



Prix Liliane Bettencourt *pour les sciences du vivant*

PRIZE RULES

2026 edition

Article I. PURPOSE

As a family-run public-interest foundation since its creation in 1987, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller (hereafter referred to as “**the Foundation**”) aims to “take talents to the top” to contribute to France’s success and influence. To this end, it researches, selects, supports, mentors and champions women and men who are rethinking our future in three fields that make a concrete difference to the common good: life sciences, arts and an inclusive society. With a philanthropic mindset, the Foundation takes action through prizes, donations, personalized support, effective communication and co-creation initiatives.

The Foundation has set the objective of making a lasting impact on the life sciences research ecosystem to accentuate the influence of French biomedical research and accelerate the innovation process through the **Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences** (hereafter “**the Prize**”), which it created in 1997.

This Prize is awarded annually to a European researcher by the Foundation’s scientific committee (hereafter “**the scientific committee**”).

It honors the work of a European researcher under the age of 45 who is recognized by the scientific community for the quality of his or her publications, his or her recognition as a leader and contributions in the relevant field, as well as the personal qualities demonstrated in mobilizing a structured team. The Prize is awarded in alternate years to a researcher established in France or a researcher working in another European country.

This €100,000 prize aims to personally reward the laureate.

These rules (hereafter “**the Prize Rules**”), which can be consulted on www.fondationbs.org, stipulate the applicable terms and conditions for the 2026 Prize.

The calendar for the 2026 Prize is detailed in Annex 1.

Article II. ELIGIBILITY

The Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences is exclusively open to researchers who meet the following criteria:

- Being a researcher in life sciences,
- Being a national of a member state of the European Union (hereafter “the EU¹”) or the European Free Trade Association (hereafter “EFTA²”),
- Being under 45 years of age (as of January 1, 2026). The eligibility window can be extended in three situations, on presentation of supporting documents:
 - Maternity leave (18 months per birth), paternity leave (leave actually taken), for all births before or after the researcher obtains a PhD;
 - Long-term illness (>90 days) for the researcher or a close family member (child, parents or spouse);
 - National service;
 - Medical studies, for researchers holding both a medical or pharmacy degree (MD or PharmD) and a PhD (2 year-extension).
- Working in an academic research laboratory located in an EU or EFTA member state.

Former laureates of the Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences cannot re-enter the competition.

The Prize is awarded in alternate years to:

- Researchers working in France who are nationals of an EU or EFTA member state (odd years),
- Researchers working outside France in a laboratory located in an EU or EFTA member state, who are nationals of an EU or EFTA member state (even years).

Candidates must submit an application online, available on the Foundation’s online application platform (<https://monespace.fondationbs.org>) from March 10 to May 5, 2026.

Article III. APPLICATIONS

(a) *Identification of candidates authorized to make an application*

The call for candidates will be launched from January 9 to March 9, 2026 among qualified eminent international scientists who have been selected by the Foundation and will nominate candidates (hereafter “**candidates**” collectively or “**the candidate**” individually) by providing them with a letter of recommendation and suggesting that they submit an online application on the Foundation’s website.

¹ The 27 EU member states are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

² The four EFTA member states are: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

(b) *Processing of the application*

The Foundation's scientific secretariat (hereafter "**the scientific secretariat**") will inform candidates of their nomination and the opening of online applications on March 10, 2026.

Candidates meeting the eligibility criteria mentioned in article II of these Rules may access the form online available at <https://monespace.fondationbs.org> from March 10 to May 5, 2026.

Each candidate must submit, in English, the following information directly online:

- A complete CV (degrees, professional experience, prizes and awards, grants, major oral communications, and a list of 10 best publications in the last 15 years),
- A presentation of major scientific contributions and a summary of current scientific projects,
- The following mandatory documents:
 - One to three letters of recommendation by eminent scientists who know the candidate, including at the least a letter from the eminent scientist who has nominated the candidate,
 - These Prize Rules, with the annexes, dated and signed on page 7 by the candidate,
 - Documents justifying any request for an extension to the eligibility window.

For any questions, please contact the Foundation at: sciences@fondationbs.org.

(c) *Submission of the application*

The completed application, together with the abovementioned documents, must be submitted and validated electronically by 23:59 (French time) on May 5, 2026 through the online platform. An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the candidate after validation of the form.

Only complete applications that include the application form and attachments, meet the criteria required by these Rules and are submitted online by the closing date will be considered.

(d) *Examination of the eligibility of applications*

The scientific secretariat will examine the applications to verify their eligibility and compliance with the requirements stipulated in the Prize Rules. If an application is considered ineligible after verification of its compliance with these Rules, notification of ineligibility will be sent to the candidate. Any false declarations will disqualify the application outright.

Complete and eligible applications will then be sent to the scientific committee, which preselects the candidates eligible for the competition phase according to the criteria below.

(e) *Selection criteria for applications*

In a plenary meeting, the scientific committee evaluates the applications using the following criteria:

- The originality, quality and excellence of the scientific work,
- The candidate's recognition within the scientific community, demonstrated notably by the list of international publications,
- The future potential for the research work to improve human health.

The decision of the scientific committee is final. It is confidential and not subject to any dispute or appeal by any means or of any nature whatsoever by the candidate or the scientist who presented him or her, as agreed by the candidate when submitting an application.

(f) *Composition and role of the scientific committee*

The scientific committee³ in charge of the Foundation's operational scientific expertise is made up of 14 eminent French and foreign scientists whose scientific and medical expertise and skills cover the main life sciences fields.

In a plenary meeting, the scientific committee will shortlist candidates. For each shortlisted candidate, it designates a rapporteur from its own ranks. Each shortlisted application will also be entrusted to a minimum of two international scientific experts who have been selected by the Foundation's scientific committee and in any case meet the following conditions:

- Being a specialist in the scientific discipline in which the candidate is carrying out research work,
- Not being a member of the scientific committee, and
- Not having a conflict of interest with the candidate.

For each application, at least two reports will be prepared by the experts designated by the scientific committee.

After appraising the shortlisted applications, the scientific committee, in a second plenary meeting, will examine the shortlisted applications, supplemented by the reports of external experts, and designate the Prize Laureate (hereafter "the Laureate") in line with the selection criteria described in (e).

The Laureate is selected by absolute majority of the votes of the scientific committee, each member having one vote in a secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the president of the scientific committee will have the casting vote. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Scientific committee members who have a conflict of interest must declare this before the shortlisting. They will not participate in the discussions concerning this candidate but will participate in the final vote for the other candidates.

The scientific committee is not obliged to designate a Laureate for the 2026 Prize if the quality of applications is not considered sufficient to meet its requirements.

Article IV. CANDIDATE OBLIGATIONS

Candidates undertake to:

- Treat as strictly confidential all the selection phases that they undergo and which the Foundation will keep them informed of, as well as the content of exchanges with members of the Foundation,
- Treat as strictly confidential all tools and media that the candidates and the Foundation (hereafter "the Parties" collectively or "the Party" individually) may exchange or have brought to their attention.
These principles of confidentiality do not concern information that is reported publicly before being obtained and/or received by the relevant Party or that become public without any intervention from the latter.
The obligation for candidates to observe this confidentiality extends up to five years after the date of the Prize ceremony at which the Laureate's name is revealed.

³ The list of members of the Foundation's scientific committee is available on www.fondationbs.org.

- Take all the necessary measures to prevent any risk of conflict of interest that could undermine an impartial and objective selection of the Laureate,
- Declare in writing to the Foundation and without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest during the entire selection period and up to the decision of the scientific committee,
- Immediately take the necessary measures to rectify this situation and provide proof of having done so to the Foundation at its request.

If candidates fail to respect one or more of these obligations, the Foundation reserves the right to dismiss their applications without the candidates being entitled to compensation and without prejudice to the Foundation's right to launch legal proceedings in the event of a serious violation.

It should be noted that, throughout the selection process, candidates remain the exclusive owners of their research results.

Article V. CONDITIONS FOR AWARDING THE PRIZE

The awarding of the Prize is conditional on:

- The signature by the Laureate of the Prize Rules and annexes,
- The presence of the Laureate at the awards ceremony
- The prior forwarding by the Laureate to the Foundation of the Charter of Commitments (hereafter "the Charter"), duly signed (Annex 2).

Article VI. PRIZE FUNDS

The Prize funds awarded to the Laureate is **one hundred thousand euros (€100,000)**.

The day after the awards ceremony, the Foundation will transfer one hundred thousand euros (€100,000) to a bank account, the details of which will have been provided by the Laureate in advance, as a personal award.

The candidate is informed that the Laureate is responsible for completing all necessary tax and social procedures related to the Prize funds at the time of transfer, in accordance with the country of residence, applicable legislation, and contractual status.

The Prize is not awarded in exchange for or as remuneration for any activity performed on behalf of and for the benefit of the Foundation.

Article VII. SUSPENSION, CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE PRIZE

The Foundation reserves the right to modify these Rules and to suspend, cancel or postpone the organization of the 2026 Prize if forced to do so by circumstances or for reasons beyond its control, without incurring any liability or giving rise to any damage or loss of opportunity for the candidates.

However, the Prize may no longer be cancelled after the plenary meeting of the scientific committee is held to designate the Laureate, unless the scientific committee is unable to arrive at a selection.

Article VIII. DATA PRIVACY

The personal data concerning the candidates and the Laureate will be processed and stored by the Foundation in its capacity as data controller, particularly for the purposes of:

- Following up on and administering support (on a contractual basis)
- Implementing communications actions and illustrating communications tools aimed at presenting and promoting the Foundation's activity (based on the legitimate interest of the Foundation),
- Invoicing and accounting (based on legal and regulatory obligations).

The provision of personal data is contractual and a condition of each candidate's application, as well as the awarding of the Prize.

All personal data will be kept throughout the application process and up to three years after the Prize ceremony, in line with the applicable regulations. At the end of this period, the data will be stored for 10 years, notably for communications purposes. The processed data will be used by authorized personnel at the Foundation, as well as subcontractors and partners, if any, in the European Union for the purposes aforementioned in article VIII. The Foundation will host the processed data on secure servers located in the European Union and take the necessary measures to secure the processing of the candidates' and the Laureate's personal data.

Pursuant to the modified French Information Technology, Data Files and Civil Liberties Act and General Data Protection Regulation (n°2016.679, "GDPR"), the data subjects are informed of their right to withdraw, at any time, their consent to the processing of their personal data by the Foundation (i). They acknowledge that they have not been forced to consent to this processing (ii). They have the right to access (iii) the personal data processed by the Foundation, to rectify (iv) or erase this data (v), to request a restriction to its processing (vi), to oppose its processing for legitimate reasons (vii) and to request the portability of this personal data (viii). Finally, the data subjects have the right to define general and specific guidelines defining the way they agree the abovementioned rights may be exercised after their death. These rights may be exercised either directly through rgpd@fondationbs.org or by mail to the Foundation's postal address. Finally, the data subjects benefit from the right to lodge a complaint with CNIL, the French Data Protection Authority, in particular through its online complaints service at the following address: <https://www.cnil.fr/fr/plaintes>. Furthermore, the Foundation's data privacy protection policy is directly accessible upon request or through its website, accessible through the following link: <https://www.fondationbs.org/fr/politique-de-protection-des-donnees>.

Article IX. ANNEXES TO THE RULES

These Rules include two annexes, which form an integral part thereof.

Annex 1: PRIZE CALENDAR

Annex 2: CHARTER OF COMMITMENTS

Place:

Date:

Candidate's signature preceded by the handwritten words "Read and approved":

Annex 1. PRIZE CALENDAR

Launch of the nomination of candidates by the eminent scientists	January 9, 2026
Deadline for the nomination of candidates by the eminent scientists	March 9, 2026
Opening of access to the application form	March 10, 2026
Deadline for the submission of applications	May 5, 2026
Date of final deliberations by the scientific committee	September 30, 2026
Date of Prize awards ceremony (pending confirmation)	November 2026



**Fondation
Bettencourt
Schueller**

Reconnue d'utilité publique depuis 1987

Annex 2. LAUREATE CHARTER OF COMMITMENTS

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LAUREATE CHARTER OF COMMITMENTS

2026 edition

Between on the one hand,

Mr/Ms _____, born on _____, in _____, occupying the professional position of _____,

The Laureate of the 2026 Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences (hereafter “the Laureate” and “the Prize”), awarded by Fondation Bettencourt Schueller (hereafter “the Foundation”),

And on the other hand,

Fondation Bettencourt Schueller, represented by its Deputy Director, Ms. Jeanne Béchu.

The Laureate and the Foundation called hereafter “the Parties” collectively or “the Party” individually.

The Laureate Charter of Commitments (hereafter “the Charter”) sets out the obligations of the Prize Laureate in terms of communication and ethics.

Article I. OBLIGATIONS OF THE LAUREATE

(a) Commitments of the Laureate

The Laureate undertakes to:

- Keep strictly confidential his or her selection until this information is revealed during the awards ceremony organized by the Foundation,
- Be present at the awards ceremony if the Foundation organizes one. The Foundation will send practical information to the Laureate to organize his or her participation with sufficient notice before the event,

- Be solely responsible for all procedures (declarations and payment of charges) required for the tax and social treatment of the endowment that will be paid as part of the Prize.

In general, as an exception to the five-year period stipulated at the end of article I, the Laureate undertakes to:

- Respect the values of the Foundation,
- Use restraint in his or her comments and avoid any public standpoint that could harm the Foundation,
- Take all the necessary measures to prevent any situation that could harm, directly or indirectly, the Foundation's image, and to inform the latter of such situations without delay.

(b) *Communications actions by the Laureate*

The Laureate undertakes to:

- Acknowledge the Foundation's support (the Foundation's full name and logo) on any tangible or intangible communications tools concerning the Laureate,
- Use the following acknowledgement: “[Laureate's name] is the Laureate of Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences.” The wording of this acknowledgement may be modified by express agreement between the Laureate and the Foundation,
- Provide any information required for the Foundation's communications actions, authorizing the follow-up to the Laureate's application and the use of the Laureate's image and name by the Foundation,
- Request the Foundation's written authorization before releasing any communications tools mentioning the Foundation, any of its names and/or its logo (hereafter “**the Distinguishing Marks**”) or the support.

Any requests (on the use of logos, branding guidelines, etc.) and information on communication will be sent by the Laureate by email to the Foundation's communications department at communication@fondationbs.org, as well as the Foundation's scientific department at sciences@fondationbs.org.

The type and content of communications covered by this obligation are detailed hereunder in an indicative, non-exhaustive manner, when the Laureate has the relevant tools and uses them for communications actions. The Foundation may propose other communications actions to the Laureate.

Type of tool	Communications content
Publications	An acknowledgement of the Foundation's support in the Laureate's scientific publications as follows: “[Laureate's name] is the Laureate of Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences”
Press kits	A dedicated page presenting the Foundation's support (full name and clickable logo)
Leaflets	An acknowledgement of the support and/or clickable logo directing users to the Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences page on the Foundation's corporate website
Social networks (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.)	A systematic mention of the Foundation with the hashtag #fondationbettencourtschueller The systematic use of the hashtag #talentfondationbettencourt in posts concerning the Laureate A post dedicated to the Prize ceremony on each social network used by the Laureate
Interviews	An acknowledgement of the Foundation's support

(c) *Intellectual property rights of the Parties*

Each Party remains the owner of the intellectual property rights to the Distinguishing Marks that they entrust to each other and undertake to respect the rights of the other Party. The Parties guarantee the quiet enjoyment of their respective Distinguishing Marks.

Consequently, each of the Parties acknowledges that under the terms of this Charter, they do not have any rights to the ownership or illimitied use of the other Party's Distinguishing Marks. Nevertheless, each Party authorizes the other Party, on a non-exclusive, non-transferable, free-of-charge basis, worldwide, in compliance with all the applicable laws and regulations and in a form and content that will not affect the other Party's image or reputation, to reproduce, represent or disseminate the other Party's names and/or logos, together or separately, in tools defined by the Parties, in strict compliance with their wording, proportions, graphic design and colors, and within the strict framework of this Charter. The Laureate undertakes to respect the Foundation's branding guidelines (available upon request). The Parties undertake to inform each other of any infringements of their Distinguishing Marks able to create a risk of confusion in the public's mind, that come to their attention.

The undertakings listed in (a), (b) and (c) are valid for five years after the Prize ceremony of the relevant year.

In the event of a breach, known to the Laureate, of one of the obligations of the Charter or the Prize Rules, the Foundation reserves the right to strip the Laureate of the status of Laureate of the Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences, after notification of its decision by registered mail. If, in the 15 days after receipt of this notification, the Laureate does not reply to this decision by registered mail or replies with an argument that is rejected by the Foundation, this decision will be final.

Within the aforementioned limits, the Laureate retains the right to free and full disposal of the Prize funds paid by the Foundation.

Article II. COMMITMENTS OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation undertakes to:

- Pay the Prize funds of one hundred thousand euros (€100,000) the day after the awards ceremony to the Laureate's bank account, the details of which will have been provided in advance by the Laureate,
- Publicize and promote the Laureate through a media communications campaign, a Prize ceremony, its website and its social networks.

To do so, it may produce a photographic and/or audiovisual documentary of the Laureate and the Laureate's research, to which the Laureate expressly consents.

Article III. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FOUNDATION AND THE LAUREATE

For all intents and purposes, applicants are reminded that:

- No hierarchical relationship of any kind is established between the Foundation and the Laureate. The Foundation can in no way be regarded as the employer of the Laureate, who can only receive instructions from the Laureate's host institution, laboratory or university. The Foundation has no claim of any nature to the intellectual or property rights resulting from the Laureate's work.
- Consequently, the Foundation cannot be considered to be invested or involved in or having interfered in the Laureate's work or its scientific, academic, ethical, deontological, technical or operational content,
- It is expressly acknowledged that, in consideration of the Laureate's full CV and research described in the Laureate's application that the Foundation has selected the Laureate,
- The Prize has an exclusively philanthropic vocation and does not involve chance or a financial commitment by the Laureate,
- Since the Foundation does not intervene in any rights ownership or sharing issues resulting from the research work, it cannot be held responsible for them in any way.

Two original copies signed

Place:

Date:

The Laureate

The Foundation