

# AXA BELMONT GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**As the philanthropy initiative of the leading global insurer AXA, the AXA Foundation for Human Progress support research around key societal issues and risks.**

This guide contains the information needed to apply for an AXA funding. It includes a general overview of eligibility criteria and it also provides information on grant agreement terms and conditions.

**This guide may be used as a reference by both institutions and candidates. The information presented within overrides any contrary terms that could be found elsewhere.**

**Participation in this call for applications implies acceptance of the following rules.**

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## 1. Introduction

The Science pillar of the AXA Foundation for Human Progress brings together two preexisting science philanthropy initiatives of AXA:

- **The AXA Research Fund** - An 18-year-old initiative by AXA Group aimed at supporting independent academic research globally in key areas related to risks and informing science-based decision-making on the most pressing issues facing our planet.
- **The Health Philanthropy Program of the Mutuelles d'assurances AXA** - An ambitious program dedicated to supporting health research projects in France since 2022 in favor of youth and old age.



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These two initiatives mutually reinforce each other, enabling the AXA Foundation for Human Progress to benefit from a solid scientific foundation and to support its commitments to solidarity, culture, and the planet and environment.

### **Repair today, prepare for tomorrow, relying on science**

The Science pillar of the AXA Fund for Human Progress is committed to funding innovative research programs that contribute to societal progress. In order to enhance their impact, it also supports the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of the role of science.

### **Key figures of our support since 2008**

- 300M€ committed
- 800 research projects supported
- 400 leading partner institutions
- Since 2008, the AXA Research Fund has been supporting over 750 research projects in 39 countries, in the areas of health (pandemics, longevity, mental health, women health..), climate and the environment (climate change, biodiversity, natural catastrophes, pollution..) and socioeconomics (inclusive growth, systemic risks, cyber risks, geopolitics..).
- Since 2022, the Health Philanthropy Program of the Mutuelles d'assurances AXA, has been supporting more than 60 health research projects in France with a focus on early age and longevity.

For the first time, the AXA Foundation for Human Progress is joining a Collaborative Research Action (CRA) from Belmont Forum fund innovative transdisciplinary research.

For more information regarding the resilience CRA guidelines, please refer to [the CRA Belmont Forum guidelines](#).

AXA does not interfere with the researchers work and is committed to providing full research independence to its endorsed grantees. AXA believes these conditions are crucial to ensure the innovation, the impact, and the quality of the research results.

Visit our webpage to learn more: <https://www.axa-research.org/>.



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## 2. Research topics

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AXA supports non-academic stakeholders in projects on all the themes covered in the call

## 3. Key information and Timeline

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The AXA Foundation for Human Progress's grant can amount **up to 150.000€** and is awarded for **a period of 3 years**. The grant will be paid in yearly installments.

### Timeline:

Please refer to the Belmont Forum timeline. All candidates will be informed of the status of their application by the end of the campaign. We are unable to provide individual feedback on the reasons for shortlisting or non-selection.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

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### Host institution

AXA supports partnerships with **non-academic stakeholders within the Belmont Forum CRA**. Eligible institutions are non-profit organizations which serve the public interest such as associations, hospitals, national & International NGOs, CSOs. They must meet the following criteria :

1. Have a minimum of two years of existence.
2. Submit a project with a budget that does not exceed 33% of the organization's annual budget.
3. Demonstrate ethical and responsible practices aligned with AXA's values of integrity, solidarity, and human progress.

**Academic institutions (universities and higher education institutions)** registered with World Higher Education Database ([World Higher Education Database \(WHED\) Portal](#)) and **private companies** are not eligible for AXA funding in Belmont Forum call for funding.

Host institutions will be **registered in the AXA Research's database**.

### Research program

Proposals for this call should be submitted through the official Belmont Forum Grant Operations (BFGO) platform. For more details, visit [www.bfgo.org](http://www.bfgo.org).

Proposed programs must address research and not research & development (R&D). R&D is the process by which a company works to obtain new knowledge that it might use to create new technology, products, services, or systems that it will either use or sell.

Projects must deal with research that conforms to the [AXA Group Compliance and Ethics Guide](#)

The Following is a non-exhaustive list of disqualifying factors:

- Research violating national regulations
- Research supporting any political and religious activity
- Research having direct military use



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- Research having potentially dangerous environmental impacts
- Research relying on the artificial production of highly infectious pathogens with potential for large scale harmful/lethal effects for humans and research involving gain of function
- Biomedical research conducted without the fully informed consent of the participant
- Research on embryonic stem cells (incl. animal, with inferred subsequent human application)
- Research processing private personal data without the informed consent of the concerned parties (incl. genetic information)
- Research activities aiming at human cloning

Cases of scientific misconduct such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or misrepresentation of data will be considered as breaches of fundamental ethical principles and the proposals concerned will be excluded.

## 5. Evaluation criteria

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Decision will be taken in accordance with Belmont Forum recommendations and validated by the AXA Foundation for Human Progress Board.

## 6. Selection process

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### *Application documents*

Please, refer to Belmont Forum guidelines.

### **Selection & Results**

The AXA Foundation Board will select the projects to fund by following the ranking given by the Belmont Forum. The Board commits to ensuring a fair selection based on research excellence.

Once the Board has made its decision, the Institution and the candidate will be informed through the main contact. **The Scientific Board's decision is final and cannot be appealed.**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**We are not able to provide any feedback on our selection process and decisions.**

## 7. Grant and agreement terms and conditions

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### **Payment terms and conditions**

The grant will be paid in **yearly installments**, following the Institution's **submission of calls for funds**. The funds will be processed in accordance with a payment schedule stipulated in the agreement.

The first transfer of funds is triggered by the signature of the agreement and the official acceptance of the AXA funding. The Institution will need to send the first call for funds to start the payment process.



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In case of early termination on behalf of the project, the Institution shall provide AXA with a statement of expenses. The remaining funds will be retained with AXA.

The project must be started within 12 months following selection.

### Use of grant

Any amount awarded by AXA is expected to primarily cover the research environment – e.g., Research staff salaries – and any expenses directly connected to the Research Program.

AXA does not cover expenses that are not directly connected to the CRA project. Therefore, **AXA grant cannot be used for administrative and infrastructural expenses.**

#### Eligible costs are:

- Annual gross salaries, travel, and accommodation costs.
- Purchase of scientific equipment and resources, such as databases, survey costs, and consumables.
- Costs associated with organizing public engagement activities.
- Capacity-building activities for non-academic stakeholders (e.g., training workshops for local communities or NGOs).
- Costs for co-designing research partners (e.g., participatory research methods, stakeholder consultations).
- Data collection and analysis involving non-academic entities (e.g., surveys, interviews with community groups).
- Travel and accommodation for stakeholders participating in project-related activities.
- Development of tools, models, or resources for use by non-academic stakeholders (e.g., policy briefs, decision-support tools).
- Communication and dissemination activities targeting non-academic audiences (e.g., public outreach campaigns, media production).
- Development of policy recommendations or frameworks in collaboration with governmental or non-governmental organizations.

#### Ineligible Expenses:

Funds cannot be used for administrative or infrastructural expenses unrelated to the call.

- Administrative overheads (e.g., office rent, utilities).
- Non-research-related travel or entertainment.
- Infrastructure development (e.g., building construction, lab renovations).
- Commercial product development or marketing.
- Profit-making activities or investments.
- Activities unrelated to the research objectives (e.g., standalone educational programs, unrelated community events).

### Institution support to the Research Program

It is the remit of the institution to provide a research environment (at minimum) aligned with the conditions described in the application (resources, equipment, budget, etc.).



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**Host institutions will be expected to participate in the program general funding with studentships, support and material resources related to the research program. The institution shall demonstrate this participation in the application.**

AXA has signed the Charter for European Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. As such, it is particularly important that institutions demonstrate their commitment to providing an attractive, supportive, and stimulating environment in which the research program will be carried out.

### Monitoring of grant and obligations

Each year, the institution will provide a report composed of 2 separate documents:

**A. An Activity Report:**

This activity report will provide the highlights of the Research Program, progress, achievements, and outputs versus objectives, impacts of the AXA Grant, and research related activities. It is to be submitted on AXA's dedicated online portal. The project holder will receive dedicated and secure access credentials upon signature of the agreement.

**B. A Financial Report:**

This financial report must include the annual expenditures explaining how the grant has been allocated. This report is to be submitted on AXA's online institution portal by the institution operational contact.

### Intellectual property

The project holder remains fully independent to conduct their Research project. AXA will not claim any right to the ownership or use of the results coming from the Research Program, and the institution and/or the project holder and members or their team keep full ownership of their results, in accordance with the legal and/or contractual provisions.

### Publicity on the grant

AXA Foundation for Human Progress is a philanthropic initiative and any publicity or communication on the grant will aim at enabling AXA Foundation for Human Progress to promote its general interest purpose. When communicating about the project, the institution, the project holder and the member of their team will **mention the support of the AXA Foundation for Human Progress** (further guidance will be sent following funding). Grantees must acknowledge the AXA support in all research publications even if they are not the leading author. Acknowledgements must be included in the funding and **acknowledgement sections**, and/or in any other relevant section in the publication.

### Open access policy

AXA believes that providing free and unrestricted access to the scientific outputs of the research projects it supports to be a fundamental part of its mission. Since July 1st, 2016, an Open Access policy is effective for all new agreements and granted funding. To build on best existing practices in



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this area, this policy closely follows the guidelines instituted and recently updated by the European Research Council.

Considering the fast evolution of current debates and the diversity of approaches between disciplines, no binding commitment to this policy will be requested from the project holder.

To comply with the open access policy, AXA:

- Requests that an electronic copy of any research article, monograph or other research publication that is supported AXA be deposited in a suitable repository immediately upon publication. Open access should be provided as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than six months after the official publication date. For publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities domain a delay of up to twelve months is acceptable.
- Strongly encourages funded researchers to use publishing venues and discipline relevant repositories for their publications that ensure that the publications are publicly discoverable and accessible as soon as possible, and in places that enable long term preservation. If there is no appropriate repository, researchers should make their publications available in institutional repositories or in centralizes ones.
- Reminds researchers supported by AXA that open access fees are eligible costs that can be charged against AXA grants, provided they are incurred during the duration of the project.
- Asks host institutions to cover open access fees of any research publications supported by the AXA arising after the end of the project

AXA furthermore strongly encourages its researchers to:

- Retain files of all the research data they have produced and used during their work, and that they be prepared to share these data with other researchers whenever they are not bound by copyright restrictions, confidentiality requirements, or contractual clauses.
- Use discipline-specific repositories for their research data. If there is no appropriate discipline specific repository, researchers should make their research data available in institutional repositories or in centralized ones.
- Establish good research data management in accordance with the current best practices in their respective fields and to share their data with other researchers in a responsible way.

**Participation in the call for applications implies acceptance of the above-mentioned rules.**