

MINI-GUIDE FRIA CALL 2023

French version: [click here](#)

FRIA Rules and Regulations: [click here](#)

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application [e-space](#) for the online submission: **TUESDAY 4TH JULY 2023**.

INSTRUMENTS		FRIA CALL 2022		
		ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹ ON E-SPACE		
		APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 st Grant	FRIA-B1	Thursday 24 th August at 2 p.m.*	Wednesday 30 th August at 2 p.m.	Friday 1 st September at 2 p.m.
2 nd Grant	FRIA-B2			

*Please note that this is a **fixed deadline** and the applicant will not be able to edit, save or submit the application once this deadline has passed. Please make sure that it is submitted on time.

- The F.R.S.-FNRS will give researchers who may be granted with a fellowship renewal (FRIA-B2) access to the electronic form via the [e-space](#) application.
- Applicants for a first FRIA grant will be required to pass an oral examination. The F.R.S.-FNRS' Bureau of the Board of Trustees has decided that this examination will be held **exclusively at the premises of F.R.S.-FNRS** located at 5 Egmont Street, 1000 Brussels.

However, in exceptional cases, applicants who are unable to attend are requested to duly justify their situation by email to auditions-jurys@frs-fnrs.be as soon as possible. The emails will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Bureau of the Board of Trustees or the Secretary-General of F.R.S.-FNRS.

Jurys dates are available [here](#).

The precise time of the oral examination, as well as the practical details, will be communicated at the beginning of October.

- The decision to allocate the grants will be made by the Board of Trustees of the FRIA in December. First Grant scheme starts as from 1st October 2023 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1st January 2024.

2. APPENDICES

2.1 For each instrument, appendices must be enclosed with the application. For more information on the appendices, click on the link of the considered instrument:

1 ST GRANT	FRIA-B1
2 ND GRANT	FRIA-B2

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

DEADLINES IN 2023		DOCUMENTS
1 ST GRANT	Wednesday 30 th August at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter, structured according to the template
	Saturday 30 th September	Appendices (see point 2.1) ²
		Reference letters from: - 2 reference persons (different from the promoter) member of the academic staff of a scientific institution, structured according to the template , - 2 reference persons from the industry and/or agriculture sectors, structured according to the template . They will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
		Ranking ² completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees
		Publications accepted after the validation deadline for the applicant ²
2 ND GRANT	Tuesday 31 st October	Advisory recommendation from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2022

3.1 [Rules and Regulations](#)

Scope of Article 4

Given the interdisciplinary nature of certain programs, holders of one of the following academic master's degrees (or equivalent) may apply indiscriminately to FRIA or FRESH, provided they have explicit support from the promoter and the local authority responsible for doctoral admissions (Doctoral Commission):

- Public Health Sciences
- Geographic Sciences
- Psychology and Educational Sciences
- Environmental Sciences and Management
- Agroecology

To do so, the applicant must attach to their application form the [document](#) attesting to the promoter's support regarding the choice of the instrument.

3.2 **Création jury PE11 – Suppression du PE8 – jury 3**

On the decision of the FRIA Board of Trustees, and in order to align the evolution of the classification of the ERC panels with the FRIA juries, a new jury dedicated to the new PE11 panel, focused on materials engineering and the development of advanced materials, has been created, resulting in the elimination of one of the 4 juries in the PE8 thematic area.

² 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 set for the applicant.

4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

4.1 Grants Renewal

Applications for a FRIA 2nd Grant will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee).

4.2 Fields and themes considered a priority by the Walloon government

Since FRIA grants are strictly restricted to graduates with an academic education **who aim to develop their research career in the industry or agriculture, applicants whose project offers short, mid or long-term industrial or agronomic applications prospects**, may select one or several fields and themes from the provided [list](#).

The jury shall assess the application potential of the research program and the "Industry and Agriculture" approach, and shall give its opinion accordingly.

4.3 Only one FRIA/FRESH application

Applicants are not allowed to apply for both [FRIA](#) and [FRESH](#) instruments in the same year.

5. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice of writing their proposal either in French or in English.

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.

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

The application file contains the main sections described hereafter.

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables verification of eligibility criteria (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	Academic background
	Awards and honours (max. 5)
	The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted, if any), structured according to the template ➤ As stated in section 2.2, in case of publications accepted after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them until 30 th September.
	Title of the Master's thesis
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	Title in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Summary in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces) ➤ Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website .
	Selection of the subject area and of the jury . ➤ The applicant chooses the subject area they wish their application to be assessed in as well as the jury within this subject area.
	Selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance , which can be supplemented by some unrestricted keywords . ➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the subject area selected, they shall justify their choice in the application form.

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p>It is mandatory to use the template: FRIA-B1 (FR / EN) - FRIA-B2 (FR / EN).</p> <p>The description of the project (max.4 pages) is divided into 4 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goals of the research 2. State of the art 3. Research project 4. Work plan <p>Graphs and tables (max. 2 pages) are allowed in addition to the 4 pages.</p> <p>A reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed in the order of appearance in the text.</p>
	Summary of the 1 st year of Ph.D. - For 1 st Grant-2 nd year applicants only.
	Applicants to a FRIA grant may present the industrial or agronomic approach and prospects related to their project in the application file (see point 4.3).
THE WORK ENVIRONMENT	<p>Facts allowing to assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with the aims of the research project.</p> <p>➤ <i>Data can vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</i></p>
THE REFERENCE PERSONS	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 reference persons (different from the promoter) member of the academic personnel of a scientific institution, - 2 reference persons from the industry and/or agriculture sectors. <p>➤ <i>Applicants shall contact the reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form to ensure that they are willing to provide a confidential reference letter as part of their application.</i></p>

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the reference letters related to their application (promoter and reference persons).

No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE, JURIES

6.1 Composition of juries

The FRIA has adopted 20 subject areas corresponding to the 20 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 **20 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 chemistry³
- **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-physics / chemistry / biology; solar system, stellar astronomy, galactic and extra-galactic; planetary systems, cosmology; space science, instrumentation
- **PE10:** physical geography, geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management
- **PE11:** Development of advanced materials: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, adaptation, optimisation, new and combined use of materials, etc.

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

Each jury is composed of 1 non-academic member from a research center or an expert from the industry sector, along with 6 or 8 members from CFB universities, ensuring representation among the universities:

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

The composition of FRIA juries is available [here](#). 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 also depends on member availability, any withdrawals or replacements.

6.2 Validation of the subject area and distribution of the files between the different juries of a subject area

The choice of subject area by the applicant will be accepted or denied by the Presidents of juries, as long as they don't come from the same university as the applicant (in which case a Vice-president will be in charge of this procedure).

When there are more than one jury in the subject area of the [jury](#) chosen by the applicant, the FRIA reserves the right to transfer the applicant to another jury, taking into account the number

³ Since the 2019 FRIA call, given that correspondence between PE3 and PE5 subject areas, PE5-jury 2 has been broadened, henceforth including members with expertise in PE3 subject area.

of applicants and the management of potential conflicts of interest. If necessary, the FRIA may transfer the applicant to another jury when their (co-)promoter is a member of the jury.

6.3 How juries operate

Juries shall devote 30 minutes at most to each applicant.

The oral presentation of the applicant shall not exceed 10 minutes.

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

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

The evaluation criteria 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 st Grant 2 nd Year)
Skills of the applicant with regard to their speciality (CV)
Presentation and answers given to questions about the project
Scientific knowledge in general

For applicants to a FRIA 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.

In accordance with 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, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/reglements-guides> AND <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/charte-vie-privee>

QUESTIONS: bourses-mandats@frs-fnrs.be