

Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant

Civil society boosting cancer research

1. Scope. The NOVA Medical School | Faculdade de Ciências Médicas (from now on NOVA Medical School (NMS)) of the NOVA University of Lisbon established the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** with the aim of promoting excellence in translational research among its scientific community, encouraging interdisciplinary research in the field of cancer.

The **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** will be awarded according to the rules established in these Regulations.

2. Application. The **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** will be launched with a three-year horizon (2024-2026) and the aim to promote relevant, interdisciplinary, and translational new research in the field of cancer. Its goal is to contribute to increasing the knowledge about this pathology, improving the care and health services related to oncological diseases, enhancing the quality of life of cancer patients, and fostering internal collaboration between biomedical and clinical teams at NOVA Medical School.

The **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** has an endowment of €210,000 (two hundred and ten thousand euros) and consists of 3 (three) research grants established by NOVA Medical School to be awarded in 2024, 2025 and 2026, with the purpose of financing 3 (three) research projects in the field of cancer (one project each year). Each project will be funded with €70,000 (seventy thousand euros).

3. Eligibility Criteria

All criteria must be met cumulatively.

3.1. Team

a) The research team must be composed of biomedical and clinical researchers affiliated with NMS. Research teams formed by researchers from more than one research group of the NOVA Medical School may apply, including fundamental and applied/translational research groups.

b) The research team must indicate a Principal Investigator (PI) and a co-Principal Investigator (co-PI). The PI must hold a PhD at the time of the proposal submission and have a contractual link (of any type) with NMS during the entire duration of the research project if funded.

c) Only one original project per candidate will be admitted to the call, in which the candidate is the Principal Investigator (PI) and may be a co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) or a team member of other projects submitted to the call.

d) Researchers without affiliation to NMS may be part of the research team. However, they will be considered collaborators/consultants of the project, without budget from the Ana Lázaro Research Grant.

e) Members of the Board of Directors of NMS are not allowed to participate in this contest as PI, co-PI or team members.

3.2. Research projects.

a) The new research project must fit into the cancer theme, namely prevention, diagnosis/markers, therapy, care and health services, and quality of life of cancer patients and survivors.

b) Have a maximum duration of 24 months.

c) Be written according to the proposed model, concisely, not exceeding the characters identified, see point 3.2. f).

d) Comply with the budget rules indicated in point 4.

e) Present a scientific and financial progress report halfway through the project and a final scientific and financial execution report one month after the end of the project.

f) Research projects must be written according to the following sections:

i) Project Title

ii) Abstract (2.000 characters)

iii) Identification of members of the research team (including a PI and a co-PI) (2.000 characters)

iv) Objectives (2.000 characters)

v) Background/ State of the art (4.000 characters)

vi) Work plan/methodology/expected outcomes (7.000 characters)

vii) Innovation, relevance and impact (2.000 characters)

viii) Budget and justification (2.000 characters)

ix) Timeline

x) List of Deliverables and Milestones

xi) References (max. 30)

g) Before the awarded projects can be implemented at NMS they must receive approval by the Ethics Committee, and they must be implemented in accordance with institutional good practices and applicable legislation.

h) Awarded projects must be implemented at NMS.

4. Funding and Budget. The total endowment of the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** is €210,000, divided over the years 2024, 2025, and 2026 to the annual funding of 3 (three) projects up to a maximum value of 70,000 euros each.

The project budget must be organized according to the following items: 1) human resources (exclusively for new hires), 2) missions, 3) acquisition of goods and services, 4) patent registration, 5) demonstration, dissemination, and promotion, 6) equipment, and 7) overheads.

The budget must include 25% overheads on direct costs.

The budget must be properly justified.

The PI whose application is successful ("Beneficiary") will receive support up to a maximum monetary amount of €70,000.00 (seven thousand euros), which will be transferred to the project's cost centre (at NMS), under the terms set out in these Regulations and following the NMS 's accounting rules and the approved budget.

5. Submission of Projects. Projects must be submitted in a specific form and within the annual deadline. NMS is not responsible for the possible loss or non-receipt of applications resulting, in particular, from possible service interruptions or network failures, or security breaches in candidates' e-mail addresses.

Projects must be written in English.

The application process consists of the research project, as described above, and the abbreviated CVs of all members of the team (maximum 2 pages per team member). All CVs must be compiled in a unique pdf and submitted at the same time of the research project. Applications that do not have all required elements will be considered non-eligible.

Each PI will be responsible for the submitted application, ensuring that it complies with the provisions of these Regulations and the legislation and other rules applicable to the Research Project submitted, under penalty of exclusion.

The submission of applications by the PI implies their acceptance of and commitment to the terms of these Regulations.

NMS reserves the right to exclude, at any time, applications that do not comply with the provisions of these Regulations, namely those that violate applicable rules and legislation and/or general principles of good practice, ethics, and scientific integrity and/or that violate the rights of third parties, such as intellectual property, protection of personal data and/or, in the event of a judicial/administrative decision, that impose their exclusion.

6. Evaluation Criteria. The following criteria will be considered in the evaluation of the submitted projects: **(i)** the originality and scientific foundation of the presented work; **(ii)** the impact of the scientific contribution to the cancer discipline; **(iii)** the curriculum of the research team.

7. Jury. The **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** jury will be composed of 5 members including internationally recognized experts in the field of cancer, representatives of the civil society and patient's advocates, external to NMS, appointed by the NMS Dean.

The jury will be chaired by the Dean of the NOVA Medical School.

Candidates and/or collaborators involved in the projects submitted to the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** cannot be part of the jury. The members of the Jury will declare their conflict of interest in the case of applications submitted by people with whom they have any other form of collaboration. If the conflict of interest is confirmed, the member of the Jury in question will not participate in the evaluation of the respective Research Project(s).

The decisions referred to in the preceding paragraphs shall be taken by majority vote and shall not be subject to appeal. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the Jury has the casting vote.

8. Decision. The decision on the winner's application for the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** shall be justified and recorded in minutes.

The decision of the jury will be communicated by email to all candidates. There will be no appeal against the jury's decisions.

The jury may decide not to award the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** if it considers that the applications do not meet the required quality of excellence and/or do not comply with the conditions established in this Regulation.

9. Award Announcement. The winning projects of the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** will be announced through the press and on the website of the NOVA University of Lisbon and the NOVA Medical School.

10. Obligations of the Beneficiary. The Beneficiary covered by these Regulations are subject to the following duties:

- a) Carry out the Research Project under the terms described in its application;
- b) Comply punctually with the timetable and work plan presented in the application and allocate Support exclusively to the development of the Research Project Project;
- c) Comply with the internal operating rules of the NMS;
- d) Promptly inform the NMS of the supervening occurrence of any fact or occurrence that may adversely affect the normal development of the development of the research project or the agreed deadlines;
- e) Submit a final scientific report on the Research Project;
- f) Submit financial report(s) (to be drawn up in accordance with the specifics of the project) accompanied by supporting documents for the respective expenses, in accordance with the terms set out herewith;
- g) Comply with the other duties arising from the law, and these Regulations, as well as respecting the general principles of good practice, ethics and scientific integrity.

11. Publications. In all published works or oral presentations made by the Beneficiary, as a result or, by virtue or as a consequence of the support awarded under the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** to carry out the Research Project, the following must be mentioned that they were supported by the NOVA University of Lisbon and the NOVA Medical School, within the scope of the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant**.

The Beneficiaries are the holders of the intellectual property rights over the results of the Research Project, without prejudice to the provisions of the Intellectual Property Regulations of NOVA University (Regulation 11004/2020).

12. Personal Data. The personal data requested from each Candidate is appropriate and strictly necessary for the purpose of the **Ana Lázaro - Cancer Research Grant** and will be processed lawfully and with respect for the principle of good faith, following the NOVA University's Personal Data Regulation. Candidates have the right to access their personal data, update it, and exercise any other rights in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Applicants are responsible for any personal data contained in the research project, particularly if it contains special categories of data, such as genetic data, data relating to health or ethnic origin, and must ensure compliance with applicable legislation on the protection of personal data, obtaining (where applicable) the consent of each participant.

13. Omissions. Cases omitted from this Regulation will be decided by the Dean of NOVA Medical School, which shall be sovereign in its decisions.

14. Request for Clarification. In case of doubt, please contact research.preaward@nms.unl.pt

Approved by: Helena Canhão, Dean of NMS