

BRAYN STARTING GRANT 2026

A little help to grow as a
Neuroscientist



9th BRAINSTORMING RESEARCH ASSEMBLY
FOR YOUNG NEUROSCIENTISTS
CATANIA • 30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2026

www.brainconference.com

ONE EXPERIMENT TO RULE THEM ALL!

Neuroscience is one of the most challenging fields of research. Although our understanding of the nervous system keeps growing exponentially, we still have much to learn, especially regarding the intricate interplay between all the different cell types involved in maintaining its homeostasis and counteracting the insults. Indeed, cell-to-cell communication between neurons, astrocytes, microglia, pericytes, endothelial cells and immune cells can significantly impact the nervous system biology, both in physiological and pathological conditions.

The BraYn Association will fund PhD students, post-docs, early-career principal investigators, neurology residents and neurologists to answer an experimental question with a focused research plan in the field of neuroscience, either to validate a hypothesis that concludes a story or to test a hypothesis being the base of a new story. The story and/or approach proposed should be highly innovative. **The grant proposal has to be consistent with the budget (5000 euros) and the time frame (6 months).**

Topics that may be covered are the following: **Neuroimaging & Clinical Neurology, Neurodegeneration, Neu-**

ro-development, Neuro-oncology, Neuroinflammation, Neurophysiology & Neural Plasticity, Cognitive Neuroscience.

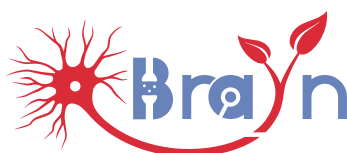
PhD students or Postdocs at a very early stage of their career from anywhere around the world can apply. The grant proposal should be structured as follows:

Two pages including a brief introduction, scope of the research, preliminary results (optional), a key experimental approach, and a clear indication of the topic(s) covered among those indicated above.

Not included in the two page limit:

- **One page for references (max of 10);**
- **One figure page (optional);**
- **Financials. Funds should be spent on consumables;**
- **Two-pages curriculum vitae (CV);**
- **Applications using funds for stipends, mice, or equipment will not be accepted.**

The successful candidate will be asked to submit a report by two months after the end of the grant period and will be offered the possibility to present the results obtained at the next BraYn Conference in 2027.



Time: 6 months (starting January 2027).

Funds must be disbursed to the research host institution by December 22, 2026.

Funding: 5000 euros

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants are eligible if they are within 3 years from the date of PhD award, calculated as of July 3, 2026 (application deadline). This is the only eligibility criterion regarding career stage.

PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, medical residents, neurologists, and early-career researchers can apply provided they fall within this time window.

If applicants are unsure about their eligibility, they are encouraged to contact the BraYn Association before submitting the application.

Examples of eligibility

- I am a PhD student → I can apply.
- I graduated in Medicine/Biology or other but I do not have a PhD yet → I can apply.
- I obtained my PhD in 2025 → I can apply.
- I obtained my PhD in 2024 → I can apply.
- I obtained my PhD after July 3, 2023 → I can apply.
- I obtained my PhD before July 3, 2023 → I cannot apply.

In summary: Eligible applicants must have obtained their PhD no earlier than July 3, 2023.

- Valid contract until the end of the project.
- Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file to

info@braynconference.com

- Applicants must be registered for the BraYn 2026 conference and must be a member of the BraYn Association.

TEMPLATE

Layout

Margins 3 cm; Times New Roman 11 pt, single spacing. [You can download the Application Form on the web site.](#)

Applicant information

- Project Title
- Name of the applicant (Principal Investigator, PI)
- Affiliation

Background. Explain the background of the research and the challenges it seeks to address, and highlight the originality and potential impact of the research, in both academic and non-academic contexts.

Preliminary results (optional). Report the relevant experimental data that support the likely success of the research project. Preliminary results should be generated by the applicant and must not refer to data that can be found in the literature. One figure can be included.



Objective. State clearly the objectives, questions or hypotheses that the research will address.

Research design and methodology.

Explain the experimental plan of the research to be undertaken in order to address the above objectives. Describe the methodologies, approaches, equipment, and data interpretation to be utilised.

Budget justification

Justify each element of the project budget to show that the requested resources are necessary to conduct the research.

References

Maximum of 10

Curriculum Vitae

For the lead applicant, describe research career to date, including degrees and qualifications, academic and professional posts, relevant publications and other achievements and appointments. CVs should clearly show that the candidate meets the eligibility criteria. It should not exceed 2 pages.

For more information

www.braynconference.com

www.braynassociation.com

