

MTA LENDÜLET (“MOMENTUM”) PROGRAMME
The Hungarian Academy of Sciences launches
a call for applications
to establish new Lendület (“Momentum”) research groups
2021–2026

Objectives

Under the funding scheme of the Lendület (“Momentum”) Programme, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, hereinafter referred to as “MTA”) launches a call for applications to establish research groups which will start working in 2021. The Lendület (“Momentum”) Programme (hereinafter referred to as “Lendület Programme”) aims at strengthening the community of young researchers in Hungary by attracting internationally acclaimed scientists and highly-talented young researchers, either by hiring them from abroad or keeping them in Hungary. The mission of the Lendület Programme is to support both excellence and mobility; accordingly, its purpose is to provide funding for research groups to be set up at host institutions which conduct research with a potential for groundbreaking results. A total amount of HUF 460 million may be earmarked for the funding of the new Lendület research groups from the funds made available under the appropriation transferred in January 2021 from Annex 1, Chapter XXXVI “ELKH”, Title 4 “Chapter-managed appropriations”, Subtitle 2 “Support for excellence grant programmes”, provided for in Act XC of 2020 in the Central Budget of Hungary for the Year 2021 (the Central Budget Act), to Chapter XXXIII “Hungarian Academy of Sciences”, Title 6 “Chapter-managed appropriations”, Subtitle 6 “Lendület (Momentum) Programme”, provided for in the same Act, allowing for the funding of 11 or 12 new Lendület research groups with starting dates between 1st September 2021 and 1st December 2021. The entire grant period, in accordance with the provisions of this call and with the grant award document, may be a maximum of 5 years. It is a precondition for the actual transfer of the grant amounts due to be paid that the budget earmarked for the implementation of the Lendület Programme in the central budget of the year concerned should be sufficient for the further funding of the Lendület research groups.

Eligibility and conditions of participation

1. Researchers with a scientific PhD/DLA degree are invited to submit applications – in line with their respective age-groups and scientific achievements – to head new Lendület research groups in the categories specified below:

The Lendület I Grant is to be awarded to promising young researchers with outstanding and steadily increasing scientific output who meet the following criteria:

- they are under 38 years of age (born after 31st August 1983);
- they obtained their PhD degree before 1st September 2017;
- they have already received a prestigious Hungarian (“OTKA”, “MTA Bolyai”, “MTA Premium”) or international postdoctoral or research grant.

The Lendület II Grant is to be awarded to internationally acclaimed, leading researchers with excellent and steadily increasing scientific output who meet the following criteria:

- they are under 45 years of age (born after 31st August 1976);

- they have already received a prestigious Hungarian (“OTKA”, “MTA Bolyai”, “MTA Premium”) or international postdoctoral or research grant;
- they have already received either a Lendület I Grant or any international grant comparable to a Lendület grant.

In the “Lendület I” category, a grant may be obtained only once.

Winners of both categories must undertake to apply for one of the calls of the European Research Council (ERC) in the course of their Lendület project.

A researcher raising a child shall be granted an age limit extension of 2 years per child as an extension of the standard age limit if, prior to the submission of the application, the researcher has received a childcare benefit based on Act LXXXIV of 1998 on Family Support or has received pecuniary health insurance benefits for childcare purposes pursuant to Act LXXXIII of 1997 on the Benefits of Compulsory Health Insurance. Applicants must provide evidence of their eligibility for the age limit extension in the documentation of their application.

2. Within the framework of the Lendület Programme, applications may be submitted for research activities to be conducted either at a research institution belonging to the Secretariat of the Loránd Eötvös Research Network (“Eötvös Loránd Kutatási Hálózat Titkársága”), at a Hungarian institution of higher education or at a Hungarian public collection or public institution conducting scientific research according to its statutes (hereinafter altogether referred to as “research entity”) as host institutions. Applications must be submitted jointly by the head of the host institution – that is, either the head of the institution or the rector of the institution of higher education hosting the research group – and the prospective Principal Investigator (hereinafter referred to as “PI”) of the research group to be established. Only new research themes, or research themes that have been on the agenda of the research entity for no longer than five years, exhibiting considerable success, may be proposed in the application. The specific research theme must be in strategic alignment with a promising line of research attracting considerable international interest, that is, a line of research whose performance indicator is, based on international assessment, considered excellent and as having been continuously on the rise over the last five years, the details of which must be provided in the application for the proposed topic.
3. The grant is non-repayable and its minimum amount is HUF 25 million per year throughout the grant scheme, while the maximum amount is HUF 40 million per year. Where the research involves the purchase and use of expensive research infrastructure, the maximum amount of the grant can be up to HUF 50 million per year, although the average annual grant amounts cannot exceed HUF 45 million. The existence of the award grantee’s own resources are not required by the Grantor.
4. In the fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences, project activities may, when properly justified, include a study visit or a work assignment under fixed-term employment abroad, the duration of which may not exceed one year.
5. A researcher can be a member or PI of only one Lendület research group at a time.
6. The prospective PI must ensure that in the case of receiving the Lendület grant, he or she will reside in Hungary throughout the duration of the entire grant period.
7. Applicants must be registered users of the Hungarian Scientific Bibliography Database (“Magyar Tudományos Művek Tára”, hereinafter referred to as “MTMT”), and their publication data stored there must be up-to-date.

Submission of applications, requirements regarding form and content

Applications must be submitted in English (applications in the fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences may, in justified cases, be submitted exclusively in Hungarian) via the electronic submission portal of Lendület (https://palyazat.mta.hu/lendulet_2021). The deadline for electronic submission is

16:00 CET, 16th March 2021.

The *host institution's declaration*, to be downloaded from the submission portal and to be signed by the head of the host institution and its chief financial officer, as well as the *applicant's declaration*, to be downloaded from the same portal and to be signed by the prospective PI, shall also be submitted by post with one copy each to the Department of Grant Management of the Secretariat of MTA (hereinafter referred to as "Department of Grant Management") (name and address: MTA Titkársága, Kutatási Pályázatok Osztálya, Nádor utca 7., H-1051 Budapest), with the latest date of the postmark being the electronic submission deadline specified above. The reference "*Lendület pályázat 2021*" ("Application for Lendület 2021") shall be put on the envelope containing the documents. No application fee shall be charged.

For further information regarding the full application procedure, applicants are requested to contact the staff of the Department of Grant Management at the e-mail address lendulet@titkarsag.mta.hu, or by phone at +36 1 411 6336.

The submission portal of Lendület can be entered by using the username and password valid for MTA Akadémiai Adattár (the Academy's Database, hereinafter referred to as "AAT"). The submission portal automatically retrieves the prospective PI's data stored in the AAT, so these data should and can only be modified in the AAT. To ensure that the data used are up-to-date, applicants are requested to update their data in the AAT where relevant.

If the applicant has not registered in the AAT yet, registration can be done using *Guide 1*. If the applicant has already got an AAT username and password (or after registration has been successfully completed), the applicant should follow the instructions in the Guide from point 3 onwards, so as to fill in the obligatory data in the AAT.

On the submission portal of Lendület, *Guide 2* should be consulted for completing and submitting the application.

The Secretariat of MTA shall perform the administrative duties related to the management of the Lendület Programme pursuant to § 19 (1) of Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the "Academy Act").

The application package must include:

The following details to be entered in the online application forms on the submission portal:

- Personal data of the PI (name, date of birth, nationality, gender, contact details, name of current employer, scientific degree and date of its acquisition, MTMT registration number);
- Application data (Lendület category, application title, field of science, short description of the research project, short summary for the media, name of the host institution, name of the research group);
- A list of prestigious Hungarian ("OTKA", "MTA Bolyai", "MTA Premium") or international postdoctoral or research grants which the prospective PI has already obtained (name of the grant, research subject, period, result/qualification);
- The prospective PI's scientific results, scientometric data and publication activity;
- The grant amount requested, broken down in annual amounts (in millions of HUF);

- Additional data (suggested foreign reviewers or Hungarian reviewers living abroad, their contact details, reviewers whose involvement the prospective PI would like to avoid, information about proposed group members, and in the case of age limit extension requests, the number of children the prospective PI has).

The following documents to be uploaded to the submission portal (in pdf format):

- A research plan (using the template which can be downloaded from the submission portal) which shall be composed of:
 - I) A brief summary of the proposed project in Hungarian and in English;
 - II) A short description of the five-year research project; in addition, in the case of applications in the humanities and social sciences, possible suggestion by the applicant as to the major evaluation criteria to be used for the progress reports (for further details see the “*Funding conditions for grantees*” section);
 - III) A detailed work plan for the first three-year phase of the project, with a breakdown of tasks by year, including envisaged output and publication activity;
 - IV) Antecedents of the research plan in terms of personnel and institutional background:
 - A) the respective CVs and lists of publications of the prospective PI and of the main project participants, and the publication-related and scientometric data for the prospective PI;
 - B) a declaration of the host institution describing how the planned research fits into the strategic plans of the host institution and the reasons for the support of the line of research represented by the planned project. In the case of applications submitted by researchers already working at the host institution, an explanation as to why the applicant is submitting a proposal for a Lendület project to be implemented at his/her own current research entity and in what way the application differs from other research projects (e.g. those announced by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, NKFIH) in addressing predetermined research themes and, alternatively, how the application can complement other ongoing research;
 - C) a description of the host institution’s research infrastructure, scientific capacities, and of the host institution’s contribution, where relevant, to the successful implementation of the planned research project (in the case of the allocation of financial resources by the host institution to the project, the relevant financial data shall be given in detail);
 - V) An aggregated budget plan for the entire grant period with an annual breakdown, supplemented by a justification;
- The latest tables retrieved from MTMT showing general and special information;
- A declaration by the host institution (using the template which can be downloaded from the submission portal), signed by the head and chief financial officer of the host institution;
- A declaration by the applicant (on the authenticity and correctness of the data provided, on their residence in Hungary, and on the processing of personal data, using the template which can be downloaded from the submission portal), signed by the prospective PI;
- A budget plan (using the template which can be downloaded from the submission portal).

The following original documents to be submitted also on paper (by post):

- the host institution’s declaration (downloadable from the submission portal), which shall be signed by the head of the host institution and its chief financial officer;
- the declaration by the applicant (using the template which can be downloaded from the submission portal), which shall be signed by the prospective PI.

The applications submitted will be checked by the Department of Grant Management. Where the application meets the formal requirements specified in the call, the Department of Grant

Management will, at the latest, by the 7th day after submission, by 11:59 p.m., send to the applicant a confirmation of admission of the application for evaluation; otherwise, it shall reject the application without evaluating it.

The application shall be rejected without evaluation if (1) the applicant is personally ineligible to apply; (2) the documents required in the call are received after the time limit; (3) the applicant has provided information which is either false, forged or misleading, and which could substantially affect the outcome of the decision upon evaluation. In the event that an application which has been admitted for evaluation turns out to be incorrect or incomplete, the Department of Grant Management shall call on the applicant to remedy the deficiencies identified. Such remedy of deficiencies may be allowed once, and the applicant must provide the correct or complete version within five (5) working days after receipt of the notification to this effect. Should the applicant provide a rectification which contains an error or which is incomplete, or should the applicant fail to correct any irregularities within the specified time limit, the application may be rejected by the Secretary-General of MTA without further examination of its content. The grantor shall provide reasons for the rejection.

Legal remedy

No legal remedy may be sought concerning the substance of the decision on the results of the call.

Information on how to lodge a complaint

Applicants may lodge a complaint, addressed to the President of MTA, should they believe that a procedural element of the call procedure or of the decision-making concerning the award of the grant, or of the issue of the grant award document or of the transfer of the state-funded grant amount or of the recovery of undue payments has violated in any way a legislative provision or has been contrary to what has been provided for in this call for applications. No complaint can be lodged concerning the scientific evaluation of the applications. The complaint shall contain the name and address of the applicant lodging the complaint, the specification of the contested measure or of the instance of inaction, the description of the relevant facts, the identification of the specific legislative provision or provision of this call which was allegedly violated or instance of inaction, and the signature of the applicant lodging the complaint.

The complaint may be submitted only once within 15 days following the receipt of the notification about the decision containing the contested measure or implying an instance of inaction, via e-mail to the address lendulet@titkarsag.mta.hu and at the same time by post, using the postal address of the Department of Grant Management: MTA Titkarsága, Kutatási Pályázatok Osztálya, Nádor u. 7., H-1051 Budapest. The complaint shall be decided on by the President of MTA within 30 days following its receipt and shall be limited to matters which are being specifically contested in the complaint. Incomplete complaints, or complaints lodged after the above-mentioned deadline or complaints concerning the scientific evaluation shall be rejected without further examination.

Evaluation of the applications submitted

In the evaluation and ranking of the applications, preference will be given to researchers presently living abroad who have already received international recognition for their research conducted abroad and are planning to return to Hungary.

The evaluation of the applications proceeds in two stages. In stage one, formally valid applications are reviewed anonymously by at least three experts, Hungarian and foreign nationals, invited by the Lendület Evaluation Panel. The reviews shall contain a descriptive assessment of the applications as well as a score along the guidelines previously determined. In their descriptive assessment, reviewers must make it clear whether or not they recommend the applications for funding and also whether or not they consider the requested grant amounts realistic. If they think that the grant amounts requested are not realistic, they may recommend a modification of the grant amounts. Reviewers (and

the Evaluation Panel, at a later stage) shall apply the provisions of the call for applications which set out the preferred conditions.

Scoring

A) Comprehensive evaluation of the research programme in terms of the importance, novelty and international competitiveness of the topic, and in terms of the criteria of envisaged performance and feasibility (see Point 2 of the “*Eligibility and conditions of participation*” section). Under this point: 1) the readiness of the research work for economic utilisation and its potential for development; 2) its societal relevance; 3) its contribution to the preservation of the national cultural heritage may also be taken into account. Out of the three aspects, only the one which is relevant for the project will be considered. (*Maximum score: 30 points.*)

B) Evaluation of the applicant’s scientific performance in the last five active years. This shall be scored taking into account the applicant’s most significant scientific achievement, the number of citations of his/her work, the structure of his/her publication output and the number of his/her publications (in this order of importance). (*Maximum score: 40 points.*)

C) Evaluation of the applicant’s scientific performance throughout his/her entire career, along the lines specified in B). (*Maximum score: 20 points.*)

D) Evaluation of the applicant’s independent participation in research grant calls in the last five active years. (*Maximum score: 10 points.*)

Maximum scores in each aspect must be specifically justified by the reviewers.

Total maximum score: 100 points

Descriptive assessment

E) Descriptive assessment of the elements listed in points A) through D) above (the description of each point shall be limited to 1,500 characters on average, including spaces).

F) Statement as to whether the application should or should not be selected for funding, also taking into account the extent to which the host institution is prepared and suitable to host the project.

G) Statement as to whether the budget plan of the application is realistic. (If the reviewer thinks it is not realistic, but the application is otherwise worthy of support, the reviewer shall propose another grant amount which he/she finds more realistic and sufficient for the implementation of the research programme envisaged.)

After summarising the assessments, in stage two of the evaluation process the evaluation panel invited by the President of MTA (the “Lendület Evaluation Panel”) shall review the applications, taking into account the anonymous reviewers’ descriptive assessments and scores as well as the differences between scores and the provisions setting out the advantages to be considered, and shall rank the applications. The number of applications ranked by the panel shall be 30 percent higher than the number of applications that can be funded from the budget earmarked for the Lendület grant scheme.

Based on the ranking created by the Lendület Evaluation Panel, the Lendület Committee shall propose to the President of MTA a list of the applications to be selected for funding as well as the respective grant amounts.

The final selection decision shall be made by the President of MTA within 90 calendar days after the application submission deadline.

Applicants shall be notified of the call results by the Department of Grant Management via e-mail within 10 working days after the decision has been made. Within 10 working days after the announcement of the call results, applicants will be provided access to the anonymous reviews of their applications on the submission portal. A list of the winners and the titles of their research projects will be made public on MTA’s website.

Funding conditions for grantees

Upon meeting the conditions laid out in the grant award document, the applicant is to be allocated a non-repayable grant amount which is allocated on a yearly basis. The annual state-funded grant amounts shall be set in view of the part of the budget which has been earmarked for the Lendület grant scheme for the given year.

The detailed rules concerning the transfer and the use of the state-funded grant amounts as well as the eventual repayment of unduly used grant amounts shall be laid down in the grant award document. The grant award document shall be issued within 30 days of the announcement of the call results.

Upon the entry into force of the grant award document, the PI of the Lendület research group concerned will be required to renounce any János Bolyai Research Scholarship he or she may have obtained previously and to refrain from participating in any running Lendület project.

Upon the entry into force of the grant award document, the PI of the Lendület research group concerned will be required to reside in Hungary.

The grant may be used for both personnel and operational expenditures. The grant may cover the remuneration/salary for the PI, including social security expenses, or a wage supplement. Unless the PI of the new research group has been previously employed by the host research institution, he/she shall be appointed to full-time public employee status for a fixed term based on the declaration of commitment issued by the host institution. If the PI has already been employed by the host institution by the time the Lendület grant period begins, he/she may be entitled to a wage increase to be covered from the grant.

It is required that the PI of the research group retain during the Lendület grant period full-time public employee status at the host institution and that at least 50 percent of the PI's full working time (at least 0.5 FTE) be dedicated to the Lendület project. The FTE value incorporating the PI's involvement in other grants and projects cannot exceed 1 in any period throughout the duration of the Lendület project.

The budget plan may provide for a gross remuneration/salary of HUF 1,000,000/month for the PI in the "Lendület I" category, and a gross remuneration/salary of HUF 1,300,000/month in the "Lendület II" category, to be covered from the grant. The provision of higher amounts may be allowed only in duly justified cases. Such justification has to be specifically presented in the budget plan, and the decision on any higher remuneration shall be made by the Lendület Evaluation Panel.

Where the grantee has already been employed by the host institution at the time of the award of the grant, the amount that the host institution may allocate to cover the grantee's remuneration under the project shall be the difference between the amount of remuneration/salary specified above (including social security expenses) and the grantee's regular remuneration fixed in his/her appointment or employment contract. This difference shall be given as a fixed-term monthly supplement in order to acknowledge and encourage the extra work performed.

In addition to this, the grant may cover, in accordance with what has been set out in the application, the salary of one or more researchers, including related social security expenses, current expenses such as material and supplies and overheads related to the project, and the purchase of new instruments needed for the research. PIs and members of the research group may not carry out under any other legal relationship the same research activities as those carried out in the funded Lendület project.

The PI of the Lendület research group must prepare a progress report each year on the group's work. This report shall be reviewed by the "Lendület Board" (composed of the Lendület Evaluation Panel and the higher-ranking Lendület Committee), invited by the President of MTA.

The annual (1st year, 2nd year, 4th year) progress reports will be short summaries of the research work performed and the results achieved. Each report will be reviewed anonymously by one expert.

The three-year progress report is required to be prepared for review by the third year and shall be a detailed summary of the research work completed by the research group, highlighting the most important results of international importance; in conjunction with this an oral presentation is also required to be given by the PI. The final report, to be submitted following the 5th year of the project, shall be a comprehensive account of the performance of the research group, to be complemented with an oral presentation. The three-year progress report and the final report shall each be reviewed anonymously by 3 experts. The PIs' oral presentations shall be heard and judged by the members of the competent section of the Lendület Evaluation Panel.

Researchers applying in a field of the humanities and social sciences may in their application propose a choice as to which of the procedures should be used in applying the major evaluation criteria for the evaluation of the project from the 3rd project year; however, this cannot be changed later:

- in evaluation procedure "A", the evaluation shall be based on the originality of the researcher's own discoveries, theories, interpretations, innovative achievements or the amount of grants obtained;
- in evaluation procedure "B", the evaluation criteria shall include the novelty of the research, publication activities, conference papers, international integration, mentoring of young researchers, and public outreach.

Evaluation procedure "A" is typically suitable for the social sciences, while evaluation procedure "B" is typical for the humanities.

Based on the reports and their evaluations, the relevant sections of the Lendület Evaluation Panel shall put forward their proposals regarding the acceptance and classification of the reports to the Lendület Committee. The Lendület Committee shall formulate its opinion based on the proposals submitted by the sections of the Lendület Evaluation Panel and on the reports themselves. Relying on the opinion formulated by the Lendület Board, the President of MTA shall decide on the qualification of the given research group's performance and shall notify the PI of the research group and the head of the host institution of his decision.

Where it is established in the evaluation that the research group's scientific performance has been "unsuccessful" for the first 3 years, the grant amount meant to cover the period from the date of entry into force of the relevant decision of MTA's President up to the end of the 4th year of the project may be used by the group only to such an extent as to cover the costs of the phase-out, that is, the costs of the dissolution of the research group.

During the grant period, Lendület research groups are expected to draw up their independent research programmes, to act as advisors to students preparing for university-level scientific competitions or preparing their PhD dissertations, and they are expected to make every effort for their own successful participation in Hungarian and international research grant calls.

Where the PI of the Lendület research group obtains an ERC grant during the Lendület grant period, the grant award document related to the Lendület project may, subject to the proposal of the Lendület Committee and the decision of MTA's President, be modified accordingly.

Further information

MTA hereby informs applicants of the following:

- a) The Hungarian State Treasury operates a monitoring system regarding budgetary funding and is involved in the coordination of the use of budgetary support funds. A support decision not registered in the monitoring system may not serve as a basis for valid funding.
- b) By providing data for the monitoring system, MTA shall ensure that in the case of funding through a grant process, the data of the call for applications are published on the relevant website, as are all data related to facts occurring or conditions determined by MTA in

connection with the use of the grant amount, as well as data related to facts and conditions concerning the legal relationship between grantor and grantee, the provision of the grant amount, and any reporting requirement. The data registered in the monitoring system may be deleted after 5 years from the last calendar day of the year in which the decision of support was made.

- c) The legal provisions on the right to informational self-determination set out what shall be considered as data of public interest. The data which would not qualify as such in the first place but are being processed by an individual or a body
- who/which is in charge of the preparation of the call for applications;
 - who/which is in charge of the announcement of the call for applications;
 - who/which is in charge of the preparation of the decision on the award of the grant;
 - who/which is in charge of the decision-making, and which are related to the call for applications or to the application process or to the decision on the award of the grant shall be considered data which are public on grounds of public interest, provided that they are not to be considered sensitive or special personal data.
- d) MTA shall check the use of the grant in line with the terms of the grant award document, pursuant to the provisions of Government Decree 368/2011 (XII. 31.) on the implementation of the Act on Public Finances.

The aim of and legal basis for the processing of personal data during the call procedure

- a) The personal data given by the applicant shall be processed for the purposes of the conduct of the call procedure by the Department of Grant Management at the Secretariat of MTA within the Consolidated Grant Management Framework (“Egységes Pályázati Keretrendszer”, “EPK”) of MTA.
These personal data will be accessible to the competent organisational units of the Secretariat of MTA based on the MTA’s statutes and rules of procedures, as well as to reviewers participating in the evaluation process of the applications, in so much as it is needed for the performance of their duties defined by law.
The personal data of the grantees will be processed by the host institution concerned in order to conclude the contract of employment as well as the Secretariat of MTA in order to issue the grant award document and to process the financial reports related to the grant.
- b) The legal basis for the processing of personal data is the duty to perform public service tasks as specified in the Academy Act and in Act LXXVI of 2014 on Scientific Research, Development and Innovation.
- c) Any changes in the personal data of the applicant should be communicated at the following e-mail address: lendulet@titkarsag.mta.hu.
- d) The guideline on MTA’s data processing policy is available on MTA’s website www.mta.hu, under “Hasznos információk” (Useful information), by selecting “Adatkezelési tájékoztató” (Data Processing Policy).

Budapest, 28th January 2021

Tamás Freund
President of MTA