

Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2026

Guidelines on the Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2026

Key dates

- Wednesday, December 17, 2025: Opening of the call
- Thursday, March 26, 2026: Submission deadline
- April-May 2026: Review of applications
- June 2026 Shortlisted applicants notified
- Wednesday, July 1, 2026: Presentations of short listed applicants and award announcement during the Day of BioMedical Research 2026 (planned date)

Purpose

Funding is expected to help young researchers to pursue their research project and to secure additional competitive third party support (SNF Ambizione, SNF Starting Grant, SNF, Swiss Cancer League, Swiss Heart Foundation, etc).

Amount of Research Award

The Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award amounts to CHF 30'000.

Applicant Eligibility:

This call is open to researchers working at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bern that hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate or equivalent. Applicants must fullfull all of the following criteria:

- have completed MD, PhD or MD-PhD degree.
- not have received the habilitation (PD).
- submit their proposal no more than 8 years after the date of their PhD defence/ no more than 12 years after obtaining their medical degree. The relevant period to determine the fit within the window of eligibility is the time elapsed between the (oral) defence of the relevant degree and the date of December 31st, 2025. The window of eligibility may be extended if one or more of the reasons set out in Clause 1.11 of the SNSF General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations¹ apply. The reasons for extending the window of eligibility must be explained in the appropriate section of the application form.
- be under the direct supervision of a mentor.

Researchers already supported by career schemes, such as the SNF Ambizione, SNF Prima, SNF EcceLENZA, SNF Starting Grant, ERC Starting Grant, are not eligible.

The applicant must provide a written Letter of Support from their current mentor/supervisor confirming that the applicant will have access to the necessary facilities/labs for the complete duration of the project. **The letter must include the plan to launch an independent career for the applicant.**

¹ <https://snf.ch/media/en/iu958nGMsEmvTvYN/snsf-general-implementation-regulations-for-the-funding-regulations-e.pdf>

Proposal Eligibility:

Proposals must be **translational oriented** and need to be outlined in detail (a research idea is not sufficient). Preliminary data should be included in the proposal. Each applicant can only submit one proposal.

Projects already funded through third-party grants will not be considered.

Applications must include the following items:

1. **Application form** (template provided must be used). The application form includes the Research Proposal and the detailed budget. All sections need to be completed and the page limit for each section must be followed.
2. **Applicant's CV**, according to the [current SNF format](#).
3. **Letter of support** from the applicant's supervisor confirming that the applicant will have access to the necessary facilities/labs for the complete duration of the project and with a career plan leading the applicant to an independent career.

Submission instructions

Applications should be submitted as **one** single PDF document to awards.dbmr@unibe.ch. The subject line of the e-mail should read "Johanna Dürmüller-Bol Research Award Application". Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.

Incomplete or non-compliant applications, or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

Evaluation procedure and award announcement

The evaluation process includes two steps:

Step 1: Applications will first be screened for overall completeness and feasibility. Only compliant applications will be considered. Proposals will then be evaluated by the Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2026 Commission. External experts may be called in for assessment and evaluation. The review panel will shortlist three to five proposals and shortlisted applicants will be notified of this decision by June 2026.

Step 2: The shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a short presentation (max. 5 minutes) on the proposed project during the Day of BioMedical Research 2026. The presentation will be evaluated by Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2026 Commission.

Decision and announcement:

The Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2026 Commission will decide on the winning project, based on the assessment of the written proposal and the presentation. The Award Winner will be only announced on the Day of BioMedical Research 2026. The exact date and the other details about this event will be communicated in due time.

Evaluation Criteria

The projects will be evaluated on the basis of scientific merit and feasibility. The applicants track record will be taken into account based on level of experience. The presentation of the shortlisted applicants will be evaluated and contribute to the final scoring and decision. The decision of the Commission is final and cannot be appealed. There is no legal requirement to decide the research award.

Award Regulations

Award Payment

The CHF 30'000 will be transferred as one unique payment to a bank account, which is used for the winning research project and opened in the name of their institute/organization.

Expenditure Guidelines

Allowable expenditures:

- Leave of absence of the recipient of the Research Award for research work
- Salary for staff (according to pay scale of the University of Bern)
- Consumables (for project only)
- Core facilities user fees for the experiments outlined in the project
- Purchase of specific equipment for the project

Not allowable expenditures:

- Travel costs
- Conference fees
- Funds to pay participants/patients in clinical studies
- Printing costs, magazine subscriptions, etc.
- Computer hardware
- Basic equipment standard to a laboratory

Report

A short report on the project progression, with detailed information on the use of the Research Award money, **must be sent no later than one year after receiving the Award** to awards.dbmr@unibe.ch.

The report template provided by the DBMR must be used.

Speaker at the DBMR Research Conference

Approximately one year after the award, the award recipient is expected to present the research findings to the Award Commission and other scientists at the DBMR Research Conference, for which the award recipient will be cordially invited as a Speaker.

Members of the Commission

The Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2026 Commission is responsible for all aspects of the Award. The members of the commission will be selected *ad hoc* from the clinicians and scientists of the University of Bern.