

The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Research

Frequently Asked Questions

Grant Cycle 2027

Many questions are answered in the 2027 Thome Guidelines:
www.hria.org/grants/ThomeAD

Applicants are highly encouraged to reach out to HRiA Program Staff at ThomeAwards@hria.org for any questions or to confirm eligibility before the application deadline.

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General

Eligibility

1. Is there a limit on how many applications may be submitted from one institution?

There are no institutional limitations on the number of candidates who may submit applications.

2. Are scientists at government institutes, such as the NIH, eligible to apply?

No. Unfortunately, scientists employed by government institutes, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other government agencies, are not eligible.

3. Do I need to have United States citizenship to receive the award? If not, is visa documentation required to receive the award?

United States citizenship is not required to apply or to receive the award, nor is visa documentation. Award recipients must be eligible to receive a postdoctoral fellowship or hold their faculty appointment for the duration of the award period. Please check visa

requirements and anticipated changes in job title, if relevant, and confirm eligibility with your Office of Sponsored Research in advance of application submission.

4. Can the start date of the award be adjusted?

Yes, the Recipient may postpone the start date for up to three months, but the award must be activated on or before September 1, 2027.

5. May I list collaborators or a Co-PI on this submission?

Collaborators may be included on your online application, but the Thome Program does not recognize a Co-PI or Multiple PIs.

6. Shall I include the C.V. of a collaborator?

Do not append a C.V. for a collaborator but please list collaborators on the online application form. If you are invited to submit a Full application, you will be asked to submit their biosketch and that person should include a brief letter of collaboration and describe the expertise that s/he is bringing to the project.

Application Instructions

1. Is a traditional research proposal required at the Initial Proposal stage?

No. Please follow the instructions as stated in the Application Guidelines and on the Application Forms. Do not include any supplemental materials.

2. How can I incorporate figures, graphs, tables, or pictures into my Initial Research Proposal?

Figures, graphs, tables, or pictures are not required. If they are included, they must fit along with the specific word limits in a text box no larger than a single page. Specific instructions are provided on the application form. Reviewers do not expect to see figures in an initial stage proposal, and unclear or illegible ones are viewed unfavorably.

3. May I include supplemental materials?

No. Supplemental materials will be removed.

4. Does the Full Proposal budget page reflect the actual cost of the project or only what is requested from the Thome Foundation?

This page summarizes what is being requested from the Thome Awards Program. If the project uses additional support from other sources, those amounts should be noted in the section labeled “Other Support,” on the Budget Template form.

5. Must we commit a certain percentage of time to the Thome project?

The Program does not require that a specific percentage of time be allocated to the



project. Although salaries requested for the Thome project must be in proportion to the percent effort on this project, percent effort may exceed the amount of salary support requested.

7. Are subcontracts allowable costs and where do we note these expenses on the budget worksheet for the Full Proposal?

The PI is allowed to pay subcontractors including collaborators. Budgets for all subcontracts must be itemized in the relevant Subcontract tabs in the budget worksheet.

8. Is there a Biosketch format that I should use?

Use the new [SciENCv](#) format to prepare your Common Form and NIH Biographical Sketch, and upload the versions generated by SciENCv.

9. If my project has Collaborators, do I need to include Letters of Collaboration?

Yes, if your project includes Collaborators, please include one Letter of Collaboration per Collaborator but only if invited for the FULL STAGE application. These letters must confirm the availability of resources outside the Applicant's institution and confirm any significant collaborative relationship, either within or outside the Applicant's institution. These are brief letters (up to one page) addressing the collaboration. These are not letters of recommendation.

10. Do I also mail a paper copy of the PDF upload?

No, please do not mail a paper copy.

11. Where do I get an ORCID ID number?

Please visit <https://orcid.org/> to register for an ORCID ID.

Postdoctoral Fellowship specific questions

1. Guidelines state that only one postdoctoral research fellowship candidate can apply per Mentor. Can I have a co-mentor who sponsors another postdoctoral research fellowship applicant?

Yes, the rule applies only to the primary mentors.

2. If my co-/mentor has funding for an overlapping topic, will that affect my application?

Yes, neither the applicant nor the institution may accept funding with budgetary/scientific overlap with the proposed aims of a funded Thome project. To avoid conflicts if your proposal receives a funding recommendation, we strongly suggest that you do not propose the same aims and budget as other grants of your mentors.



3. Can I apply for the postdoctoral research fellowship if my co-/mentor is applying for the early career stage award in the same cycle?

No, we are not able to accept two proposals from the same lab.

4. How do you define non-independent research?

Non-independent training positions may include the following: the candidate's research is entirely funded by another investigator's grant or conducted entirely in another investigator's assigned space; the candidate has not received a start-up package from the university; the candidate may also not be allowed by institutional policy to hire postdoctoral fellows or technical staff or be the responsible supervisor of graduate students; finally, the candidate may lack other rights and privileges of faculty such as attendance at faculty meetings.

5. If I am in a mentored research position, but my title is not "Postdoctoral Fellow" or "Postdoctoral Associate," am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. Individuals in non-independent, mentored research positions (e.g., Research Associate, Instructor, or similar roles) may be eligible if they are working under a mentor and pursuing an independent, faculty-level position in the next 1-2 years. Eligibility is based on the nature of the position, not the job title.

6. If I have been promoted to an Instructor, am I eligible to apply?

It is recognized that many different titles are given to researchers and clinician scientists who are engaged in postdoctoral research. If the applicant is still engaged in non-independent mentored research and meets the other eligibility criteria, they are eligible to apply.

7. If I get an instructor position out of my current institution, can I take this funding to my next position?

Awards are made to the Institution where the Fellow is conducting research. If the Fellow plans on moving to another non-profit academic, medical, non-governmental or research institution in the U.S. during the award period, the Fellow will notify and seek approval from the HRiA to continue the Project at the Fellow's new institution.

8. What happens if I get promoted during my award?

The Fellow must notify HRiA of any change in the Fellow's academic status at least 30 days prior to such change. Fellows promoted to an independent faculty position on or before the funding start date indicated in the Guidelines may transfer the award to their new institution, provided it is in the U.S., or transition their funds to their own lab if they stay at the same institution.

9. If I have completed medical school but not started residency, am I eligible?

No, eligible applicants must have completed clinical training required for licensing. Those with clinical training will be required to have 70% protected time for research if awarded.



10. Are Letters of Recommendation required in the 2026 Full Proposal?

Yes, a Letters of Recommendation from your primary mentor is required for the Full Proposal.

Early Career Investigator Award specific questions

1. Can I apply for the early career stage award if my postdoctoral mentee is applying for the postdoctoral fellowship in the same cycle?

No, we are not able to accept two proposals from the same lab.

2. I have a PhD and was appointed as Instructor (a faculty position) following my fellowship training. Am I eligible to use Instructor as my first faculty appointment?

We understand that there is a continuum of independence at many institutions beginning with emerging independence at the Instructor level. However, to level the playing field and ensure that all applicants have only one window of eligibility, we are considering the tenure track or clinician-scientist/investigator track Assistant Professor appointment to be the first independent faculty appointment.

If your institution can confirm in writing at the time of application that you will be appointed an Assistant Professor by the funding start date (and can provide verification in the event the Award is offered), then the Thome Foundation will accept your application. If not, then you should wait to apply in future grant cycles when Assistant Professorship is established.

3. Are leaves of absence counted towards the two-and-a-half-year ceiling?

No. If you were not working during a specific period, you would not include that time when determining your eligibility. The Department or Division Chair should confirm both the duration of the leave of absence and applicant eligibility via the Applicant Independence/Institutional Commitment Form.

4. I am currently an Associate Professor. May I apply for this grant?

Typically, Associate Professor is not a first faculty appointment. However, if this is your first faculty appointment following completion of fellowship training and you meet the eligibility requirements for the PhD or MD (page 2 of the Application Guidelines), we will accept an application from you.

5. If I am offered the Award but cannot accept it, may it be transferred to a collaborator or other individual significantly involved in the project?

No. The Thome grant can only be awarded to the Applicant who originally submitted the grant.

6. Is graduate student tuition an allowable budget expense?

If the graduate student has a significant role on the proposed project, tuition may be charged as a personnel expense.



7. Are Letters of Recommendation required in the 2026 Full Proposal?

No, Letters of Recommendation are not requested or required for the Full Proposal. Unsolicited Letters of Recommendation will not be considered by the committee. The Applicant Independence/Institutional Commitment Form should not be repurposed as a Letter of Recommendation.

Direct any questions to program staff: ThomeAwards@hria.org

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