

Manual preliminary grant application form

Call for Proposals 2026

Please consult the documents “Algemene Subsidievoorwaarden MDL Fonds” and “Subsidievoorwaarden MDL Fonds Call 2026”, for more information.

General guidelines for filling in the preliminary grant application form

- Fill in the form in English and do not exceed the maximum of 1400 words for the summary excluding five relevant publications. Signatures (point II) are allowed on an extra page. Use font Calibri, size 11
- Do not send appendices with your application as these will not be included into the judging process. An exception applies for a Letter(s) of Support or Letter(s) of Commitment.
- Only preliminary application forms submitted via the online portal will be taken into consideration. Please submit your application form in Word format. Forms to which the guidelines are not applied will not be taken into consideration.
- Hyperlinks are not permitted. An exception applies only in section 5, *Alignment with existing knowledge agendas*, where a single hyperlink is allowed.

Guidelines General Information

1. Title and Dutch Summary

Fill in the title of the project and give a Dutch Summary of the project with a maximum of 200 words which is understandable for the layman.

2. Institute and department

Fill in the name and address of the applying institute and department. This address will be used for correspondence.

3. Project leader

Fill in the name of the project leader, including title(s). The project leader must have a position at the applying research institute for the duration of the project and must have a PhD degree.

4. Project Group

Complete the fields with the names, disciplines and institutions of all project members, as well as each member's role and contribution throughout the project and the time allocated to this project. Please also indicate the involved patient (representative) or patient organisation.

5. Research specifications

- Specify the type of research: translational or clinical.
- Select the appropriate theme as described in section 4.1 of the subsidy conditions and specify which gastrointestinal disease the application focuses on.
- Also, indicate which key points, see section 4.2 of the subsidy conditions, your proposed research aligns with.
- Be sure to include the project number of any previously funded research when your work constitutes a further development and/or implementation of a project already supported by the MDL Fonds.
- Ensure that the application aligns with the available knowledge agendas for the selected gastrointestinal disease, if present. Provide a (web)link to the relevant knowledge agenda and refer to the corresponding paragraph or page.
- Indicate the duration of the research project in months or years.

6. Budget

State in broad terms what resources will be required to conduct the proposed research. The cost estimates should cover the entire period of the grant. List the nature of the post and both the intensity of the appointment (in fte – full time equivalent) and the total duration of the appointment. The maximum of the grant for larger projects over a period of maximum 4 years is €260.000. The maximum of the grant for smaller projects over a period of maximum 2 years is €160.00. For the parts concerning personnel type and total costs personnel, the MDL Fonds follows the document “Akkoord bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek” as specified by the NWO. The most recent version of the personnel costs for project employees can be found on the website of the NWO: <https://www.nwo.nl/financiering/hoe-werkt-dat/salaristabellen>. Indicate whether financial support from other funding partners has been requested and obtained.

Please provide a detailed overview of the financial coverage of the project.

If the total project costs exceed the amount requested, indicate all additional funding, including confirmed contributions, pending funding applications. Please describe the proposed plan to cover the remaining budget.

Explain the necessity of funding from the MDL Fonds, and specify the intended role of MDL Fonds.

7. Signatures

The digital signature of the project leader should be included. With this signature the project leader declares the following: *“I certify that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree with the conditions listed in the documents “Algemene Subsidievoorwaarden MDL Fonds” and “Subsidievoorwaarden MDL Fonds call 2026”.*

The digital signatures of all other members of the project group and of the head of the department/institute should be included. These signatures indicate agreement with the grant conditions 2026 of the MDL Fonds.

Guidelines Project Summary

Do not exceed the maximum of 1400 words.

In case of patient-related research, we would like to refer you to the ‘Consolidation of the standards of reporting trials’ (CONSORT) checklist, which is published in JAMA, The Lancet and the British Medical Journal. Following this model will help you to cover all the issues involved with a trial.

8. Title

9. Background

10. Hypothesis

11. Objective

12. Relevance for the patients or end users

Describe what and how the project will deliver for the specific patient populations or risk groups.

13. Patient Participation

The application is written in collaboration with a patient (representative /association).

[Kickstarter voor onderzoekers | INVOLV](#) demonstrates the added value of involving patients in scientific research and offers tools for applying this participation meaningfully.

Describe the role of the patient (representative / association) during design and execution of the project (e.g. formulating research questions, selection of outcomes measures, recruitment of

participants, implementation of results and communication towards the public). Use a minimum of 100 words.

Please note that the application includes:

- a Letter of Support from the relevant patient association/organization **and/or**
 - include a patient (representative) as a member of the project group.
- In both cases clearly outlining the patient's role in this section (13) of the application form.

Note: associated costs may be included in the requested budget.

14. Methods

Describe in more detail the methods that will be used in the study. Elaborate on the study design and why this is appropriate for this study. Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study population and describe the sample size calculation. Provide information on the samples (if applicable). Describe how the collected data will be processed and analyzed, including the statistical methods, parameters, outcome measures, and any software or analytical tools that will be used.

Provide an overview of the work plan for each year for which the grant is requested, including key milestones.

15. Anticipated results

16. Knowledge utilization

Describe how the project results will be translated into practice. Outline the intended users of the knowledge, the strategies for engaging these stakeholders, the methods for ensuring uptake, implementation and long-term sustainability of the results and the anticipated clinical relevance.

17. List five relevant publications concerning this application.

Guidelines International Experts

MDL Fonds uses international experts to review the Grant proposals. List five international experts from abroad, without Conflict Of Interest, whom we could contact for the reviewing of this project. Before listing their name, institute and e-mail address, please inform them - and if necessary, obtain their permission - that their information will be shared with MDL Fonds and they may be contacted to take part in the review process.

This information is for internal use only and will be handled with confidentiality. We will not share this information. This information will solely be used for the purpose of contacting international experts in the review process of the MDL Fonds Call.