



OVERVIEW ON 2026 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Note: This document is purely informative.

For details, please refer to AIRC calls for proposals that will be published in 2026 on www.direzionescientifica.airc.it/funding-for-research

AIRC MISSION

AIRC raises funds to support cancer research in Italy. Its mission is to understand, prevent and cure cancer through research and outreach activities. AIRC aims to find solutions to challenges in cancer research, awarding grants to the most deserving projects, as well as supporting training fellowships.

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship for Italy – Pre-Doc

Awarded to new graduates or PhD students, these fellowships are meant to help young researchers to learn the basics of research and gain experience at a leading Italian laboratory.

Fellowship for Abroad – Pre-Doc

Awarded to new graduates or PhD students, these fellowships are meant for young researchers wishing to gain research experience at a leading institution outside of Italy.

Fellowship for Italy – Post-Doc

Awarded to PhD graduates, these fellowships will support the career of young researchers who wish to broaden their scientific skills in cancer research at a leading Italian laboratory.

Fellowship for Abroad – Post-Doc

Awarded to PhD graduates who have already gained experience in a laboratory in Italy, these fellowships allow for a further period of training in a research center whose facilities are considered at the forefront of oncological research.

Short-Term Fellowship

Supports the career development of young researchers wishing to spend up to 3 months at an institution located abroad or in a different Italian region, by covering the expenses due to mobility.

Only one application per applicant can be submitted within the 2026 AIRC Calls for fellowships.

	Italy Pre-Doc	Abroad Pre-Doc	Italy Post-Doc	Abroad Post-Doc	Short-Term
Duration	1-3 years	1-2 years	1-3 years	1-2 years	1-3 months
Budget	25.000 €/y	Based on the Hosting Institution's salary scale	35.000 €/y	Based on the Hosting Institution's salary scale	Up to 1.500 €/month
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduates within 5 years from the completion of the Master's Degree (Laurea Magistrale) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduates within 5 years from the completion of the Master's Degree (Laurea Magistrale) The institution of origin must be located in Italy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in the last year of PhD/Specialty (completion by the end of April 2027); or Post-Docs or Specialists within 5 years from the completion of their PhD/Specialty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in the last year of PhD/Specialty (completion by the end of April 2027); or Post-Docs or Specialists within 5 years from the completion of their PhD/Specialty The institution of origin must be located in Italy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in a PhD/Specialty; or Post-Docs or specialist within 10 years from completion of their PhD/Specialty
Call issued	April 2026	April 2026	April 2026	April 2026	February 2026
Deadline	May 2026	May 2026	May 2026	May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2026 (Departures May - August 2026) May 2026 (Departures September - December 2026) September 2026 (Departures January-April 2027)
Results	November 2026	November 2026	November 2026	November 2026	
Start	January 2027	January 2027	January 2027	January 2027	

GRANTS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

My First AIRC Grant (MFAG)

Awarded to talented young researchers who have already gained experience in cancer research, with this funding scheme scientists have the opportunity to develop and run their own project, gradually becoming autonomous and independent.

Start-Up Grant

Awarded to talented young researchers who have already matured a significant scientific experience abroad, these grants will allow them to establish a new laboratory in Italy and manage their research activities in full autonomy.

Bridge Grant

This one-year award is meant to bridge the gap between grants for junior and senior researchers. This extension-grant is awarded to the most meritorious MFAG or Start-Up grantees to help

finalize their studies, thus being better prepared for applications in response to funding schemes for established researchers (e.g., AIRC Investigator Grants). **Please note that the 2026 edition will be the last edition of this call for proposals.**

Next Gen Clinician Scientist Grant

It will foster a new generation of exceptionally talented physician scientists wishing to carry out an investigator-driven clinical research project with the final aim of optimizing clinical practice.

Southern Italy Scholars (SIS) Grant

The AIRC SIS grants will foster the creation of new research units in Southern or Insular Italy. They will be led by talented scientists with a strong commitment to cancer research, seeking an opportunity of developing their independent careers and establishing a network of collaborations with research groups located in the rest of Italy or abroad.

GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHED RESEARCHERS

Investigator Grant (IG)

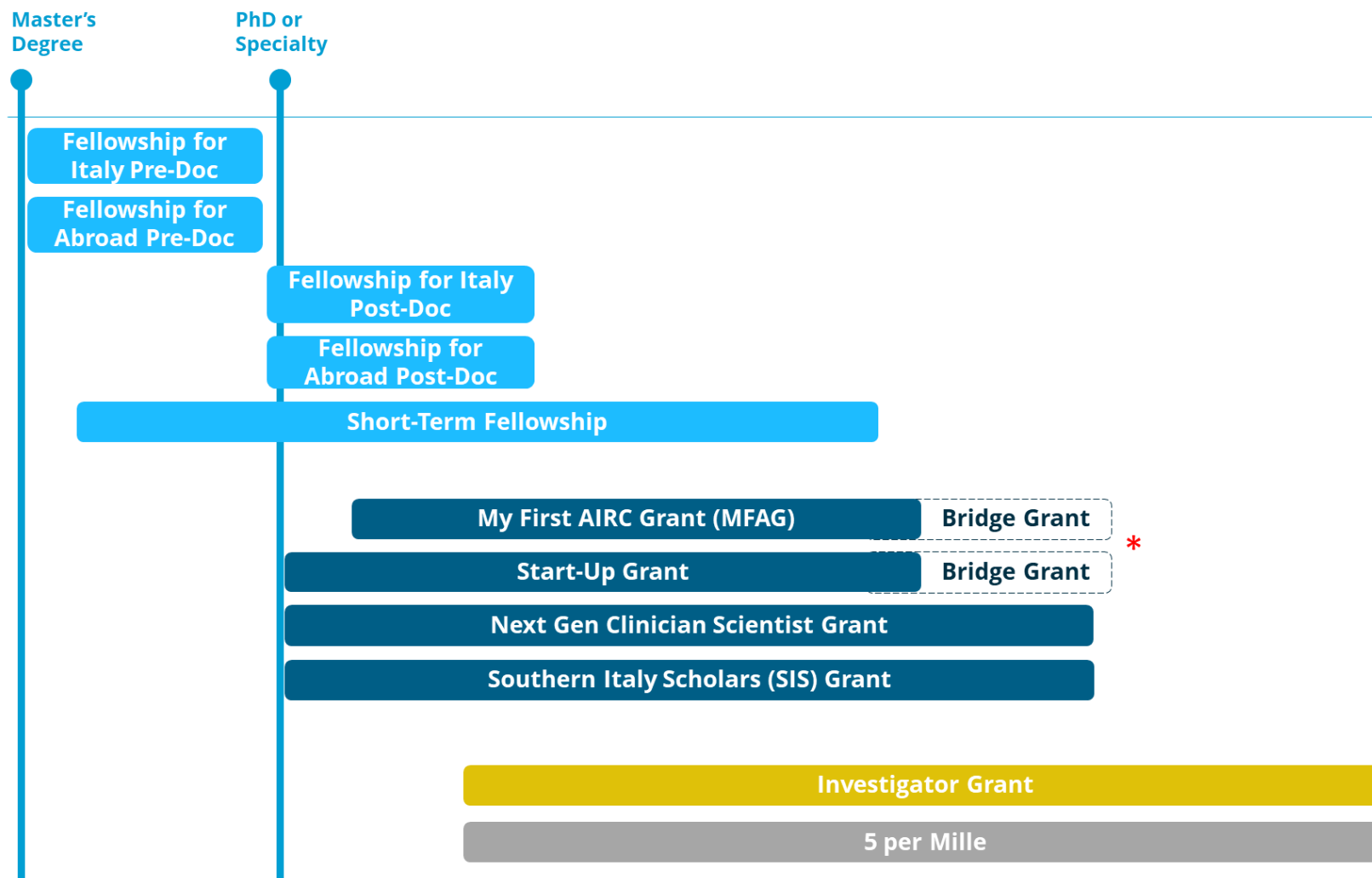
These projects are led by established and independent scientists, with funds covering both the cost of research and personnel working on the project.

5 per Mille - From Tumor Complexity to Precision Oncology

The 5 per Mille multi-unit grant supports interdisciplinary research programs led by a Principal Investigator and based in Italian institutions, aiming to advance innovative precision medicine approaches in cancer through integrated molecular, cellular, spatial, and systems-level analyses.

Only one application per applicant can be submitted within the 2026 AIRC Calls for individual grants.

	MFAG	Start-Up	Bridge	Next Gen CS	SIS	IG	5 per Mille
Duration	5 years	5 years	1 year	5 years	5 years	5 years	6 years
Budget	150.000 €/y	250.000 €/y	100.000 €/y	~300.000 €/y	200.000 €/y	No limits	No limits
PI salary	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-10 yr from PhD/Specialty • 3 primary research articles as leading author in the last 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤ 12 yr from PhD/Specialty • 2 primary research articles as leading author in the last 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holders of an MFAG or a Start-Up Grant in its final year of funding • 1 primary research article as last author in the last 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD, • ≤ 15 yr from PhD/Specialty • 3 primary research articles (case reports excluded) as leading author in the last 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤ 15 yr from PhD/Specialty • 3 primary research articles as leading author in the last 5 years • Hosting Institution in Southern or insular Italy • Collaborations in the rest of Italy/abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 primary research article as last author in the last 5 years • A total active Impact Factor (IF) ≥40 in the last 5 years 	
Call issued	January 2026	January 2026	January 2026	May 2026	September 2026	January 2026	February 2026
Deadline	March 2026	March 2026	March 2026	June 2026	October 2026	March 2026	March 2026
Results	November 2026	November 2026	November 2026	April 2027	April 2027	November 2026	December 2026
Start	January 2027	January 2027	January 2027	July 2027	July 2027	January 2027	January 2027



* Please note that the 2026 edition will be the last edition of the Bridge Grant call for proposals.