



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026

Principal Investigator Grants

Submission Deadline for Letter of Intent: 8 April 2026

Dementia Research Switzerland – Synopsis Foundation announces its **2026 Research Grant competition**. The aim of the call is to promote dementia research in Switzerland and to support innovative projects of independent principal investigators at Swiss universities and non-commercial research institutions.

TOPICS

The Synopsis Foundation supports research projects on neurodegenerative diseases in either basic, translational or clinical research:

- Research in genetics, molecular and cell biology to gain new insights into pathomechanisms
- Innovative clinical approaches towards an early diagnosis (including biomarkers) and therapeutic interventions
- Prevention studies

We welcome **collaborative projects** involving interdisciplinary, inter-institutional research groups. Collaboration with industry is possible, but only the non-commercial partner will receive funding from Synopsis Foundation.

FUNDING

Funded projects are supported with **up to CHF 300'000 for up to 3 years**. Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards.

ELIGIBILITY

Principal investigators working at Swiss universities or non-commercial research institutions, **who have not received funding from the Synopsis Foundation for at least one year at the time of submission**, are eligible to apply. Project proposals that have been previously rejected by the Foundation may be resubmitted once, accompanied by an explanation of the changes made to the original application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application follows a **two-step procedure**. First, researchers are invited to submit a short letter of intent. The most convincing project ideas will be selected, and the main applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal. All documents must be submitted by the main applicant using the provided templates and must be completed in English.

1st Step: Letter of Intent

In a first stage, a **letter of intent** is to be submitted that includes a **short project outline**. The **template** for the letter of intent for Principal Investigator Grants is provided on the Synapsis Foundation website.

The letter of intent includes:

- Information on the main applicant
- Project title
- Start date and duration of the project
- Requested funding
- Information regarding resubmission and further funding partners
- Outline of the proposed research project (1 page only)
- Curriculum vitae, incl. a list of top 3 publications

The letter of intent must be submitted online in pdf-format via the submission tool.

The submission deadline for the letter of intent is 8 April 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

The Scientific Advisory Board of Synapsis Foundation will review all submitted letters of intent and select the most promising project ideas based on scientific quality, originality and relevance to the call.

2nd Step: Full Proposal

If the project outline was evaluated positively, the main applicant will be invited to submit a **detailed full proposal**. The **template** for the full proposal will be **sent** to the main applicant **via e-mail**, together with the invitation.

The full proposal includes:

- Scientific abstract
- Introduction to the topic
- Specific goals of the project and detailed research plan
- Detailed budget and disclosure of all other funding sources
- Curriculum vitae, incl. a list of top 10 papers from the last 10 years

All relevant information must be compiled in a single pdf-file of maximum 10 MB and must be submitted online. The link to the submission tool will be provided via e-mail.

Submission deadline for the full proposal is 5 July 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

EVALUATION

Full proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Synapsis Foundation, supported by external reviewers. The main **criteria for evaluation** are **scientific quality, originality, feasibility, innovation, experience and past performance of the main applicant**, as well as **relevance to the call**. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Final decision for funding lies with the Board of Trustees of the Synapsis Foundation.

Funding decisions will be announced by 20 December 2026.

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding any aspects of the Call for Proposals 2026, please consult our **FAQs** or contact Heide Marie Hess, Liaison Officer Research:
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