

2026 CALL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

The Labex ImmuNE, a laboratory of excellence awarded by NExT, started on April 1, 2025. The Labex ImmuNE consists of 14 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). It aims to understand the immune system and its dysfunctions in order to exploit its potential for health. One of the Labex ImmuNE's main objectives is to encourage new interdisciplinary initiatives between ImmuNE's core teams and other teams and/or scientists at Nantes Université with whom they are likely to collaborate in order to strengthen fundamental research and explore new frontiers.

In this context, the Labex ImmuNE is launching its main call for funding collaborative research programs. The objective is to promote **new interdisciplinary partnerships** at Nantes Université aiming at addressing questions or issues with relevance to the fields of immunology and immunotherapies.

Programs must involve at least one Labex ImmuNE core team and one other partner team belonging to Nantes Université, not part of the core ImmuNE units, and specialized in a discipline different from immunology. The project coordinator may belong to a team that is not an ImmuNE core team. The co-supervision between the 2 partners of a PhD student funded by the Labex is mandatory.

Although collaborations outside Nantes Université with regional, national or international academic or private partners are possible, these partners will not be funded.

Proposals will be reviewed and short-listed by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Labex ImmuNE for oral presentation during the ImmuNE Days and final ranking.

The Labex ImmuNE will support up to 3 projects with €260k each for a period of 3 years.

These projects shall not have been already funded.

SCHEDULE

December 15, 2025	LAUNCH OF 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS
March 1, 2026	CLOSING DATE FOR CALL FOR PROJECTS
March 3, 2026	analysis of projects submitted by members of the COPIL to verify eligibility criteria
March 5, 2026	eligible projects and evaluation grid transmitted to SAB members
April 19, 2026	PRESELECTION of projects by SAB members
June 11-12, 2026	AUDITION of project leaders shortlisted by SAB members SELECTION of projects by SAB members
June 12, 2026	RESULTS ANNOUNCED to applicants
July-Sept 2026	LAUNCH OF PROJECTS
September 2029	END of projects

ELIGIBILITY

➤ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Projects focusing on immunology and immunotherapies.
- Projects deemed innovative and emergent, but with preliminary results which validate the feasibility.
- Projects involving **at least 1 Labex ImmuNE team and 1 other Nantes Université team (not part of the core ImmuNE units) specialized in a discipline other than immunology.** External collaborations are possible but only teams of Nantes Université will be funded.
- Projects overseen by a permanent researcher.
- The project leader can't be involved in another Labex ImmuNE proposal.
- Fully completed application file.

➤ INELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Scientific projects that have already received funding under the Labex ImmuNE, or other programs, shall not be funded through the 2026 internal call for projects, unless the issues are clearly distinct and complementary.
- Project leaders who received funding from the Labex ImmuNE are not eligible.
- Projects that consist of clinical trials

HOW TO APPLY

- complete the application file **in English**
- email your application, **deadline March 1, 2026**, to:
contact.immune@univ-nantes.fr

EVALUATION

➤ REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

➤ PRESELECTION

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 at least 3 members of SAB.

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

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

EVALUATION GRID		Mark
Scientific quality and originality		/10
Complementarity of the consortium		/10
Methodology		/10

Feasibility ("correlation between means/objectives": schedule, material resources, skills of the teams)	/10
Overall mark	/40
Overall recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to be funded - to be discussed - not to be funded 	

Comments :

➤ FINAL SELECTION

A shortlist of projects will be presented to the SAB during the ImmuNE Days on 11-12/06/2026. At the end of this audition, the SAB members will meet to propose a final selection of the projects. The director of the Labex ImmuNE and the members of the Labex ImmuNE COPIL will be available to answer potential specific questions.

FUNDING

➤ BUDGET ALLOCATED TO EACH PROJECT

The total budget allocated to a project is €260K, without any overheads or management fees. As a reminder, Nantes University does not apply 20% VAT to research projects so expenses are to be considered exclusive of tax ("hors taxes").

The purpose of this funding envelope is to cover research costs (consumables, missions, subcontracts, internship gratifications etc.) and non-permanent staff salaries including the salary of a PhD student whose recruitment is mandatory (€125k for 3 years). 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 partners should be specified in the project.

COMMITMENTS

The full amount of funding must be used by 31/12/2029 at the latest (end of the Labex ImmuNE).

Consequently, the project leader must implement his project by the end of 2026 at the latest.

The entire budget allocated to each selected project will be available from the start of the project.

An annual report will be requested for each project and in cases where the implementation of the selected project falls too far behind schedule, the COPIL reserves the right to re-allocate some or all of the funding envelope to other projects.

In cases where the project leaders do not provide on time the elements requested the COPIL reserves the right to re-allocate some or all of the funding envelope to other projects.

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.