Landsteiner Stichting
voor Bloedtransfusieresearch
Landsteiner Foundation
for Blood Transfusion Research

Information for the applicant

Research aim

The *Landsteiner Foundation for Blood Transfusion Research* (LSBR) supports fundamental research, including clinical and experimental investigations in the field of blood, blood derivatives, and blood (related) diseases, provided that these topics are related to transfusion or blood cell transplantation.
This scope spans a wide range of subjects in the field of haematology, including haematopoiesis, haemostasis, immunotherapy, transfusion medicine, and other issues relevant to the field.

Types of research funding (2027)

• Regular full proposal: Maximum duration of 4 years. For these projects, the maximum budget is 450,000 Euro.
Only one application per applicant will be considered. The applicant should hold a PhD degree obtained not longer than 30 years ago.

• Early career proposal: The Early Career Grant intends to give young researchers the possibility to acquire experience in the Netherlands or abroad, or to return to the Netherlands after a postdoc period elsewhere, thereby strengthening the research field in the Netherlands within the scope of the LSBR. Candidates are eligible when they obtained both the MSc and PhD degree at a university in the Netherlands. Exceptions to these criteria can considered in exceptional cases only, and will require prior approval by the LSBR office.
Applications need to be submitted by the PhD student or postdoc (not their supervisors).
These projects will have a maximum duration of 2 years with a maximum budget of 200,000 Euro.
Procedure:

- The pre-applications do not apply for Early Career proposals.
- Proposals for an Early Career Grant must be submitted by e-mail
- Deadline for proposals is July 30, 2027.
- Proposals for an Early Career Grant will be evaluated by the LSBR Scientific Advisory Council with no rebuttal phase.
- A presentation by the applicant in the annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Council may be a possibility.

Further information and separate documents will be published on the website early 2027.

• Fellowship proposal: 5 years, budget 700,000 Euro.
For information, see separate document: LSBR-fellowship-information.

All grant types will be reviewed in separate categories.

Grant application 2027

• *Pre-applications*

For the grant applications 2027, a pre-application form needs to be submitted. The pre-application form is a word file that can be requested by e-mail or downloaded from the LSBR website. The pre-application form has the maximal size of 2 A4 pages.

Pre-applications should be sent as pdf-file to b.kranenburg@lsbr.nl on or before **February 1, 2027** (23:59 hours). Information about the form and the procedure can be found on the website.

Applicants that are permitted to submit a full application will receive the application form from the bureau of the LSBR.

• *Full Applications*

For submission of a full application the relevant pre-application must have been approved. Full applications (including all signatures) must be submitted by e-mail on or before **April 30, 2027** (23:59 hours).

Proposals submitted by regular mail, fax, or submitted *after* 30 April, will not be considered.

The application should *not exceed* 16 single-sided pages (applications for a fellowship grant do not exceed 20 pages) with a minimal font size of 10. Larger applications will not be considered. All applications should be written in English. Applications can be submitted by applicants from Dutch academic or other non-profit research organisations.

The applicant ('Project Leader') and financial administrator must be authorized to sign the grant application on behalf of this institute ('Grantee'). Budgets should be drawn up in consultation with a financial expert.

Application forms that do not conform to the above-mentioned conditions will not be considered.

Review and Decision procedure

Pre-applications are evaluated by the Council, and a selection will be made based on priority for the LSBR and scientific quality. The Council will decide which pre-applications fulfill all criteria, and selected applicants will be asked to submit a full application. *No unsolicited full applications will be considered for funding.*

All applications are evaluated by the Council with the help of (at least) two external reviewers, experts in the field.

These external reviewers are invited to provide written critiques based on the scientific quality of the research topic (importance and originality), the approach to be used (preliminary results, quality of study design and suitability of methodology), and the feasibility of the project (applicant, research group, facilities, and likelihood of obtaining answers/results). Other criteria include the study's relevance to LSBR's goal and the possibility of its implementation in practice.

The applicants are invited to comment on the reviewer's critiques. These comments are sent to the reviewers for additional evaluation. The Council will meet in a plenary session to assign a scientific quality rating to each project, based on the application, the reviewers' critiques, the applicant's response and the additional evaluation of the reviewers. For this purpose, the Council will use criteria adapted from grant-scheme-specific assessment criteria developed by the UK Medical Research Council.

The Council will present a written recommendation to the Board regarding each project. The Board will make a final decision in November 2027, taking into account the available budget. You will be notified of the Board's decision concerning your project, together with the final rating and a summary of the Council's comments. You will accept this decision as final. There will be no further communication or discussion concerning this matter.

Question 1: Project Leader, institute, department etc.

The Project Leader (applicant) is defined as the individual who is scientifically and financially responsible for the project, holding a PhD degree obtained not longer than 30 years ago, and who is also the contact person.
It should also be indicated who is responsible for the financial management.
Permanent employment of the Project Leader by the institute (Grantee) is not a requirement. For an LSBR researcher a letter of commitment by the Grantee is necessary and should state that the researcher will be supported and facilitated for the whole research period. A Grant Application must be co-signed by the financial director of the research institute (the Grantee). In case of two applicants, only one person will act as Project Leader regarding contacts with the sponsor, and thus the ultimate grant agreement will only be entered into one institute (Grantee). In practice this means that the grant agreement is concluded with the institute (Grantee) of the Project Leader, who is thus responsible for the financial management of the entire grant, and thus also for proper settlement with the other participating bodies. If the research is to be carried out by more than one institute, it is advisable to specify this on conclusion of the agreement; in case of larger projects this can be set as additional condition.

Question 2: Title

Please supply a title that is as brief as possible and nevertheless specific.

Question 3: Summary

Give a brief summary of the research question(s) and the work plan. It should also be indicated which experimental approach will be applied in the research.

Question 4: Relevance

Please indicate why you consider your research proposal to fall (on the short and/or long run) within the scope of the goal of LSBR (see General information above).

Question 5: Participants

Only indicate those who will play an important role in the project. Also state the discipline, the salary-issuing institute and an estimate of the average working time (in hours per week) that will be devoted to the project. Project support or supervision cannot be considered for funding. If new coworkers are applied for in the proposal, these should be indicated as vacancy, including discipline (e.g. technician, biologist), to be covered by the requested grant.

Question 6: Line of research

Answer a, b, c and d separately:

6a. Line of investigation

Indicate here the framework (research lines) to which the project is linked. Line of research is defined as an area in which the working group is active with demonstrable consistency. An institute's total research program may consist of one or more lines of research; a line of research will generally comprise more than one project.

6b. Previous research related to the proposal

Here you state the results from relevant research. You should also indicate how the project in question relates to these results. You can also mention a pilot study that has led to the research question described in point 7. You are requested to indicate which preliminary research has been published, either in press or submitted for publication. These results are of utmost importance in the evaluation of the project proposal.

6c. Collaboration

In this section you should indicate the groups, both national and international, with which contact is maintained or collaboration is conducted in the field of the research line(s); however, this should only refer to the area for which the grant is being applied.

6d. Publications of the applicant

The most important publications (*restricted to 10*) in this sub-field (co)-authored by you and/or other members of the group (see also question 7b). You should only mention publications in the generally recognized literature, together with accepted manuscripts; lectures are not admissible.
Please indicate in the following manner: author(s), title, journal (in the official abbreviation), number, year, starting page and closing page.

Question 7: Research question

Answer a and b separately:

7a. Research question

The research question(s) should relate to a defined problem, the solution of which can be achieved within the grant duration as applied for. In this context you should indicate:

- the research question and the extent to which the research question will be answered at the end of the project;
- national and international expertise in this field;
- scientific significance of the answer to the research question with reference to the goal of the *Landsteiner Foundation for Blood Transfusion Research.*

7b. International literature

Here you should indicate *international* literature (other than mentioned in 6d) with direct relevance to the research question of this study *(restricted to 10*).

Question 8: Investigation

Answer a, b and c separately:

8a. Plan of investigation

Indicate how you plan to answer the research question, clearly describing the various phases of execution and the methods and techniques to be used, together with the method of analysis. This work plan must also indicate the tasks of the executive staff that will be funded by the requested grant. The plan of investigation is of substantial importance to the reviewers of the research proposal.

Please note: If you plan to use (patient) materials such as proteins, blood, sera or reagents obtained in a collaborating laboratory, a letter of intended co-operation is necessary.

8b. Starting date/finishing date

The proposed starting and finishing dates should be stated here. If a grant is allocated, a confirmation or revision of these dates should be supplied to the bureau.

Question 9: Test persons

State here whether patients or healthy individuals, or biological material obtained from these individuals, are involved in the project. If this is the case, please also indicate how many persons are required to obtain reliable results.

Has this research already been approved by a committee on medical ethics?
If yes, by which one?
If not, why not?

Question 10: Laboratory animals

The use of laboratory animals and the carrying out of animal experiments is governed by legal regulations (Animal Experimental Act, Protection of Exotic Animal Species Act). It is thus required that any registered (and possibly funded) research that involves animal experiments, should fall within the framework of the above-mentioned acts. If exemption from one or more provisions of these acts has been granted, this should be stated in the project description. The Animal Experiments Act requires an extra motivation for the use of monkeys, dogs, cats and horses. In accordance with Section 11 of the Animal Experiments Act, only laboratory animals should be used, if possible, that have been bred specifically for this purpose.

Question 11: Biological risks

Please indicate whether experiments will be carried out that may involve biological risks, especially in the area of recombinant DNA, radiation or radioactive materials, and disease-causing micro-organisms. If yes, you should indicate in which class of laboratory facilities the experiments are categorized and whether the required authorizations, permits and facilities are available.

Question 12: Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV)

Historically, limited attention has been paid to Sex as Biological Variable (SABV) in biomedical research. During the past decade, scientific research has shown that various areas benefit from integrating biological sex differences in research projects. In response to various international recommendations, the LSBR requires applicants to consider to what extent SABV may be relevant for their research proposals. Appropriate issues to address may include male and

female subjects, tissues or cells, and the implications thereof for the proposed experimental design.

For more information on how to address sex as a variable into research proposals, please check: https://genderfulresearchworld.com/ – for a comprehensive overview of background material and scientific articles, based on knowledge from the European Gendered Innovations Project and the Canadian CIHR Institute for Gender and Health (CIHR-IGH).

Further references:

- Gendered Innovations 2: How inclusive analysis contributes to research and innovation
  Print: ISBN 978-92-76-16417-3, doi:10.2777/53572, KI-03-20-108-EN-C
  PDF: ISBN 978-92-76-16416-6, doi:10.2777/316197, KI-03-20-108-EN-N
- "Key Considerations for the appropriate integration of sex as a biological variable" – Canadian Institutes of Health Research –
  https://cihrirsc.gc.ca/e/documents/sgba_criteria_sex-en.pdf

Question 13: Budget

Read the instructions for the budget carefully!
See the appendix 'Guidelines for the budget'.

13a. Personnel costs

This is a detailed specification of the personnel costs that are to be covered by the grant. The total sums of 13a should be entered at 13c.

13b. Material costs

This is a detailed specification of the material costs that are to be covered by the grant and should be completed by the financial manager/financial expert. The total sum of 13b should also be entered at 13c. Specify consumables, including cost estimate + VAT.
If statistical processing of data resulting from the research is required, please indicate whether this processing can be conducted by your own organization; if not, supply a cost estimate.
The acquisition of equipment will only be financed under exceptional circumstances. If the acquisition of certain equipment is regarded as crucial for the progress of the research for which a grant is being requested, this acquisition should be justified separately. The remaining write-down value of the equipment in question after conclusion of the research will be deducted from the grant. If this involves equipment that can be considered part of the infrastructure of the institute in question then generally speaking no means will be supplied for this equipment.
Justification of personnel and material in context of the grant application is required.

Question 14: Other sources of finance

Here you indicate whether funding has been requested or awarded elsewhere for (part of) the research described in the application. If yes, where?
Contributions from, for instance, the (pharmaceutical) industry should be mentioned here.

Question 15: Previous application to the LSBR

Indicate whether this research proposal has been submitted to the LSBR in previous years, and mention the registration number. Please indicate point-by-point and as limited as possible all changes and improvements made.

Question 16: Signature

Please provide the date of submission of this grant application and the signature of the Project Leader and financially responsible member of the applicant's organization. By signing the application form you agree with the contents and procedures, particularly those described on page 1.

Appendix: Guidelines for the budget

The *Landsteiner Foundation for Blood Transfusion Research* promotes research on a grant principle. This means that the applicant must provide the infrastructure needed for the research and the supervision/support for the researcher. The supplied grant should be regarded as financing from the 'third funds source'.
For regular projects, the maximum budget will be 450,000 Euro. For Fellowship project the maximum grant will be 700,000 Euro and for Early Career Grants the maximum grant is 100,000 per year.

Net personnel costs

A grant is provided for the personnel costs to cover the employment of the executive researcher(s) and any ancillary personnel. Further motivation for the need of ancillary personnel may be requested. A post-doc researcher must be budgeted in accordance with grade 11 CAO-NU with an annual seniority upgrade of one level and a PhD-student in accordance with the current rules for assistants or student researchers (grade 10 CAO-NU). If the institute has introduced a market value allowance for PhD-students, such costs can be included.

Direct personnel costs

A supplement of 37% may be added to the net personnel costs to cover additional personnel costs. This will be considered to cover: social insurance costs, holiday bonus, retaining fees, sickness risk, travel expenses from home to place of work, parental leave and supplements, training costs, support of personnel management, gratuities, other domestic travel, relocation and installation costs, payments in the event of death, social activities, other recruitment costs and contribution to health insurance.

'Overheads' supplement for the personnel costs

In addition to the direct personnel costs (net personnel costs + supplement of 37%, see above), a supplement can be allocated equal to 16% of the direct personnel costs, thus replacing a number of smaller budget items. This supplement of 16% on the direct personnel costs is considered to cover: the variable accommodation costs (including energy costs) and the administrative costs, including office materials, copying, photography, postal and telephone costs, extra costs for the preparation of congress visits, page charge, reprint and assessment costs for publication of articles.

Material costs

Budgeted material costs should be of direct benefit to the research. These costs must be evident from the submitted work plan and moreover be sufficiently itemized. A maximum of 16,000 euro per year will be reimbursed.

Fundable budget items are: the actual costs of the research, such as basic laboratory materials, to a limited extent: laboratory animals, laboratory tests, hire of recording apparatus, travel costs relating to the carrying out of the research.

Budget items relating to infrastructural facilities, that belong to the standard equipment of a research institute are in principle viewed as non-fundable. The following costs are always at

the expense of the applicant: project supervision, overheads at central, faculty and department level, non-variable accommodation costs, general infrastructural facilities such as basic laboratory equipment, PCs, computing and other equipment, computing programs and write off on discipline-specific equipment that is not acquired specially for the project in question, maintenance and repair of equipment financed from the grant in question.

Reporting costs are already included in the supplementary 16%. A budget item not exceeding 1,250 euro per year per 1.0 FTE researcher may be quoted for congress visits.