

SEED Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can lead a SEED application?

The lead applicant should be based at a university, hospital, or other research-conducting institution or organization in an eligible country that can receive and manage research funds from an international organization and support the work of the project team.

The lead applicant should have the appropriate research, clinical, operational, or partnership experience needed to lead the proposed project.

Eligible countries are those classified by the [World Bank](#) as low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income economies, or designated as Developing Economies (Global South) under the [UN classification](#).

Collaborators from high-income countries may be included where their involvement strengthens research readiness in an eligible country, but they cannot serve as the lead applicant.

2. Can SEED projects include FTD?

Yes, if there is a clear connection to ALS/MND. SEED is focused on ALS/MND research readiness. Projects may include ALS/MND–FTD overlap when the FTD-related component is directly relevant to the proposed ALS/MND research-readiness work. Projects focused only on FTD are outside the scope of SEED.

3. What language should the application be submitted in?

Applications should be submitted in English.

Applicants are encouraged to use clear and direct language. The application does not need to be written in highly technical or polished grant language. Reviewers will focus on the strength, feasibility, and relevance of the proposed work, including the local need, project plan, expected outcomes, and contribution to ALS/MND research readiness.

4. Can networks, multi-site groups, or regional collaborations apply and share funds across sites?

Yes. Multi-site, multi-investigator, network-based, and regional collaborative projects are encouraged to apply if the proposed work supports ALS/MND research readiness in the eligible countries.

The application should identify one lead applicant and corresponding administering institution that will receive and manage the grant funds. If the project includes multiple sites or partners, applicants should describe each site or partner's role, how the collaboration will be coordinated, and how funds will be used across the project in the budget justification.

SEED funds will be paid to one administering institution. Any distribution of funds to other participating sites or partners will need to be managed by the applicant team through that institution.

For multi-site projects, applicants should also complete the institutional allocation summary in the budget template to show how much funding is allocated to each participating institution or site.

5. Can people living with ALS/MND, families, advocacy organizations, or community organizations be involved as partners?

Yes. People living with ALS/MND, families, advocacy organizations, and community organizations may be included as partners or collaborators when their involvement supports ALS/MND research readiness.

Their role should be clearly described in the application and directly connected to the proposed work. If applicants request funds to support the involvement of these partners, the costs should be clearly explained in the budget and directly tied to the project aims.

6. Can collaborators or partner institutions from high-income countries be involved?

Yes. Collaborators or partner institutions from high-income countries may be involved when they add clear value to the proposed work.

The lead applicant must be based in an eligible country. The application should explain why the collaboration is needed and how it will strengthen ALS/MND research readiness, leadership, and capacity in the eligible country or countries where the work will take place.

7. Do applicants need prior ALS/MND funding, preliminary data, or a strong grant-writing track record?

No. Applicants do not need prior ALS/MND funding, preliminary data, or a strong grant-writing track record to be considered.

Applicants should focus on showing that the proposed project is important, feasible, and well aligned with SEED. A strong response should describe a clear local or regional need, a well-developed project plan, achievable outcomes, and the expected impact on ALS/MND research infrastructure and readiness.

The lead applicant / PI should also demonstrate that they have the skills, experience, partnerships, local support, or institutional backing needed to deliver the proposed project.

8. What costs and activities can SEED funds support?

SEED funds may support costs that are directly connected to the proposed project and needed to strengthen ALS/MND research infrastructure and readiness.

Eligible costs may include staff or coordinator time, training, travel, data systems, registry development, sample storage, basic infrastructure, small equipment purchases, ethics, governance, or regulatory preparation, and other direct project costs.

Indirect costs, including institutional overheads, may not exceed 5% of the total budget requested.

9. How will reviewers assess applications from regions with different levels of infrastructure?

Reviewers will consider the local or regional context in which the project will take place.

SEED recognizes that applicants may come from regions with very different levels of ALS/MND research infrastructure. Some projects may help a region take its first steps toward building research capacity, while others may help strengthen or expand work that is already underway.

Applications will be reviewed for significance and impact, project rationale and design, team capability, feasibility, capacity-building value, and fit with the SEED program purpose.

Reviewers will consider these criteria in relation to the applicant's local starting point and the progress the project can make toward ALS/MND research readiness in that setting.

10. Can a Principal Investigator lead more than one SEED application?

Yes. A Principal Investigator may lead more than one SEED application. However, a Principal Investigator may hold only one active SEED grant at a time.

If more than one application is submitted by the same Principal Investigator, each application should be distinct and should have a clearly justified purpose, team, and project plan.

11. How should applicants describe what they are trying to achieve and how success will be measured?

Applicants should clearly describe the local or regional need the project is addressing and the practical change they hope to make with SEED funding.

Success should be measured using realistic milestones or outputs that are appropriate for the project. These may include networks established, sites engaged, staff trained, registry workflows developed, data pathways created, ethics processes started or completed, samples stored, or people living with ALS/MND identified or recruited for future research.

12. What kinds of project outputs are acceptable if the project is focused on research readiness?

SEED projects may produce practical outputs that strengthen ALS/MND research readiness.

Acceptable outputs may include a registry plan, network structure, data pathway, biobanking workflow, feasibility plan, training plan, clinical trial readiness roadmap, governance process, referral pathway, or other practical step that enables future ALS/MND research.

13. How long can SEED projects run, and what reporting is required during the grant period?

SEED projects may run for up to three years. Applicants should propose a project period that is appropriate for the work being planned and should include realistic milestones.

Awardees will be required to submit progress and financial reports during the grant period. At minimum, awardees should expect to submit an annual progress report and an annual financial report.

No-cost extensions may be considered before the approved project end date and will require approval from the Alliance.

14. Can applicants request less than the maximum award amount?

Yes. Applicants may request less than the maximum award amount.

Applicants should request the amount needed to complete the proposed work. Smaller, focused requests are welcome if they are well justified and sufficient to achieve the proposed outcomes. The budget should not be inflated simply to reach the maximum award amount.

15. What if our institution has limited or no experience receiving international grant funds?

Applicants should confirm before applying that their institution or organization can receive and manage international grant funds.

If an institution has limited experience with international funding, applicants should speak with the appropriate institutional office, finance team, grants office, or administrative lead before submitting the application. The institutional letter should confirm that the institution is willing to receive and administer the funds if the project is selected.

Applicants who are unsure whether their institution can receive international funds may contact seed@als-mnd.org before submitting. Questions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, but the lead applicant and administering institution are responsible for completing any internal, legal, financial, banking, tax, or regulatory steps required to receive funds.

16. Do applicants need ethics or regulatory approval before applying?

No. Ethics or regulatory approval is not required before submitting a SEED application.

Applicants should describe any ethics, governance, regulatory, or institutional approvals that may be needed for the proposed project. The application should also include realistic timelines and any resources needed for these processes, where relevant.

17. Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback?

Yes. The Alliance intends to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants where possible.

Feedback is intended to help applicants understand how their proposal was reviewed and, where relevant, support stronger future submissions.

18. Who should applicants contact if they are unsure whether their project aligns with the SEED grant criteria?

Applicants may contact seed@als-mnd.org before submitting if they are uncertain about eligibility, project fit, budget, application requirements, or project structure.