

# FJL Young Researcher Award

## Application guidelines

### Important dates:

- **June:** announcement of the call and opening of the online application system.
- **August:** deadline for submission. Specific date will be announced on the website.
- **September:** evaluation of applications by members of the Scientific Advisory Board.
- **October:** selection of successful applications by the Scientific Advisory Board.
- **November:** 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 YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD](#) on our website.

### Contacts

[funding@fondationlejeune.org](mailto:funding@fondationlejeune.org)

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## Aim and scope

The Jerome Lejeune Foundation (FJL) 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 advance the discovery and development of therapies and treatments.

Every year, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation launches the **Jerome Lejeune Young Researcher Award** to encourage and recognise the work of young scientists that are completing or have completed their PhD thesis on **Down syndrome or other intellectual disabilities of genetic origin**.

## The Award

- 1) The amount of each award is €10,000.
- 2) At least one of the awards will be given to a researcher working on Down syndrome.
- 3) The Jerome Lejeune Award will be officially presented at a date to be announced.

## Eligibility

- Candidates enrolled in the 2nd year of PhD or who have successfully defended their thesis less than a year before the application deadline.
- Candidates must be registered in or have obtained their PhD degree from a French doctoral school.

## Application process

Applications for an FJL Young Researcher Award are accepted via the FJL online application system.

The application deadlines will be announced on the website at the beginning of June. Complete applications will be evaluated in the September-October and results will be announced no later than November.

The online application system will be open mid-June. Applicants need to register for an FJL online application account. Once the registration email has been received applicants can start an application.

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

# Structure of the project file

## Formatting:

- Maximum 5 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.
- Format: PDF

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

[Young Researcher Award - Fondation Lejeune Research](#)

## Content:

- 1- **Project title.**
- 2- **Synopsis of the thesis work.** Including scientific/clinical background, rationale of the work, key objectives and methodology.
- 3- **Originality and innovative character.**
- 4- **Results obtained.**
- 5- **If applicable, description of remaining work and work plan, including expected date of thesis defence.**
- 6- **Potential impact in the field and/or therapeutic/clinical applications.**
- 7- **References.** Use a full citation style for all the references. Please highlight publications derived from the presented work if any.
- 8- **Annexes:**
  - Letter of recommendation from the thesis director.
  - Student card.
  - Certificate of affiliation to the social security.
  - A high-resolution portrait photograph of the researcher in the lab (optional for the time being but it will be requested from the winner for use in internal and external communication media).

# Evaluation and selection process

The most important evaluation criteria applied by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation are scientific/medical relevance of the work and excellence of the candidate.

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

The Scientific Advisory Board will evaluate, rank and select the awardees.

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

### Commitments

- Applicants agree to the following principles:

1. None of the research work in the program uses human embryos, human embryonic stem cells, tissues, human cells obtained as a result of human abortion or human in vitro fertilization, or any other biological material of embryonic or foetal origin, especially when using gene libraries.

2. No research, within the framework of the program:

- genetically modifies gametes or cells from the human germline;

- creates gametes, embryos, embryonic development models, synthetic embryos (SHEEF [Synthetic human entities with embryo-like features], MEUS [Embryonic model for scientific usage], embryoids, blastoids), human embryos modified by the addition of pluripotent animal cells (iPSCs or hESCs), animal embryos modified by the addition of human pluripotent cells (iPSCs or hESCs), whatever the technique used;

- does any research involving human cloning techniques.

3. Uses, or makes use, in the research work of the program, alternatives to human embryonic stem cells and alternatives to the human embryo.

4. The results of the work or research financed by the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune are not be published in the same article associating the results of other work which would have been carried out on human embryos, human embryonic cells, tissues or any biological material of embryonic or foetal origin.

5. Not to resort to one or more co-financing sources to carry out, within the framework of the program, work that would use embryos, cells, tissues or any other biological material of embryonic or foetal origin.

In the absence of an alternative of comparable efficacy and subject to the prior agreement of the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune, the use of the HEK 293 cell line is permitted within the framework of the research work of the programme. The use of this line is however left to the discretion of the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune.

Within the statutory framework of its recognized public utility purpose, the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune defends life from conception to natural death. This is why the present clause is an essential obligation of the present contract. Its violation will lead to the immediate resolution of the agreement and the restitution of all the sums paid by the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune.

- 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](mailto: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.