



## **Industry Internships call**

### **Alliance4Life BRIDGE**



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## 1. Call for Industry Internships

The Industry Internships of the Alliance4Life\_BRIDGE project aim to connect industry and healthcare organizations with researchers and foster collaboration, strengthen professional skills, and support career development in both academic and industrial research.

The call enables industry partners to host researchers for **short-term mobility opportunities** within the Alliance4Life network. The Industry Internships are designed to strengthen **academia–industry collaboration**, offering opportunities to exchange knowledge, engage in collaborative problem-solving, build professional networks and develop skills. Applicants are invited to choose the format that best matches their role and development goals.

These internships aim to foster **collaboration and knowledge exchange** through shared exploration of a topic of mutual interest between academia and industry. Each internship should provide space to explore a shared **specific topic or challenge and assess the fit for future collaboration**, and may informally spark ideas for future collaborative projects or joint funding applications.

Alliance4Life is a consortium of 12 life science institutions and universities located in 11 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. The following Alliance4Life's member institutions are at the same time beneficiaries of the A4L\_BRIDGE project:

- CEITEC Masaryk University (MU), Czechia
- St. Anne's University Hospital Brno/ International Clinical Research Center (ICRC), Czechia
- Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (BMC SAS), Slovakia
- Medical University of Lodz (MUL), Poland
- University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia
- University of Tartu (UT), Estonia
- Vilnius University (VU), Lithuania
- National Institute of Research and Innovation (NIRI), Latvia
- University of Ljubljana (UL), Slovenia
- Semmelweis University (SU), Hungary
- Medical University Sofia (MUS), Bulgaria
- Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMFCD), Romania

## 2. Who can apply?

Eligible interns are **Academic staff** members of A4L\_BRIDGE partner institutions:

- Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs), Ph.D. students, and senior research staff.

Eligible **industry hosts** are:

- Start-ups, companies, healthcare organisations.

All industry hosts are invited to become members of the A4L\_BRIDGE industry partner ecosystem and be on the A4L\_BRIDGE industry partner list. If you are interested in hosting an internship or joining the A4L\_BRIDGE industry partner ecosystem, please contact [innovation@niri.lv](mailto:innovation@niri.lv) or any of the contacts listed A4L\_BRIDGE partner contacts.

### 3. Internship Format

Interns, together with their Industry hosts, are invited to **choose the format** that best matches their role and development goals.

#### 3.1 A FOCUSED ONE-WEEK-LONG VISIT TO THE INDUSTRY HOST FOR:

- discussing industry challenges and possible directions for future collaborations;
- conducting short-term studies;
- exploring future collaborative projects;
- delivering lectures on subjects of mutual interest.
- In exceptional cases the internship (5 working) days can be distributed within max. 3 months period.

### 4. Internship Duration

#### Industry internships:

- The duration of the internship is determined by the sending institution, within its allocated person-weeks.
- Allocation per sending institution: 2 person-weeks

**Note:** Final duration and format of the internship must be confirmed by the sending institution, taking into account institutional budgets and available person-weeks.

### 5. What kind of internships are eligible?

- Proposals must clearly describe the, general topic area of interest and its relevance to both the academic intern and the host institution's priorities.
- The internship should Provide an opportunity for the intern and the host institution to explore a shared area of interest, assess mutual fit, and evaluate the feasibility of future collaboration. Any ideas for the follow-on projects or joint grant applications that emerge from this exploration are a welcome informal outcome, but are not a requirement of the internship.
- The topic explored during the internship should be relevant and interesting to both academic and industry partners.

- The topic may relate to a broad industry challenge the host institution is facing, or an academic area of research that could be of interest to the host institution. Given the short duration, the intern is not expected to arrive with a fully defined problem statement — initial framing may be refined jointly during the internship itself.
- The duration and plans of internships should be realistic and feasible, reflecting that a 1-week internship is primarily an orientation and exploration period rather than a delivery period. Expectations should be scaled accordingly: light onboarding, guided exposure to the host's work environment and challenges, and a preliminary, non-binding assessment of whether deeper collaboration would be worthwhile.

## 6. What are the eligible costs?

Internships will be supported through the A4L\_BRIDGE project budget, with funds that have already been specifically pre-allocated to each partner institution to cover the costs of sending their own participant.

Eligible costs include:

- Travel expenses (economy airfare, train, bus, etc.)
- Accommodation and subsistence (daily allowance)
- Other justified mobility-related costs (e.g., local transport)

The salary for the internship period is paid by the sending institution. The amount of funding and expenses covered is subject to regulations at specific (sending) institutions and must be agreed on and confirmed by the sending institution before the start of the internship.

Funding is subject to Horizon Europe cost eligibility criteria, as defined in the Annotated Grant Agreement for the 2021–2027 Work Programme (Version 2.0, 1 April 2025).

## 7. Application and approval process

The application process is summarised below.



### Step 1: Email the local contact person in your home (sending) institution and host institution arrangement

Candidates must contact their local contact person via e-mail for confirmation of eligibility and funding availability, and to discuss the process for securing internal support and reserving person week allocation. To facilitate this please prepare and send them:

- 1) your CV;
- 2) the name and information of the company you would like to visit;
- 3) description of the value you could propose with this internship to the said company.

Further communication and preparation for the internship with both the sending and host institutions will continue via email.

Candidate is expected to reach out to the company themselves to arrange dates, duration and activities. When contacting the potential industry hosts, please, inform the company with the expectations of the visit set in the model Internship Agreement [has been drafted](#). This can be the starting for amendments according to the needs and specifics for each internship.

In case the candidate needs help finding and approaching the company, we advise candidate to review the [list of companies](#) within the A4L\_BRIDGE ecosystem and get in touch with the relevant contact persons from other A4L\_BRIDGE countries, who can help with introductions.

In case the candidate has further questions on what companies are eligible, we advise to contact their local A4L contacts.

### Step 2: Submission of the final application and internal approval

Once the arrangements are made submit a final application to the sending institution for internal approval.

Required documents for submission of the final application to the sending (home) institution:

- Final application form (standard template available [here](#));
- Confirmation from the industrial host institution (e-mail or a free-form signed statement).

The sending institution will check:

- eligibility of intern;
- eligibility of the industrial host institution;
- available funding;
- proposed timing and duration;
- proposed activities.

### Step 3: Central approval of the final application

If the sending institution has granted support to the application, the next step is for the sending institution to submit the final application to the assigned representative of the National Institute of Research and Innovation ([innovation@niri.lv](mailto:innovation@niri.lv)) for central approval by the call deadline.

Required documents for central approval:

- Final application form (from Step 2);
- Confirmation from the industrial host institution (from Step 2).
- Support from the sending institution confirming a positive evaluation of the application (e-mail or as a signed free-form statement).

Alliance4Life BRIDGE FG6 expert panel verifies fit with programme aims. The panel's decision is communicated to the sending institution, which notifies the applicant. A positive decision is required before the Internship Agreement can be signed.

### Step 4: Internship Agreement

After central approval, the Internship Agreement must then be signed between the intern, the sending Institution, and the host Institution.

A model Internship Agreement has been drafted as a framework that is both legally appropriate and attractive to our industry partners, ensuring the smooth realization of the programme. The sending institution and the host institution are encouraged to use and modify the existing model agreement according to the needs and specifics for each internship.

### Summary of tasks and responsibilities of the involved persons.

| Step | Task | Researcher<br>(intern) | Sending<br>institution | A4L<br>BRIDGE | Company<br>(host) | A4L<br>BRIDGE |
|------|------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|------|------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|

|   |                                              |   |   | <b>contact in<br/>the country<br/>of the<br/>Company</b> |   | <b>expert panel<br/>of FG6<br/>members</b> |
|---|----------------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Eligibility check                            | X | X |                                                          |   |                                            |
| 1 | Engaging the<br>Company                      | X |   | X (if<br>required)                                       | X |                                            |
| 1 | Agreeing on<br>internship details            | X | X |                                                          | X |                                            |
| 2 | Internal approval<br>of Final<br>Application | X | X |                                                          |   |                                            |
| 3 | Submission for<br>Central approval           |   | X |                                                          |   |                                            |
| 3 | Central approval                             |   |   |                                                          |   | X                                          |
| 4 | Internship<br>Agreement                      | X | X |                                                          | X |                                            |

## 8. Deadlines

| Call no.                                                              | Publication of the call | Final application deadline   | Evaluation and notification | Start of the Internships                                                 | Final report     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2                                                                     | 10 September 2026       | 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 | 20th January 2026           | All projects must be implemented between 1 June 2026 and 31 January 2028 | 14 February 2028 |
| * Additional calls may be announced depending on the available budget |                         |                              |                             |                                                                          |                  |

## 9. Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the expert panel of FG6 technology transfer experts. The expert panel of FG6 technology transfer experts verifies that the applications address the aims of the internship programme outlined under Art. 1 of this Call text and comply with the format outlined under Art 3.1. of this Call text.

The internship applications submitted to the expert panel of FG6 technology transfer experts are awarded on a “first come, first serve” basis.

## 10. Evaluation Process

The evaluation will take place in three steps:

- **Institutional approval** (done by the sending institution). A review to ensure completeness and eligibility. The sending institution confirms employment/affiliation status and eligibility of the industrial host institution.
- The sending institution also approves the final list of interns based on available funding; proposed timing and duration; proposed activities
- **Central approval.** After approval by the sending institution, the final application submission will undergo review by the FG6 expert panel of internal technology transfer experts **to confirm its adherence to the aims of the A4L\_BRIDGE industry internships program and the A4L BRIDGE project. Participants may sign the Internship Agreement and proceed only after this approval.**

## 11. Final Report

Internships must be completed by January 31, 2028. Final Reports must be submitted no later than 14 days after the end of the internship.

The Final Report must be completed using standard templates available on the website.

The sending institution ensures that the reports are sent to A4L\_BRIDGE (lead by National Institute of Research and Innovation, contact person Dr. Anna Stikane, [innovation@niri.lv](mailto:innovation@niri.lv)).

## 12. Contact

For general information regarding the Industry Internship call or in case of any questions, please contact Dr. Anna Stikane, [innovation@niri.lv](mailto:innovation@niri.lv), using ‘A4L\_Industry Internships’ identifier in the subject line.

## 13. Document templates

- **Final internship application form**

Submitted by the applicant to the sending institution after initial eligibility approval and host institution confirmation

- **Model Internship agreement form**

Signed by the applicant, sending institution, and host institution after central approval of the internship.

- **Final internship report form**

Submitted by the applicant to the sending institution immediately after the internship and sent to the National Institute of Research and Innovation no later than 14 days after the end of the internship.