

2026 Call for Applications for ALS research projects

Letter of Intent

Application Guidelines - Pilot Grants

Submission Deadline: March 26th, 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](#) 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 **Pilot Grant** button to apply for a Pilot 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, **Applicants and the Legal Representatives of the 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. 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 six Sections:

- I. Privacy statement and declaration
- II. General Information
- III. Overall description of the research project
- IV. PI's biographical sketch
- V. Reviewers
- VI. 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 right 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

Principal Investigator (PI) is the scientific coordinator of the Single-centre project (partners not allowed).

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**
- **NAME**
- **SURNAME**
- **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 (not applicable - only for Full Grant Applications)
 - “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)** - 12 months (prefilled).
- **AMOUNT REQUESTED (€)** - Indicate the amount requested to AriSLA (max 80000 euro). 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, if available, 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.
- **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 (FILL OUT COMPLETE ITALIAN NAME)**
 - **DEPARTMENT**
 - **ADDRESS**
 - **ZIP CODE**
 - **CITY**
 - **REGION**
- **LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE**
 - **NAME**
 - **SURNAME**
 - **TELEPHONE**
 - **E-MAIL**

- **FAX**
- **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**
 - **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, as well as 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

Reviewers – Section V

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 VI

Before proceeding with the submission, **Applicants 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. 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 26th, 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 the Applicants 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. 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@ariska.org.