

## MINI-GUIDE FRIA CALL 2026

French version: [click here](#)

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

### 1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 on [e-space](#) for the online submission.

INSTRUMENTS		FRIA CALL 2026		
		ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES <sup>1</sup> ON E-SPACE		
		APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 <sup>st</sup> Grant	FRIA-B1	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> August at 2 p.m.*	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August at 2 p.m.	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September at 2 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> FRIA grant will be required to pass an oral examination that will be held **exclusively at the F.R.S.-FNRS premises** located at "rue d'Egmont, 5" (5, Egmont street) 1000 Brussels (Belgium).

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](mailto: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 F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees or the Secretary-General of F.R.S.-FNRS.

Jurys dates are available [here](#).

The precise time and date 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 FRIA Board of Trustees in December.

### 2. APPENDICES

**2.1 For each instrument**, appendices must be enclosed with the application. For further information, click on the relevant instrument below:

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> GRANT</b>	<a href="#">FRIA-B1</a>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> GRANT</b>	<a href="#">FRIA-B2</a>

<sup>1</sup> All times are Brussels local time.

## 2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

DEADLINES IN 2026		DOCUMENTS
1 <sup>ST</sup> GRANT	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August at 2 p.m.	Opinion letter from the promoter, structured according to the <a href="#">template</a>
	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Appendices (see point 2.1) <sup>2</sup>
		Opinion letters from: - 2 reference persons (different from the promoter) member of the academic staff of a scientific institution, structured according to the <a href="#">template</a> , - 2 reference persons from the industry and/or agriculture sector, structured according to the <a href="#">template</a> . They will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS after the promoter validation deadline <sup>2</sup> .
		<a href="#">Ranking</a> <sup>2</sup> completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees
	Publications accepted after the applicant validation deadline <sup>2</sup>	
2 <sup>ND</sup> GRANT	Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<a href="#">Advisory recommendation</a> from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

## 3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2025

### 3.1 Modification of the “scientific section” template

The scientific section has been split into several separate files in order to better structure the information expected and to facilitate its review.

### 3.2 Measures to limit the number of applications

The FRIA Board of Trustees in December 2025 adopted the following decisions:

- **As of the 2026 call**, any application withdrawn after the deadline for validation by the academic authorities (rectors) and before the meeting of the jury will be recognized.
- As part of the ex-ante evaluation procedure, the juries, meeting in session, establish a consolidated ranking of the applicants. It has been decided that applicants whose application to a FRIA call has not been ranked within the 70% of the best applications by the jury are not allowed to apply to the following FRIA call. This measure will enter into force **as of the 2026 call**.

### 3.3 Eligibility criteria related to seniority for researchers becoming long-term foster parents

The F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees in December 2025 decided to extend by 12 months the maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as long-term foster parents, designated as such by the court, by a placement service accredited by the competent Community, or by a Community service responsible for youth protection (Youth

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Welfare Services, Committee for Special Youth Assistance) in the context of a long-term placement.

### 3.4 Eligibility of the holders of FED-tWIN mandate<sup>3</sup>

The F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 decided to make the holders of FED-tWIN mandate eligible to be promoter of an applicant to a FRIA Grant<sup>4</sup>.

## 4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

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### 4.1 Grants Renewal

Applications for a 2<sup>nd</sup> FRIA Grant will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Second Grant starts as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027.

### 4.2 Fields and themes considered a priority by the Walloon government

Since FRIA grants are strictly restricted for holders of an academic degree **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.

### 4.4 Start date of 1<sup>st</sup> grants

The FRIA 1<sup>st</sup> Grant starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026. The starting date may be postponed upon a duly justified request in the application form.

If the FRIA accepts a starting date for a grant after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026, the grant will be postponed by the number of months between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 and the actual starting date of the grant, up to a maximum of 4 months (which means an actual starting date of no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2027). No extension will be granted if the starting date of the grant is later than 1<sup>st</sup> February 2027.

## 5. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

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

They can use this [link](#) to download all the template documents (in .docx) to be filled within their application.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the [instructions](#) given for each template document** (expected contain, number of pages...) and reminds that the juries have the final say in the assessment of the application file.

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

The application file contains the main sections described hereafter.

SECTION	CONTENT
RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify the <b>eligibility criteria</b> (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	<a href="#">Academic background</a>

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.belspo.be/belspo/research/FEDtWIN\\_en.stm](https://www.belspo.be/belspo/research/FEDtWIN_en.stm)

<sup>4</sup> Excluding instruments Research Associate (Chercheuse qualifiée ou Chercheur qualifié - CQ) and Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (Mandat d'impulsion scientifique -MIS).

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p><b>Awards and honours</b> (max. 5)</p> <p>The applicant's <b>list of publications</b> (published or accepted, if any), structured according to the <a href="#">template document</a>.</p> <p>➤ As stated in section 2.2, in case of <b>publications accepted</b> after the applicant validation deadline, applicants may add them until 30<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Title of the <b>Master's thesis</b></p>
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<p><b>Title</b> in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, <b>Abstract</b> in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces)</p> <p>➤ In case of funding, these are released and made public on the <a href="#">F.R.S.-FNRS website</a>.</p> <p>Selection of the <b>subject area</b> and of the <b>jury</b>.</p> <p>➤ The applicant chooses the subject area they wish their application to be assessed in as well as the <a href="#">jury</a> within this subject area.</p> <p><b>Selection of 2 to 6 <a href="#">descriptor fields</a> in order of relevance</b>, which can be supplemented by some <b>unrestricted keywords</b>.</p> <p>➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the subject area selected, they shall justify their choice in the application form.</p> <p>To be completed imperatively using the template document available in English or in French.</p> <p>As a reminder, the applicants can use this <a href="#">link</a> to download all the template documents (in .docx) to be filled within their application.</p> <p>➤ For all applicants, <b>description of the project</b> divided into 4 parts accompanied by a reference bibliography:</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>➤ Activities report 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 (see point 4.2).</p>
<b>WORK ENVIRONMENT</b>	<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>➤ Data can vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</p>
<b>REFERENCE PERSONS</b>	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 reference persons (different from the promoter) member of the academic personnel of a scientific institution,</li> <li>- 2 reference persons from the industry and/or agriculture sectors.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Applicants shall contact the reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form to make sure that they are willing to provide an opinion letter following the instructions they will be given.</p>

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the confidential opinion 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

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### 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 F.R.S.-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, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling
- **LS2:** Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine
- **LS3:** Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches
- **LS4:** Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, interorgan and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases)
- **LS5:** Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders
- **LS6:** The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies
- **LS7:** Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine, medical ethics
- **LS8:** Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling
- **LS9:** Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels, biohazards
- **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, biological physics
- **PE4:** Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics
- **PE5:** New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry, molecular architecture, organic chemistry<sup>5</sup>
- **PE6:** Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems
- **PE7:** Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering
- **PE8:** Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods

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<sup>5</sup> Given the correspondence between PE3 and PE5 subject areas, PE5-jury 2 has been broadened, henceforth including members whose descriptor fields also cover PE3 subject area.

- **PE9:** Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data
- **PE10:** Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management
- **PE11:** Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel 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 U Mons 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 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

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The evaluation criteria taken into account are the following:

<b>CRITERIA</b>
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)
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 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.

In accordance with the "European Charter for Researchers", 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](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/reglements-guides) AND [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/EN/CHARTE-VIE-PRIVEE](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/charte-vie-privee)

QUESTIONS: [bourses-mandats@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:bourses-mandats@frs-fnrs.be)