

Gustave Roussy Foundation – CRIS cancer Foundation Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme. Call for Applications 2025

Introduction

Calling for applications to the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**, CRIS Cancer Foundation and Gustave Roussy Foundation are partnering to offer an exciting opportunity for a talented early career clinician scientist to develop their academic skills and expertise, placing them on a firm footing for a career as an independent clinical academic.

Candidates must be specialist clinicians, young investigators with some research experience and with the potential to develop transformative research and high potential for setting their team at Gustave Roussy Institute when finishing this Programme.

The aim of the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** is to provide competitive financial conditions and incentives for the early career of talented emerging young clinician scientists to lead projects, developing their research skills, academic skills, expertise and leadership on all types of cancer pathologies at the Gustave Roussy Institute.

This unique opportunity provides a pathway towards independence whilst facilitating collaborative research which ultimately translates to patient benefit.

Call for Applications

In 2025, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer run the first **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** call, to award **1 research grant**, covering a **three-year period**, for the purposes of incentive clinical scientists to develop their career at the Gustave Roussy Institute.

The **call for applications** opens on **1 January 2025** and closes on **28 February 2025** at 23:59 (Central European Time - CET).

Candidates' clinical practice workload may not exceed 50% of their working day.

The candidate does not necessarily need to be employed by the Gustave Roussy Institute at the time of application. However, the Gustave Roussy Institute must indicate in a letter that it accepts the candidate to carry out his or her activities there.

Beneficiaries must **accept their position** on the programme between **1 April and 30 June 2025**. Under duly justified circumstances, their incorporation may be delayed until 31 September 2025. The start date must be communicated to Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer prior to that date. In duly justified cases of major force, this incorporation could be postponed. Each case will be assessed by GRF and CRIS cancer on an individual basis. GRF and CRIS cancer reserves the right to move the position or even leave it vacant if the beneficiaries do not meet the requirements for incorporation or the time until incorporation is too long.

Programme resources

The maximum grant awarded will be **€210,000**, which will be spread over **three annual instalments of up to €70,000** a year

The **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** would finance:

- a. **Salary**: Labour contract, to cover labor costs corresponding to the contract or intensification in the working hours of the investigator at Gustave Roussy Institute, This cost represents the research part of the working contract of the Investigator with Gustave Roussy Institute and includes Social Security contributions and any other amounts payable by the institution, as well as the gross remuneration of the beneficiary.
- b. **Costs associated with the research project** (a maximum of €70,000 per year) including:
 - Hiring Personnel (staff)
 - Equipment acquisition and maintenance
 - Consumables
 - Outsourcing of technical services
 - Publication and dissemination expenses
 - Travel expenses and allowances
 - Other costs

The annual amounts proposed in the budget may not exceed a maximum of €70,000 per year. It is possible that part of the funds may be carried over to subsequent years because the planned expenditure has not been incurred, but this must be duly justified in the budget of the annual report.

In **no case may indirect costs** associated with the project be applied by the Gustave Roussy Foundation.

These amounts will be subject to the corresponding legal tax retention.

Gustave Roussy Foundation will receive the programme allowance directly and must fully cover all expenses derived from the programme.

The contractual relationship between the applicant and the Gustave Roussy Foundation shall comply with the provisions of the legislation in force at any given time.

The researcher is the named recipient of the funding and shall be recruited by Gustave Roussy Institute.

Requirements for applicants

Project

Candidates must provide an overview of the research strand associated with the call for applications and which will be the object of the funding associated with the programme.

The project should demonstrate a high level of scientific and technical quality.

The duration of the project cannot exceed three years.

Nationality

The **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** is open to clinical scientists of all nationalities as long as their career and project is carried out at Gustave Roussy Institute.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to the submission of applications:

- A researcher **may apply just one submission to GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** in the same call for applicants.
- Only researchers developing, or willing to develop, their career at Gustave Roussy Institute can be the beneficiary of the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**. The researcher shall be recruited by Gustave Roussy Institute. The candidate does not necessarily need to be employed by the Gustave Roussy Institute at the time of application. However, the Gustave Roussy Institute must indicate in a letter that it accepts the candidate to carry out his or her activities there.
- Members of the scientific evaluation board will not be able to apply for these programmes.
- Candidates' clinical practice workload may not exceed 50% of their working day.

Documentation required for the application

Candidates can access the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** call for Applications information and templates, at:

- Gustave Roussy website:

<https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/grf-cris-clinical-scientist-emerging-leader-programme>

- CRIS cancer website:

<https://criscancer.org/es/gustaveroussy/>

All applications must be **submitted by email** to RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr and convocatorias@criscancer.org during the application submission period for the 2025 call for applications.

All applications must provide the **documentation completed entirely in English**.

The documents to be submitted are as follows:

- Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** (no more than 4 pages).
- Research Project**. The provided **template** must be used (**Maximum 5 pages**).

The report must not exceed 5 pages. The bibliography and figures do not count for the maximum number of pages. The format of the text should be as follows:

- Din A4.
- Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial or Helvetica.
- Font size 11 or 12.
- Single line spacing.
- Margins: 2 cm on either side.

- Project budget**. The provided excel **template** must be used. A **financial audit** at the end of the project may be included in the budget. **Indirect costs cannot be included**.
- Labour contract, or Letter of acceptance from the Gustave Roussy Institute** signed by the managing director or scientific director of the centre guaranteeing institutional support for the researcher and the research strand of the project. The **template** provided must be used.
- Declaration on ethical issues**. The provided **template** must be used.

These documents may be provided in the language in which they were issued, but if they are in a language other than English, French or Spanish, they must be accompanied by a certified translation to English.

The candidates selected as beneficiaries shall be given a reasonable amount of time to confirm their interest in the programme.

Selection process

The selection process is designed to identify outstanding candidates regardless of their origin, gender, nationality, or other aspects that could skew the selection. The goal is to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality throughout the process.

All applications that meet the necessary conditions will be evaluated by expert scientists. The members of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** choose proposals, according to their own criteria, the research project must have a measurable impact on patient outcome and patient management, and candidates that provide evidence of the greatest merits and abilities.

Candidacies shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria specified below in the section on **General evaluation criteria**.

GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee

The **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** will be in charge of the last part of the evaluation process and will be composed of scientists from various disciplines of the highest scientific standard.

The evaluation committee shall consist of a Chairperson and, at least, three other members participating in the evaluation and a secretary lead of the committee.

The **Secretary Lead**, in addition to coordinating and monitoring the evaluation process, will perform the following tasks:

- Distribute the candidacies to the evaluators considering the expertise of each evaluator and the research area of the candidate.
- Ensure that each evaluator fills in a questionnaire for each application received.
- Ensure the evaluators who participate in the evaluation process do not present a conflict of interest with the candidates.
- Draw up a final report.

The **Evaluators** will meet at the end of the evaluation process, review and discuss all the finalist applications, and draw up a report listing the chosen candidates.

Stages of evaluation

There are three to four rounds of evaluation:

1. Administrative Evaluation

First Evaluation Stage is about the eligibility of all proposals received, rejecting those that do not meet the criteria published in the terms and conditions of the call for proposals.

There will then be a period during which any outstanding documentation will be requested, or any corrections or clarifications should be made.

All rejected applications will receive an email detailing the reason for rejection.

2. Written Proposal Evaluation

At the Second Evaluation Stage, candidates will be reviewed by two different evaluators from the panel of experts (two members of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee**).

The allocation of candidates to each member shall be performed by the Secretariat Lead based on the expertise of the members. In case any conflict of interest with the proposed candidates (e.g. Applicant being a member of their research group or institution), shall inform the Secretariat Lead for project substitution.

3. Evaluation Meeting

The Third Evaluation Stage consists of the meeting held, virtually, by the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** members. Based on the scores and comments assigned during the written proposal evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will deliberate on which proposals/candidates are of most interest, and the need (or not) of performing interviews to determine the awarded applications.

4. Interviews (optional)

The last Evaluation stage consists of the interviews held to the top scored finalists. This stage is not mandatory. If the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** considers it necessary to interview the applicants for deciding the awardees, the top-scored candidates will be contacted by the committee for interview.

After discussion of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** about final candidates and proposals, evaluators will vote and perform a ranking of the proposals. The best candidate will be selected for the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**.

General evaluation criteria

In general, three main questions will be considered:

- the excellence, capability, creativity, and potential of the candidate.
- the quality, innovation, and potential of the project.
- the impact of the candidacy.

The weight of each criterion to the score will be:

- Candidate (50%)
- Proposal (30%)
- Impact (20%)

These criteria will be applied in the Written Proposal Evaluation, in the Evaluation Meeting and, in case it occurs, in the Interview.

Appeals

Following the publication of the provisional list of beneficiaries of the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme**, appeals may be submitted emailing RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr and convocatorias@criscancer.org.

The appeals procedure will be strictly confidential. In any case these appeals will result in a scientific re-evaluation by the panel. The independence and objectivity of the assessment is guaranteed by the selection and evaluation process.

Any appeals submitted shall be resolved by an Appeals Committee, which shall notify the candidate of its findings by e-mail within 30 calendar days from the date the appeal is received.

Appointment

The list of Beneficiaries chosen by means of the Evaluation Stage shall be published on the websites of Gustave Roussy (<https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/grf-cris-clinical-scientist-emerging-leader-programme>) and CRIS cancer (<https://criscancer.org/es/gustaveroussy/>) in the **GRF-CRIS Clinical Scientist Emerging Leader Programme** section.

In the event that the chosen beneficiaries decide not to take part in the programme, the respective grant shall be awarded to the next highest-scoring candidate as ranked by the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee**.

GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer reserve the right to declare a post null and void if none of the highest-scoring candidates fulfils the requirements of the programme.

The beneficiaries **must begin work at their respective centre by 30 June 2025, the latest**. In duly justified cases of major force, this start could be postponed. Each case will be assessed by Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer on an individual basis.

Incompatibilities

Candidates must carry out the research project in person, at the Gustave Roussy Institute. Clinical practice and research must be carried out on a full-time basis at the Gustave Roussy Institute.

This programme is not compatible with other contracts, paid jobs or grants from any other agency, except contracts with the Gustave Roussy Institute. This does not prevent the researcher from applying for any other type of grant or project to fund the research project itself or members of their research group. In any case, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer should be made aware of any joint funding.

This programme is not compatible with permanent employment full-time contracts with any institution other than the Gustave Roussy Institute.

The candidate may perform teaching activities, provided they notify GRF and CRIS Cancer, and such activities are for a maximum of 80 hours per year.

Any chosen candidates who decide not to take part in the programme may not reapply to subsequent programmes unless their reasons are duly justified and documented.

Any candidates who have been in contact with any member of the evaluation committee regarding issues related to the programme will be immediately excluded from the process and will not be able to reapply in the future.

Any breach of ethical considerations will lead to immediate termination of funding and said individuals will not be allowed to reapply to the programme.

Obligations

The beneficiary shall undertake to collaborate in communication activities and events organised by Gustave Roussy Institute/Foundation and CRIS cancer related to these programmes.

Except for reasons of force majeure, the recipients will undertake to attend the official awards ceremony for the Programmes.

At any time, Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer reserves the right to request accreditation, asking the candidate to provide the original documents or certified copies of any document indicated in the application or curriculum.

The candidate must submit **annually a scientific-technical report** in relation to the development of the project, and a **detailed financial report** of the costs of the activities carried out by the candidate. This report will be delivered each year at the signature of the agreement and at the end of the programme.

The candidate must submit **financial audit** at the end of the project.

Data protection and privacy

Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer fully complies with current legislation on the protection of personal data.

The personal data of the researchers or any other individual listed in the application documents will be incorporated into the Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS cancer database and will only be used for the evaluation of proposals or GRF/CRIS information and further grant dissemination. By applying, the participant agrees for information about the Project to be incorporated onto the GRF/CRIS cancer database.

For the application and programme evaluation procedure to be conducted, anyone who applies will need to provide their personal data for incorporation onto our database. The purpose of this is to send out notifications concerning the programme and application procedure.

To learn more about the transfer of data and how applicants may exercise their rights, you may request additional information by emailing RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr and convocatorias@criscancer.org and you may also exercise your rights of access, correction, or erasure of your personal data, as well as limit or oppose the processing thereof.

Observations

The timeframes and times contained in these terms and conditions are understood to refer to mainland France (Central European Time - CET).

The submission of an application for this funding presupposes the candidate's express acceptance of these terms and conditions, as well as the criteria and decisions adopted by Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer regarding any queries in the interpretation of the requirements and conditions set forth herein.

If the candidate is found to have breached the terms and conditions set out herein, regardless of when this occurs or which stage of the application process or programme the candidate has reached, their candidacy shall be terminated, and any funding granted will be revoked.

In the event that the beneficiary does not comply with the aforementioned commitments - or any others included in the conditions of the programme-, the candidacy shall be terminated, any funding granted will be revoked, and the funding received will be reimbursed.

The awarding of funding through this programme, as well as the amount awarded may be conditioned or modified in accordance with the actual resources available to Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer at the time of the award.

Under no circumstances may funding for these research programmes be used to cover indirect costs, as CRIS Cancer derives its research funding from contributions from partners, donors, corporations, and legacies.