

Impulscience supports high-level, mid-career life science researchers hosted by French public research organizations. It draws the indisputable expertise of the European Research Council (ERC) in selecting and funding European fundamental research. Every year, Impulscience is awarded to up to seven researchers.

In 2026, Impulscience is exclusively open to researchers who:

- Present an innovative life science research project
- Work as a team leader or a principal investigator within a research team in a public laboratory in France at the time of application or at the start of the project at the latest
- Applied and were shortlisted for an ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced grant 2025 (in any field of research: *Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, or Social Sciences and Humanities* but did not obtain funding despite the quality of their project (rated “A” at the end of Step 2 of the ERC evaluation, *reserve list* included)
- Successfully defended their PhD at least 5 and up to 25 years before January 1, 2026 (PhD thesis defended between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2020). Extensions are granted in specific cases:
  - Maternity leave (18 months per birth) or paternity leave (effectively taken) for all births before or after finishing a PhD
  - Long-term sick leave (>90 days) to recover from an illness or care for a family member (child, parent, spouse or sibling)
  - National service
  - For candidates who have both a medical or pharmacy degree (M.D. or PharmD) and a PhD in science, the date used to calculate the eligibility period is the date on which the first of these diplomas was awarded. An extension equivalent to the duration of the medical training carried out after obtaining the first of these diplomas (in medicine/pharmacy or science) may be granted, up to a maximum of 4 years.

The application procedure is divided into two phases:

- Online applications are open from April 7, 2026 to May 21, 2026 (for candidates who responded to ERC *Starting* or *Consolidator* 2025 calls) or to June 22, 2026 (for candidates who responded to ERC *Advanced* 2025 call).
- Shortlisted candidates will present individually to the Scientific Committee in a plenary meeting on July 1 & 2, 2026.