



Frequently Asked Questions Oncode Researchers Synergy Call

Criteria

1. How do the different criteria weigh-in, in the evaluation?

Proposals will be scored based on the following three criteria: 1) aim and ambition, 2) team synergy, and 3) feasibility. Aim and ambition will be weighed at 50% and both team synergy and feasibility will be weighed equally, each at 25%.

Eligibility

2. Can scientists outside of Oncode Institute apply?

No, this is not possible. Only Oncode Researchers, i.e. group members of an Oncode Investigator, are eligible for this call.

Number of Applications / Applicants

3. What are the requirements regarding the number of applicants and the number of Oncode groups involved in a proposal? For example, can a proposal include more than one applicant from the same group, or more than three applicants in total?

Oncode is looking for innovative projects that require a clear, synergistic approach. Proposals must be submitted by two to three Oncode groups, with a preference for new collaborations and cross-institute collaborations.

If a project requires the addition of essential and unique expertise, it is possible to include up to two researchers from the same group in the team. It must be made very clear what each applicant contributes individually to the project, and these contributions must be clearly justified within the proposed budget.

Project Duration

4. We are looking for projects with a duration between 6 to 18 months. Is there any flexibility to extend the project beyond 18 months (e.g., a no-cost extension) provided it still concludes before the hard deadline of January 1, 2028?

Projects may commence on or after 1 July 2026, and all projects must be completed before 1 January 2028. Project duration can be between 6 and 18 months.

Budget

5. What is the total budget available for this call, and how many projects does Onco-code anticipate approving?

The total budget available for this call is EUR 1.5 million, so we estimate to fund 10 projects (EUR 150K each).

6. The call emphasizes "synergy" and "collaboration." Is there a specific requirement for how the EUR 150K budget should be distributed between the collaborating groups?

The budget template should reflect the workload described in the project proposal. For example, if in your project proposal Group A conducts the experimental lab work (this will include i.e., personnel and materials costs etc.) and Group B conducts the data analysis (i.e., bioinformatics, AI-based analysis etc.) then the budget sheet should be aligned to this. We do not expect that both partners will require half of the budget; the project is leading.

7. Under Call rules, can an applicant request FTE for support staff? For example, can I request FTE to support bioinformatics work with a PhD student in my group?

Yes, requesting FTE support for a PhD student to carry out bioinformatics work is permitted under the call rules, provided the role is clearly justified as part of the project, the applicants themselves remain the official proposal submitters (the PhD student is support staff, not an applicant), this needs to be agreed upon up-front with said support-staff's supervisor and the total requested budget remains within the €150,000 limit.

Employment during Project timeline

8. The guidelines state that applicants* must have their position secured for the project duration. What happens if a Researcher leaves, can the project continue with a replacement Researcher from the same group?

This will depend on the specific situation, but Onco-code will work together with the groups involved to find a suitable solution within the terms of this call.

*[*applicants are Onco-code Researcher and hold a position at the time of submission in an Onco-code Institute group. Applicants must have this position secured according to the timelines of the project, or applicants may include funding in their budget to extend their position accordingly. This arrangement must be agreed upon in advance with the applicant's group leader (Onco-code Investigator).]*

Proposal Format & Feedback

9. Does the word count in the proposal also include the list of literature references?

The word count does not include the literature references in Section 1 (The Proposal). Please attach the literature references at the end of section 1, or at the end of the document. In sections 2 and 3, please follow the defined word count limits for the specific sub-sections.

10. Will applicants receive written feedback or a breakdown of the scoring?

We will provide feedback to the applicants regarding their proposal.

Publication & Reporting

11. Is there any expectation or requirement for a publication upon project completion?

There is no need to publish if the results do not warrant it; however, applicants need to submit a mid-term and a final report including the project results.