

Applying for a one-year research and dissertation grant

General

The grant application must be submitted using the application form provided by the Cancer Societies of South-West Finland. The application form is available at www.lounais-suomensyopayhdistys.fi/apurahat. You can also obtain the form from representative Ville Viitanen, ville.viitanen@lssy.fi. Ville provides additional information as needed.

Send the application and its attachments as one PDF file by email to Ville Viitanen, secretary of the fund management committees, ville.viitanen@lssy.fi, no later than August 31, 2026. The research plan and its attachments must adhere to the general guidelines of the Cancer Societies of South-West Finland and those provided in the application form.

Grant applications are classified as follows:

- One-year research and dissertation grants
- Travel grants

Research grants are only awarded for one year at a time. Each research team may receive only one research grant. This does not apply to dissertation grants, which are applied for separately. An applicant may not receive both a research grant and a travel grant at the same time.

A separate application must be submitted for each grant. Any grants the applicant has received from Cancer Foundation Finland during the year in question will be taken into account when processing the application.

Grants will be awarded on December 4, 2026, at the Southwest Finland Cancer Prevention Day event, which will be held at the Meri-Karina wellness centre. Grant recipients are encouraged to attend the event to receive their grants. Please notify Ville Viitanen, secretary of the fund management committees (ville.viitanen@lssy.fi), if you are unable to attend.

Research grants

Applicants must indicate the research area on which their research focuses by checking only one box on their application. The research areas are: clinical research, basic research, epidemiological research, psychosocial research, health sciences research, and other.

Applications for research grants must include a one-page abstract and a research plan in Finnish, Swedish, or English. The research plan must not exceed 4 pages including references (using normal-sized letters, 12 characters per inch, line spacing 1.5). The application must include the Ethics committee and/or animal experimentation committee permit numbers and dates of issue.

Attachments to the application:

1. A list of publications from the past 5 years (list the 5 most relevant publications for the research project)
2. A CV of no more than one page, detailing domestic and foreign education (list any postgraduate studies separately, and mention any supervised and/or ongoing dissertations).
3. Those who have received a grant from the Cancer Societies of South-West Finland must submit a 1-page report detailing what was achieved with previous grants from Cancer Societies of South-West Finland.

The research plan is structured as follows:

- Purpose, background, and objectives of the research
 - At the end of this section, list the detailed objectives with numbers.
- Significance of the research
 - Relate your research project to other research or backgrounds.
 - Describe the study's significance for the diagnosing, treating, and researching cancer, as well as for providing psychosocial support to patients and their loved ones. The application must clearly demonstrate the project's relevance to cancer treatment and patients.
- Research progress to date
 - This section may also include preliminary results that have not yet been published. Additionally, list the five most significant achievements in this section of the study in terms of cancer research and psychosocial support for patients and their loved ones (each in no more than two sentences).
- Conducting the research and assessing realism (including temporal realism)
 - Used approaches, materials, and methods.
 - Describe the research data in detail including sample sizes, selection criteria, potential selection bias, matching criteria, and principles of randomization.
 - Provide an appropriate description of the definitions, measurements, and selections of various clinical, psychosocial, and other parameters.
 - Provide a detailed description of further analyses of the observational data to allow an assessment of the project's ability to answer the specific questions posed in the problem statement. This is a key point in assessing the feasibility of the research.
- Cost estimate: research environment and equipment, as well as salaries for supporting staff
 - This section describes the availability of resources and equipment at the research site. If the research is collaborative, describe the division of research work.
- Ethical issues
 - Patients, relatives of patients
 - Vertebrate animals
- Literature references

The recipient of a research grant may use part of the grant for travel to conferences, provided that such travel has already been specified in the application.

Support is primarily provided for research conducted in southwestern Finland. Decisions regarding support for research conducted abroad are made on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants for grants to conduct research abroad must provide a statement detailing any other domestic and/or foreign funding related to the project.

The application must specify the activities to be carried out as part of the project abroad. In addition, attach a written invitation or contract from the host.

Dissertation grants

The application must be written by the doctoral candidate, and the grant can only be received once. To be eligible applicants must have at least one part of their dissertation published or accepted for publication (submitted or pre-print statuses are not sufficient). Recipients must be admitted to a doctoral school or program.

Authors of monograph dissertations must explain the progress of their work.

If the dissertation includes publications in which two researchers have made an equal contribution, the application must specify which co-authored publications will be included in the applicant's dissertation.

The dissertation grant awarded in 2026 is 5,000 euros.

The grant will not be awarded if the dissertation has been accepted for publication by the end of the application period.

Application processing

The joint meeting of the management committees of the Cancer Societies of South-West Finland is held annually in November. Based on the recommendations of the grants committee, the meeting decides which grants to award. Grants will be awarded on December 4, 2026, at the Southwest Finland Cancer Prevention Day event in Meri-Karina.

Grants are evaluated in accordance with the conflict-of-interest guidelines approved by the Cancer Society.

Rejection of applications

Late applications will not be accepted. Application forms that are not completed according to the instructions will not be processed. To receive the grant, the researcher must report on and account for previous grants in accordance with the guidelines. Any unaccounted-for grant may be required to be returned to the Cancer Societies of South-West Finland.

Social security and reporting obligations of grant recipients

A grant recipient residing in Finland must obtain insurance if they work on the grant continuously for at least four (4) months and the grant amount is at least 1,570 euros, which corresponds to an annual income of 4,700 euros (at 2026 levels).

The Cancer Societies of South-West Finland report to Mela all grants exceeding 4,700 euros for which the recipient indicates they will work continuously for at least four (4) months. Grant recipients must contact Mela (phone: 020 630 0500, website: www.mela.fi) to purchase insurance.

This applies in particular to recipients of dissertation grants and research team leaders who allocate the grant to themselves. Members of a research team who receive a grant of at least 1,570 euros from the team leader's grant and whose research work lasts at least four consecutive months must also be reported to Mela. In this case, the leader of the research team is responsible for providing the necessary information.

Notification of a grant to the tax authorities

The Cancer Societies of South-West Finland report the amount of the grant they have paid and the recipient's personal information to the tax authorities. If the grant recipient pays research stipends or grants to members of the research team, they must report the amounts paid and the recipients' personal information to the tax authorities.

The application must list all members of the research team who are intended to receive a personal grant. Research team members are individuals who participate in publishing the results. Supporting staff members (e.g. research and/or laboratory technicians) may be reported by job title.

Grant payments and reporting

Research grants are primarily paid into the account of the institution where the research is conducted or into the account specified by the researcher in December of the year the grant is awarded. Travel and dissertation grants can be paid into the recipients' own accounts. A report on how the one-year grant was used must be submitted no later than two years after the grant is awarded. This report must list all research team members and supporting staff who received individual grants.

The report, along with supporting documents, must be submitted regardless of whether the entire grant has been used. If there are unused grant funds in the researcher's account and the research continues, a report must be submitted regarding the unspent amount. At the same time, the applicant must submit a proposal outlining how the unused grant funds will be used.