

Grants for public-private partnerships (Regular TKI grant program) Year 2024



The Maastricht UMC+/FHML grants for public-private partnerships (MUMC+/FHML TKI grant) sponsored by the Dutch government (Ministry of Economic Affairs) through the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) and Topsector Life Sciences and Health (LSH- Health~Holland)

Maastricht UMC+ /FHML TKI grant (Year 2024)

Goal of the TKI grant

The goal of the TKI grant is to stimulate MUMC+/FHML researchers to conduct research projects together with companies in public-private partnerships (PPP) in the life sciences and health (LSH) sector. The funding is provided by the Dutch government (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy) through the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) and the 'Topconsortium voor Kennis en Innovatie LSH' (TKI-LSH, a.k.a. Health~Holland).

Please note that this call for proposals replaces the possibility to apply for PPP-allowance based on 'grondslag' directly via Health~Holland (i.e. previously referred to as Match Call).

Target Group

The TKI grants for PPP projects are available to MUMC+ /FHML researchers who wish to perform an LSH-focused research project in collaboration with (a) private party/ies (at least one for-profit enterprise).

Timeline

Deadline full proposals: Friday January 12th, 2024 14.00 h

More information on the application procedure is detailed from page 5 onwards.

TKI grant amount

In the full proposal stage, each FHML School can submit applications up to a School-specific TKI grant quota (see Table 1). This amount is based on the Schools' contributions to the total LSH PPS allowance over the past 3 years, and takes into account a ~50% success rate in the full proposal stage (see also page 5). There is no pre-specified minimum or maximum budget for individual proposals; e.g. Schools are free to submit proposals with a small or larger budget, as long as, in total, they do not exceed the School's total available quota. Please note that this table specifies the maximum TKI grant amount (i.e. PPS allowance) that can be applied for by the School and *not* the maximum total project budget.

Table 1:
Overview of School-specific **expected** TKI grant quota (full proposal stage),
year 2023.

School	Quota TKI grant
CAPHRI	€ 340.000
CARIM	€ 300.000
GROW	€ 500.000
M4I	€ 300.000
MERLN	€ 300.000
MHeNs	€ 800.000
NUTRIM	€ 1.440.000

General conditions and eligibility criteria

All project proposals should satisfy the conditions for PPP-Match projects as set out by Health~Holland, and as briefly summarized below. The full text is available on the Health~Holland [website](#). In addition, some MUMC+/FHML-specific guidelines apply.

- ❖ At least one applicant must have affiliation with MUMC+/FHML.
- ❖ The research fits within the [Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2020-2023 Health and Care](#).
- ❖ The project is not funded elsewhere.
- ❖ The research is of a qualitatively high level, and the innovative products and services are deliverables that have added societal and economic value.
- ❖ The project involves at least one for-profit enterprise and one research organization (in this case, MUMC+/FHML).
- ❖ The project will be realized at joint cost and risk, and all consortium partners are obligated to contribute financially to the project, not only in cash or materially, but also in kind (i.e. all consortium partners incur payroll costs). The minimum contribution of each party, as a percentage of total project costs, is defined by the type of research performed, and detailed in **Table 2**.
- ❖ The research must be classified as one of the three types: fundamental research, industrial research OR experimental development. Definitions of these research categories can be found on the pre-application form. These categories correspond approximately to the technology readiness level (TRL) of the proposal (TRL 1–3, TRL 4–6, and TRL 7–9). Please note that separate work packages can be classified in different categories or even consist of parts that fall into different categories. Classification might be subject to additional checks if deemed necessary.
- ❖ Based on the research category/ies you select, the maximum percentage of the project costs that can be financed from the grant is as follows:
 - Fundamental research, up to 75%
 - Industrial research, up to 50%
 - Experimental development, up to 25%
- ❖ Private party/ies involved in the PPP are to contribute in cash *and* in kind to guarantee the active involvement of the company/ies. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may also contribute in cash but are not obliged to, thus they may contribute in kind only, like the academic partner(s) (see Table 2). Whether a private party qualifies as an SME (or large enterprise) can be checked [here](#).
- ❖ Budgeted costs should be directly related to the R&D activities and cannot include indirect costs such as bench fees, overhead, supporting/project management tasks, etc. (please check the full of ineligible costs on the [Health Holland website](#)).

Table 2: Funding and matching percentages by research category

	Fundamental (TRL 1–3)	Industrial (TRL 4–6)	Experimental development (TRL 7–9)
Maximum % TKI grant to be deployed	75%	50%	25%
Research Organization*	min. 10%	min. 10%	min. 10%
For-profit and non-profit enterprise(s)**	min. 15%	min. 30%	min. 45%
• Large	- min. 2/3 rd in cash	- min. 2/3 rd in cash	- min. 2/3 rd in cash
• SME***	- may be full in kind	- may be full in kind	- may be full in kind

* Matching in cash or in-kind;

** Matching in cash AND in-kind. The in-kind contribution of personnel hours should reflect that the project is a true collaborative project;

*** SMEs may contribute in kind only, but please note that cash contributions contribute to your overall score (see section on criteria for ranking)!

- ❖ **Specific MUMC+/FHML condition:** If Dutch SMEs intend to use TKI funds for their activities, the applicants must explain why this is necessary for the success of the project. Funds for this purpose must follow the framework regulation PPS Allowance of Health Holland, and conform to the following maximum percentages: 50% of in-kind costs incurred for fundamental or industrial research and 25% of in-kind costs incurred for experimental development. Please note that foreign SMEs may not use TKI funding.
- ❖ **Specific MUMC+/FHML condition:** It is not possible to allocate part of the TKI grant to fund activities at external academic partners. Exceptions may be made but applicants must request and provide an explanation for this necessity.
- ❖ Regarding in-kind contribution as personnel costs: the role and activities of the personnel should be clearly described.
- ❖ The duration of the project is limited to four years and must be finalized by Q4 2028. Thus, four-year projects should start before Q4 2024.
- ❖ The intellectual property (IP) generated in the collaborative project should remain the property of MUMC+/FHML and/or other academic partners. An option to negotiate a market-conform license agreement to use the IP of the academic partners (incl. MUMC+/FHML) is part of the standard consortium agreement.
- ❖ Within six weeks after the grant is awarded, all partners should sign a consortium agreement. **Specific MUMC+/FHML condition:** Please note that it is mandatory to use the template consortium agreement (see our [website](#)). Only non-essential amendments and amendments that are not in conflict with the official Framework for State aid can be made to the template.

- ❖ A detailed budget, describing the contribution of each partner (in cash and in kind) and the allocation of the budget, must be approved (by signature) by the School's managing director and submitted with the full proposal.
- ❖ **Specific MUMC+/FHML condition:** In the full proposal stage, Letters of *Commitment* from all partners (except MUMC+/FHML) are required. Template letter of Commitment can be downloaded from our [website](#).
- ❖ Full proposals must be complete, according to the provided template. Applications with incomplete sections will be disqualified.

Application procedure

The application procedure consists this round of one step submitting a full proposal. Please note, that all full proposals are evaluated in one **joint** evaluation; this means that the best ranking FHML proposals will be selected for funding (regardless of School affiliation – see details below).

Full proposal

It is mandatory to inform your School's Managing Director *and* funding advisor of your intention to submit a full application as soon as possible after the call is published and well ahead of the submission deadline. They are available for support during the preparation of the application. See Annex A for the FHML/MUMC+ application template which is modeled on the Health~Holland format. The template has detailed instructions about content and submission requirements. The application must also be accompanied by signed letters of *Commitment* from all partners (except MUMC+/FHML).

Full proposals submitted before the deadline (**12 January 2024, 14.00 h.**) will first undergo an eligibility check by the FHML Grants Office. In addition, the FHML Grants Office will check, with the support of TKI-LSH, the proposed development stage of the project (research classifications: fundamental/industrial/ experimental development) to prevent the risk of having to pay back any grant money received due to a too opportunistic classification. Applicants will have 2 weeks to adjust the proposal. In case the submission deadline or deadline for adjustments is missed, proposals will be deemed ineligible.

Eligible proposals are then sent to the Research Institutes for pre-selection. Each Institute will review and rank the applications of the researchers of their own Institute. Your Research Institute's Managing Director (i.e. Hoofd Bedrijfsbureau) can provide more details on their pre-selection procedure. Applicants are informed on the outcome of the pre-selection step within 3 weeks of the deadline. Finally, the selected proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the MUMC+/FHML TKI-selection committee, who formulates its funding recommendation to the Board of Directors from the MUMC+. Criteria for ranking and more information on the committee are detailed below.

Criteria for ranking full proposals

The full proposals are evaluated on the following four criteria:

1. Scientific quality.
2. Strategic importance.
3. Potential relevance

See our [webpage](#) for a more detailed description of these three criteria. These three criteria are given ratings between 0 (project fails to address the criterion) to 5 (excellent)¹. Please note that the average review scores for scientific quality, strategic importance, and impact should each be rated ≥ 3 on a scale of 1-5 in order to be eligible for funding. These ratings will then be converted to 3 point scores (i.e. a rating of 15 translates into the max. of 9 points)

4. Amount of in cash contribution by industrial partner(s) receives 0.05 points for every €10K, up to a maximum of 1 point for a €200K (or larger) contribution.

Following the above criteria, the maximum total score is 10 pts. Proposals are ranked by scores, and funding recommendations will be made according to the highest scores until the available budget is depleted. The outcome of the selection procedure is final and binding.

TKI Selection Committee

Full proposals will be distributed at random to at least three members of the MUMC+/FHML TKI selection committee. Conflict-of-interest situations will be avoided, e.g. committee members cannot participate in a project proposal (either as coordinator or co-applicant). The selection committee consists of senior scientists with expertise representing the various areas of the knowledge transfer chain and the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2020–2023 Health and Care.

¹ Annotation scores: 0 = project fails to address the criterion; 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent

CALENDAR

Monday October 16, 2023	Call open. Announcement of the TKI grant; direct mailing to all FHML Schools and Departments.
Friday January 12, 2024 14.00 h	Deadline for full proposals, to be submitted to fhml-pps@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Friday February 23, 2024	Deadline eligibility check
Friday March 8 , 2024	Deadline update/correction of the full proposals, if requested
Friday March 29, 2024	Decision pre-selection by the Research Institute
End May, 2024	Final decisions by the TKI selection committee.
Mid June, 2024	Decision by the board of MUMC+
Monday September 9	Deadline for finalizing and signing the consortium agreement.
November 2028	Ultimate end date for all projects from this TKI grant round (exact date still to be announced by RVO).

Where does the money for the TKI Grant Program come from?

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) stimulates public-private partnerships (PPPs) by providing a 25% subsidy (i.e. PPS Allowance) on private contributions to PPPs. This PPP Allowance is managed by the Topconsortia for Knowledge and Innovation (TKIs), including TKI-Life Science and Health (also known as Health~Holland).

Since 2016, MUMC+/FHML administrates all private contributions to PPP's in the LSH sector in the previous year. This includes those of charity foundations (except the 21 largest Dutch foundations united in the Samenwerkende GezondheidsFondsen). For each PPP, we retrieve the underlying contracts and invoices from our databases, consolidate all project details and forward this to Health~Holland so that they can determine the total amount of PPP allowance ("grondslag") generated by MUMC+/FHML. RVO ("Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland") carries out a final check and informs the Ministry of EZ what amount of PPP allowance should be allocated to MUMC+/FHML. Last year we generated close to 2 million euros; we will use this money to support new research projects selected from this call for proposals.

In additional to the regular grant program described in this brochure, ~€300K of the 2023 TKI grant budget is reserved to support large strategic PPPs in which a MUMC+/FHML researcher acts as coordinator or main co-applicant. Strategic partnerships concern collaborations between multiple private parties, multiple research organizations and Health~Holland. Strategic PPPs are developed in collaboration with Health~Holland, co-funded by Health~Holland and submitted for evaluation to Health Holland. More information can be found on the [Health~Holland website](#). This brochure details the application procedure and regulations for regular TKI grants only. For more information regarding Strategic PPPs funding, including the application procedure, eligibility criteria and timeline, please check our [website](#) or contact fhml-pps@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

We wish you good luck attracting the necessary private funding!