

F.R.S.-FNRS MINI-GUIDE GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2020

French version: [click here](#).

1. SCHEDULE

Publication of the call: Thursday 19th December 2019.

Access to the form on the web-based application of the F.R.S.-FNRS [E-Space](#) for the online submission:
Friday 27th December 2019.

INSTRUMENTS			GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2020			
			DEADLINE ¹ TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC FORM	DEADLINE ¹ FOR THE ELECTRONIC VALIDATION		
				APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Postdoctoral Researcher	CR	Wednesday 22 nd January At 2 p.m.	Thursday 23 st January At 2 p.m.	Thursday 30 th January At 2 p.m.	Thursday 6 th February At 2 p.m.
	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist	SPD				
	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist renewal	SPD-REN				
	Clinical Researcher ²	CCL				
	Research Associate	CQ				
	Senior Research Associate	MR				
	Research Director	DR				
	Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research	MISU				
	Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research extension	MISU-PROL				
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Research Fellow	ASP	Monday 17 th February At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 18 th February At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 25 th February At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 3 rd March At 2 p.m.
	Research Fellow renewal	ASP-REN				
	Special Doctoral Grant ³	BSD				
	Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D.	CSD				
	Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. renewal	CSD-REN				
	Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D.	SD				
	Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. renewal	SD-REN				
	Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student	VETE-CCD				
	Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student renewal	VETE-CCD-REN				

The F.R.S.-FNRS will give researchers who may be granted with a fellowship renewal or a fellowship extension (ASP-REN, CSD-REN, SD-REN, VETE-CCD-REN, SPD-REN, CCL, or MISU-PROL) access to the electronic form via the [E-Space](#) application.

The decision to allocate the grants and fellowships will be made by the Board of Trustees of F.R.S.-FNRS in June 2020. The grants and fellowships will begin on 1st October 2020.

The note hereby aims at informing the academic community about the main characteristics of the grants and fellowships in order to help the applicants prepare their application in the best way.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

² CCL fellowship: see chapter 3, section 3.1 of this mini-guide.

³ BSD fellowship: see chapter 4, section 4.3 of this mini-guide.

2. APPENDICES

2.1 For each instrument (except MR, DR and MISU-PROL), appendices must be enclosed with the application. For more information on the appendices, click on the link of the considered instrument:

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	CR	SPD	SPD-REN	CCL	CQ	MISU			
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	ASP	ASP-REN	BSD	CSD	CSD-REN	SD	SD-REN	VETE-CCD	VETE-CCD-REN

2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

	DEADLINES IN 2020	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENTS
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Thursday 30 th January at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter	CR, SPD, CQ
	Thursday 6 th February	Appendices (see point 2.1) ⁴	CR, SPD, SPD-REN, CCL, CQ, MISU
		Letter of support from the rector of the host university	MISU
	Friday 20 th March	Reference letters from referees	CQ, MR, DR, MISU
	Friday 1 st May ⁵	Only for applicants who won't have their PhD on 6 th February 2020 (validation deadline for rectors): Certificate or copy of the Ph.D. diploma and Minutes of the thesis defence ⁴	CR, SPD
		"Seal of Excellence Certificate" granted after the deadline of validation by the candidate ⁴	CR, SPD, CQ, MISU
Publication accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant ⁴		All	
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Tuesday 25 th February at 2 p.m.	Reference letters from promoter	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Tuesday 3 rd March	Appendices (see point 2.1) ⁴	All except ASP-REN
	Friday 1 st May ⁵	Ranking ⁴ completed by the faculty / faculties awarding Bachelor's and Master's degrees or equivalent	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
		Publications accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Monday 1 st June ⁶	Advisory opinion from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)	ASP-REN, BSD, CSD-REN, SD-REN, VETE-CCD-REN

⁴ Where applicable, to be uploaded or mentioned by the applicant on a dedicated page at <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be>, as a follow-up of their application file after the validation deadline fixed for the applicant.

⁵ For reasons of schedule, all addition to applications added until 1st May is intended for Scientific Commissions members.

⁶ The deadline for the Advisory opinion by the Supervisory Panel is generally on 31st May. In 2020, it's on a Sunday so it is postponed to the next business day.

3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2019

3.1 Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist fellowship (SPD - *Spécialiste postdoctorant*)

Following the meeting of the Board of Trustees of F.R.S.-FNRS on 5th December 2019, the SPD Rules and Regulations has been adapted so as not to limit the number of renewals.

The part-time SPD fellowship consists of a 6-year probation period divided in three 2-year fellowships followed by 4-year fellowships that can be renewed without limits. As from the first 4-year renewal, the name of the fellowship becomes Clinical Researcher (CCL – *Chercheur Clinicien*).

Evolution of career and scientific evaluation cycles			
Period	Duration	Requested fellowship	Scientific evaluation
1 st period (6 years)	2 years	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist (SPD)	Two-step procedure : - Individual evaluation by remote experts - Evaluation by a Scientific Commission(CS)
	2 years	SPD 1 st Renewal	Upon request
	2 years	SPD 2 nd Renewal	Evaluation by a CS
2 nd period* (yearly reports of activities)	4 years	Clinical Researcher (CCL)	Evaluation by a CS
	4 years	CCL 1 st Renewal and following	Evaluation by a CS

* In case the fellowship holder switches to another hospital, service or research topic during the fellowship, he must inform the F.R.S.-FNRS who will re-evaluate the file.

3.2 Eligibility of Research Logisticians as Promoter

Research logisticians of rank B and C, as defined by the Royal Decree of 31st October 1953 fixing *'le statut des agrégés, des répétiteurs et des membres du personnel scientifique des universités de l'État'*, are eligible as promoters of doctorate fellowships. Research logisticians of rank A are not eligible as promoters; however, they are eligible as co-promoters provided that they hold a PhD (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 21st June 2019).

Logisticians are not eligible as promoters of postdoctoral fellowships.

4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

4.1 Doctoral Researcher fellowships

The result of the Master thesis, if available at the latest by the validation deadline fixed for the applicant, will be communicated to the Scientific Commission.

4.2 Doctoral Researcher fellowships Renewal

Research Fellow (ASP-REN), Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD-REN), Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. (SD-REN) and Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student (VETE-CCD-REN) Renewal fellowships applications will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panels (Thesis Advisory Committees).

4.3 Special Doctoral Grant (BSD)

To apply for a BSD, instrument intended for secondary education teachers, please send an email to the F.R.S.-FNRS at bourses-mandats@frs-fnrs.be. Please mention "BSD Call 2020" in the subject line and attach the following documents:

- a curriculum vitae (including the date of birth, the degrees held, the career path, information about the doctorate thesis: starting date, CFB university and promoter),
- a copy of the appointment letter for secondary education.

BSD applications will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panels (Thesis Advisory Committees).

4.4 Part-time clinical fellowships (CSD, SD, SPD, CCL) and veterinary fellowship (VETE-CCD)

The F.R.S.-FNRS reimbursement is limited to an annual amount. Limitations in force in 2021 are the following:

➤ Temporary doctor/veterinary	€51,800-
➤ Permanent doctor	€68,500-

4.5 Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU, MISU-PROL)

For all staff category, the promoter shall contact the relevant service of their host university in order to establish an estimation of staff-related expenses based on the scientific seniority. Amounts cannot be changed after application submission.

Technician and Short-term Postdoctoral Researcher categories are subject to an annual amount, calculated in proportion to the days worked. Amounts in 2021:

➤ Technician	€59,500- (full time); €30,200- (part time)
➤ Short-term Postdoctoral Researcher	€52,800-

As for the MISU/MISU-PROL, since the F.R.S.-FNRS is the employer of the Postdoctoral researcher, the promoter shall take into account the annual cost provided. Amounts in 2021:

➤ Postdoctoral Researcher	€81,800- (full time); €41,100- (part time)
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4.6 Ethical aspects

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 the submitted grant is awarded. Funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee.

5. THE CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice to write their proposal either in French or in English. For some fields, using English can broaden the number of experts likely to take part in the evaluations. The [guide for applicants](#) provides further information about the content of a proposal.

It is recommended to applicants who wish to have their application file assessed by [Scientific Commissions](#) dedicated to SEN (Exact and Natural Sciences) and SVS (Health and Life Sciences) domains to submit their application in English. Should the application file be submitted in French, the F.R.S.-FNRS may require the applicant to provide a translation in English for the purpose of conducting the [ex-ante evaluation](#).

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 Scientific Commissions assessing the application file.

NOTICE: no further changes or modification can be made in the proposal after the validation deadline fixed for the applicant.

The application file contains the main sections described hereafter.

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify whether the eligibility criteria are met (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	Academic background

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p>Awards and honours (maximum 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As stated in section 2.2, candidates to a CR, SPD, CQ and MISU post-doctorate can notify until 1st May a « Seal of Excellence Certificate » granted after the deadline of validation by the candidate. <p>The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted), structured according to the template.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applicants, holding the academic degree of Doctor who have been working <u>for 2 years at least</u> in institutions of the French-speaking community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an institutional repository (IR), must absolutely submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format. ➤ As stated in section 2.2, In case of publication accepted after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them until 1st May. <p>Bibliometric data (except for applicants applying for ASP, BSD, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD): total number of publications, total number of citations, h-index, average number of citations and indication of the source chosen for these bibliometric data.</p> <p>Professional experience: career path, professional stays abroad of more than 30 days, academic positions, collaborations with other institutions (the 3 most important), main funding obtained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applicants to a post-doctorate CR fellowship who are planning one or several research stays will be required to provide a letter of approval or emails exchanges which demonstrate that formalities are being processed. <p>List of supervised master and doctoral thesis (only for applicants seeking a MR or DR promotion).</p>
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	<p>Title in English and French (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Summary in English and in French (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website. <p>Selection of the Scientific Commission and selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance (at least 2 descriptor fields must be relevant to the Scientific Commission selected), they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the Scientific Commission selected, they shall justify the selection of the Scientific Commission in the application form. ➤ Applicants who select the Scientific Commission FORESIGHT, dedicated to research projects relating to sustainable development (covering Nature Sciences, Applied Sciences, Human and Social Sciences), must demonstrate the "sustainable development" part of their research project, including interdisciplinary aspects (2000 characters max., including spaces). <p>Summary (max. 2 pages) of previous research achievements (non-compulsory for ASP, CSD, SD et VETE-CCD doctoral fellowships).</p> <p>It is mandatory to use the template available in English or in French.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For all candidates (except MR and DR), the description (max. 4 pages) is divided in 4 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Goals of the research II. State of the art III. Research project IV. Work plan <p>Graphs and charts (max. 2 pages) are authorised in addition to the 4 pages. A reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed by order of appearance in the text.</p> ➤ For MR/DR promotion applicants, description of planned general orientation for their research for the next 5 to 10 years (max. 2 pages).
WORK ENVIRONMENT	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with the aims of the research project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data can vary depending on the nature of the project, the scientific field and the type of fellowship.

SECTION	CONTENT
REFEREES	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 3 referees (only for applicants to CQ, MR, DR, MISU).</p> <p>➤ 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.</p>

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE (EX-ANTE EVALUATION)

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has adopted the principle of a **two-step procedure**:

➤ **Step 1: individual evaluations (March to mid-April)**

Each proposal⁷ is evaluated by several remote individual experts, according to an evaluation grid known to the applicants (see "evaluation criteria").

➤ **Step 2: consolidation during the Scientific Commissions (May)**

Fourteen Scientific Commissions formed by 15 members (9 of which come from outside the French Community of Belgium (CFB), including the President) are gathered at the F.R.S.-FNRS to draw up a consolidated final ranking. Each proposal is assigned to a rapporteur⁸ who will prepare a draft evaluation report based on the individual evaluations of the first step. The draft report will be discussed, amended and validated by the Scientific Commission and then, it will be transferred to the applicant after the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has made a decision.

Thirteen of these fourteen thematic Scientific Commissions are built up from the [ERC](#) panels (European Research Council): 4 in Exact and Natural Science (SEN-1 to SEN-4), 4 in Life and Health Sciences (SVS-1 to SVS-4) and 5 in Human and Social Sciences (SHS-1 to SHS-5). The 14th Scientific Commission is a strategic interdisciplinary Commission (Foresight: Sustainable development).

The fields covered by these Scientific Commissions are defined according to a list of descriptor fields. This list includes the ERC's descriptor fields completed with F.R.S.-FNRS keywords, which reflect the specificities of research in the CFB.

First, applicants select the Scientific Commission they would like the proposal to be evaluated by. Then, applicants will have to choose from 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of importance (at least 2 descriptor fields must be relevant to the Scientific Commission selected by the applicant) and they may complete this selection by adding unrestricted keywords (if necessary). The F.R.S.-FNRS will base the selection of 1st-step experts on those pieces of information along with the summary of the project.

If necessary, applicants may indicate up to 3 experts they do not wish to have as reviewers and provide a justification.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

The application conditions, the goals of the different sections and the applicable criteria are detailed in the [guide for applicants](#).

The applicant is free to read the [evaluation guide](#) intended for experts in order to better understand how the proposal will be evaluated.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
	<p>Quality of the applicant:</p> <p>➤ academic CV</p> <p>➤ promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.)</p>	60%

⁷ Except for doctoral applications (ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD) and for SPD-REN and CCL applications.

⁸ Doctoral applications are assigned to two rapporteurs.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
RESEARCH FELLOW (DOCTORAL RESEARCHER)	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	25%
	Research environment	15%
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) ➤ promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.) ➤ awards 	40%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	40%
	Research environment	20%
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) ➤ opinion of worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independency, etc.) ➤ project funding and grants obtained ➤ awards 	40%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	25%
	Research environment	10%
	Potential / International recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ long stays abroad⁹ ➤ invitations to international conferences ➤ active collaborations, participation in networks 	25%

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/reglements-guides> AND <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/charte-vie-privee>

⁹ A long stay abroad is a key element adding value to the application file.