

## RMU Award for Pharmaceutical Research & Innovative Medical Therapies of the Frankfurt Foundation Quality of Medicines (FFQM)

### Call for Applications

The **Frankfurt Foundation Quality of Medicines (FFQM)** and the **Rhine-Main Universities (RMU)**, consisting of Goethe University Frankfurt, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, and Technical University of Darmstadt, are calling for applications for the **RMU Award for Pharmaceutical Research & Innovative Medical Therapies** for the year 2026.

The call for applications is open to **RMU postdoctoral researchers at the career stages R2 (Recognized Researchers) and R3 (Established Researchers)**. It recognizes **pioneering and creative research ideas that are convincingly presented on the basis of scientifically sound concepts**. The focus is therefore not on past academic achievements, such as a doctoral thesis or specific publications, but rather on the presentation of innovative research perspectives. The aim of the award is to support applicants in their transition to the next stage of their academic qualification or career and to provide visibility for innovative ideas at an early stage.

The RMU Award for Pharmaceutical Research & Innovative Medical Therapies is endowed with €10,000. The prize money will be provided directly by the Foundation.

### Application procedure

Early Career Researchers who are conducting research at one of the universities of the RMU Alliance and whose position is secured for at least another two years through an employment contract or a scholarship/fellowship are invited to submit applications:

- Early Career Researchers (R2) who have completed their doctorate, do not yet independently lead a research project, and are employed at or conducting research under a fellowship at one of the universities of the RMU Alliance.
- Early Career Researchers (R3) who have completed their doctorate, independently lead a research project, and are either pursuing qualification for a professorship or hold a permanent position at one of the universities of the RMU Alliance.

Applications must include a scientifically sound project proposal (maximum 5 pages) addressing the following aspects:

- Title and short description of the proposed research project (abstract)

- Description of the scientific foundations on which the project is based, including a list of conceptually relevant publications
- Description of the scientific objective(s) and the relevance of the expected research outcomes
- Explanation of the methodological approach
- Information on any planned collaborations within or outside the RMU
- Timeline and implementation perspective within the RMU, including associated institutes, as well as an estimated budget and planned funding sources
- Relevance of the project to the applicant's scientific expertise and outlook for future career development

In addition, the following documents are required:

- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- Letter of recommendation from a scientist familiar with the applicant's academic work

### **Submission of application documents**

Application documents must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file via e-mail to:

**gs@rhein-main-universitaeten.de**

Application deadline: 15 August 2026

### **Selection procedure and jury**

The award recipient will be selected by an expert jury composed of members of the RMU universities as well as external researchers from the pharmaceutical and medical sciences.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Originality and innovative character of the proposed concept
- Scientific quality of the project description and assessment of the feasibility of the proposed research project
- Relevance to the applicant's academic and professional development

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place during an RMU event on the evening of 20 October 2026 at Goethe University Frankfurt. The award recipient will also be invited to give a short presentation on the awarded research concept.

### **Exclusion of legal recourse**

- There is no legal entitlement to receive the RMU Award for Pharmaceutical Research & Innovative Medical Therapies 2026.
- Legal recourse is excluded.