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KickCancer Clinical Investigator Grants 2026

REGULATIONS



- Art. 1 On the initiative of KickCancer, a Foundation of public interest established in 2017 whose mission is to cure children with cancer, **max. 2 Clinical Investigator Grants will be granted in 2026.**
- Art. 2 The KickCancer Clinical Investigator Grants (KCIG) intend to **allow clinicians to devote half of their working time to carry out research activities in paediatric haemato-oncology.**
- Art. 3 **KCIG duration is 2 years** renewable 4 times max. upon the positive evaluation of a biannual progress report. Former fellows are entitled to reapply an unlimited number of times.
- Art. 4 **The KCIG is intended to relieve the grantee half-time from clinical duties and provide a replacement. The grant amounts to a maximum of EUR 70,000/year (overhead excluded) to finance the replacement of the clinical duties.**
- Art. 5 The maximum amount of EUR 70,000/year, paid by KickCancer to the university hospital, must be **spent exclusively on the support of the clinical substitute** in accordance with the conditions set out in the regulations.

This sum is reimbursed by KickCancer to the university hospital after it has submitted:

- Evidence of the recruitment of a paediatric haemato-oncologist at least for a part-time position (min. 5/11 FTE) in replacement of the grantee;
- A declaration (signed by the grantee, the director of the university hospital, and the head of the department concerned) confirming that the grantee has been released from their clinical duties to enable them to conduct research in the frame of the KCIG and will be re-employed full time in their original position at the end of it;
- Should the applicant be a PhD student, this declaration additionally must be signed by the applicant's academic promotor at the eligible host organisation;
- The claim/invoice with supporting documents (monthly pay slips of the grantee).

The two first above-mentioned obligations are on-going and must be complied with at all times. KickCancer as Grantor is allowed to ask for evidence at any time during the KCIG.

- Art.6 In addition to the EUR 70,000/year, **an amount of max. EUR 10,000/year will be available as compensation for other costs (bench fees)** associated with the grant (see annex 1).

Bench fees are reimbursed once a year based on evidence of the incurred expenses. Max. EUR 10,000 of unused funds can be transferred to the following year upon request. Upon expiry of the grant, any unused funds will return to KickCancer except for costs for open access and data retention, which remain available for up to one year after the grant has expired, provided that the grantee remains affiliated to the same university hospital. Expenses incurred prior to the official start of the grant cannot be funded.

- Art. 7 The grant must effectively start max. 12 months after the official starting date set to 1st October 2026. The effective start of the grant corresponds to the hiring date of the grantee substitute. Should the KCIG not effectively start in the eligible period, it will be cancelled.
- Art. 8 The grantees can keep the benefit of their KCIG if they transfer their research activities to another eligible organisation. The KCIG cannot follow the grantee if they transfer their research activities to a private company or abroad. (Inter)national mobility (eg. a short research stay at a partner lab) is authorized in the frame of the grant provided that the grantees maintain their affiliation to an eligible organisation.
- Art. 9 Eligible applicants must comply with the following requirements:

Applicant eligibility criteria	Deadline of the call	Official start of the KCIG
Hold a recognized academic degree of Medical Doctor	x	
Be employed in one of the eligible organizations and commit to at least 80% FTE		x
Hold a specialty in haemato-oncology (ending with reference code #698 under the RIZIV/INAMI nomenclature of healthcare services) and/or be (or commit to become an) affiliated to the Belgian Society of Paediatric Haematology Oncology (BSPHO)		x

There is no PhD requirement nor any age/seniority prerequisites.

- Art. 10 Eligible organisations encompass any university hospital attached to a university in Belgium, provided they have a paediatric haemato-oncology department, as defined by the Royal Decree of April 2, 2014.
- Art. 11 Eligible projects encompass any basic (hypothesis-driven) or translational research project or active participation in international clinical trials groups.
- Art. 12 Research conducted in the frame of the KCIG must comply with the ethics-related legal provisions in force. The grantees will be required to provide an ethical clearance to KickCancer prior to starting their research activities should their research activities raise any.
- Art. 13 The KCIG cannot be combined with the FWO senior clinical investigator fellowship nor with the FNRS clinical researchers' mandates even though it would be acceptable for researchers to apply to any of these instruments (in case of multiple funding, the applicant would then need to choose between the funding sources).
- Art. 14 Applications must be submitted in English using the designated online form along with all required supporting documents, before the call deadline. To be considered eligible, applications must encompass:

- The application form (administrative and scientific parts) completed, dated and signed;
 - 5 main publications and/or achievements;
 - The applicant CV and publication list;
 - A letter of commitment¹;
 - Any other relevant supporting material (e.g. a recommendation letter from an international/European clinical trial committee or any relevant person from the academic world).
- Art. 15 The grantees are required to adhere to the regulations on the ownership, protection and promotion of the results from the research carried out within their organisation.
 - Art. 16 Any change in the research activities must be notified to KickCancer. In case of substantial change of the grant as it has been awarded, the grantee must seek KickCancer's prior approval before any reorientation.
 - Art. 17 The KCIG will be awarded by KickCancer on the basis of the recommendations made by an international and independent panel. Max. 2 representatives of KickCancer may attend the panel meeting as observers.
 - Art. 18 If no suitable grantee(s) can be identified, the KCIG will not be awarded.
 - Art. 19 Applications must be **submitted electronically on March 2nd, 2026** at the latest. The online form is available [here](#).
 - Art. 20 Any problem or dispute arising from the eligibility of submitted applications or from awarding the KCIG will be settled by KickCancer, whose decision in these respects will be final.
 - Art. 21 The scientific outlines, presentations and evaluation reports generated in the frame of the KCIG 2026 will be treated confidentially.

Brussels, November 2025.

¹ The letter of commitment must consist of a three-party written guarantee (signed by the grantee, the director of the university hospital, and the head of the department concerned) stating that, in case the Grant is awarded:

- The grantee will be released from their clinical duties to enable them to carry research activities in the frame of the KCIG
- The grantee will be re-employed full time in their original position at the end of the KCIG.

Should the applicant be a PhD student, this letter of commitment additionally must be signed by the applicant's academic promotor at the eligible host organisation.

ANNEX 1: ELIGIBLE BENCH FEES



Bench fees can be used for the purchase and financing of all items that are directly related to the research activities of the KCIG holders. Costs for which bench fees can be used encompass the following:

- Purchase costs for items of lasting value and useful for the research (equipment, computers, books, etc.). Upon termination of the grant, those items become the property of the university hospital. The grantee is required to comply with the purchasing policy of the university hospital;
- Costs of consumables (reagents, test animals or plants, chemicals, etc.);
- Operating expenditures (based on invoice, internal note, or final statement) for photocopies, searches and data traffic (mail/internet);
- The remuneration of persons not subject to the social security system who participate in the awarded research (based on invoice or internal note);
- Travel and accommodation expenses in Belgium and abroad, excluding daily commuting expenses;
- Costs for a CO₂ contribution linked to research-related air travel to and from abroad by the KCIG holder;
- Fees for stays and participation in conferences abroad provided they are in line with the awarded research;
- Publication costs for articles with the grantee as first author or last author (or as co-author on the basis of a reasonable cost-sharing);
- Printing costs of the PhD grantee's thesis;
- Access to and dissemination of research results.