

FJL 4th-year PhD Scholarship

Application guidelines

Important dates:

- **February:** announcement of the call and opening of the online application system.
- **Mid-April:** deadline for submission. Specific date will be announced on the website.
- **April-May:** evaluation of the application by a panel of experts.
- **June:** results will be communicated to the applicants.

Electronic application submission

Applications should be submitted through our online management system.

Please follow the link [APPLY FOR A 4th-YEAR PHD SCHOLARSHIP](#) in our website.

Contacts

funding@fondationlejeune.org

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Aim and scope

The Jerome Lejeune Foundation initiates, develops and finances fundamental, translational and clinical research programs in Down Syndrome and other intellectual disabilities of genetic origin. The Foundation supports innovative research that will deepen our understanding of these disorders and that can lead to the discovery and development of therapies and treatments.

As part of its policy of encouraging research on intellectual disabilities, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation awards a 4th-year PhD scholarship to young scientists enrolled in a French doctoral school and working on Down Syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome and facilitating the finalization of their thesis in the best conditions.

The thesis project may cover all fields and disciplines related to Down Syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome (apart from screening), from basic and translational research to clinical research including epidemiology.

Duration and Funding

- Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of 12 months to finalise the research project.
- The scholarship covers the salary of the candidate to an amount of € 40.000.
- The scholarship will be paid in two instalments to the employing organisation.
 - a. An initial payment (50 % of the scholarship amount) is made when the financing agreement is signed.
 - b. A second payment (50 % of the scholarship amount) is made at 6 months, following the reception of an intermediate report.
- Grant payment for research programs that last 12 months, are made in full when the financing agreement is signed.
- The starting date of the scholarship must be no later than 7 months after the month of award.
- The scholarship covers the salary of the doctoral student in the context of the realisation of his/her research project directly related to Down Syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome and the preparation of their PhD thesis in a French university.

Eligibility

- PhD student registered, at the date of submission of the application, in the 3rd year of a thesis in a French doctoral school.
- Candidates must have a scientific or medical background (medicine, pharmacy or veterinary).
- Host laboratory must be located in France.

- Thesis project should be finalised in a maximum of one year and the project must be related to Down Syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome.
- The candidate must have had a fixed-term employment contract in France for the first three years of the thesis.
- The candidate commits to dedicating himself/herself to the research project during the whole duration of the funding from the Jerome Lejeune Foundation. However, other activities are authorised in accordance with the decrees in force and the contract with the employing organisation.
- Proposed projects must address academic basic or medical research and not “Research & Development” linked to commercial development.
- A candidate can only apply once.

Application process

Applications for an FJL 4th-year PhD scholarships are accepted via the FJL online application system at <https://funding.fondationlejeune.org/>.

Applicants need to register for an FJL online application account. Once the registration email has been received applicants can start an application.

The application deadlines will be announced on the website by the end of February. Complete applications will be evaluated in the Spring and results will be announced no later than June.

Applications must be written in English and follow the formatting and structure outlined below.

Structure of the project file

Formatting:

- Maximum 4 pages including figures. References and annexes do not count on the page limit.
- Font: Arial, 10
- Line spacing: single spaced.
- Page: A4 and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm.
- Include a header with the applicant’s last name and year of the call.
- Format: PDF

A template is available in the online application system and on the website:

<https://www.research.fondationlejeune.org/4th-year-phd-scholarship/>

Content:

- 1- **Project title.**
- 2- **Synopsis of the thesis work.** Including scientific/clinical background, rationale of the work, key objectives and brief methodology.
- 3- **Results already obtained.**
- 4- **Description of remaining work.**
- 5- **Work plan/time schedule of remaining work and potential date of thesis defence.**
- 6- **References.** Use a full citation style for all the references. Please highlight team publications and include DOI or active PubMed links for the team publications only.
- 7- **Annexes:**
 - Letter of application and motivation from the candidate.
 - Letter of recommendation from the thesis director.
 - Letter of agreement from the unit director (UMR CNRS, U Inserm, EA Université, ...).
 - If available, please include the report of the last thesis monitoring committee.
 - Proof of registration in the 3rd year of the thesis by the Doctoral School (school certificate or certificate from the Doctoral School).

Evaluation and selection process

The most important evaluation criteria applied by the evaluation panel of the FJL 4th-year PhD Scholarships are scientific excellence of the candidate, the research project and the quality of the host laboratory.

Applications will initially be checked to ensure that they meet all the eligibility criteria for the scholarship. Applications not meeting the eligibility criteria will be rejected at this time.

Applications will be evaluated and ranked by members of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation Scientific Advisory Board. Selection will be primarily on:

- Applicant: CV, motivation and performance based on the reference letter and advancement of the project.
- The scientific project: scientific quality, relevance, innovative character, quality of the work plan, mastery of the subject and concepts, appropriateness of the chosen methodology, coherence (technical feasibility, feasibility within the given timeframe, realistic objectives).
- The host laboratory: scientific environment, publications, quality of supervision, know-how in the field of trisomy 21.

The Scientific Advisory Board will review and propose a ranking based on the above criteria.

The Board of Directors of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation will take the final decision based upon the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board.

Terms and conditions

Financing terms

- Funding duration: 12 months.
- In case of obtaining the PhD degree during the course of the contract, continuation of the activity is authorized in the same laboratory within the framework of the scholarship until the end of the financing agreement, unless the candidate resigns for another project. The candidate should inform the research direction of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation of the date of the PhD defense and the continuation of their research activities in the same laboratory to finish up the project. This should be done by e-mail to: funding@fondationlejeune.org.
- Doctoral scholarships cannot be combined with funding from other organisations.
- Candidates who have applied to several organisations for the same period or part of this period must, if they are successful, make their choice known to the Jerome Lejeune Foundation as quickly as possible. If, in the end, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation is not chosen, the funding becomes null and void and cannot be postponed.
- The employing organisation must be an academic institution located in France, affiliated to the doctoral school in which the candidate is enrolled, and must be the same institution that managed the first 3 years of thesis. It is the responsibility of the recipient of the funding to check with their employing organisation that their host laboratory is compatible. In case of difficulty in setting up the financing, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation will not be held responsible if the condition is not met.
- The financing agreement will be drawn up with the employing organisation which establishes the doctoral student's employment contract. Under no circumstances will the Jerome Lejeune Foundation be considered as the employer of the PhD student.
- The scholarship granted by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation is nominative and cannot in any case be transferred to another candidate in case of withdrawal.
- The selected thesis project is linked to the team with which it has been submitted. The candidate may not carry out a thesis project in another team with the allocation granted by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation.

Reporting

- A brief intermediate report is due after 6 months into the scholarship.
- A final report is due upon completion of the funding period. All relevant outcomes resulting from the project (publications, communications, patents, etc.) must be included in the report. They must mention the financial participation of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in the acknowledgements.
- A "public summary" and a photo of the doctoral student are essential to ensure that the general public, which participates in the funding of the projects, is informed of research advances. The Jerome Lejeune Foundation can use them in communication actions aimed at donors and the general public.

Commitments

- Applicants must adhere to the principle that **the funds provided by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation cannot in any way be used to purchase or make use of human embryonic or foetal stem cells or tissues or another biological material obtained through abortions or in vitro fertilisation, or be used to create new human germinal cells.**
- Results from studies funded by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation cannot be published in the same article alongside results obtained using human embryonic or foetal stem cells or tissues or another biological material obtained through direct abortions or in vitro fertilisation.
- Researchers must adhere to the highest standards of research practice and integrity and follow academic, national and international standards of Good Scientific Practice (GSP), Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and/or Good Clinical Practice (GCP).
- Research must be carried out in accordance with all the legal, health and safety, ethical and regulatory requirements relevant for the field.
- For research involving human subjects and/or model organisms, all ethical approvals and licences required to carry out the research must be obtained prior to the commencement of the study and must be in place throughout the research.
- When research involves human subjects, researchers are obliged to protect the rights, interests and safety of research participants.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

- In the scope of its research mission related to genetic intellectual disabilities, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation collects the personal data from the researchers who are applying. The data or information highlighted by an asterisk are mandatory for the processing of your application. The other data or information are optional and will be used, when provided by the applicant, for the production of our internal statistics. Other data related to the applicant and available from the public domain (for instance references of scientific publications) may be collected as well by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation.
- The processing of personal data from researchers is performed for the legitimate purpose of supporting the evaluation of the application and the selection of the candidates, the management of the relationship with applicants and successful candidates, as well as the promotion of the research projects and of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation.
- We do not transmit the personal data from researchers to any recipient other than the members of the staff of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in charge of the management of the research projects, or the members of the Scientific Committee, or our partner in charge of the maintenance of the IT application and working under a GDPR compliant contract.
- The data is stored for a maximum duration of ten years following the end of the relationship or contract between the researcher and the Jerome Lejeune Foundation. The data is then archived, restricted to the minimum information required for long term retention, and access is restricted only to the administrator from Jerome Lejeune Foundation. Your account is also inactivated and anonymized unless other applications are still in progress.
- If you are a researcher concerned by the processing of your data, you can at any time exercise your right to object to it, or your right to ask for its restriction. You can also exercise a right of access, a right to rectification or to erasure of your data. For any request please contact us at the email address dpo@institutlejeune.org.

- You have also the right to lodge a complaint with the data protection supervisory authority from the country where you are established. Please consult the web site <https://edpb.europa.eu> to find more information about your supervisory authority.