



Financial Support for Young Scientists

AFEM-SFJC 2026

Financial Support for Young Scientists – Participation to international scientific events

Applications evaluated on a rolling basis in 2026!

As part of its scientific policy to support young scientists [PhD candidates, post-docs, ATERs, or engineers on fixed-term contracts] and promote their research, the **Francophone Association of Microbial Ecology (AFEM)** is launching a call for applications for financial assistance to attend an international scientific event in English (conference, symposium, workshop, etc.) related to microbial ecology.

Financial support under this call is strictly limited to mobility related to events directly connected to microbial ecology, such as:

- International scientific events conducted in English (conferences, symposia, workshops)
- Training courses, fieldwork stays, or collaborative visits as a visiting researcher

All applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the justification provided in the application.

This call will be processed on a rolling basis, allowing continuous evaluation of applications throughout the year 2026.

The call covers actual travel costs, up to a maximum of €500 (incl. VAT) for European countries and €1,000 (incl. VAT) for non-European countries.

Funding will be allocated within the annual budget envelope defined by AFEM's Executive Board.

Procedure

In accordance with the rules established by the AFEM Board of Directors, applications will be reviewed within one month of submission, following the rolling review principle.

Applications must be submitted electronically to the following two addresses: briand@univ-tln.fr and benoit.paix@mio.osupytheas.fr

Applications will be evaluated based on the overall quality of the dossier, its relevance to microbial ecology themes, and compliance with the eligibility and selection criteria of the call. Evaluation is based on a review of the application files by members of the AFEM Board of Directors.

Selection criteria

Applications related to international scientific events (conferences, symposia, workshops)

- The call is open to early-career scientists from the second year of their PhD onwards, and whose PhD defense took place less than five years ago.
- Proof of submission of a request for an oral presentation of the research work at the identified conference (whether accepted or not) must be provided.

In addition, applicants must justify the following:

- For PhD candidates: at least one publication related to the PhD work accepted or, at minimum, submitted as first author in an international A-rank journal (or in a preprint repository such as bioRxiv).
- For ATERs, postdoctoral researchers, or engineers on fixed-term contracts: two publications accepted as first author.

Other types of applications

- The call is open to early-career scientists from the first year of their PhD, with no eligibility criteria related to scientific output.
- Proof of validated registration must be provided for applications related to training courses.
- For mobility related to fieldwork or visiting researcher stays, a certificate of participation must be signed by the host supervisor.

All requested mobility must be clearly aligned with themes developed in microbial ecology. All applicants must be up to date with their membership fees to the Association Francophone d'Écologie Microbienne

Application file components (to be merged into a single PDF file)

- The **completed application form**, including a **motivated opinion** from the head of the research unit or team, as well as from the PhD supervisor or the person in charge of the post-doctoral project
- A **full curriculum vitae**, including a **complete list of scientific outputs** (publications, presentations, etc.)
- A **motivation letter** explaining the relevance and interest of attending the proposed conference or undertaking the proposed mobility
- In the case of a conference: the **abstract** and **proof of oral communication request** (whether accepted or not)
- A **brief description** of the event or mobility request, demonstrating that the program is fully aligned with AFEM's scientific priorities
- A **detailed and justified estimate** of transport costs, which will define the amount of the grant requested
- A **signed statement** from the applicant and their supervisor, **committing to repay the full grant** in case of non-participation in the conference (or other proposed mobility)
- A **letter of commitment** from the applicant to **include the AFEM logo** on all communication materials related to the funded scientific event



Financial Support for Young Scientists

The grant will cover only real transport costs. As AFEM's statutes do not allow payments to research institutions*, expenses must be **initially paid upfront by the applicant (personally)**. Reimbursement will be made **upon submission of proof of payment** for transport tickets (ideally in advance of the event when possible). Payment will be made via **bank transfer**. The reimbursed amount **can in no case exceed the estimated and justified cost** provided in the application file.

Reimbursement documents must be sent to briand@univ-tln.fr and benoit.paix@mio.osupytheas.fr

** The host laboratory must **not** cover these transport expenses using research funds. Otherwise, AFEM will be unable to reimburse them.*