



# Funding Opportunities for Consciousness, AI & Neuroscience (Finland focus)

## Finnish "Hidden Gem" Foundations

- **Kone Foundation (Arts-Science)** – Annual call **1–15 Sept 2025** <sup>1</sup>. Kone funds *humanities, social & environmental science, artistic research* and truly interdisciplinary art-science projects, with core values of academic/artistic **freedom, plurality** of voices, **boldness** (novel, challenging ideas), and **long-term, transnational work** <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>. Note: they **do not fund** psychology or medical research unless tightly linked to arts/science.
- **Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation (Tech & Science)** – *Rolling applications* (no fixed deadlines) <sup>3</sup>. This foundation backs "*internationally significant*" scientific research (especially medicine, high-tech, natural sciences) and art projects with global impact <sup>4</sup>. Grants target working groups and senior-level postdocs (docent or above) in areas like medicine, engineering and their crossovers with society. The Foundation's strategy (2024–26) emphasizes **breakthrough innovation, generational change, internationalization** and **cross-disciplinary**, often high-risk high-reward projects <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup>. All projects must have a clear link to Finland, and the Board meets 4 times/year to award grants <sup>4</sup> <sup>3</sup>.
- **Finnish Cultural Foundation (Suomen Kulttuurirahasto)** – Four annual rounds (Mar, Aug, Oct 2025; Jan '26) <sup>7</sup>. This broad fund supports *all fields of science, art and culture*, plus special-purpose calls (e.g. popularization of science, climate/circular economy research) <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup>. Next deadlines are Aug 29, 2025 and Oct 31, 2025 (central fund) and Jan 21–Feb 6, 2026 <sup>10</sup>. The Foundation emphasizes **diversity, sustainability** and nurturing future talent <sup>11</sup>. Applicants need only show strong ties to Finland. (See also multi-year science grants and thematic calls.)
- **Sigrid Jusélius Foundation (Biomedical/Neuroscience)** – Key calls in **Sept-Oct 2025** <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup>. Sigrid Jusélius is the premier Finnish funder of medical and life-science research (neuroscience, cancer, etc.). For example, **1-3-year Senior/Group-leader grants** (for senior researchers or young group leaders in medical research) run 1–30 Nov 2025 <sup>12</sup>; **1-3-year Fellowships** (postdocs abroad in medical research) run 15 Sept–15 Oct 2025 <sup>13</sup>; and **Senior Researcher (4-year)** posts (for independent med. researchers or clinician-scientists) run 15 Sept–15 Oct 2025 <sup>14</sup>. Grants cover salary and research costs. All grants are explicitly *open to foreign citizens* working in Finland, and "Neurosciences" is listed as a qualifying field <sup>15</sup>.

## Consciousness-Specific Funding (Niche)

- **Tiny Blue Dot Foundation (Perception Box)** – *Open RFP Sep '25-Mar '26* <sup>16</sup>. The 2025 Perception Box initiative seeks *neuroscience-based* projects that help "expand the walls of people's perception" (e.g. via mindfulness, psychedelics, AI/VR interventions) <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup>, especially for youth mental health (ages 5–18). Grants up to ~\$900K (2–3 years) are available. LOIs open 2 Sept 2025 and close 7 Oct 2025; full proposals due 2 Mar 2026 <sup>16</sup>. **Eligibility:** Any accredited non-profit research organization worldwide may apply (the call explicitly allows non-US institutions) <sup>19</sup>.
- **Templeton World Charity Foundation (Accelerating Research on Consciousness)** – Global philanthropic program funding consciousness/phenomenology. (Templeton's ARC initiative uses adversarial collaboration, etc.) No specific 2025 RFP publicly listed, but past grants (e.g. higher-order consciousness studies) have funded international researchers. Templeton programs generally *accept proposals worldwide* (often via a two-stage inquiry) and have funded many

European scholars. Finnish applicants would likely be eligible, though proposals typically require collaboration with an academic institution.

- **BIAL Foundation (Psychophysiology & Parapsychology)** – Biennial grants in psychophysiology and parapsychology. The last call was in 2024 (80 projects funded) <sup>20</sup>; the next expected round is 2026. Awards (~€60K) support “exploratory” research on psi, brain function, consciousness phenomena <sup>21</sup>. The foundation welcomes proposals from *around the world* (past grantees include UK, US, etc.) <sup>22</sup>, so Finnish researchers are eligible.
- **Fetzer Franklin Fund** – Currently *no open calls*. The Fetzer Institute does **not accept unsolicited proposals** for research funding <sup>23</sup>. (Past consciousness RFPs have closed.)

## AI & Neurotech Innovation Funding

- **Business Finland Co-Creation (Yritys-tutkimus yhteistyö)** – *Continuous call*. Funds short exploratory projects (up to €100K total) where universities and companies co-develop a new research idea. Covers 80% of costs <sup>24</sup>. Ideal for testing AI/neuroscience concepts with industry partners and building consortia. (See Business Finland Co-Innovation for larger projects.) No fixed deadline.
- **Business Finland Research2Business** – *Calls in 2025–26 (next: Dec '25–Mar '26)* <sup>25</sup>. Grants (80% funding, budgets ~€0.5–0.8M) to help public research orgs **commercialize research results** <sup>26</sup>. Activities include IP/market analysis, prototyping, training – aimed at spinning out new ventures. Particularly relevant if your AI/neuro project has a clear application. For example, **Call 1/2026** runs 1 Dec 2025–4 Mar 2026 <sup>25</sup> (decisions by June 2026).
- **Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry & Space)** – 2025 Industry calls opened 4 July 2025 with €655M funding <sup>27</sup>. Deadlines: 23 Sept 2025 (17:00 CEST) for all topics <sup>28</sup>. Key themes include **“cognitive augmentation”** and human-centric AI: e.g. “Physical and cognitive augmentation in advanced manufacturing” <sup>29</sup>, and topics under “Human-centric innovation” like AI knowledge valorisation <sup>30</sup>. Generative AI in science (GenAI4EU) appears under Digital Technologies <sup>31</sup>. (See the official work programme for detailed topics.) Finnish researchers can join EU consortia – these calls expect multi-national teams.
- **Horizon Europe – Cluster 1 (Health)** – 2025 Health calls (deadline 16 Sept 2025 <sup>32</sup>) include brain/AI topics. Examples: “Impact of pollution on development/progression of brain diseases” <sup>33</sup>, and “Innovative interventions for mental, behavioural and neurodevelopmental disorders” <sup>34</sup>. There are also calls on **AI in health**, e.g. “Generative AI models in healthcare (GenAI4EU)” <sup>35</sup>. Next work programme (2026–27) will open similar opportunities in health and neurotech.

## Social Media & Community Insights

Informal advice from academic forums reinforces casting a wide net. For example, on **r/academia** Reddit users emphasize writing *many* proposals and not overlooking small grants (even €5–10K awards) to build a CV <sup>36</sup>. Engaging with networks (peer feedback, grant review panels) and targeting even niche or society-level funds was commonly recommended. (There are no citations for Twitter/X threads, but discussions on academic subreddits often list under-publicized funding sources and stress persistence and creativity in seeking grants.)

**Sources:** Official grant webpages and news (Finnish foundations, Business Finland, Horizon Europe) <sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>33</sup> <sup>28</sup>, plus community posts <sup>36</sup>. (Contact funders for up-to-date deadlines and eligibility.)

1 Information for grant applicants - Kone Foundation

<https://koneensaatio.fi/en/grants/grantapplicants/>

2 Kone Foundation's focuses in awarding grants - Kone Foundation

<https://koneensaatio.fi/en/grants/grantapplicants/for-what-purposes-does-the-kone-foundation-grant-funding/>

3 4 5 6 For Applicants - Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation

<https://jaes.fi/en/for-applicants/>

7 10 Grants – Finnish Cultural Foundation – SKR

<https://skr.fi/en/grants/>

8 11 October Round: Oct 10 to 31, 2025 – Finnish Cultural Foundation – SKR

<https://skr.fi/en/grants/the-october-round/>

9 Additional Million-euro Funding to Science – Suomen Kulttuurirahasto – SKR

<https://skr.fi/en/grant/additional-million-euro-funding-to-science/>

12 1-3-year grants - Sigrid Jusélius Foundation

<https://www.sigridjuselius.fi/en/apurahat/1-3-year-grants/>

13 Fellowship (1-3 years) - Sigrid Jusélius Foundation

<https://www.sigridjuselius.fi/en/apurahat/fellowship-1-3-years/>

14 Senior researcher (4 years) - Sigrid Jusélius Foundation

<https://www.sigridjuselius.fi/en/apurahat/senior-researcher-4-years/>

15 RESEARCH.FI

<https://research.fi/en/results/funding-call/13934>

16 17 18 19 Tiny Blue Dot Foundation | Request for Proposals

<https://www.tinybluedotfoundation.org/research/rfp>

20 21 22 Grants Programme for Scientific Research

<https://www.fundacaobial.com/en-GB/grants/grants-programme-scientific-research>

23 Funding Policy - The Fetzer Institute

<https://fetzer.org/press/funding-policy/>

24 Co-Creation

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/cooperation-between-companies-and-research-organizations/co-creation/>

25 26 Research to Business – Funding for preparing the commercialization of a research-based solution, call 1/2026

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/calls/2026/research-to-business--funding-call-12026/>

27 28 29 30 31 New 'Horizon Europe: Industry' calls open for submission - European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

[https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/new-horizon-europe-industry-calls-open-submission-2025-07-04\\_en](https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/new-horizon-europe-industry-calls-open-submission-2025-07-04_en)

32 33 34 35 2025 Horizon Europe 'Health' calls for proposals - European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

[https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/2025-horizon-europe-health-calls-proposals-2025-05-22\\_en](https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/2025-horizon-europe-health-calls-proposals-2025-05-22_en)

36 Strategies for getting grants? : r/academia

[https://www.reddit.com/r/academia/comments/1i9oaxd/strategies\\_for\\_getting\\_grants/](https://www.reddit.com/r/academia/comments/1i9oaxd/strategies_for_getting_grants/)