

THE ARMENISE HARVARD AIRALZH
Mid-Career Award
in Neurodegenerative Diseases
2026 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Background

The Giovanni Armenise Harvard Foundation and [Airalzh Onlus](#) offer one **Armenise-Harvard Airalzh Mid-Career Award in Neurodegenerative Diseases (“AHA-MCA”)** of \$100,000 USD per year, for two years, to support basic research projects in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. The Armenise Harvard Foundation and Airalzh share the common goal to support a category of basic scientists, i.e. Mid-Career researchers, who are currently insufficiently supported, with the common objective to set a new trend and inspire other foundations, private and public institutional donors to help with this critical need.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- be Principal Investigators or Group Leaders (“PI”).¹
- have been responsible for their independent laboratory in Italy for at least five years but no more than 12 years at the time of the application deadline. The calculation of the five and 12 years is made by comparing the date the applicant’s title was conferred, to the AHA-MCA application deadline (i.e. April 15, 2026), so this year the title should have been received no earlier than April 15, 2014, and no later than April 15, 2021. Please note: the actual elapsed time since the award of the title as PI considered for eligibility can be reduced in the following properly documented circumstances:
 - For maternity, the actual elapsed time since the award of the title will be considered reduced by 18 months for each child born during the time after having received the title of PI.
 - For paternity, the actual elapsed time since the award of the title will be considered reduced by the documented amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born during the time after having received the title.
 - For long-term illness, clinical training or national service, the actual elapsed time since the award of the title will be considered reduced by the documented amount of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after receiving the title of PI.
- have obtained their PhD no more than 20 years before the date of the application deadline. The calculation of the 20 years is made by comparing the date the first PhD degree was conferred to the AHA-MCA application deadline (i.e. April 15, 2026), so this year the degree should have been received no earlier than April 15, 2006. Please note that the actual elapsed time since the award of the first PhD considered for eligibility can be reduced in the following properly documented circumstances:
 - For maternity, the actual elapsed time since the award of the first PhD will be considered reduced by 18 months for each child born during PhD study or after the PhD award.
 - For paternity, the actual elapsed time since the award of the first PhD will be considered reduced by the documented amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born during PhD study or after the PhD award.

¹ “Principal Investigator” (PI) is understood as status conferred by one’s research institution. If your institute uses a different career development system, as reference, please use the date in which you were awarded your first grant/award as Principal Investigator.

- For long-term illness, clinical training or national service, the actual elapsed time since the award of the first PhD will be considered reduced by the documented amount of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the PhD award.
- have demonstrated their ability to secure research funding (i.e., through competitive grants or fellowships) as Principal Investigators.
- have published more than one research paper as last/corresponding or co-last/corresponding author (without the PI's post-doc supervisor) since becoming a Principal Investigator.
- be based primarily in Italy. In cases where the PI has multiple affiliations and positions, the PI must spend at least 80% of her/his time in the Italian Host Institute.

Projects

The proposed research project should be focused on Neurodegenerative Diseases. Please note that clinical research is NOT supported by this award; only proposals for basic or translational research will be considered. The project can be either a new research direction or part of an on-going program. In both cases, the applicant must provide specific aims of the research project and the budget showing current and/or pending support (if applicable).

Maximum External Grant Support

PIs must have less than Euro 100.000/year of secured external funding for the next two years (from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028), as of the application deadline (April 15, 2026, 11:59 pm EDT). PIs who have more than Euro 100.000/year of secured external funding for the next two years are NOT eligible to apply for this program.

FUNDING

- Each grant will be given for two years and will be distributed annually at a rate of \$100,000 per year, per awardee.
- Funds can cover salaries for technicians, junior scientists, research supplies. Funds can also cover specialized equipment not normally available at the Host Institute.
- The Host Institute must provide the salary for the Applicant, the facilities, equipment, infrastructure and administrative support necessary to carry out the proposed research.

CHANGES IN STATUS OF THE AWARDEE

- If, after the AHA-MCA is awarded, the recipient moves from Italy, the award will be forfeited.
- If the award recipient wishes to change host institute before taking up the grant, the original grant may be forfeited, and a new application may have to be made the following year. This circumstance would be handled on an individual basis.
- Please be aware that any change in status of the recipient must be communicated promptly to the Armenise Harvard Foundation and Airalz Onlus. The Armenise Harvard Foundation and Airalz Onlus reserve the right to terminate the AHA-MCA should the time and effort dedicated to the AHA-MCA-sponsored project be deemed inappropriate.

Please note that failure to disclose change of status may result in the loss of the AHA-MCA and repayment of prior funds.

REPORTING AND OTHER

- Award recipients will be expected to provide an annual progress report, including a financial report and a brief summary of their research activity.

- The Giovanni Armenise Harvard Foundation and Airalzh Onlus should be acknowledged in all publications emanating from the research carried out during the award period using the following statement: *“This research was supported by the Giovanni Armenise Harvard Foundation – Airalzh Mid-Career Award (AHA MCA 2026).”*

APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 15, 2026 (11:59 pm EDT)

NOTE

Applicants should note that short-listed candidates will be required to attend a remote interview in mid-September 2026. The interview will include a presentation of the candidate’s work and proposal, of no more than 15-20 minutes, in addition to an informal conversation about the candidate’s aspirations as well as Q&A.

WARNING

FAILURE TO DISCLOSE ALL-INCLUSIVE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION IN THE APPLICATION WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION. SHOULD THE MISREPRESENTATION EMERGE AFTER THE AHA-MCA AWARD IS RECEIVED, THE GIOVANNI ARMENISE HARVARD FOUNDATION and AIRALZH ONLUS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REVOKE THE AWARD AND TO ENFORCE THE OBLIGATION OF THE AWARDEE TO REIMBURSE IN FULL THE FUNDS ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE GIOVANNI ARMENISE HARVARD FOUNDATION and AIRALZH ONLUS. THIS MAY BE INVOKED AT ANY TIME. BY SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION, YOU GUARANTEE THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IS EXHAUSTIVE AND TRUE, AND THAT YOU ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS ABOVE.

INSTRUCTIONS

All application documents must be typed using a 12pt font, with double-spaced pages and one-inch margins on each side (excluding Bibliography and Images). **Please put your name in the title of each pdf document (e.g. MillerL CV.pdf, MillerL Publications.pdf, etc.) and the document title, date, and page number in the header or footer of each separate document.**

The application consists of several elements, some of which need to be uploaded, while others must be emailed. Click on “Application Form” below to begin the application process. **Please have everything ready before you start.**

1. **Application Form:** Complete all information requested. At the end of the form, you will be prompted to upload the following documents (#2 to #8) in pdf format.
2. **Curriculum Vitae including** all affiliations and positions, and the list of publications since becoming Principal Investigator or Group Leader (i.e. responsible for your own laboratory). Please make sure to specify also the exact date of your PhD (MM/DD/YYYY), and the exact date of your appointment as Principal Investigator or Group Leader (MM/DD/YYYY).
3. **Description of Selected Papers:** a document listing up to four research papers published since the applicant became a PI, including a short explanation (maximum 500 characters including spaces per publication) of the significance of the selected publications, the role of the applicant in producing each of them, how these publications demonstrate the applicant’s capacity to

successfully carry out and lead their proposed project and/or a short explanation of the importance of the listed examples of significant peer recognition.

4. **List of Grants:** list all grants received since becoming Principal Investigator or Group Leader, specifying amount/year, duration and role within the funded project. Specify if grants are ongoing or concluded. Please indicate also the number of grant applications you have submitted as PI in the last 24 months prior to the deadline (including unsuccessful applications, as well as those pending publication of results).

5. **Proof of eligibility:** specify the yearly secured external funds for the next two years (2027 and 2028), as of the application deadline, indicating the name and amount of the grant and the title of the associated projects. This document must be on the Host Institute's letterhead and signed by the relevant administrator.

6. **Synopsis:** Description of the previous research and an abstract of the proposed project (not to exceed one, double-spaced page with a one-inch margin on each side, excluding bibliography).

7. **Scientific Proposal:** This should be described in English in sufficient detail to enable the review committee to appraise it. A level of detail typical of a scientific journal article is appropriate. The narrative should not exceed five pages (double-spaced with one-inch margins on each side, excluding bibliography and images). Include the following sections:

1. Introduction: a brief summary of preliminary work or other background.
2. Objectives: a description of what is to be accomplished over two years, including an explanation of why the candidate considers this important for the advancement of this scientific area.
3. Scope of Research: a summary of the design and methodologies to be applied, and experimental plan.

8. **Budget:** a detailed budget (including assumptions) of the project outlined per the above (7), including: personnel, equipment, travel, supplies, meeting costs, overhead (up to 5%) and taxes, and additional sources of funding, if relevant.

9. **Letter from Host Institute:** the letter should include the following information at minimum:

1. Indicate the continuing support to the Applicant.
2. Illustrate the plan, next steps, and the timeline of the career development of the Applicant at the Host Institute.
3. Confirm that the institution/department is willing to take on the administrative responsibilities involved in accepting the grant and furthering the applicant's career.
4. Confirm that the Host Institute and the Applicant are in complete agreement as to the terms indicated in this letter and in the application.

This letter is considered a binding commitment of the Host Institute, in partnership with Giovanni Armenise Harvard Foundation and Airalzh Onlus, in furthering the career development of the grantee.

On-line applications can be submitted between February 1 and April 15, 2026. It will not be possible to submit an application for 2026 later than April 15, 2026 11.59pm EDT. Only applications that are complete and fully compliant with the Instructions will be considered. You should receive an email confirming that your application has been delivered successfully. If you do not receive a confirmation, please send an email to Daniel Bate (email address below).

If you have any questions concerning this application or the program, please contact:

DANIEL BATE

daniel_bate@hms.harvard.edu

The Application Form can be found at

<https://armeniseharvard.org/armenise-harvard-airalz-mid-career-award-apply-form/>