

March 9th, 2026

Søknadshjelpen – The MH Grants Office: Funding Updates

Welcome to the MH Grants Office's funding newsletter for March 2026! We are now halfway through the spring term, and many application processes are already underway, while other deadlines are quickly approaching.

As promised, in addition to our regular updates, this issue contains a special feature on opportunities for early career researchers. Whether you are a doctoral candidate or already have a PhD, you will find an overview of relevant opportunities. You can find the special feature at the end of this newsletter. If there is something that you think we should include a feature on, send us an email and we can consider it for the next edition.

Check out the [MH Grants Office website](#) to read more about the support services we offer, see an [overview of funding opportunities](#) available to health researchers in Norway, and more.

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MH Faculty Wall of Fame!

Last month we celebrated the successful applications for external funding from across the faculty in 2025. We unfortunately missed a second successful application to the Research Council to recruit a researcher from Ukraine. It is included below:

NORWEGIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

RECRUIT A RESEARCHER FROM UKRAINE FOR AN ONGOING RESEARCHER PROJECT

Abhijit Sen (ISM)

Awarded to Abhijit's Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal (thematic priority call):

'Building Healthy Food Environment in Schools. Evaluating Co-created Interventions in Low Resource Settings.

Dr. Oleksandr Kamyshnyi and Iryna Halabitska from I. Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University as well as Dr. Pavlo Petakh from Uzhhorod National University with be contributing their expertise to the project.

HORIZON EUROPE

MARIE SKLOTOWSKA CURIE ACTIONS: POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (MSCA PF)

Endre Marosi (KIN), supervised by Edvard Moser

SIGUIRD I. - Freely Moving Spine-level Imaging of Grid Cells

Horizon Europe

2026 Horizon Europe calls to support EU Mission on cancer have been launched

Deadline: 15 September 2026

The European Commission has now published the 2026 calls for proposals supporting the EU Mission on cancer:

- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-01](#): Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models for Cancer Research
- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-02](#): Microbiome for early cancer prediction before the onset of disease
- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-03](#): Pragmatic clinical trials to optimise immunotherapeutic interventions for patients with refractory cancers
- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-04](#): Earlier and more precise palliative care
- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-05](#): Boosting mental health of young cancer survivors through the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre (ECPDC)
- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-06](#): Development of a research capacity building programme on cancer with and for Ukraine
- [HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-07](#): Improve the Quality of Life of older cancer patients

These calls are for large collaborative projects. Consortia must include a minimum of 3 partners in three different countries. At least one must be in an EU member state.

Are you considering applying as coordinator or partner?

If coordinating, please [submit an expression of interest by the end of March](#). This gives us time to properly support you and qualifies you to receive PES. ([Click here for instructions and templates](#)). Let us know if you need more time and we are happy to accommodate.

Cancer Mission projects qualify to receive an [RRS PhD position from the faculty](#). Information on this is found in this newsletter under 'Research Support'.

Proposals to Horizon Europe's Cancer Mission qualify for [project establishment funding \(PES\)](#).

For more information about applying for PES or about these calls, send an email to soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no.

Norwegian Research Council

Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists on Global Health and Development Research

This call is intended to give early career researchers the opportunity to pursue their own ideas and to lead research projects in development research and global health.

Deadline: postponed to May/June TBD

Eligibility: 2-7 Years since PhD defence

How Much: NOK 4 000 000-10 000 000

Projects need to be carried out in collaboration with equal partners in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

[The call text is available here](#) (currently only in Norwegian)

Collaborative Project on Loneliness, exclusion and social inequality in health

A quick reminder about this call for collaborative projects that contribute to sustainable health promotion and preventive measures, treatment and services to counteract loneliness, exclusion and social inequality in health.

Deadline: 20 June 2026

How Much: NOK 4 000 000-16 000 000

The call text has not yet been published, but once it is, [it will be available here](#). Please reach out to the grant office if this call interests you and have any questions.

The Research Council delays deadline for calls with April 22 deadline

The Research Council has announced that deadlines for calls originally due on April 22 will be delayed until late May/early June due to delays implementing the new application systems.

Health-relevant calls that this applies to:

[Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists on Global Health and Development Research](#)

[Breakthrough enabling technologies](#) (English call text not yet available)

Other Funders

Upcoming Deadline: Klinbeforsk

This year's [call for clinical research in hospitals](#) will prioritize projects on rehabilitation and de-escalation studies.

Deadline: 30 April 2026 (pre-proposal)

How Much: up to NOK 25 million per project

Do you have a study that doesn't fall into one of these two areas? Earlier experience shows that funding is often distributed evenly between priority topics and general applications.

Upcoming Calls: Kreftforeningen

We have only a small update that an open call for proposals for cancer research is expected to be announced with a deadline in May/June.

A thematic call for proposals that is aimed at innovation will be announced later this month. To apply to this call, you must first complete a qualification project.

Upcoming Deadline: Peder Sather Grant Program

The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from eight Norwegian universities including NTNU. Applications from all fields and disciplines are welcomed.

Deadline: 13 April 2026

How much: USD 10 000 – 25 000

Duration: Up to 24 months

[Click here for call text and application instructions.](#)

Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.

Call for Seed Funding: North Sea University Partnership

NTNU is part of the North Sea University Partnership (NSUP) together with UiO, UiB, UiT, and the universities of Durham, Leeds, Newcastle, and York.

The consortium has a particular focus on:

- The North Sea: energy, energy transition, marine research, and other relevant topics
- Cultural heritage
- The Arctic
- Health

NSUP have recently announced the North Sea University Partnership Research Seed Fund for 2026

Projects involving at least two NSUP institutions may request **up to £25,000** for activities lasting **12–24 months**, with each project researcher funded by their respective institution.

Successful projects are expected to lead to outcomes such as third-party funding applications, larger-scale interdisciplinary collaborations, and significant joint publications.

Deadline: 20 May 2026

[Click here for more information](#)

NB: Approval from your Head of Department must be included in the application.

For more information, contact [Ingvild Heggstad](#), Research, Innovation and External Relations Division

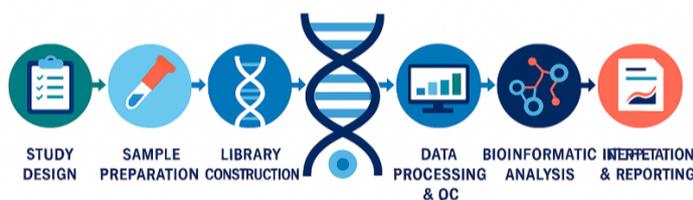
Core Facility of the Month

Genomics Core Facility (GCF)

GCF delivers advanced genomics and multi-omics services, including DNA/RNA sequencing, single-cell and spatial transcriptomics, SNP genotyping, methylation analysis, and proteomics. They support everything from sequencing-only to full project workflows, combining high-quality lab methods with bioinformatics expertise to provide reliable data, biological insights, and tailored guidance for researchers.

GENOMICS CORE FACILITY (GCF)

SUPPORT AT EVERY STEP OF YOUR PROJECT



SUPPORT AT EVERY STEP OF YOUR PROJECT

Detailed information is available on their website:

<https://www.ntnu.edu/mh/gcf>

Research Support

Online Drop-in: EIC Pathfinder Challenge - Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing

Are you considering applying to the [EIC Pathfinder Challenge: Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing](#)? Join our informal online drop-in session to learn more about the call and ask questions.

When: March 12th, 12pm-2pm

[Click here to connect on Teams](#)

The Challenge supports ambitious, early-stage research exploring biotechnology or pharmaceutical approaches to prevent, delay, or reverse age-related diseases.

Projects can receive grants of up to €4 million to develop breakthrough technologies at the early stages of development.

This session is open to researchers who are planning to apply, exploring the idea, or simply interested in learning more about the call. It will be an informal opportunity to ask questions, discuss potential ideas, and clarify requirements.

See you there! Join meeting on Teams using the link above.

NB. The European Commission also has an Info Day about this call planned for March 20th, 11.00-13.00.

[Follow the info day about this challenge here.](#)

RRS PhD Positions available for EU and RCN projects over 6M nok.

MH faculty continues to offer a 3-year PhD position as own financing to awarded NFR and HEU projects in 2026 where MH-faculty is allocated at least 6 million NOK of the externally financed budget.

The faculty covers salary, social costs and operating costs in compliance with the current routines for RRS positions at the faculty.

Requirements to qualify:

1. Notify the faculty no later than 2 weeks before the application deadline/scheduled date of proposal submission (open-ended).

The following information is required:

- The name of the call for proposals
- The project title
- The name and department of the project leader
- The total budget for the project
- MH-faculty's share of the externally financed budget.
- If the MH-faculty is a partner, please include the name and organization of the project manager.

2. An email from the head of department confirming their support for the proposal.

Please submit this information, including documentation of support from the head of your department by email to:

laila.berg@ntnu.no

NB: MH reserves its right to use the "first come, first served" principle for prioritization if the annual RRS-resources earmarked for this purpose are exceeded.

Project Establishment Funds (PES): Do you qualify and for how much?

PES funding is available for ERC and collaborative Horizon Europe proposals: e.g. Health Cluster, EIC Pathfinder, European Partnerships etc.

[Click here for a complete overview of what can be expensed.](#) Here you will also find detailed information about maximum PES amounts for your application type.

For **ERC** and **coordinated Pillar II** proposals in Horizon Europe (e.g. Health Cluster, Cancer Mission etc.), MH Faculty can top up the maximum PES amounts to 300 000 NOK, *if* the need for the extra funds is well justified in the PES application.

To be eligible for PES:

- You must be **employed at NTNU** in at least a 50% position, or at least 20% if you have a combined position with ST. Olavs.
- If you have **received PES for an application still awaiting a decision**, you can't apply for new PES until that application process is closed.
- You must have **support from your head of department** and submit an expression of interest (EOI) along with a PES application to the MH Grants Office Grants office at least 6 months before the application deadline.

More information about the [EOI procedure is available here.](#)

NB: If the PES funding available is insufficient, you may also

qualify for [mobilization funds to support EU applications from Helse Midt-Norge](#).

SPECIAL FEATURE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Small Grants for Research, travel and more (for all career stages)

Not all grants fund large multi-year research projects. There are many small support schemes available for research or travel, both internally at NTNU and externally from public and private foundations, and some even trade unions.

Many of these are open to current PhD candidates, post docs. Most have one annual deadline, but some accept applications on an ongoing basis. Funds vary in terms of size, purpose and deadlines.

There are too many such small grants for us to have a comprehensive overview at the Grants office, but we recommend several databases. These are available only in Norwegian. Don't hesitate to get in touch with us at the MH Grants Office if you are struggling to navigate them and we are happy to help.

UNIFOR: Overview of funding from NTNU's foundation board (Norsk)

UNIFOR manages foundations and handles their funding announcements. Here you will find grants and other support schemes that are open to researchers at NTNU, including PhD candidates and post docs. Many of these are not well known and as such are not especially competitive.

Stipendportalen.no

This is a general database of support schemes, scholarships and grants in Norway. It allows you to filter for research funding.

Career pathways in the university sector and funding opportunities 0-5 years post-PhD

Of course, there are many pathways you might choose from following your PhD, but here we focus on the first five years post-PhD for those of you who are pursuing a **research career in the university sector**.

There are two main pathways to consider:

- Employment through a post-doctoral recruitment position or postdoctoral fellowship.
- Employment funded by a research grant.

NB: If you are currently a postdoc or are fortunate to already have a permanent researcher or associate professor position, the early career research grants described below are equally relevant for you.

Postdoctoral Positions

There are two ways to secure a postdoctoral position:

Path A: Apply for a position

Project leaders who secure external funding regularly hire postdocs to their research projects. These postdocs conduct research connected to the objectives of the project they are hired into.

Research centres also hire postdocs. These positions might have some more flexibility regarding research direction, provided that it is connected to the thematic priorities of the research centre.

Individual departments may also sometimes post general postdoc recruitment positions in a particular field that are connected neither to a project nor research centre.

How do you find a position?

In addition to the job vacancies on university websites:

- Postdoc positions in Norway are usually advertised on [Jobbnorge](#).
- Postdoc positions connected to EU-funded projects across Europe are posted to the [EURAXESS portal](#).
- There are a number of databases with international postdoc positions, for example [Times Higher Education](#), and you can find many regional job boards, for instance [University Affairs Magazine in Canada](#). For a most complete overview, it is best to triangulate across several databases and make use of your networks.
- Research associations, for example [the European Association of Cancer Research](#), will often have field-specific job boards.

Path B: Apply to a postdoctoral fellowship program

Some postdoc positions are financed through programs for project-based postdoctoral fellowships. These allow you to pursue a research project of your choosing. Projects are generally designed alongside training activities that keep professional development and career planning in mind.

These fellowships are **financed by the granting organization** and **hosted at a university** of your choosing. To apply to one of these programs, you will need to have secured a commitment from a potential advisor and have the approval of the head of the department where you wish to host the fellowship.

Most of these will have rules to extend the eligibility window for reasons such as parental leave, military service, clinical work, long-term illness etc.

While the list below is not exhaustive, these are the main programs relevant for researchers at MH:

Researcher Project with International Mobility (FRIPRO)

This is the Norwegian Research Council's call for researchers at the postdoctoral level that funds projects on any topic in any field. It is structured as a mobility-based postdoc requiring 1-2 years at one or two research organizations abroad, before returning for 1-2 years at a research organization in Norway.

Deadline:	Open-Ended
Eligibility:	0 - 7 years since your PhD defence NB: To apply, you must have a master's degree or PhD from a Norwegian Institution.
How much:	NOK 4 700 000 – 7 400 000
Duration:	36-48 months

NB: This call does not receive many applications, so if you submit a high-quality proposal (at least a score of 6 on all criteria), you are likely to be funded.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

This is a highly prestigious and extremely competitive postdoctoral fellowship program within Horizon Europe that, like FRIPRO, is open to all disciplines. While competitive, they are not unattainable. At MH we usually have at least 1 successful incoming MSCA application in the faculty each year.

Deadline:	9 September 2026 (annual call)
Eligibility:	0 - 8 years since your PhD defence
How much:	Fulltime living and research allowances adjusted by a country coefficient depending on host country
Duration:	12-24 months (European Fellowships) 12-36 months (Global Fellowships)

There are two types of fellowships that you can apply for under this scheme:

- **EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS** are for researchers of any nationality and require that you move to a European research institution from elsewhere in the world or move within Europe.

From NTNU, you would need to apply with a research institution elsewhere in Europe. The exception is if you have lived in and worked in Norway for under one year as of the application deadline. We have had successful applicants that came here on a different type of postdoc and applied within a year of arriving in Norway.

- **GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS** are for researchers based at European institutions. These are mobility-based fellowships that require 1-2 years at a research organization abroad, before returning for 1 year at a research organization in Europe.

From NTNU, you can apply to go abroad and return to NTNU or apply with another European university. If you are not a European national, to apply you will have need to have lived and worked in Europe for at least 5 years prior to the application.

Confirmed applicants with NTNU can receive our **annotated MSCA PF template** and may qualify for a proposal review by an external consultant, in addition to the team here at the MH Grants Office. If this is you, [send us an email](#) and let us know that you will apply!

NB: Several European countries have alternative funding or jobs for researchers who receive a "Seal of Excellence" for their MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship application at an institution in that country (i.e. they receive high scores but are not funded due to budgetary constraints). [More information about these programs is available here.](#)

EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowships

EMBO funds postdoctoral fellowships in the Life Sciences. Like the two above fellowships, EMBO requires mobility between countries, meaning the fellowship must be hosted in a country where you have not previously done your PhD or worked in lab setting.

Deadline: Next deadline is 10 July 2026

Two deadlines a year: 4th Friday of January & 2nd Friday of July.

Eligibility: 0 - 2 years since your PhD defence at submission time.

How much: EMBO finances an employment contract at the host institution as well as a mobility/family allowance.

Duration: 12-24 months

To be eligible for this, you're also required to have at least one first author peer reviewed publication. Other calls here don't have this requirement but will still look at your CV to see proof of potential for research independence. It's wise to plan for such a publication before you are ready to apply for a grant or a fellowship.

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP)

HFSP postdoctoral fellowships support proposals for interdisciplinary frontier, potentially transformative research in the life sciences. Applications for high-risk projects are particularly encouraged.

Deadline: 12 May 2026 (letter of intent)
24 September 2026 (proposal)

Eligibility: 0 - 2 years since your PhD defence at submission time.

How much: EMBO finances a living allowance as well as a research & travel allowance which are adjusted by a country coefficient depending on host country

Duration: 36 months

HFSP also has a mobility element, requiring you to move to a new country, in addition to moving into a new area of study in your field.

Research Grants

Once you have a PhD, an alternative to a postdoctoral position is to finance your own position with a research grant that is open to early career researchers.

These grants give you more flexibility than a postdoctoral fellowship and will require more detailed project budgets outlining planned costs. In addition to costs directly connected to your research, you may hire, for instance, lab techs, a PhD student, and even fund your own position.

Make sure to check the actual costs of a researcher position with your local project economist when you consider the total project budget. If you are fortunate enough to already have a permanent position, you will naturally have a larger budget to work with.

Should you apply for a Research Grant or a Postdoc?

Postdocs, whether a recruitment position or a fellowship, are designed as training programs to help early career researchers take the steps they need to build research independence. You engage in a research project designed to build your skillset and leadership competences, under supervision of an experienced faculty member. Research Grants, on the other hand, fund independent research projects with you as the PI.

In contrast to a postdoctoral fellowship, in these applications there will be a higher onus on you to demonstrate that you have what it takes to successfully lead and execute a large research project. If you can

demonstrate this through previous leadership of small projects, parts of a project, major tasks within a project, etc. or first author publications, collaborations without your supervisor, supervision of masters and bachelor's theses, teaching, etc. (these are just some examples), then a research grant may be a good choice for you. You will be rewarded with greater freedom and a higher project budget allowing for more ambitious proposals.

Individual research grants for early career:

Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)

FRIPRO is the Norwegian Research Council's bottom-up funding scheme for groundbreaking research. These grants fund basic and applied research in any field that (if successful) significantly advances knowledge and/or science. Projects should be bold, but feasible. There are several different calls for different career stages.

Deadline:	Open-ended
Eligibility:	2-7 years since your PhD defence at submission time.
How much:	NOK 4 000 000 – 10 000 000
Duration:	36-48 months

NB: The research council also has thematic researcher projects for early career researchers. These do have deadlines and are usually included in this newsletter once they are announced.

Currently there is one active-health related thematic early career call, with an April deadline (deadline is being postponed to late May/early June):

[Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists on Global Health and Development Research](#)

Radical Research Ideas for Early Career Scientists

If you have a great idea for a future grant, like the FRIPRO early career, but lack some preliminary results that will back up the project's feasibility, this is the grant for you! These are small grants for researchers to test radical and risky ideas that have potential to advance the state of the art.

Deadline:	Open-ended
Eligibility:	2-7 years since your PhD defence at submission time.
How much:	NOK 500 000 – 2 000 000
Duration:	4-12 months

Radical ideas grantees who successfully complete their projects and later apply to FRIPRO will have their applications prioritized.

ERC Starting Grant

This is the program for funding curiosity-driven groundbreaking research within Horizon Europe. Like FRIPRO there are calls for different career stages and projects can be funded on any topic in any field. ERC will not fund a continuation of current research or incremental advancements.

Deadline:	14 October 2026 (annual)
Eligibility:	0-10 years since your PhD defence at submission time.
How much:	€1 500 000
Duration:	Up to 60 months

Keep in mind that while they may at first glance appear similar, there is a substantial difference in the size of the

available budget for FRIPRO's early career scheme and the ERC's starting grants. This means that the type of project that each grant can fund will differ based on what can be done with each budget.

NB: While these grants are extremely competitive, each year the Research Council of Norway will fund a handful of ERC proposals from Norwegian institutions that were assessed as fundable (score of A) but were unfunded due to budget constraints.

If any of the opportunities described here interest you and you'd like to learn more or get support with an application, send an email to **the MH Grants Office**.
