

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS F.R.S.-FNRS PHD

ADOPTED BY THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE F.R.S.-FNRS

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ARTICLE 1: ROLE AND MISSION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS F.R.S.-FNRS PHD

According to Article 21 of the statutes, the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS entrusts its evaluation missions to Scientific Commissions, of which it determines the number and composition.

The mission of the Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD is to examine doctorate level applications, which are submitted to it as part of the "Grants and Fellowships" call organised by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

ARTICLE 2: NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS F.R.S.-FNRS PHD AND THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE

Fourteen Scientific Commissions have been formed by the F.R.S.-FNRS and their respective areas of expertise are identified by the [descriptor fields](#) listed on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

These Scientific Commissions are divided into 13 thematic Scientific Commissions, which are essentially based on the fields of research covered by the ERC (European Research Council): 4 in Exact and Natural Sciences (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).

A fourteenth Scientific Commission applies its expertise in the strategic field of sustainability through interdisciplinarity (SUSTAINABILITY).

ARTICLE 3: COMPOSITION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS F.R.S.-FNRS PHD

Each Scientific Commission F.R.S.-FNRS PhD is chaired by the president of the corresponding [international Scientific Commission](#) and consists exclusively of members of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB). The latter are chosen from members of the academic institutions of the CFB (professors and lecturers) or from holders of a Research Associate, Senior Research Associate or Research Director fellowship from the F.R.S.-FNRS.

The Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD consist of a maximum of 13 members: 3 members per major university, together with 0, 1 or 2 members per medium-sized university, depending on whether the latter have activities/applicants in the relevant field and on the number of applications submitted by each of these institutions.

All members of the Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD are identified and appointed according to a procedure defined by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

The secretary general will report to the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on the functioning of Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD.

ARTICLE 4: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

- 4.1 The [Guidance Committee](#) proposes to the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS the composition of Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD. This composition must guarantee that the members have completed a minimum period of service (10 years after their doctorate thesis), the scientific quality

of the latter and complementarity of expertise in terms of scientific disciplines¹. Particular care is also taken in order to maintain a gender balance.

- 4.2** In its proposals, the Guidance Committee will take account of the rules and regulations relating to potential conflicts of interest².
- 4.3** The annual composition of the Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD approved by the Guidance Committee is subject to the decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

ARTICLE 5: TERMS OF OFFICE

- 5.1** The mandate of each member is awarded on personal basis and begins on the 1st January of the relevant year.

⇒ The mandate of each member has a maximum duration of one year;

⇒ Successive mandates are authorised on the condition that they continue uninterrupted over a period of over three years and do not exceed 6 years per decade.

ARTICLE 6: CONFIDENTIALITY

Under penalty of exclusion, members of the Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD are required to respect the confidentiality of discussions and applications.

ARTICLE 7: FUNCTIONING OF SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS F.R.S.-FNRS PHD

For each application, the president and the F.R.S.-FNRS appoint two members as reviewers who will be responsible for examining the application.

The reviewers are also responsible for preparing a draft consolidated evaluation report based on:

1. The application,
2. Opinions from two scientific experts from outside the CFB who are briefed by the applicant,
3. Evaluation of the research project conducted by a member from outside the CFB of the corresponding international Scientific Commission appointed by the president and F.R.S.-FNRS. The reviewers cannot be responsible for an application submitted by their institution.

The Scientific Commissions F.R.S.-FNRS PhD take their decisions according to the "consensus» procedure; if this procedure fails, the application is subject to a vote of all members.

ARTICLE 8: CONVENING MEMBERS AND MEETINGS ORGANISATION

The F.R.S.-FNRS organises meetings, for which it also provides the secretariat.

¹ In exceptional cases, the Guidance Committee may be required to propose the replacement of a member who would be absent during a call, in order to cover all the descriptor fields of the relevant Scientific Commission F.R.S.-FNRS PhD. The replacement of a member due to a potential conflict of interest or absence may affect a call.

² A proposed member who is the promoter of a doctoral researcher as part of the relevant Grants and Fellowships call cannot serve on the Commission for the entire instrument affected by the application, as the instrument determines the type of fellowship.