

## 1. CALENDAR

- Opening of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application '[SEMAPHORE](#)' for the online submission: **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**<sup>1</sup>
- **DEADLINE TO ACCESS AN ELECTRONIC FORM: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 2 p.m.**<sup>2</sup>

<b><u>DEADLINES IN 2018</u></b>	
Validation by the <b>applicants</b>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August at 2 p.m.
Validation by the <b>promoters</b> <b>Promoters permanently appointed or on probation (equivalent to a permanent appointment)</b> by the Rectors validation deadline are eligible. <b>If promoters access pension after the Rectors validation deadline and before the end of the granting scheme</b> , their eligibility is subject to the prior approval of the Head of institution. <b>Promoters who will access pension / become professor emeritus by the Rectors validation deadline</b> are not eligible.	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September at 2 p.m.
Validation by the <b>rectors</b> (closing of the call)	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m.
<u>For 1<sup>st</sup> Grant applicants (1<sup>st</sup> Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year):</u>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Certificate of achievement or a copy of the Master diploma and/or registration document or certificate issued by the university of the French-speaking community of Belgium enabling the admission to doctoral programmes and/or acknowledgment from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee) (article 115 from the decree "Paysage", see article 4 of the Regulations).</li> <li>➤ Reference letters from referees and experts from the industry sector. They will be contacted by the FRIA.</li> <li>➤ The applicant must have the ad hoc document provided for academic marks and <a href="#">ranking</a> completed by the faculty awarding the master degree which is taken into account for the eligibility. This document will be considered for the evaluation. Following the validation deadline, the applicant will receive an email with instructions to upload the document on a dedicated page.</li> <li>➤ For Doctors and Veterinarian applicants undertaking a specialty training: a registration document concerning the specialty in question.</li> </ul>	By Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September at the latest
<u>Appendix required for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant applicants:</u>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Decision from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)</li> </ul>	By Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October at the latest

- FRIA Juries will meet from 9<sup>th</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 on the premises of the F.R.S.-FNRS. The date of the interview will be communicated early October and cannot be

<sup>1</sup> The FRIA will give researchers who may be granted with a FRIA-2B (Second Grant) access to the electronic form via the SEMAPHORE application.

<sup>2</sup> All times are Brussels local time.

modified by no means. There is no possibility for any applicant to attend this interview on Skype or via any other means.

- The decision to allocate the grants will be taken by the Board of Trustees of the FRIA in December. First Grant scheme starts as from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.
- As from 2018, in order to reduce the Ethics Committees workload and to make the administrative procedures more flexible for applicants, the researchers concerned by ethical questions will be required to submit their questionnaire accompanied by the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the FRS-FNRS only in case of granting. Funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017).

## 2. RULES AND REGULATIONS

[FRIA Rules and Regulations](#) are available on the website.

### ➤ Graduates in:

- Art of Building and Urban Planning
- Public Health Sciences
- Geographic Sciences
- Environmental Sciences and Management
- Psychology Sciences

**are not allowed to apply for both FRIA and FRESH instruments the same year.**

CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maximum 7 years following the latest Master /complementary Master degree (for no more than the duration of the specialisation for doctors and veterinarian applicants who have been undertaking a medical or veterinary specialty training), on the condition that this period includes the ongoing academic year (01/10/2017 - 30/09/2018)</li> <li>➤ One-year extension per childbirth or adoption</li> </ul>

Applications for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee).

## 3. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice to write their proposal either in French or in English.

The FRIA insists **on strict compliance of the number of pages** allowed for documents that shall be enclosed with the application form and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Juries in case the file would exceed the applicable page limit.

The application file contains the main sections described in the table below.

SECTION	CONTENT
<b>THE RESEARCHER</b>	Information that enables to verify the <b>eligibility criteria</b> (degrees, graduation date, institution)

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p><b>Class and ranking</b> per cycle and per year of study</p> <p><b>Awards and honours</b> (maximum 5)</p> <p><b>The applicant's list of publications</b> (published or accepted, if any), attached in a PDF format</p> <p>Title of the <b>Master thesis</b></p>
<b>THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<p><b>Title</b> in English and in French (max. 200 characters each)<sup>3</sup>  <b>Summary</b> in English and in French (max. 2,000 characters each)<sup>3</sup></p> <p>➤ <i>Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.</i></p> <p><b>Selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance</b> which may be completed by some <b>unrestricted keywords</b>. Applicants must select two descriptor fields at least corresponding to the subject area selected. If they select only one descriptor field, they must justify their choice.</p> <p><b>Description of the project</b>, it is mandatory to use the <a href="#">template</a> available in English or in French. The description shall be limited to 4 pages maximum (Arial 12, single space), including the reference bibliography classified by order of appearance in the text, and divided in 4 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Goals of the research</li> <li>2. State of the art</li> <li>3. Research project</li> <li>4. Work plan</li> </ol> <p>Graphs and tables may be added (max. 2 pages) to the 4-page description.</p> <p>Summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Ph.D. -- For 1<sup>st</sup> Grant-2<sup>nd</sup> year applicants only.</p> <p>Applicants to a FRIA grant may present the <b>industrial or agronomic approach and prospects</b> related to their project in the application file.</p>
<b>THE WORK ENVIRONMENT</b>	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with achieving the aims of the project.</p> <p>➤ <i>For this criterion, information may vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</i></p>
<b>THE REFEREES<sup>4</sup></b>	<p>Contact details (full name, e-mail) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 referees other than the promoter, who will be contacted by the FRIA (see Section 6 in the form).</li> <li>- 2 referees from the industry and/or agriculture sectors who will be contacted by the FRIA (see Section 7 in the form).</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Applicants shall contact the reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form if they want to make sure that their referees are willing to provide a reference letter as part of their application. After submission of the application file, the F.R.S.-FNRS will contact the reference persons referred in the application form and a reminder will be sent to each referee in due course. No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> Including every character and spaces.

<sup>4</sup> Promoters and referees are required to provide a reference letter concerning applicants to a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant.

## 4. SELECTION PROCEDURE, JURIES, EVALUATION CRITERIA AND REPORT

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The Board of Trustees of the FRIA shall appoint members of the juries upon the proposal of the Guidance Committee of the F.R.S.-FNRS (COMA).

The FRIA has adopted 19 subject areas corresponding to the 19 LS and PE panels of the ERC (European Research Council). These subject areas are identified in a list of ERC descriptor fields complemented by FNRS keywords reflecting certain specificities of research in the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB).

The list including the **19 subject areas** is the following:

- **LS1:** molecular biology, biochemistry, biophysics, structural biology, biochemistry of signal transduction
- **LS2:** genetics, population genetics, molecular genetics, genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics, computational biology, biostatistics, biological modelling and simulation, systems biology, genetic epidemiology
- **LS3:** cell biology, cell physiology, signal transduction, organogenesis, developmental genetics, pattern formation in plants and animals
- **LS4:** organ physiology, pathophysiology, endocrinology, metabolism, ageing, regeneration, tumorigenesis, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome
- **LS5:** neurobiology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neuroimaging, systems neuroscience, neurological disorders, psychiatry
- **LS6:** immunobiology, aetiology of immune disorders, microbiology, virology, parasitology, global and other infectious diseases, population dynamics of infectious diseases, veterinary medicine
- **LS7:** aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of disease, public health, epidemiology, pharmacy, pharmacology, clinical medicine, regenerative medicine, medical ethics
- **LS8:** evolution, ecology, animal behaviour, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, eco-toxicology, prokaryotic biology
- **LS9:** agricultural, animal, fishery, forestry and food sciences; biotechnology, chemical biology, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, industrial biosciences; environmental biotechnology and remediation
- **PE1:** all areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics
- **PE2:** particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics
- **PE3:** structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences
- **PE4:** analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics
- **PE5:** materials synthesis, structure-properties relations, functional and advanced materials, molecular architecture, organic chemistry
- **PE6:** informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems
- **PE7:** electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering
- **PE8:** product design, process design and control, construction methods, civil engineering, energy systems, material engineering
- **PE9:** astro-physique/chimie/biologie; système solaire, astronomie stellaire, galactique et extra-galactique; systèmes planétaires, cosmologie; sciences de l'espace, instrumentation
- **PE10:** physical geography, geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management

Some juries may be built around the same subject area, depending on the number of applicants.

Each jury is made up of 1 non-academic member from a research center or an expert from the industry sector, plus 6 or 8 members from CFB universities, respecting the balance between universities:

- 2 UCL, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège
- 1 UMONS and/or 1 UNAMUR, depending on the field concerned

The composition of FRIA juries is available at the following address: <http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/commissions-scientifiques>. The composition is subject to modifications depending on the number of applicants and the conflicts of interest (COI) that might be reported by juries' members. The composition depends on the availability of members, any withdrawal or replacement, and may vary accordingly.

Applicants to a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant are required to take an oral examination at the **F.R.S.-FNRS, 5 rue d'Egmont, B-1000 Brussels**.

Applicants are entitled to select:

- Their **subject area**: applications will be assessed in accordance with the subject area selected. However, the selection of the subject area must be endorsed by the President of the jury, unless the President is from the same university as the applicant. In that case, the Vice-president instead shall accept or refuse the selection. Moreover, applicants must select two descriptor fields at least corresponding to their subject area. If they select only one descriptor field, they must justify their choice.
- The **jury** related to the subject area mentioned above. In case of conflict of interest and depending of the number of applicants, the FRIA may assign the applicant to another jury.

No change of the subject area will be accepted once the applicant has validated the application form.

Juries shall devote 30 minutes at most to each applicant.  
The oral presentation of the applicant may not exceed 10 minutes.

The evaluation criteria that will be taken into account are the following:

CRITERIA
Quality of the research project: Feasibility, originality, host laboratory, work plan, and activities report (applicable only for applicants to a 1 <sup>st</sup> Grant 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)
Competencies of the applicant with regard to his/her speciality (CV)
Presentation and answers given to questions about the project
Scientific knowledge in general

The evaluation grid is the following:

Categories	Grades	
<b>A</b>	A+	outstanding
	A	excellent
	A-	very good
<b>B</b>	B+	good
	B	average
	B-	weak
<b>C</b>	C	insufficient

For applicants to a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant, juries will assess their capability to conduct their doctoral research in 4 years. Depending on the progress of the research work, juries may decide to recommend applicants whether for a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant 1<sup>st</sup> year or 1<sup>st</sup> Grant 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

To respect the European Charter for the Researcher, interviewed applicants will receive an evaluation report following the meeting of the FRIA Board of Trustees in December.

**ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS, AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT <http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/appels-reglements> AND <http://www.fnrs.be/en/index.php/privacy-policy>**