

**Information Sheet**  
ParkinsonNL  
**Early Career Grant**  
call 2025

## Background

Parkinson\* is a progressive neurological disorder that has a devastating impact on the quality of life of persons with parkinson, as well as their direct environment. This brain disease is very diverse in its symptoms, progression and effectiveness of therapies. Parkinson causes both motor and non-motor symptoms. Parkinson motor symptoms include tremor, slowness, stiffness, and walking and balance problems. Non-motor symptoms include constipation, fatigue, depression, pain, urinary and blood pressure dysfunctions, sleeping issues, and memory, emotional and cognitive problems.

ParkinsonNL ultimately aims to prevent, slow down, stop & cure the disease. Until we reach that goal, we also aim to improve the quality life and quality care for people with parkinson. We do this by financing groundbreaking research and innovation projects and by supporting implementation of new findings and approaches in daily care and life.

*\* When we speak of parkinson, this includes Parkinson's disease and atypical parkinsonisms, including Multiple system atrophy (MSA), Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), Lewy body dementia (LBD) and Vascular Parkinsonism (VP).*

## Talent Programme

The ParkinsonNL Early Career Grant is part of the ParkinsonNL Talent Programme. With this programme, ParkinsonNL intends to support the building and maintaining a highly talented and innovative Dutch parkinson research field, that is able to achieve optimal impact for people with parkinson, by

1. Attracting and supporting young research talent (PhDs, junior postdocs) to work in the Dutch parkinson field;
2. Retaining successful parkinson researchers (excellent junior and senior postdocs without a permanent position) for the Dutch parkinson field so that they can build/expand their own line of research;
3. Stimulating impact-oriented, innovative, need-driven and inclusive (participation and diversity) working among Dutch parkinson researchers.

## Aim of Early Career Grant

The ParkinsonNL Early Career Grant aims to support young parkinson researchers in the Dutch parkinson field in their personal development as an outstanding parkinson scientist by providing the means to conduct research of their own choice and set up, or continue, their own line of research.

## Types of research that can be submitted

Funding is available for all types of research, including fundamental, preclinical, translational and clinical research.

Research that can be submitted must fit the overall [goals of ParkinsonNL](#) and the [research and innovation agenda of the Parkinson's Alliance](#) (Parkinsonalliantie Nederland; only available in Dutch), with a focus on one or more of these themes:

1. Prevention of parkinson
2. Slow down and/or stop and/or cure parkinson
3. Improve the quality of life and quality of care for people with parkinson

## Impact

To be able to assess how the proposed research contributes to our goals, we advise applicants to clearly describe 1) how they aim to achieve impact for persons with parkinson, now, or in the future, in terms of prevention, cure and care, and 2) how their research impacts the body of knowledge on the subject(s). Assessment of the research's contribution to the needs of people with parkinson and health professionals, as well as the current knowledge gaps, is therefore strongly advised.

## Who can apply

The applicant must be of post-doctoral level, being, at the time of the pre-application, either

1. a junior postdoc (up to max. 3 years after completion of a PhD), or
2. a more senior postdoc (from 4 years up to max. 7 years after completion of a PhD)

The date of the PhD defence is taken as the completion date of the PhD. Both clinical and scientific researchers can apply. Several years of experience in parkinson research is required.

### Junior postdocs

The grant is available for junior postdocs who are starting their own, independent research line in parkinson research. The junior postdoc is the main applicant of the grant. They must submit the pre- and full application in close collaboration with an established parkinson scientist. The established scientist acts as a coach and supervisor during the research project and will (pro)actively assist the junior scientist in achieving their ambitions.

### Senior postdocs

The grant is available for senior postdocs who have the ambition to further their career in parkinson research and are close to start, or have recently started, their own research group. Applicants have a proven track record in parkinson research.

## Available funding

The maximum budget per application is € 400.000, for a minimum duration of 3 years and a maximum duration of 4 years, starting in the first half of 2026.

The total available ParkinsonNL budget for the Early Career Grant call 2025 is € 800.000. ParkinsonNL aims to award funding for about 50% of the full applications.

## Procedure and deadlines

The procedure of this call has been developed together with members of our ParkinsonNL Scientific and Social advisory boards ([Wetenschappelijke adviesraad \[WAR\]](#) and [Maatschappelijke adviesraad \[MAR\]](#)). Both scientists and experience experts are included in our advisory boards. The procedure and accompanying deadlines are described in the table below. There is a round of pre-applications, followed by a round of full applications.

<b>Step 1: Call open</b> On Thursday 30 January 2025 the call will be open for pre-applications. The Information sheet, Pre-application form and General terms and conditions, can be found <a href="#">on our website</a> .	30 January 2025
<b>Step 2: Submission of pre-application</b> The pre-application must be submitted to <a href="mailto:research@parkinson.nl">research@parkinson.nl</a> by Tuesday 18 March 2025, 12:00 noon.	18 March 2025, 12:00 noon

<p><b>Step 3: Check pre-applications on preconditions and completeness</b></p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks whether the pre-application is complete, filled in correctly, does not exceed max. word counts and whether it fits within the <a href="#">research and innovation agenda of the Parkinsonalliantie Nederland</a>, and the goals and preconditions of the call as described below in the section <i>Terms and conditions for grant applications</i>. If information is missing or incorrect, the applicant will be informed by ParkinsonNL and given the chance to adjust the pre-application within 48 hours, and by Thursday 20 March 12:00 noon at the latest. If the pre-application is not adjusted in time, the pre-application will not enter the review procedure and will be put aside.</p>	<p>20 March 2025, 12:00 noon</p>
<p><b>Step 4: Review pre-applications by the advisory board</b></p> <p>Each pre-application that meets the preconditions is reviewed by at least 4 advisory board members (2 scientific and 2 experience members). If a member has a conflict of interest, he/she is excluded from review of that specific pre-application. Together with ParkinsonNL, the advisory board selects which pre-applications will be invited to submit a full application. The section ‘Terms and conditions for grant applications’ below, provides more details.</p>	<p>24 April 2025</p>
<p><b>Step 5: Submission of full application</b></p> <p>The applicant submits his/her full application by filling in the application form in the ParkinsonNL online grant portal. Selected applicants will receive information about the online grant portal by email.</p>	<p>17 June 2025, 12:00 noon</p>
<p><b>Step 6: Check full applications on preconditions and completeness</b></p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks whether the full application is complete, filled in correctly, does not exceed max. word counts and meets the goals and preconditions of the call. If information is missing or incorrect, the applicant will be informed by ParkinsonNL and given the chance to adjust the application within 48 hours, and by 19 June, 12:00 noon at the latest. If the application is not adjusted in time, the application will not advance in the review procedure and will be put aside.</p>	<p>24 June 2025, 12:00 noon</p>
<p><b>Step 7: Review full applications by external reviewers</b></p> <p>Each full application is reviewed by at least two external, international experts and by at least two Dutch experience experts (patient, family member or caregiver of a patient) from the Parkinson Vereniging Patient Advisory Chamber (Patiëntenkamer van de Parkinson Adviesraad; PK-PAR).</p>	<p>8 September 2025</p>
<p><b>Step 8: Check review reports</b></p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks all review reports from external reviewers for completeness and quality. In the case a review report is of insufficient quality, ParkinsonNL may decide to exclude this review report from the further process. If there is sufficient time, ParkinsonNL may ask a new, additional external reviewer for a replacing review report.</p>	<p>10 September 2025</p>
<p><b>Step 9: Rebuttal</b></p> <p>The applicant will receive written feedback from the external reviewers and get the opportunity to write a rebuttal (answers / explanations to the feedback) . The deadline for submission of the rebuttal is within 10 working days after the email containing the feedback was sent.</p>	<p>13 Oct 2025</p>
<p><b>Step 10: Final review by advisory board</b></p> <p>Each full application will be reviewed by at least 4 members of the advisory board (2 scientific and 2 experience members). If a member has a conflict of</p>	<p>November 2025</p>

<p>interest, he/she is excluded from review of that specific pre-application. They score the full application based on the application itself, review reports of the external scientific and experience experts, the rebuttal and their own review. The section <i>Terms and conditions for grant applications</i>, provides more details about the review criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Step 11: Ranking of the full applications</b></p> <p>During the meeting of the advisory board the applicant is asked to give a short presentation. All full applications and presentations are discussed by the advisory board. If a member has a conflict of interest this member leaves the room and is excluded from discussion of the specific application. A final ranking is made and an advice towards the Director of ParkinsonNL is formed on which applications to fund. ParkinsonNL will provide the advisory board with the scores of all external reviewers and the preliminary ranking, for full transparency and facilitation of proper discussions.</p>	<p>1 December 2025</p>
<p><b>Step 12: Formulating an advice for funding</b></p> <p>The advisory board will formulate a written advice for funding towards the Director of ParkinsonNL, primarily based on the final ranking and additionally, if necessary, on a proper balance between topics/aeras of study and institutes. Three categories of funding are included: 1) fundable with the current available budget, 2) fundable in case of additional funding becomes available, and 3) non-fundable.</p>	<p>December 2025</p>
<p><b>Step 13: Awarding of the grants</b></p> <p>The Director of ParkinsonNL decides which grants are awarded and which are not. Award and rejection letters are sent to applicants.</p>	<p>End December 2025</p>

## Terms and conditions for grant applications

The ParkinsonNL grant requirements ([Subsidievoorwaarden ParkinsonNL in Dutch and English](#)) can be found on our website and apply to all awarded grants as well as all applications for grants. Additionally, grant-specific requirements apply. These are listed below.

### Criteria and conditions for the applicant

At the time of applying, the applicant has had a connection with the Netherlands for at least 2 years via education or research.

The applicant will be employed by the organisation where the research is intended to be carried out, before the start of the proposed research, for the entire duration of the research. This must be at a Dutch research institute, such as a university, university of applied sciences, academic medical centre, STZ medical centre or non-profit research institute.

We ask applicants for an 'embedding guarantee' when submitting the full application. This form will be provided by ParkinsonNL upon invitation to submit a full proposal.

Researchers who are unable to submit within the allotted time period (max. 3 and max. 7 years after completion of a PhD) can receive an extension if they have completed training as a clinical specialist or can provide evidence that proves they were on maternity leave, parental care leave, care leave, or extended sick leave. Please refer to the Extension Clause for more information (Appendix A). Please contact ParkinsonNL at [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl) prior to submitting your pre-application, in case you think you are eligible for this clause.

The applicant must commit minimal 0,8 FTE to the research for which the grant is requested, for the full duration of the research project(s).

Additional criteria specific for junior and senior postdocs apply, as described below.

#### Junior postdoc:

- If you have not yet received your doctorate, your dissertation must in any case be approved by the doctoral committee and the defence date must be fixed. Please enclose written proof of this with the application. You must have a PhD before the research starts.
- You must submit the application in close collaboration with an established parkinson scientist.
- With this grant, ParkinsonNL contributes to the support and further development of talented researchers in the parkinson field. ParkinsonNL finds it essential that talent is also supported by the knowledge institutions where they work. This is not only important for your scientific and/or clinical career but also contributes to a strong parkinson research environment in the future. ParkinsonNL cannot achieve this alone. Therefore, we ask you to specify how the knowledge institution(s) where you intent to conduct this research will contribute to your research and project(s) This could be, for example, by providing personnel, dedicating your supervisor's time, relieving you of clinical obligations, or contributing to material costs. It may also involve offering specific training that supports your further professional development.

#### Senior postdoc:

- The institution must ensure that any within the research proposal appointed PhD candidate will receive supervision throughout their doctoral trajectory, culminating in a successful PhD defence.
- You are required to act as the co-supervisor (co-promotor) for any PhD candidate appointed to take part in this research.
- The institution must guarantee that the PhD candidate will be able to complete their doctoral training successfully.

#### **Application process**

- The pre-application must be submitted by email to: [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl).
- The full application must be done via our online grant portal, for which you will receive more information upon invitation to submit a full application.
- Applications submitted after the communicated deadline, or not complying with the terms and conditions, will not be admitted for review.
- In the case an application is incomplete, additional information will be requested by ParkinsonNL and should be provided as per request by the set deadline.

#### **Number of applications**

- Only one application can submitted per applicant.
- If a proposal is also submitted to another funding organisation, this must be mentioned in the application form.
- The maximum number of times an applicant can apply for an Early Career Grant at ParkinsonNL, is three.

#### **Grant budget**

- The total budget requested may not exceed € 400.000. This is the amount including VAT, if applicable. For general budget specifications, see articles 6, 7 and 8 of the general ParkinsonNL grant requirements on [this page](#).
- The budget should firstly be used to fully cover the position of the applicant.
- Additionally, remaining budget can be used to cover

- other personnel costs, such as technician, PhD student, postdoctoral researcher, data scientist, support staff, etc.
- specified consumables and/or laboratory animals directly necessary for the execution of the research, costs of publication(s) and/or congress visits, to a maximum of € 15.000 per year
- Excluded are costs for training
- Within the full application, the grant application budget is calculated within the ParkinsonNL Grant Budget Template, which will be provided when invited for a full application.
- In case the grant will not cover the total costs of the research, it should be explained how the remaining costs will be funded.
- A grant may be co-funded by other organisations and/or companies. The below rules apply:
  - There are no (potential) conflicts between the conditions and requirements of this grant and the conditions and requirements of the co-funder(s)
  - If the co-funder is a health foundation, this foundation must have an ANBI status and a CBF quality mark
  - Co-funding is unconditional with respect to intellectual property rights and publication of results
  - A contract for co-funding must be approved by ParkinsonNL
  - When submitting the full proposal, the application as submitted with the co-founder, must be included

### **Execution of the research**

- The role of project leader must be fulfilled by the applicant.
- The research is executed in the Netherlands at a Dutch research institute for more than 75% of the duration and resources. Parts of the research may be performed outside the Netherlands, if valid reasons are provided.
- The research concerns independent research activities.

### **Involvement of human subjects**

- ParkinsonNL requires that proposed research meets or exceeds national ethical regulations regarding the inclusion of human subjects.
- We also require applicants to thoroughly consider and describe in their application:
  - the choice of the (study) patient group, in terms of relevance to the aim of the project(s) for patients with parkinson(ism)
  - how the actual patient group is maximally represented in the study patient group in terms of diversity (gender, age, type, severity and duration of PD, social/economic background, etc.)
  - how inclusion of the right type and number of patients within the set inclusion period will be achieved.

### **Animal research**

- ParkinsonNL requires that proposed research meets or exceeds national ethical regulations regarding the use of animals in research.
- We also require research groups to implement and follow the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines in the design and reporting of animal research to increase its reproducibility and quality.
- ParkinsonNL supports the transition towards human measurement models. (Transitie naar Proefdiervrije Innovatie; TPI; see <https://www.transitieproefdiervrijeeinnovatie.nl/>). We prefer to invest in research with human measurement models (e.g. computer simulations, human

research subjects), human tissue (e.g. in vitro cells, cell lines, organoids, stem cells, tissue obtained after surgery, ‘organ-on-a-ship’), instead of animals. We expect researchers to take this in consideration when designing and executing their research experiments.

### **End user participation**

- An end user is anyone who will use the knowledge, results or products coming from the research, and include
  - experience experts (patients [not being study subjects as mentioned in section ‘Involvement of human subjects’], relatives, caregivers and patient researchers), and
  - other end users, such as health professionals, policy makers and product developers.
- End users are expected to be engaged. The degree of participation may vary upon the type of end user and the type of research and may differ per research phase. Stages of include idea generation, proposal writing stage, preparation and execution of the project(s), dissemination of results and follow-up and implementation upon finalisation of the project.
- We expect applicants to apply the participation matrix ([www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix/](http://www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix/)) in their full application, for making decisions about participation and describing participation of all types of selected experience experts in the various phases of their research project(s). More information on how to include experience experts in projects can be found at: [participatiekompas.nl/kickstart-voor-onderzoekers](http://participatiekompas.nl/kickstart-voor-onderzoekers) and [pgosupport.nl/dossiers/participatie-onderzoek/uitgangspunten-patientenparticipatie](http://pgosupport.nl/dossiers/participatie-onderzoek/uitgangspunten-patientenparticipatie).
- We require at least one patient researcher to be involved in the various stages of the application (pre-application and full application) and the research (idea generation, writing stage, execution, results dissemination).
- Budget can be applied for the involvement of patient researchers, being:
  - allowance fees for meeting time and preparation time, with a maximum of € 90 per hour per patient researcher
  - travel expenses, with a maximum of € 0,23 per km
- We strongly suggest to contact the Parkinson Vereniging (patient organisation) for involving patient researchers, patients, and/or caregivers. For information, click [here](#).

### **Data management**

- ParkinsonNL strives towards Open Data management. This means that we expect you to make data and software, available rapidly after the publication of reports. Data availability may be delayed as a consequence of procedures for protection of intellectual property rights.
- ParkinsonNL also supports the idea that all data should be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), under clearly defined conditions. Therefore we expect researchers to comply with the FAIR Principles. See <https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618>.

### **Publications and communication**

- ParkinsonNL supports and strongly encourages Open Access publishing, preferably via the Gold Route which makes the final version of an article freely and permanently accessible for everyone, immediately after publication. More information can be found on <https://www.openaccess.nl>.
- We also encourage you to publish results in a repository that is freely accessible.
- Besides publishing positive results, we expect you to also publish negative and neutral results of research funded by ParkinsonNL.



- Applicants are also expected to describe in the application how they will ensure communication and dissemination of the results to the various end users.

## Review criteria

Besides the personal and scientific achievements of the applicant, the scientific quality and (potential) impact of the proposed work for people with parkinson will be important criteria in the review process of the pre-applications (designated with an asterisk) and full applications (all criteria). The review criteria are listed below.

### 1. Quality of the applicant

Scientific and leadership quality in the field of parkinson\*, personal motivation and strategy\*, embedding and network\* and the value of the grant for career development\*.

#### Junior postdoc

- The grant will propel or accelerate the career of the applicant in the scientific field of parkinson
- Potential and ambition of the applicant or establishing a successful and independent career in the scientific field of parkinson
- A track record relevant for the plans outlined in the research proposal
- Past performance (e.g. publication record, presentations, prizes, awards granted, international experience, etc.)
- Potential of the applicant for seeking and creating opportunities to implement the outcomes of the proposed research
- Ability of the applicant to be a passionate advocate of his/her research for a wide audience

The established scientist supporting the junior postdoc:

- Will adopt an active role in coaching the applicant to a successful conclusion of the proposed research
- Will stimulate the personal and professional development of the applicant
- Will be an asset in a complete and sustainable embedding of the applicant's research activities within the research institute
- Will bring the applicant into contact with his/her network when seen fit
- Does not need to have a specific background in the field of parkinson, although this may be helpful depending on the proposed research

#### Senior postdoc

- The grant will enable the applicant to (further) establish his/her own line of research in the field of parkinson
- Track record and standing in the field of parkinson is good or excellent
- Potential and ambition of the applicant to be a promising contributor to the scientific field of parkinson
- Past performance (e.g. publication record, presentations, prizes, awards granted, international experience, national and international collaborations, etc.)
- Ability of the applicant to lead and supervise other scientists and staff
- Ability of the applicant to be a passionate advocate of his/her research for a wide audience
- Potential of the applicant in seeking opportunities to implement the outcomes of the proposed research

## 2. Quality of the research line proposal

- Rationale\*
- Work plan, work packages and methodology/methodologies\*
- Appropriate tools and facilities
- Scientific originality and innovative potential\*
- End-user participation\*
- Realistic goal, budget and timelines\*
  
- Human studies (if applicable)
  - Information to, and support of study subjects (if applicable)
  - Proportionality of the project burden to study subjects (if applicable)
- Animal studies (if applicable)
  
- Management of Open Data and Open Access
- Knowledge transfer, dissemination, implementation and follow-up\*
- Risks (for project and for study subjects [if applicable]) and risk management

## 3. Relevance

- Contribution to the aims of the call and ParkinsonNL\*
- Relevance for people with parkinson\*
- Broad impact (on people with parkinson, risk groups and/or the general public as well as the impact from a scientific and societal perspective)\*
- Choice of study group (if applicable)
- (Future) Cost-benefit

## Disclaimer

The execution of a ParkinsonNL call for applications, selection of full applications and positive grant award decisions are conditional on ParkinsonNL revenues and budgetary means. We explicitly reserve the right to cancel an initiated call for applications, to suspend or extend a running procedure or to lower a grant amount in relation to earlier statements.

## Complaints procedure

It is not possible to object to a rejection. If you believe that the procedure regarding the handling of your application was not correct, it is possible to file a complaint. You can submit a complaint up to 20 days after the date of the rejection letter. In case you consider filing a complaint, please contact us by email via: [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl).

## Contact information

For questions or remarks please contact us at [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl).

## Appendix A: Extension Clause

The ParkinsonNL Early Career Grant have a time limit that specifies until when researchers can apply after obtaining their PhD. This clause provides applicants who are unable to submit a proposal within the allotted time period for the ParkinsonNL Early Career Grant, with the opportunity to receive an extension if they have completed training as a clinical specialist or can provide evidence that proves they were on maternity leave, parental care leave, care leave or extended sick leave. In all cases, the maximum extension is five years. Before submitting your pre-application, you must contact the ParkinsonNL by email [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl) to request an extension. If you have been granted an extension, you must indicate this on your pre-application and full application form.

ParkinsonNL follows the extension clause as [formulated by NWO](#).

### **Caring responsibilities as a parent**

Extension for a parent is granted only if the child or children are part of the applicant's own household (this means that the child or children live at the applicant's address for at least 50% of the time). The birth mother gets an 18-month extension of the filing deadline per child. Another parent gets six months extension per child.

### **Care leave**

A claim to care duties only applies to applicants who are/were demonstrably on registered care leave. In case of care leave for relatives in the first degree, formal reduction in working hours is compensated. The formal reduction in working hours after the (first) promotion date must be demonstrated by means of an overview of the leave registration of the Personnel & Organisation department of your employer. This overview should be attached to the form which will be provided by ParkinsonNL upon request.

### **Prolonged illness**

In case of prolonged illness, the formal reduction in working time will be compensated. The formal reduction in working time must be demonstrated with an overview of the leave registration of your employer's Personnel & Organisation department. This overview should be attached to the form which will be provided by ParkinsonNL upon request.

### **Training as a clinical specialist**

If you have completed training as a clinical specialist, it is also possible to claim an extension of the time since receiving the PhD. The total time spent training as a clinical specialist after promotion may be added to the grant deadlines. The courses for which extension can be requested can be found [here](#) on the NWO website.

A clinical specialist training programme is completed or ends before the project start date (i.e. six months after written notification or award).

To qualify for this extension, the applicant must attach the approved training plan and proof of BIG or KNMG registration to this form.

If training and scientific research after a PhD were carried out simultaneously, for example in the case of a combination of postdoc and training, only the training time counts.

### **Combination of extension grounds**

The grounds for extension above may be combined (for example, if you have been absent due to both care leave and long-term illness). The maximum combined extension is 5 years.