



# PHB Translational Award

## Call for Applications

### 1. Introduction

Personalized Health Basel (PHB), a joint initiative of the University of Basel and the University Hospitals of the Basel area, aims to advance translational research, personalized health, and precision medicine. PHB seeks to make the Basel area a hub of health-data driven research and personalized healthcare. In particular, PHB strives to harmonize and streamline existing processes and pipelines, build new IT and biobanking infrastructures, and form local, national and international collaborations, as well as partnerships with the private sector.

Aligned with PHB's mission to bridge the gap between laboratory discoveries and clinical applications, the PHB Translational Award supports clinicians in committing time to high-potential translational research projects. This award fosters innovation and advances clinical practice by enabling clinicians to focus on transformative research that has the potential to significantly improve patient care.

### 2. Research Scope

The PHB Translational Award seeks proposals for projects that demonstrate a strong potential to significantly impact clinical practices or patient outcomes. The emphasis is on projects with high potential for translation into clinical practice, regardless of the disease area, medical specialties and disciplines. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Application of advanced analytics techniques to derive actionable insights from health data for clinical decision-making.
- Development of models to identify individuals at risk of specific diseases, enabling targeted preventive interventions.
- Exploration of the role of genomic data in personalized medicine and clinical decision support.
- Harnessing real-world data to generate evidence on treatment effectiveness, safety, and healthcare utilization patterns.
- Implementation of new healthcare or health information technologies to improve healthcare quality, efficiency, and patient outcomes.
- Enhancement of diagnostic capabilities through technological advancements and implementation of novel therapies and medical devices.

### 3. Application Requirements

- Applicants must submit a written application according to the provided template.



- Applications for projects that will be carried out across multiple institutions are accepted as long as the implementation of the project is planned in PHB funding institutions.
- Applications must already have proof of concept or preliminary data.
- Applications must provide a clear description of the path to clinical implementation.
- Only projects with a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) between 4 and 6 will be considered for funding (see scheme below). More information about TRL scale can be found here: <https://www.twi-global.com/technical-knowledge/faqs/technology-readiness-levels> and <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/career-development/researchers/manual-scientific-entrepreneurship/major-steps/trl>.
- Proposals from all medical specialties and disciplines related to personalized health, translational research, and precision medicine are welcome.

### TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL)

DEVELOPMENT	9	ACTUAL SYSTEM PROVEN IN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
	8	SYSTEM COMPLETE AND QUALIFIED
	7	SYSTEM PROTOTYPE DEMONSTRATION IN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
	6	TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
	5	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
	4	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN LAB
RESEARCH	3	EXPERIMENTAL PROOF OF CONCEPT
	2	TECHNOLOGY CONCEPT FORMULATED
	1	BASIC PRINCIPLES OBSERVED

#### 4. Applicant Eligibility Requirements

The applicant must be a clinician affiliated with one of the PHB funding institutions:

- University of Basel (UniBas)
- University Hospital Basel (USB)
- University Children’s Hospital of Basel (UKBB)

#### 5. Funding Regulation

- The PHB Translational Award provides up to 50’000 CHF to cover release time from clinical routine (salary reimbursement) of the applicant, allocated as follows:



- Initial payment of 50% will be released at the beginning of the project upon approval.
- The remaining 50% will be released upon successful completion of the project and submission of a final report.
- The total duration for the project, during which the funds should be spent, must not exceed 12 months from the starting date.
- Additionally, applicants have the opportunity to utilize the PHB Translational IT (Data, Technologies, IT Solutions and Services listed [here](#)) for their submitted projects if needed. If you wish to use PHB services, please contact the PHB management team at [phb@unibas.ch](mailto:phb@unibas.ch) to schedule an appointment for a discussion prior to submitting your application.

## 6. Award Timeline

- **Call Opening:** 15.10.2024
- **Deadline for applications:** 31.01.2025
- **Award Announcement:** mid-April 2025
- **Start of the project (at the earliest):** 01.06.2025
- **End of the project (at the latest):** 31.05.2026
- **Final report submission:** no later than 2 months after the end of the project

## 7. Application Process

- Applicants must submit a written application (in English) according to the provided template, encompassing the following requirements:
  - Part A: General information
  - Part B: Project description (max 2 pages)
    1. Background and rationale
    2. Objectives
    3. Methodology
    4. Expected outcomes and impact
    5. Relevance of the project to the remit of PHB
    6. Strategy plan for implementation to the clinic
    7. Justification for the project's current TRL
    8. Potential challenges and risk mitigation strategies
    9. If applicable: PHB Data, Technologies, IT Solutions & Services required (listed [here](#))
  - Part C: Annexes
    - i. CV of the applicant



- ii. Budget details (FTE, salary costs and time period)
  - Applications need to be submitted via email to [phb@unibas.ch](mailto:phb@unibas.ch) before and not later than 31.01.2025.
  - Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## 8. Evaluation Process

These regulations outline the criteria and procedures for the selection and funding of projects under the PHB Translational Award. They ensure a fair, transparent, and impartial selection process for the PHB Translational Award, promoting excellence and integrity in the evaluation of research proposals.

### 8.1 Evaluation Criteria:

- The PHB Management team will review the eligibility and application requirements. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria or fail to comply with the application requirements will be deemed ineligible for consideration in the selection process.
- The PHB Executive Board will serve as the evaluating committee for all eligible applications. Each proposal will be evaluated by a minimum of three members of the Executive Board.
- Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - **Translational Potential:** Likelihood of the project to advance clinical practice or patient care.
  - **Feasibility:** Clarity of the research plan and methodology.
  - **Technological Readiness Level (TRL):** Projects must be within a TRL range of 4 to 6 (see table above).

### 8.2 Scoring System:

- Each criterion will be scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score and 1 being the lowest.
- Board members will assign scores to each criterion based on the quality and relevance of the proposed research.
- The total score for each application will be calculated by summing the average scores for all criteria.

### 8.3 Conflict of Interest:

- Board members with a conflict of interest with any applicant or project must recuse themselves from the evaluation process.
- In the case of applications for which less than three members of the Executive Board do not have conflict of interest, *ad hoc* reviewers, up to three, will be appointed to evaluate that specific proposal.
- Conflicts of interest include but are not limited to financial interests, personal relationships, affiliations to the same project team or collaborators.



#### *8.4 Final Decision:*

- The project with the highest total score will be awarded funding.
- In the event that two or more projects receive the same total score, the PHB Executive Board will conduct a vote.
- In the event of a tied vote, the Chair of the PHB Executive Board will cast the deciding vote.
- The decision of the Executive Board cannot be appealed.

#### *8.5 Confidentiality:*

- All information related to the evaluation process, including application materials and discussions, will be treated confidentially.
- Evaluators are required to maintain the confidentiality of all information disclosed during the evaluation process.

#### *8.6 Transparency:*

- The selection process will be conducted in a transparent manner, with clear communication of the evaluation criteria and procedures to all applicants.
- Applicants will be provided with feedback on their applications upon request.

### **9. Funding Payments**

- Successful applicants will receive an initial payment of 50% of the awarded amount upon project approval.
- The remaining 50% will be transferred upon successful completion of the project and approval of the final report.
- Funds must be used in accordance with the approved budget plan and within 12 months.

### **10. Reporting**

- Award recipients are required to submit a final report within two months of project completion, detailing the research findings and outcomes.
- Salary sheets or payment confirmations (released by the Hospital HR or by the Hospital Controlling Department) must also be included as proof of the use of funds.

### **11. Compliance**

- Any changes to the project plan or budget must be approved by the PHB Executive Board.

### **12. Contact Information**

- For enquiries, please contact [phb@unibas.ch](mailto:phb@unibas.ch).