet Award for Rare Diseases will be treated confidentially.