

Call LUMC Junior Principal Investigator Program 2026

The LUMC is excited to announce the second edition of the program to foster talented starting group leaders who have the potential to become cornerstones of the fundamental, translational and clinical research of our institute. The LUMC Junior Principal Investigator Program will yearly award five personal grants of 850,000 euro for four years to kick-start the career of five starting group leaders. We expect the candidates to have the potential to grow towards associate professor level over this period. The preproposal deadline is on September 15th, 2025, and the call is open to junior researchers based anywhere in the world.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for junior group leaders who are among the top-10% of peers in their field as evidenced by research output, potential to attract research funding, initial experience with supervision and mentoring, and academic citizenship. Moreover, the research line, whether fundamental, translational or clinical, needs to strongly contribute to the LUMC research strategy. The call is aimed at starting group leaders who have obtained their PhD at least three and maximally 10 years before the call deadline, with possible extension for a maximum of five years due to parental leave, medical training or other documented reasons. See the LUMC Junior PI Program regulations and preproposal form for further details on eligibility criteria and extension clauses.

How to apply?

Candidates are invited to send their preproposal (see below for the required form) before September 15 midnight CET to research@lumc.nl. Please note that candidates need to have discussed their proposal with their intended Department head and/or Theme of Innovation to apply.

Selection

The selection will consist of three phases. First, a LUMC-wide Committee will select those candidates who fit the target group based on CV. The remaining preproposals will be judged on (1) scientific content by the Committee, (2) fit with the strategic research priorities of LUMC-wide research themes, and (3) alignment with the priorities of potential prospective departments the applicant would be embedded in, if successful. This will result in a short-list of 12 candidates who will be invited to submit a full proposal and perform a site-visit early 2026. This site visit will involve an interview and discussions with the selection committee, the themes, department head and, if applicable, research facilities. The final decision will be based on the full proposal and site-visit. See the LUMC Junior PI Program regulations and preproposal form for further details on eligibility criteria.

Timeline

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| • Call published: | June 2025 |
| • Deadline preproposal: | 15 Sept 2025 00:00 CET |
| • Preselection on fit to the target group | September 2025 |
| • Judging preproposal, alignment themes and departments | October 2025 |
| • Notification of full proposal selection | End November 2025 |
| • Deadline full proposal | 01 Feb 2026 00:00 CET |
| • Site visits: | March 2026 |
| • Notification of selected candidates | April 2026 |
| • Starting date | Ultimately 16 Sept 2026 |

Attached to this message:

- Preproposal form LUMC Junior PI Programme 2026
- LUMC Junior PI Programme Regulations