



Prof. dr. Jaap Swierenga Stichting

These requirements form part of the 2026 call and no longer apply after the grant has been awarded.

Requirements Longfonds-Swierenga Grant 2026

A grant made available by Longfonds and the Swierenga Foundation

Early Career Research Grant for Rare Pulmonary Conditions

Advancing preliminary research to unlock tomorrow's answers in rare lung disease

Should you have any questions about the conditions listed below, please feel free to contact us via research@longfonds.nl. If you consider your project a good fit for this specific grant, but it does not meet one or more of the criteria below, please include a justification in your application.

Longfonds and the Swierenga Foundation apply the following criteria to determine whether your research proposal is suitable for submission

1. Applicant, institution and eligibility

- The target group for this personal grant consists of early-career researchers who have obtained a PhD or have a confirmed PhD defence date. Medical doctors, residents, or nurses with a proven track record in scientific research are also eligible to apply;
- Applicants may apply up to five years after obtaining their PhD. The publication date of the call (3 April 2026) is the determining date. In exceptional cases, applicants may make use of our extension scheme. More information on extension possibilities can be found below;
- Grant applicants are expected to convincingly demonstrate the originality and potential of their ideas to others;
- Applications can be submitted by researchers both with and without a permanent employment contract;
- Applicants are free to choose the institution where they will conduct their research. They must be affiliated with a Dutch institution, defined as a university (including affiliated academic medical centers, NKI, or KNAW institutes), hospitals linked to the Dutch Association of Top Clinical Teaching Hospitals (STZ), or general hospitals;
- Each applicant may submit only one proposal per year;
- Between 2025 and 2029, an applicant may submit a maximum of two project proposals for the Longfonds-Swierenga Grant;
- The Longfonds-Swierenga Grant is awarded to an applicant only once. After receiving the grant, the applicant is not eligible to apply for or receive it again;

- Each research team/department may submit a maximum of two project proposals per year;
- A specific supervisor may fulfill this role for a maximum of two project proposals per year;
- Applicants are encouraged to involve patients or patient representatives.

Extension scheme & eligibility

For this specific grant programme, researchers may submit an application up to five years after obtaining their PhD. An exception to this five-year restriction may be granted in cases of delay due to (medical / medical specialist) training and/or parental leave. It is possible to combine multiple grounds for an extension; however, the total extension of the submission period may not exceed five years.

Medical doctors, residents, and nurses applying for the grant without a PhD degree must have completed their training no more than five years ago.

‘Parental leave’ is defined as maternity leave, adoption leave, partner leave and leave in relation to the arrival of a foster child. Biological mothers receive an 18-month extension per child, up to a maximum of 5 years in total. This extension compensates for the time involved in pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, and includes any parental leave and/or reduction in formal working hours. Other parents (fathers and non-biological mothers) with a child that is part of their household receive a 6-month extension per child, up to a maximum of 5 years in total.

Extension request

Should you want to make use of our extended eligibility scheme, you must submit a written and well-reasoned request to Longfonds, including relevant supporting documentation. **The request should be mailed to Longfonds no later than 14 days before the submission deadline of the Grant**

Application. Longfonds and the Swierenga Foundation will base their decision on the information supplied.

Please note: the applicant must also submit a brief, reasoned request via the Grant Application Form for the information of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The maximum extension of the submission period that may be granted by Longfonds is, in all cases, a total of five years.

2. Duration

The maximum duration of project supported by this grant is twelve months. Exceptions are possible if well-justified and approved by the Scientific Review Committee.

3. Expenditure restriction

Please note: the Longfonds-Swierenga Grant is intended exclusively for an independent study that is not part of a project for which other funding is available. Co-funding is not permitted.

3. Themes

- The research project submitted for this grant should be exclusively focused on rare lung diseases of pulmonary origin. Therefore, common conditions such as asthma and COPD are excluded. Lung cancer, in any form, is outside the scope of this grant.

It may specifically address rare lung conditions, which are defined as diseases affecting fewer than 1 in 2,000 people in the Netherlands. In addition, it must align with the three **themes** outlined below:

a. Prevention

Prevention is critically important to society, yet many chronic lung diseases, esp. rare lung diseases, remain understudied. Gaining a deeper understanding of their origins and causes is essential to developing effective prevention strategies.

b. Early detection

Increased knowledge in (early) diagnosis and phenotyping is crucial for patients. Early detection is also a societal challenge.

c. Treatment and cure

Many rare lung diseases are chronic and progressive. For most, there are no definitive cures. Accelerating advances in the treatment and potential cure of rare lung diseases will improve the lives of people with rare lung diseases and will have an impact on society.

Patients' participation

Patients' involvement in scientific research ensures that studies address real-world needs and priorities. Their perspectives improve the relevance and quality of the research. Additionally, it enhances trust and the likelihood of successful implementation of findings.

Longfonds encourages applicants to involve patients in their preparation for the application and, where possible, during the pilot study. If this is not feasible, please provide an explanation on the application form.

Before submitting your application, please review the information on patient participation available on [our website](#). A patient representative or patient (expert by experience) is also part of the review committee.