

## 2026 Call for Applications for ALS research projects

### Letter of Intent

### Application Guidelines - Full Grants

*Submission Deadline: March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 1:00 pm*

#### ***General Instructions***

#### ***Online Registration***

Application form (hereby Form) for “**2026 Call for Applications for ALS research projects**” must be completed online by the Principal Investigator (PI) at [AriSLA Web Application](#) and electronically submitted once completed in all its sections.

PIs should pay careful attention to the instructions. An accurate Application will facilitate the review process. Applications failing to meet the requirements will be rejected.

A PI not already registered should create an account by clicking on “Sign Up”, she/he will then receive an email with a verification code to access the Form.

**It is mandatory that the name entered in the Registration form matches the PI since all communications will be sent to the registered email. This is the only account that allows to modify the Application.**

**Click on the Full Grant button to apply for a Full Grant. Please note that to change the type of grant the previous Application must be deleted.**

#### ***General requirements***

**The Application must be written in English.** For abbreviations and acronyms not universally known, spell out the terms the first time they are used, with the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses; the abbreviation should then be used thereafter. The text must be single-spaced, not exceeding the character number limitations specified (which include spaces).

In order to submit the Application, **all Applicants (both PI and Partners) and the Legal Representatives of their Research Institute (or delegates) must stamp and sign the completed General Information page.** This must be downloaded from the top section of the General Information section, and the scanned PDF signed must be uploaded in the Signature Section. In the case of Multi-centre project, it is a duty of the PI to collect all signed documents from Partners and upload them in a single PDF scan. Documents can be signed with digital signature.

The Form is organized into sections, which can be completed in any order: remember to click on the bottom right “**Save**” button to save data before leaving the page.

A PDF document of the Application can be downloaded at any time by clicking on the link “**Print drafts**” at the upper right of the page.

## Guidelines for preparing the Letter of Intent

The Form contains seven Sections:

- I. Privacy statement and declaration
- II. General information
- III. Overall description of the research project
- IV. PI's biographical sketch
- V. Partner's biographical sketch (if applicable)
- VI. Reviewers
- VII. Signature

Text boxes can be filled out by a limited number of characters. The maximum number of characters (including spaces) is indicated at the bottom left of each box. **The indication of the maximum number of characters is mandatory.**

**All fields marked with an asterisk must be filled out in order to submit the Application.**

Text boxes can be enlarged or narrowed at any time by dragging the bottom right corner of the box.

### **Definitions**

**The PI** is the principal investigator of a Single-centre project or the **Coordinator** of a Multi-centre project.

**Project Partner** is a researcher directly involved in the project that will synergistically undertake part of the scientific work. She/he can ask for a budget to cover her/his expenses filling out the corresponding table in the Budget Section of the Full Application (Phase II).

**Collaborator** contributes to the completion of minor parts of the project and should be introduced in the "Overall description of the research project" section of the Letter of Intent. In the Full Proposal phase, collaborators will have to sign a collaboration letter in which their contribution and support are detailed. **Economic coverage for collaborators is not provided by AriSLA.**

### **Privacy statement and declaration- Section I**

In this Section, the PI should download and confirm to have read the INFORMATION NOTICE EX artt. 13 and 14 GENERAL REGULATION N. 2016/679/UE(GDPR).

### **General information - Section II**

- **PROJECT TITLE**
- **ACRONYM**
- **NUMBER OF CENTRES IN THE PROJECT** - Choose the appropriate option from the **drop-down menu** (Single-centre / Multi-centre). In the case of Multi-centre grants with PI and Partners coming from the same institute, applicants must belong to independent research groups.

- **IF MULTI-CENTRE** – Insert the name, surname and Institution of the partners.
- **NAME OF PI**
- **SURNAME OF PI**
- **HOST INSTITUTION NAME** - Data of the research Institution of the PI where the project will be carried out; use the **complete Italian name**.
- **HOST INSTITUTION ROR ID** - (Please refer to <https://www.ror.org>)
- **RESEARCH AREA** - Please note that clinical interventional studies are not admitted.
  - Basic
  - Preclinical
  - Clinical observational research
- **RESEARCH STEPS** - Select the research step that most truly represents the proposed activities.
  - New knowledge/gene discovery
  - Research on mechanisms
  - Target identification
  - Target validation
  - Therapeutic approach identification
  - Proof of concept
  - Clinical observational study
- **TYPE OF APPLICATION** - Select the correct option from the drop-down menu, identifying the submitted project as
  - “New Application”, if it has never been submitted before
  - “Already funded PI - Renewal application”, if the new funding request is based on data from the previously AriSLA funded project
  - “Already funded PI - New Application”, if the new funding request is dealing with a research topic different from that of previously funded AriSLA project
  - “Revised Application”, if it is a revision of a previously submitted Application
- **YEAR AND ACRONYM** - In case of “Already funded PI - Renewal application”, “Already funded PI - New Application”, “Revised Application”, indicate year and acronym of the previous Application.
- **KEYWORDS** - Identify and select the keywords that better represent the Application; these will be used for reviewers' matching.
- **PROJECT DURATION (MONTHS)** - Indicate project duration (12, 24, or 36).

**AMOUNT REQUESTED (€)** - Indicate the **total** amount requested to AriSLA (max 80000 euro/year for Single-Centre Application and € 100000/year for a maximum of 3 years for Multi-Centre Application). Please use whole numbers only and enter values without dots or commas.

### ***Overall description of the research project - Section III***

- **SCOPE OF THE PROJECT/SUMMARY STATEMENT (MAX 500 CHARACTERS)** - Describe the overall goal that the proposed research is intended to accomplish.
- **CENTRAL HYPOTHESIS, BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE (MAX 1500 CHARACTERS)** - State the main hypothesis to be tested and explain the scientific rationale for the proposed project. Critically evaluate the existing knowledge and identify the specific gaps to be filled out to progress in the relevant field.
- **RESEARCH PLAN (MAX 2000 CHARACTERS)** - Briefly describe the aims of your projects addressing the following points: what is the question being asked? What is the experimental design? How are you going to address the questions? If new methodologies are developed or employed, which are the advantages over existing methods? If limitations of the proposed procedures are encountered, how will they be overcome? How will data be analyzed and interpreted? What do you expect to find?
- **SIGNIFICANCE AND NOVELTY (MAX 1000 CHARACTERS)** - Explain the impact of the problem addressed by the proposed project: how the scientific knowledge will be advanced, if the aims of the project are achieved? How do the objectives of the study represent a significant step forward beyond the current state of the art? How will the project challenge existing paradigms in the field?
- **PRELIMINARY DATA (MAX 1000 CHARACTERS)** – Provide a brief description of preliminary unpublished studies performed in the Applicant's laboratory relevant to the proposed research. Results are considered 'preliminary' only if unpublished. Do not include figures at this stage.
- **ROLE OF COORDINATOR AND PARTNERS (MAX 500 CHARACTERS)** - If you are submitting a Multi-centre project, please fill out the Partnership details box describing partners' role and activities for the proposed research.
- **ADHERENCE TO THE CALL'S PRIORITIES** - Identify and select the priority/ies that better represent the Application
  - Development of effective clinical measures for ALS, including both diagnostic and theragnostic biomarkers that will improve diagnosis and facilitate developing tailored therapies for the disease
  - Definition of the natural history of ALS from pre-symptomatic to the disease state, to improve the knowledge of how the disease begins and progresses over time and facilitate recognition of the first manifestations of the disease
  - Setting and characterization of model systems that can provide information on human sporadic and /or genetic ALS. Studies integrating multiple models across species are encouraged
  - Unravel the molecular pathophysiological mechanisms of ALS, also addressing clinical heterogeneity to define different forms of sporadic ALS based on distinct molecular mechanisms leading to neurodegeneration.
- **INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSED STUDY ADDRESSES THE PRIORITIES SET IN THE CALL (MAX 500 CHARACTERS)**

### ***PI's biographical sketch – Section IV***

The PI has to declare that the Host Institution is an eligible subject according to the **“2026 Call for Applications for ALS research projects”**.

- **HOST INSTITUTION NAME (FILL OUT COMPLETE ITALIAN NAME)**
- **DEPARTMENT**
- **ADDRESS**
- **ZIP CODE**
- **CITY**
- **REGION**
- **LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE**
  - **NAME**
  - **SURNAME**
  - **TELEPHONE**
  - **E-MAIL**
  - **FAX**
- **PI'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**
  - **NAME**
  - **SURNAME**
  - **DATE OF BIRTH**
  - **TITLE**
  - **MOBILE**
  - **TELEPHONE**
  - **E-MAIL**
  - **PERSONAL STATEMENT (MAX 750 CHARACTERS)** - Describe why you are well-suited for the role in the proposed project. Relevant factors may include aspects of training; previous experimental work and performance on the specific topic or related topics; technical expertise.
  - **POSITIONS, SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS (MAX 1000 CHARACTERS)** - Describe the professional experience and main qualifications.
  - **UP TO 10 ORIGINAL ARTICLES RELEVANT FOR THE PROPOSAL**
  - **EDUCATION/TRAINING** - Fill out the table with the requested information (max 5).

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	FIELD OF STUDY

## Partner's biographical sketch – Section V

Generate a Biographical Sketch for each Partner (to add more than one Partner, please click on “Add Card” at the upper right of the “Partner’s biographical sketch” page).

Each Coordinator has to declare that the Partner’s Host Institution is an eligible subject according to the **“2026 Call for Applications for ALS research projects”**.

- **INSTITUTION NAME**
- **DEPARTMENT**
- **ADDRESS**
- **ZIP CODE**
- **CITY**
- **REGION**
- **LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE**
  - **NAME**
  - **SURNAME**
  - **TELEPHONE**
  - **E-MAIL**
  - **FAX**
- **PARTNER**
  - **NAME**
  - **SURNAME**
  - **DATE OF BIRTH**
  - **TITLE**
  - **MOBILE**
  - **TELEPHONE**
  - **E-MAIL**
  - **PERSONAL STATEMENT (MAX 750 CHARACTERS)** - Describe why the Partner is well-suited for the role in the proposed project. Relevant factors may include aspects of training; previous experimental work and performance on the specific topic or related topics; technical expertise.
  - **POSITIONS, SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS (MAX 1000 CHARACTERS)** - Describe the Partner’s professional experience and main qualifications.
  - **UP TO 10 ORIGINAL ARTICLES RELEVANT FOR THE PROPOSAL**
  - **EDUCATION/TRAINING** - Fill out the table with the requested information (max 5).

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	FIELD OF STUDY
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## Reviewers – Section VI

The Applicant may suggest up to two reviewers of proved experience that could be included in the AriSLA International Scientific Committee and indicate up to two excluded reviewers specifying the reasons of the request.

## Signature - Section VII

Before proceeding with the submission, **all Applicants (both PI and Partners) and the Legal Representatives** of their Research Institute (or delegates) **must stamp and sign the completed *General Information* page**. This must be downloaded from the top section “**Download GI page for signature**” in the General Information section, and the scanned PDF signed must be uploaded in the specific Upload box. **In the case of Multi-centre project, it is a duty of the PI to collect all signed documents from Partners and upload them in a single PDF scan.** Documents can be signed with digital signature.

## Submitting the Application

As reported in the “**2026 Call for Applications for ALS research projects**”, the Applications **must be submitted within the deadline** (March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 1:00 pm).

Please check that:

- all sections have been completed. All sections except the “Reviewers” section are mandatory to submit the Application.
- the stamped and signed *General Information* page of all Applicants (both PI and Partners, if present) has been uploaded.

To submit the Application, click on the “**Confirm Questionnaire and start submission**” at the upper right of the page. Then, click “**Continue submission**” at the upper right of the page and proceed.

As the final step, you must **download the Letter of intent**, verify that all information is included **and upload it (no signatures needed)**, confirming that the attached LOI is the final document.

You must conclude the Submission by clicking “**Submit request**” at the bottom right. You will receive an email confirming the submission from [noreply@cbim.eu](mailto:noreply@cbim.eu). The PDF version of the submitted Application can be downloaded at any time by logging in at this [Arisla Web Application](#).

## Assistance

For any information about the Call or about the Application Form compilation please contact:

E-mail Help Desk: [bandi@arisma.org](mailto:bandi@arisma.org).