

Call for applications – Consortium on mental health biomarkers

April 13 - 14, 2026 | London, UK

PEPR PROPSY, the French national Research Programme on Precision Psychiatry, Fondation FondaMental, and the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) Mental Health Translational Research Collaboration (MH-TRC) are pleased to announce a call for applications for PhD or Post-Doctoral students, currently enrolled in a French university or research institution, to attend the 2nd Consortium on Mental Health Biomarkers that will take place at the Wellcome Trust in London on April 13th and 14th, 2026.

A total of **5 grants** will be awarded to support their participation in this event where they will have the opportunity to present their work.

Context

As part of the **France 2030 Investment Plan** launched by the French government, **PEPR PROPSY**, with the support of **Fondation FondaMental**, was selected to strengthen **clinical and pre-clinical research in precision psychiatry**. The program aims to reduce the heterogeneity of 4 major mental disorders (bipolar disorders, resistant depression, schizophrenia and autism spectrum disorders) by **identifying homogeneous patient subgroups and trans-nosographic dimensions, developing objective, measurable and quantifiable biomarkers, improving the understanding of underlying etiological mechanisms, and advancing mechanism-based therapeutic approaches**.

A central component of PROPSY is the development of **French Minds**, a **large-scale longitudinal and deeply phenotyped cohort** supported by a **multimodal database**. This initiative aligns with the designation of **Mental Health as a Major National Cause in France for 2025**, underscoring France's commitment to transformative advances in psychiatric research and care.

PEPR PROPSY, represented by INSERM, along with Fondation FondaMental and the NIHR MH-TRC, entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding** to formalise a consortium, with the shared intent to advance **precision psychiatry** through reciprocal access to datasets and biosample cohorts, the harmonisation of blood-sampling criteria and multi-omics workflows, joint projects on genomic and

immuno-metabolic biomarkers, exchanges of researchers and students, and coordinated efforts to secure external funding with public- and private-sector partners.

This **Consortium on Mental Health Biomarkers** is organized by PEPR PROPSY, Fondation FondaMental and NIHR MH-TRC and will take place at the Wellcome Trust in London, on April 13-14, 2026.

Why participate?

During this **spring school**, students will:

- Showcase their research to international experts
- Engage in discussions on mental health biomarkers
- Network with leading UK and French scientists

A **detailed program** is provided on the PROPSY-EDU website.

Eligibility and Selection

Applicants must be PhD or Post-Doctoral students currently enrolled in a French university or research institution, working in precision psychiatry, neuroscience applied to psychiatric disorders, or any other discipline linked with psychiatry. Applications will be evaluated based on academic excellence, scientific relevance and originality of the doctoral project.

Application Requirements

- a completed online application form
- a curriculum vitae
- a cover letter

Applications must be submitted online **no later than March 15th, 2026**

Grant Coverage

The grant covers round-trip travel, accommodation, and meals during the event.