

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call: **TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026** on [e-space](#) for the online submission.

INSTRUMENTS		CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL 2026		
		ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹ ON E-SPACE		
		MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
Research Credit	CDR	Tuesday 7 th July at 2 p.m.*	Friday 10 th July at 2 p.m.	Friday 17 th July at 2 p.m.
Research Project	PDR			
Equipment	EQP			
Incentive Grant for Scientific Research	MIS			
Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences²	IISN			

*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.

Funding decision will be made by the decision-making bodies of the F.R.S.-FNRS at the end of the calendar year. The starting date for every instrument is the following: 1st January 2027³.

2. INSTRUMENTS

Rules and regulations related to eligible expenses have been defined to meet the specific needs of wide-ranging scientific fields.

- **Research Credit (CDR - *Crédit de recherche*)**: a funding instrument to support the basic activities of a researcher (or their team) required to set up or continue a research project.
- **Research Project (PDR - *Projet de recherche*)**: a funding instrument for research projects to advance knowledge across all fields of research by supporting the implementation of ambitious and original research projects.
- **Equipment (EQP - *Équipement*)**: a funding instrument to support the acquisition of specialised equipment required for the development of research projects or infrastructures, or for the upgrading of existing equipment.
- **Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (MIS - *Mandat d'impulsion scientifique*)**: a funding instrument to support research projects led by early-career researchers wishing to develop a research unit and to acquire scientific autonomy.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

² IISN Instrument: see Chapter 5, point 5.1 Specific Remarks in this mini-guide.

³ In the particular case of a PDR in collaboration with a German partner (DFG), the PDR starting date is set for the 1st April 2027.

- **Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences (IISN - Institut Interuniversitaire des Sciences Nucléaires)**: a long-term, regularly renewed funding instrument financing successive recurrent projects lasting up to 4 years.

IISN scope:

- o Study of fundamental interactions and their possible unification through observation, experimentation, phenomenological and theoretical studies, including cosmological aspects.
- o Properties of atomic and subatomic bound systems.
- o Instruments for experimentation and study include, for example, particle accelerators, particle traps, cosmic ray detectors, neutrino detectors...
- o This list is not exhaustive, but does not include astronomical approaches (radio, IR, visible, UV telescopes, etc.).
- o Research and development on the technologies needed for the experimental and observational programmes carried out in the framework of these studies.

These instruments are summarised in the table below. The eligible expenses are detailed in the regulatory provisions.

	Duration	Limits	Nature
Research Credit CDR	2 years ⁴	€10 – 63 k	Operating costs, equipment
Research Project PDR	2 years	€60 - 170 k	For Mono-promotion PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
		€60 - 200 k	For Single-university PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
		€60 - 245 k	For Multi-university PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
	4 years	€120 - 340 k	For Mono-promotion PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 400 k	For Single-university PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 485 k	For Multi-university PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
Research Project PDR in collaboration with a German partner (DFG)	3 years	€120 - 340 k	For Mono-promotion PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 400 k	For Single-university PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 485 k	For Multi-university PDR Staff, operating costs, equipment
Equipment EQP	2 years	€30 -300 k	Operating costs, equipment
Incentive grant for Scientific Research MIS	3 years	€475 k	Staff, operating costs, equipment
Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences IISN	4 years max.	-	Staff, operating costs, equipment

⁴ For CDR, the allocated grants can be used over a 4-year period.

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

3.3 Eligibility of the holders of FED-tWIN mandate⁵

The F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees on 9th April 2026 decided to make the holders of FED-tWIN mandate eligible for F.R.S.-FNRS funding⁶.

3.4 Instrument IISN

On 9th April, 2026, the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees agreed that:

- A) Each doctoral Scientist called upon must be an excellent applicant.
- B) The postdoctoral staff is eligible up to 6 years after defending their thesis, for new nominations only.
- C) Staff evaluation:

The scientific staff (doctoral, postdoctoral, non-doctoral) is evaluated by the High and Low Energies Scientific Commission on the basis of the following criteria:

- The curriculum vitae,
- The diploma (Master or PhD), including their two years of Master's grades,
- A reference letter from the promoter, explaining the recruitment process along with the value added by the applicant to the project (referring, if needed be, to the applicant's scientific and technical capacities),
- 2 reference letters from outsiders.

Promoters who already have the required documents or who have identified staff suitable for a role NN mentioned in the forms after the closing of the call have to send said information to credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be by 31st October 2026 at the latest. These information will be transferred to the Scientific Commission members.

The staff identified after granting (throughout the ongoing year) will be evaluated on the basis of the information to be sent to credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be.

- D) Maintenance and Operating (M&O) costs: general costs (or any similar cost based on the number of staff members) only apply to promoters spending at least 45% of their activities to the experiment (each scientist is allowed a max. of two experiments). A postdoctoral scientist working on two projects can only be counted as one and must under no circumstances benefit from a M&O per project.
- E) Given the characteristic of the instrument, flexibility is ruled as such:
 - Staff cannot be converted into operating or equipment.
 - Operating or equipment cannot be converted into staff in order to hire more people.
 - Operating or equipment transfers into staff are allowed in order to:
 - o Meet the project's additional staff costs,
 - o Grant the hired staff additional months (to avoid a break),
 - o Attract an excellent doctoral student before they switch to another contract,

⁵ https://www.belspo.be/belspo/research/FEDtWIN_en.stm

⁶ Excluding instruments Research Associate (Chercheuse qualifiée ou Chercheur qualifié - CQ) and MIS.

- Allow a doctoral student to achieve their thesis.

4. INITIATIVE WEAVE

Since 2021, some European research funding agencies have mutually opened their project funding instruments to research teams from partner agencies of the initiative Weave. Researchers from the French Community of Belgium can therefore include partners from another partner agency in the PDR instrument of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Currently, the F.R.S.-FNRS offers the possibility to submit collaborative project proposals (bi or trilateral) as part of the PDR instrument within the framework of the Credits and Projects Call with:

- German research institutions eligible to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG): German partners must comply with the guidelines of the [Weave page of DFG](#).
 - Attention: projects in collaboration with a German partner have a duration of 3 years with a funding equal to that of a 4-year PDR.
 - The PDR starting date is set for the 1st April and the ending date for the 31st March.
- Flemish research institutions eligible to the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO): Flemish partners must comply with the guidelines of the [Weave FWO page as a partner agency](#).
- Luxembourg research institutions eligible to the FNR Luxembourg (FNR): Luxembourg partners must comply with the guidelines of the [INTER programme](#) of the FNR.
- Swiss research institutions eligible to the SNSF Switzerland (SNSF): Swiss partners must comply with the guidelines of the [SNSF Weave page](#).

5. SPECIFIC REMARKS

5.1 IISN application submission

- The "labo" agreements aim at covering the 'shared services', i.e., technical staff along with the related operating costs, as well as expenses for inviting lecturers in seminars of general interest, for instance. The flexibility decided by the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees does not apply to the "labo" agreements.
- The "project" agreements may cover expenses related to specific scientific projects, e.g., testing, analysis, computing support to an experiment, research-development for a new detector, theoretical research, and scientific missions. Those expenses cannot be claimed via a "labo" agreement.

Expenses claims relating to a scientific project should be elaborated with the most comprehensive possible description of all the expenses.

In particular, the following should be detailed:

- Scientific missions expenses (Belgian researchers travelling abroad, temporary mobility of foreign scientific collaborators as part of the project);
- If applicable, an estimate of the cost for the new equipment to continue the experiment, in case of projects in the long run or a ten-year experiment project for instance⁷.

Details on the expenses should be provided in all applications (new project, addendum/extension of an ongoing IISN funding) submitted for the current Call.

Reminder: All "Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences" IISN projects may be submitted after the "[IISN PROJECT](#)" questionnaire has been duly completed and sent to credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be (specifying in the subject line: PROJET IISN). The main promoter will be given access to 'e-space' after the F.R.S.-FNRS administration has verified the validity of the application.

5.2 Involvement of CHU partners

⁷ For example: submission of an initial 4-year project with no substantial expenses, however, unless a massive investment is planned, the development and achievement of the project may not be guaranteed.

University hospitals, clinics or hospital departments, hereafter referred to as “CHU”, provide specific services to university researchers to carry out projects funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

To best use the funds allocated to scientific research, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables researchers to include, as research partners, the CHU actively participating in the research project provided that these partner institutions are considered as entities affiliated with the host university receiving the funding requested.

In this respect, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables the university to declare the costs strictly generated by the CHU to carry out the funded project. The university is responsible for the CHU's compliance to regulations applying to beneficiaries of F.R.S.-FNRS funding, as well as to relevant tax regulations.

To proceed, the researcher must **imperatively** detail in their application form:

- the tasks and work packages undertaken by the CHU (in the [template](#)),
- the budget required to conduct these tasks (under “Budget”).

The researcher shall contact the relevant departments of their host university regarding the legal and financial regulations pertaining to this measure.

Please note: Are eligible only the hospitals, clinics or hospital departments affiliated with a university and listed in this [Appendix](#).

5.3 Reference persons (MIS)⁸

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.

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the confidential letters related to their application. No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.

Deadline for receiving letters from the reference persons is 15th September 2026.

6. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice of writing 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.

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) fields, as well as the Scientific Commission SHS-2, 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](#). This translation will have to be submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS within 5 working days.

First, applicants select the Scientific Commission⁹ 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 fields¹⁰ 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.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the [instructions given for each instrument](#)** and reminds that the Scientific Commissions have the final say in the assessment of the application file.

⁸ The opinion letters are intended for Scientific Commissions members.

⁹ Not applicable for the IISN instrument.

¹⁰ 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 SUSTAINABILITY, dedicated to research projects relating to sustainability through interdisciplinarity, must demonstrate the "sustainability" aspect of their research project, including interdisciplinary aspects (max. 2,000 characters, including spaces).

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

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

FORM
FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDR/PDR/EQP/MIS/IISN<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. References of the application (for the funded proposals, these data are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website).<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Title, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and,- Abstract, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).2. Selection of Scientific Commission and descriptor fields3. Bibliometric indicators4. Scientific Curriculum vitae + Publications list¹¹ of each promoter/co-promoter¹²5. Scientific section<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CDR/PDR/EQP/MIS: see templates- IISN: see templates → New project (IISN-ND) - Addendum/Extension (IISN-AV/PR)6. Ethical aspects7. Reference persons (contact details) → MIS only
BUDGET <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDR/EQP<p>Description and justification for the resources requested: Operating costs, Equipment</p>• PDR/MIS/IISN<p>Description and justification for the resources requested: Staff, operating costs, equipment</p>
PREVIOUS FUNDING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDR/PDR/EQP/MIS<p>Connection with previous funding applications (submitted or granted)</p>

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-priviee)

QUESTIONS : credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be

¹¹Promoters/co-promoters who have been working for 2 years at least in institutions of the French Community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an institutional repository (IR) must submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format. Please note that the list of publications must be a PDF document exported directly from a word processor or publishing software, not a scanned document.

¹²Including promoter(s) associated with partner agencies of the Weave initiative.