

2025 CALL FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS GRANTS

ImmuNE young investigators grants provide funding to promising young scientists who have interest in immunological research at Nantes Université and are at the beginning of their career. These 50,000€ grants (for 18 months) are designed to help young scientists to complete (especially in the context of a future application for a permanent position) or initiate an independent research project. The proposed projects can be either emergent (i.e. proof of concept and/or need for preliminary data before submitting to national calls (ex: ANRJCJC, INCa)) or a development of a current project (new hypothesis, need to use an alternative technology, experiments required for a revision etc). The main objective of this call is to significantly support the early career of the researcher. These grants may cover materials, lab technician, master fellowship, lab services or other costs but may not be used to fund the salary of the applicant.

This call is open to young investigators of the LabEx ImmuNE core teams (UMR1064-CR2TI teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; UMR1302-INCIT teams 1, 2, 3 and UMR1307-CRCI2NA teams 1, 2, 7, 10, 12) AND of partner research teams at Nantes Université interested by immunology and provided they collaborate with a core team.

Short proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the Scientific Advisory Board of the LabEx ImmuNE. The LabEx ImmuNE will support up to 3 projects.

SCHEDULE

28 April 2025	LAUNCH OF 2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS
15 June 2025	CLOSING DATE FOR CALL FOR PROJECTS
16 June 2025	analysis of projects submitted by members of the COPIL to verify eligibility criteria
17 June 2025	eligible projects and evaluation grid transmitted to SAB members
25 July 2025	SELECTION of projects by SAB members
25 August 2025	RESULTS ANNOUNCED to applicants
September 2025	LAUNCH OF PROJECTS
March 2027	END of projects

ELIGIBILITY

➤ SCIENTISTS CONCERNED

- The project must be led by a young investigator (non-permanent or permanent), i.e. who obtained his PhD less than 10 years ago. Parental leave and long-term sick leave (over 90 days) will be taken into account (real duration). For women, the limit is increased by one year for each dependent child. If applicable, supporting documents must be attached to the application.
- If the investigator holds a non-permanent position, his contract must run at least for the length of the funding.
- If the investigator does not belong to an ImmuNE core team, he/she must collaborate with an ImmuNE core team to carry out the project.

➤ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Projects dealing with immunology and immunotherapies in the context of transplantation, cancer, autoimmune, inflammatory or infectious diseases and other immune-mediated diseases.
- Specific project that will have a direct impact on the researcher's early career development.
- Fully completed application file.

➤ INELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Clinical trials.

HOW TO APPLY

- complete the application file **in English**
- email your application, **deadline 15/06/2025**, to:
LabEx ImmuNE Executive Manager, Laurence Wolff (laurence.wolff@univ-nantes.fr)

EVALUATION

➤ REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The LabEx ImmuNE Steering Committee (COPIL) will ensure that the submitted projects meet the eligibility requirements.

➤ SELECTION

Eligible projects will then be sent to the President of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which is in charge of allocating application files to the different members of SAB according to their expertise. Each proposal will be reviewed by 3 members of SAB.

Will be assessed:

- The scientific quality of the project and the applicant.
- The potential impact for the applicant's career.
- The feasibility of the project.

As a reminder, the SAB is composed of: Pr. Birgit Sawitzki (Chair), Pr Federica Sallusto, Dr Elodie Segura, Pr Paolo Dellabona, Pr Christian Münz.

The SAB will score the applications according to the criteria and scale of the evaluation grid below:

EVALUATION GRID		Mark
Scientific quality		/5
Relevance to career development of the applicant		/5
Feasibility		/5
Overall mark		/15
Overall recommendation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to be funded - to be discussed - not to be funded 		

Comments :

FUNDING

➤ BUDGET ALLOCATED TO EACH PROJECT

The overall budget allocation for a project is €50K (you don't have to include any management fees). As a reminder, Nantes University does not apply 20% VAT to research projects so expenses are to be considered exclusive of tax.

The purpose of this funding envelope is to cover research costs (consumables, missions, subcontracts, internship gratifications etc.) and non-permanent staff salaries (apart from the salary of the applicant). Equipment is not eligible.

In their research proposal, the project coordinators must provide a budget breakdown between the areas of expenditure and between the partners.

➤ PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

External partners (external to Nantes Université) will not be funded. The amount of funding provided by the external partner team (if applicable) should be specified in the project.

COMMITMENTS

Successful project leaders undertake to acknowledge the support of the LabEx ImmuNE in the publications resulting from the funded project (in the form provided by the LabEx ImmuNE Executive Manager), to send their final report within the allotted time and to provide the LabEx ImmuNE Executive Manager with the indicators requested (publications, other obtained fundings, patents, start-up creation, etc.) at the end of the project and for the next 4 years.

The project leader undertakes to:

- adhere to the establishment's strategy in favor of open science, in compliance with national, European and international recommendations. This strategy is based on encouraging the sharing and openness of publications, data, codes and software, in accordance with the national Open Science Plan, which is translated at the institutional level in the Nantes Université Open Science Action Plan. If the project is selected, the leader undertakes to comply with Nantes Université's requirements for the deposit of scientific publications in the HAL open archive (in accordance with deliberation N°CA_231020-06 appended to the Nantes Université Open Science Action Plan) and to draw up a data management plan (DMP), in accordance with a model that will be provided.
- guarantee fairness and transparency in recruitment processes, ensuring integrity, non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all candidates, in line with Nantes Université's HR Excellence in Research (HRS4R) approach.