

GUIDE TO FRESH JURIES

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 21st June 2022

COMPOSITION OF JURIES

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS shall appoint members of the juries upon the proposal of the Guidance Committee of the F.R.S.-FNRS (COMA)¹.

Members are appointed for a term of one year, renewable 4 times. Their mandate is personal and may be renewed after a 2-year period of vacancy.

There are four juries: one is dedicated to cultural challenges, the three others to economic and social challenges. The applicant chooses the jury they would like the proposal to be evaluated by.

These 4 juries cover the following subject areas:

- **"Cultural challenges" jury (DC):** Cultural Anthropology, Art and Architecture, Performing Arts, Contemporary History, History of Pre-Industrial Societies, Languages, Literature, Heritage and Archaeology, Philosophy
- **"Economic and social challenges 1" jury (DES-1):** Psychology, Social Psychology, Education Sciences
- **"Economic and social challenges 2" jury (DES-2):** Economics, Management, Law, Criminology
- **"Economic and social challenges 3" jury (DES-3):** Political Science, Social Science, Urban Planning, Mobility, Communication, Human Geography, Environmental Management

The DC jury is made up of 3 civil society representatives and 18 members, 9 full members and 9 alternate members, from French-speaking Community of Belgium universities, respecting, for both full members and alternate members, the balance between universities:

- 2 UCLouvain, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège
- 1 UMons, 1 UNamur, 1 USL-B

The DES juries are made up of 1 civil society representative and 9 members from French-speaking Community of Belgium universities, respecting the balance between universities:

- 2 UCLouvain, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège
- 1 UMons, 1 UNamur, 1 USL-B

Every member who is a (co-)promoter of an applicant may not, even partially, sit on the jury in charge of interviewing the applicant.

When the President of the jury is prevented from attending, the functions of President of the jury shall be exercised by the Vice-president.

¹ Except for civil society representatives of the FRESH juries, which are designated and appointed by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

HOW JURIES WORK

The President of the jury must ensure both that their jury is competent regarding the application files examined by the latter and the scientific adequacy between the file of the applicant and the rapporteur, member of the jury.

Prior to their meeting, jury's members will have access to all the application files.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on strict compliance with the instructions given for each part of the proposal (scientific section relevant to the instrument selected, number of pages allowed for documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the juries assessing the application file.

Members first meet behind closed doors to set up a ranking in order to select the applicants who will be interviewed. Non-selected applicants will receive a final evaluation report.

Each application file is assigned to a rapporteur selected among members of the jury by the President and the Vice-president. The rapporteur shall be from an institution different from the applicant.

Each rapporteur shall draw a report and submit it on the e-space secured platform prior to the jury's session. The President shall undertake the functions of a rapporteur who is unable to exercise their duties.

This report shall be communicated to members of the jury at the start of the meeting and will serve as a basis for the interview. Additions will be made to the report in light of the conduct of the interview. To respect the European Charter for Researchers, final version of the report will serve as the evaluation report communicated to the applicant, including the final grade given by the jury after the applicant is interviewed.

Juries shall devote 30 minutes at most to each pre-selected applicant.

The oral presentation of the pre-selected applicant may not exceed 10 minutes.

Following the interview and the departure of the applicant, the jury shall debate and grade them.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The grade obtained before the interview is not taken into consideration for the oral examination.

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

The grade awarded by the jury is based, in order of importance, on:

CRITERIA
Quality of the research project: Feasibility, originality, host laboratory, work plan, societal impact, and activities report (applicable only for applicants to a 1 st Grant 2 nd Year)
Skills of the applicant with respect to their speciality (CV)
Presentation and answers given to questions about the project
Scientific knowledge in general

The evaluation grid is the following:

Categories	Grades	
A	A+	outstanding
	A	excellent
	A-	very good
B	B+	good
	B	average
	B-	weak
C	C	insufficient

The jury shall rank the applicants. The ranking is adopted and agreed by "consensus". If the consensus cannot be reached, the jury shall proceed to a vote excluding members facing a conflict of interest.

For applicants to a 1st 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 1st Grant 1st year or 1st Grant 2nd year.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any support document, tool, database, programme, or written material submitted in any format and media whatsoever to the jury for the conduct of the evaluation is considered strictly confidential.