

AMS Sports

Call for Talent Applications 2026

Background: The Sports Programme of Amsterdam Movement Sciences Research Institute

Sufficient physical activity through sports participation is necessary to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases and to maintain economic viability, and as such is a fundament for public health. Optimization of performance is key for recreational and elite sports, as well as talent development. Unfortunately, participation in physical activities and sports entails a risk for adverse health effects (injury and/or illness) that threaten sustainability.

Overall Aim

1. Answering fundamental questions underpinning the aetiology and pathways by which physical (in)activity optimizes, benefits, or harms health and performance;
2. Optimizing performance, health monitoring, diagnostics, and learning techniques and strategies;
3. Developing multidisciplinary clinical treatment and training guidelines, and improving health care interventions including their short- and long-term outcomes; and
4. Investigating the short and long term behavioural and objective effects of interventions (e.g. practice methods) targeted at physical activity promotion, injury / illness prevention, training and sports performance optimization, in various target groups within society, including the (cost-)effectiveness and implementation of such interventions.

We actively pursue interdisciplinary collaboration among the named points, aiming to enhance our understanding of contemporary issues and optimize the impact of interventions in sports-related domains. The program works closely together with the Institute of Sport Science ([AISS](#)) and the Academic Center of Evidence-based Sports medicine ([ACES](#)).

Aim Talent grant

This research grant is intended for early-career researchers who are in the final phase of their PhD *or* within two years after their PhD defence.

The aim is to maximize the scientific and societal output of ongoing or recently completed research, by supporting activities such as scientific publications, valorisation, innovation or implementation efforts, and to foster the career development of researchers following a successful PhD trajectory.

Proposals must make use of existing research data and may focus on:

- Writing an additional scientific publication that is not funded with another grant.
- Preparing a grant application to pursue follow-up research after finalizing their PhD.
- Developing implementation strategies, practical tools, or innovations based on research findings to increase impact in practice.

The proposal may include material costs.

Amsterdam Movement Sciences



Eligibility Criteria

- PhD candidates in their final phase of their PhD trajectory (i.e. in the last year of their PhD or all chapters submitted for publication) or Early Career researchers within two years after their thesis defense are eligible to submit. .
- Projects must be clearly embedded within the Sports research program of Amsterdam Movement Sciences Research Institute (AMS).
- The applicant must be correctly affiliated with AMS 'Sports' in the PURE output registration system.

Requirements

- The proposal must include a brief description of:
 - The scientific project or activity to be funded (i.e. paper or grant).
 - The added value for the AMS Sports research program.
 - A timeline for completion.
 - The potential for valorisation or practical implementation (if applicable).
- Budget: The Program has a budget of €20,000 in total. Proposals up to €20,000 can be submitted. One or multiple grants are available within the total budget of €20,000 of the call. The funds should be spent in the calendar year 2026 (before December 15, 2026). A letter from the Department Head or budget responsible should be submitted with details on expenditure/payment.
- Researchers are encouraged to consider how their proposed activities may contribute to societal impact, for example through valorisation, practical implementation of research findings, or longer-term contributions to innovation and clinical practice.

Application & Review

- The call is open for submissions until **17th of May, 2026, 23:59 hrs (CET)**.
- Applications will first be checked according to the submission requirements;
- Eligible applications will be reviewed by the AMS Sports program board based on:
 - Scientific quality;
 - Relevance;
 - Feasibility;
 - Fit with the Sports research program;
 - Potential for societal impact, valorisation or innovation (if applicable);
- One or two grants will be awarded. We expect to share the outcome within 4 weeks of the deadline.

1. Application form

Where will the applicant be appointed? *Amsterdam UMC, location AMC / Amsterdam UMC, location Vumc / VU, BW* (delete as appropriate).

In which *department* will the research take place/the candidate be appointed?

Will the candidate be appointed by Amsterdam UMC Research BV? Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

2. Details applicant (add CV max. 2 pp.)

Surname and initials:

Given name:

Email:

PhD candidate / Post-doc researcher (delete as appropriate)

(Working) title PhD project:

Date of PhD defense (if post-doc applicant):

PhD start and (expected) end date (contract and thesis defense):

Affiliation: faculty and department:

Supporting AMS Supervisors:

3a. Application title:

3b. Starting date and duration:

3c. Short summary (max. 250 words)

4. Description of the proposed project

(max 1 A4 / font size 11); background and justification, aims and objectives, methods, statistical analysis plan (if applicable), work plan, time schedule and expected new insights).

5. Explain the relevance (max ½ A4 / font 11)

a) for the candidate:

b) the supervising department:

c) the institute:

d) and the research program?

6. Applicant's motivation (max ½ A4 / font 11)

7. Has the applicant received an AMS grant before? If yes, list the amount, year and project name.

8. Budget Specification

Estimated total costs	Description	€
Personnel costs (please specify)		
Material costs (please specify)		
Other, please specify		
Requested amount:		
	<i>Grant: Max €20,000</i>	

Note: If the total project budget exceeds the maximum grant amount, attach letter detailing additional finance.

Is the application also submitted elsewhere? Yes / No. If yes, indicate where:

9. Compulsory supporting documents

- AMS Supervisor(s) support letter (max 1 A4);
- Letter from the Department Head or budget responsible with details on expenditure/payment.
- For PhD candidate applicants: Updated Thesis Training and Support Plan / PhD plan with chapter listing and status of publications.

10. Signatures

Signature budget controller/ Project controller	Name (block letters)	Date
Signature senior applicant/ Supervisor	Name (block letters)	Date
Signature applicant		Date

FINAL NOTE: Save your application as: Surname, Initial_four_first_words_project. E.g.: Bloggs, J_Role_Physical_Fitness_Exercise (omit (in-)definite articles).

The application should be uploaded to [THIS](#) link as one PDF. Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be taken into consideration.
