

Grants for Research and Knowledge Development in Physiotherapy (PhD/Postdoc/Researcher) 2026

Application deadline September 1, 2026, at 14:00 (CEST)

Purpose

The grants fund research at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels to strengthen the research expertise of physiotherapists and contribute to the continued advancement of knowledge in physiotherapy. The grants will help strengthen physiotherapists' competence, increase knowledge in physiotherapy, document effect and benefit, contribute to theory development in physiotherapy and stimulate interprofessional research collaboration. The grants will also contribute to knowledge exchange and collaboration between research, education and physiotherapy practice.

Who may apply?

Projects must be formally affiliated with an institution that possesses the necessary prerequisites to fulfill the responsibilities of a research principal, as stipulated by the Norwegian Health Research Act (Helseforskningsloven).

Institutions eligible to apply are:

- Universities and university colleges
- Research institutes subject to Guidelines for basic government funding of Research Institutes (cf. Research Council)
- Health institutions/hospitals with statutory tasks within research and development tasks
- Public sector entities that conduct research, including municipalities

The institution is the designated project owner and the grant recipient.

The institution responsible for the application must:

- fulfill the conditions set by Fysiofondet when granting
- ensure professional progress and implementation of the project
- provide a workplace for project participants

The Project Manager/applicant must hold a doctoral degree and be employed by an eligible applicant institution in at least a 20% position. The Project Manager is responsible for submitting the application, implementing the project and reporting to Fysiofondet.

The research principal, the Project Manager, and the administrative lead for the project **must be approved by Fysiofondet** before an application can be submitted. For applicants who have not previously been approved, please refer to the separate announcement: *Godkjenning som prosjektleder i prosjektansvarlig institusjon*. (Approval as a Project Manager in the Institution responsible for the project.)

What can be applied for?

- **For doctoral projects:** A lump sum amount: Up to 913 000 NOK per year for a four full-time equivalent (FTE) position.
- **For postdoctoral/researcher projects:** A lump sum amount: Up to NOK 1,026,800 per year for a three or four full-time equivalent position.

The grant can be distributed over a period of up to eight years.

The lump sum amount includes salary, social costs, indirect costs and general operating funds for a position as a doctoral fellow or postdoctoral fellow.

25 % work obligation included

For both research fellow positions (four FTEs) and postdoctoral/researcher positions (three or four FTEs), 25% of the allocated funding must be utilized for compulsory work duty. This duty shall help strengthen the candidate's expertise in teaching and administration. The compulsory work must be performed within relevant bachelor's and master's programs or directed towards the health services to foster interaction between research and physiotherapy practice.

The applicant is responsible for developing a plan for compulsory work duty in collaboration with the employer.

Requirements for the Research Fellow Position

The allocation of funding for a doctoral research fellow position is conditional upon:

- The candidate hired for the position being admitted to a doctoral program. There is no requirement to state the candidate's name in the application.
- The research fellow position starting up within the first years after the grant is awarded.

Requirements for the Postdoctoral or Researcher Project

When applying for funding for a postdoctoral or researcher position, the following requirements apply:

- The candidate's name and qualifications must be provided in the application.
- The thesis must have been submitted by the end of the application year. Confirmation that this is realistic must be attached, signed by both the candidate and the supervisor(s).
- Awarding funds to a postdoctoral fellow/researcher requires an approved thesis before taking up the position.
- Fysiofondet only supports one postdoctoral project per candidate.

Fysiofondet does not initially require that positions be advertised but may impose such a condition when awarding positions.

Application content

Applications must be submitted via the online application portal (Søknadsportalen). Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered.

The project description must be written in English and should be between five and ten pages in length.

Description of Knowledge Base and Relevance

The application shall delineate the project's knowledge base, specifying how the project integrates into existing research, addresses identified knowledge gaps, and contributes to the generation of new, relevant knowledge. Furthermore, it should describe how the project fosters disciplinary development and the enhancement of professional practice.

Description of Project Implementation

The application must outline the research questions and provide a rationale for the chosen methodologies and organizational framework. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods may be employed.

Description of Project Benefit

The application must provide a description of the project's expected benefit and utility for the patient/user, the physiotherapy service, the healthcare system, educational institutions, and/or society at large, in both the short and long term.

Utility implies that the knowledge acquired is applicable and can be implemented in practice. For individual projects, this significance may be directed toward specific target groups or lead to knowledge development that contributes to evidence-based practice and health policy.

User Involvement Plan

The application must include a plan for user involvement. Users may contribute to the project in various capacities and across different research phases, including planning, implementation, and the dissemination of results. The plan shall clarify how user participation is ensured and specify the phases and components of the project to which it applies. User involvement is a statutory requirement and a priority area within health policy.

Dissemination Plan

The application must outline a dissemination plan. This includes identifying relevant target groups and specifying activities that will communicate project results to foster evidence-based practice among physiotherapists. Scientific articles resulting from the project must be published with open access to ensure that the knowledge generated is accessible to, and benefit, the widest possible range of physiotherapists. Articles are considered open access when published in indexed Open Access journals or when they are archived in subject-specific digital repositories with unrestricted public access.

Ethics and Legal Basis

The application must account for any ethical issues within the project and how these will be managed. The disbursement of funds is contingent upon obtaining the necessary approvals (REK, Sikt, SLV, etc.) If the project does not raise ethical issues, this must be justified in the application.

Medical and health-related research and quality assurance work are regulated by the Norwegian Health Research Act (Helseforskningsloven) with associated regulations and guidelines, the Norwegian Act on Research Ethics (Forskningsetikkloven), the Personal Data Act

(Personopplysningsloven), and other legislation relevant to the specific project. For projects concerning health technology, an overview of national requirements, recommendations, and approvals can be found on the Norwegian Directorate of Health's webpage regarding the [Guidance and Approval Scheme for Health Technology](#) and [Regulations for the Development of Artificial Intelligence](#) (resources available in Norwegian).

The applicant must familiarize themselves with current legislation and describe in the project protocol how requirements for organizations, ethical approval, data protection, and user involvement are addressed.

Research Environment and Participant Expertise

The application must provide a description of the project participants and their qualifications. If formal collaborations are established with other research environments or institutions, a rationale for such partnerships must be provided.

Please refer to [Template for project description](#).

Assessment of the Application

Applications that meet the requirements of the call for applications are evaluated by an external expert committee with Nordic representation. The Fund Board decides on approvals and rejections.

The assessments will emphasize:

- Scientific Quality:
 - Research question
 - Addressing relevant knowledge gaps
 - Selection and description of methodology
 - Feasibility
- Project Benefit and Significance:
 - for patients and next of kin
 - for disciplinary development within physiotherapy service, including educational utility and contributions to evidence-based practice
 - for the healthcare service, with particular emphasis on primary healthcare
 - in relation to health policy objectives
- Plan for Fulfilling Work Obligations
- Dissemination and User Involvement:
 - Strategies for dissemination of the project (scientific and popular science)
 - Methods for ensuring meaningful user involvement
- Ethics
 - Ethical assessments and plans for applicable regulatory and statutory approvals
- Applicant and Research Environment
 - Qualifications of the Project Manager
 - For postdoctoral projects: assessment of the candidate's qualifications
 - Contributions from collaboration partners

The Fund Board's decision is based on the expert committee's assessments, strategic priorities, and the financial framework.

Notification of Decision

The application deadline is September 1st at 14:00 (CEST) annually. Applicants can expect to receive a notification of the decision in early December of the same year.

For inquiries regarding this grant call, please contact the secretariat at post@fysiofondet.no.