

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ULYSSE INCENTIVE GRANT FOR MOBILITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MISU - MANDAT D'IMPULSION SCIENTIFIQUE - MOBILITÉ ULYSSE)

**ADOPTED BY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE F.R.S.-FNRS
ON 7TH DECEMBER 2021**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
CHAPTER I: SCOPE	3
CHAPTER II: APPLICATION.....	3
<u>II- A.</u> : Promoter	3
<u>II- B.</u> : Submission of application.....	4
CHAPTER III: NATURE AND DURATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP	5
<u>III- A.</u> : Eligible and non eligible expenses	5
<u>III- B.</u> : Funding characteristics and provisions	5
CHAPTER IV: EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS	7
CHAPTER V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS	7
CHAPTER VI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.....	9
CHAPTER VII: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROMOTER.....	9
CHAPTER VIII: ACCUMULATION RULES	10
APPENDIX 1	11
APPENDIX 2	13

CHAPTER I: SCOPE

Article 1

The rules and regulations hereinafter are only applicable to the recipient of a credit within the framework of an Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU – Mandat d'impulsion scientifique - mobilité Ulysse).

One researcher only will support the research programme and will receive the status of promoter.

MISU applications must be submitted under Grants and Fellowships Call of the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS).

Article 2

The goal of the funding granted within the framework of a MISU consists of supporting highly-qualified Belgian or foreign researchers, who do not hold a F.R.S.-FNRS fellowship when submitting the application and who have a scientific research activity and are paid abroad, to come and pursue their career in a university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium listed in [Appendix 1](#), hereinafter referred to as "host university".

CHAPTER II: APPLICATION

II- A.: PROMOTER

Article 3

By the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors), the promoter-applicant to a MISU:

- must have a full-time scientific research activity and be paid abroad since at least five years;
- may have completed maximum 12 months put together of research stays in Belgium during the last five years.

Article 4

The promoter-applicant to a MISU must be an active researcher with an excellent career track record during the past ten years, demonstrating significant research results. They must have the required skills for leading a research team and enjoy an international scientific recognition.

Over the last ten years, the following elements will be taken into consideration while assessing the proposal, for instance:

- Publications as principal author in the main peer-reviewed journals in the concerned field;
- For social and human sciences, major research monographs;
- Guest presentations given at high-level international conferences and advanced courses;
- Participation in organizing high-level international conferences or congresses;
- International recognition of the applicant, with awards and scientific prizes;
- Number of supervised PhD theses.

Article 5

Applicants may not apply for a MISU more than three times.

Researchers who have already benefited from a MISU can no longer apply for this fellowship.

II- B.: SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Article 6

The Grants and Fellowships Call is opened once a year and is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

The application for an Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU) can be submitted in French or in English. It must only be submitted on [e-space](#), the online platform dedicated to the calls for proposals.

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 English¹.

Promoter-applicants to an Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research extension (MISU-PROL) are given access to the electronic form by the F.R.S.-FNRS on [e-space](#).

All applications (MISU or MISU-PROL) are submitted to a procedure including two successive electronic validations on the dates that will be indicated when the call is published:

- a. The validation by the promoter: it accounts as a confirmation that the application file is complete.
- b. The validation by the research administration (or Board of Education) of the university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium, the Authority to which the application file is transferred following the validation by the promoter. This Authority may accept or refuse the application. The validation deadline set for the rectors puts a final end to the call for proposals.

Applications that have not been validated within the time-frame of the call cannot be taken into account.

A mini-guide specifies the validation dates as well as the details of the documents which must be included in the application.

Article 7

For all new MISU application:

- a letter of support from the Rector of the host university must be communicated to the F.R.S.-FNRS by the time of the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) at the latest;
- in their electronic form, applicants must provide the contact details of 3 foreign experts² who have a solid international reputation in the applicant's research field and who will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS to provide a recommendation (letter of reference).

¹ 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](#).

² Applicants shall contact the referees 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 referees indicated 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.

Article 8

An application is admissible as long as the host university commits to continuing the research activity initiated during the grant when the latter will be terminated. The decision to continue the research activity will be taken after an evaluation, details of which shall be determined by the host university.

CHAPTER III: NATURE AND DURATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

III- A.: ELIGIBLE AND NON ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Article 9

As part of the MISU the allocated fund can cover 3 types of expenses:

- Personnel
- Operating
- Equipment

Article 10

Some expenses are capped:

- MRI \leq 3 Tesla at € 350/hour
- MRI $>$ 3 Tesla at € 500/hour
- MEG at € 300/hour

Article 11

The following operating costs are not authorised:

- Payment and reimbursement of rents
- Payment of the heating, light and telephone
- Costs for facilities maintenance and building costs
- Costs for equipment maintenance and repairing
- Costs for furniture
- Office supply costs (except for justified computer or computer equipment costs)
- Restaurant costs and expenses for foodstuffs (coffee, sugar, softs...) not related to missions or shift trips
- Visa fees for residence permits
- Insurance for appliance(s) or vehicle(s) belonging to the institution
- Thesis related expenses (printout, jury's invitation)

III- B.: FUNDING CHARACTERISTICS AND PROVISIONS

Article 12

The MISU is awarded for a maximum duration of three years:

- a first two-year fellowship,
- a possible one-year extension.

The MISU promoter is remunerated by the host university.

Article 13

The MISU starting date is set on the 1st October.

Subject to the agreement of the rector of the host university, the MISU promoter may request the F.R.S.-FNRS for an authorization to defer the starting date mentioned in paragraph 1 for a period of twelve months maximum.

Article 14

MISU applications enable to apply for funding of maximum € 200,000-, **on an annual average**.

The grants obtained by the MISU promoter are personal and shall not be transferable.

Article 15

Categories of personnel³ are detailed in the table below:

Categories	Activity	
	Part time	Full time
Doctoral Researcher - Grant	n/a	x
Postdoctoral Researcher ⁴	x	x
Non-doctoral Researcher - Salary (capped)	x	x
Technician - Salary (capped)	x	x

n/a = not applicable

The promoter of a MISU is allowed to recruit personnel **for a minimum of one month** and the duration may not exceed the maximal duration of the funding agreement.

The identity of the personnel is not required when submitting an application; however the category of the personnel must be specified (see table above).

Article 16

On the date of the hiring, Doctoral Researchers must have obtained one of the following degrees for 3 years maximum (for no more than the duration of the specialisation for doctors and veterinarian applicants who have been undertaking a medical or veterinary specialty training):

- 1° a master degree for a value of at least 120 credits awarded by a Higher Education Institution within the French-speaking Community of Belgium;
- 2° a master degree for a value of at least 120 credits awarded by a Higher Education Institution within the Dutch-speaking Community, German-speaking Community or from the Royal Military Academy;

³ *For all categories, the promoter shall contact the relevant department of their host university to determine their status and obtain an estimate of the total personnel costs involved based on the scientific seniority.*

Amounts cannot be changed after submitting the application.

Non-doctoral Researcher and Technician categories are subject to an annual limit, calculated in proportion to the number of days worked. Limitations in force for the first year of funding are detailed in the Grants and Fellowships Call mini-guide.

⁴ *The promoter shall contact the relevant department of their host university in order to determine the Postdoctoral Researcher's status (Mobility situation, grant, employee...) and the work time.*

- 3° another degree as referred to in Article 115 of the French-speaking Community of Belgium Decree of 7th November 2013 that defines the landscape of Higher Education and the academic studies organisation.

The maximum period of time mentioned above is extended by one additional year per childbirth and/or adoption.

Article 17

On the date of the hiring, Postdoctoral Researchers must have obtained a doctoral academic degree after the defence of a thesis for 5 years⁵ maximum.

The maximum period of time mentioned above is extended by one additional year per childbirth and/or adoption.

Article 18

Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) or a Ph.D. are not eligible under the Technician category.

Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) are eligible for Non-doctoral Researcher category. The Non-doctoral Researcher cannot, under any circumstances, start any personal research work leading to a Ph.D. during the working hours devoted to this function.

CHAPTER IV: EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

Article 19

The following criteria are taken into consideration for the evaluation of a new MISU application:

- Originality and novelty of the project;
- Possibility to launch a new research unit;
- Scientific autonomy with respect to any existing research unit or laboratory in the host university;
- Future-oriented theme (development prospect of the field of study);
- 3 recommendations from scientific experts;
- Scientific experience of the applicant.

Article 20

Applications for an extension (MISU-PROL) are assessed by the Promotions Committee of the host university.

Article 21

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS allocates funds according to the budgets that is available. It decides on the granting or rejection, and where needed, on the amounts granted.

CHAPTER V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

Funding granted through the MISU instrument is subject to a research agreement.

This agreement shall bear the signature of the following parties:

⁵ The Postdoctoral Researcher with a grant status must have obtained said degree for 6 years maximum.

- **the promoter** commits to carrying out the funded research;
- **the F.R.S.-FNRS** commits to allocating grants covering the personnel, operating and equipment costs, each year covered by the agreement. No transfer between those 3 expense items may be accepted;
- **the host university.**

The agreement provides for unilateral termination clauses, which must include a period of notice.

Article 23

Any change made to the planned expenses must receive the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

The budget devoted to the personnel is available only for the duration of the research agreement, which may be extended for maximum 6 months in case of postponement of personnel recruitment expected although not effective on the starting date of the agreement, and is divided according to the provisions of the agreement.

The budget devoted to operating and equipment costs can be used for the duration of the agreement, with an additional 12-month period.

The unspent amount will be recovered by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 24

Grants at the disposal of the promoters are managed by the financial department of the host university, to which they are attached.

The financial department of the host university shall send the supporting documents to the F.R.S.-FNRS as soon as possible.

For the personnel costs relevant to a given calendar year, the supporting documents must be sent before the 1st March of the following year.

The supporting documents justifying operating and/or equipment costs must be sent at the latest 14 months after the end of the research agreement.

Article 25

The promoter has to inform the F.R.S.-FNRS of any personnel hiring.

The replacement of personnel among the Doctoral researcher category is not authorised during the last 6 months of the research agreement.

The personnel recruitment which was expected although not effective on the starting date of the agreement may be delayed. However, postponement shall be equivalent to the lost employment duration and not exceed a six-month period after the end of the agreement. The duration of the employment initially allotted may not be exceeded.

The dispositions as referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3 shall apply in a complementary way to the ones as referred to in article 13 § 2.

Article 26

Scientific and technical personnel is to be recruited in accordance with the scales and regulations in force within the host university.

As for Non-doctoral Researcher and technical personnel, the F.R.S.-FNRS contribution is subject to an annual limit assigned from the Fund and is calculated in proportion to the number of days worked.

Article 27

The F.R.S.-FNRS shall reimburse personnel costs up to the total amounts indicated in the research agreement, while observing the Personnel categories.

Concerning Personnel categories there is some flexibility in terms of annual costs and duration, should the granting duration and maximum amount not be exceeded. Also for categories which are annually capped, this annual limitation shall not be exceeded, on the understanding that employment may not exceed the ending date of the agreement, except in case the recruitment has been postponed as provided for in article 25 § 3.

The financial participation of the F.R.S.-FNRS is limited to the global amount indicated in the agreement.

CHAPTER VI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 28

Any device acquired with a credit from the F.R.S.-FNRS becomes the property of the host university to which the beneficiary of the credit is attached.

The purchase of any device must be done with due respect for the provisions defined by the relevant department of the host university.

This institution commits however to putting the mentioned device at the disposal of the researchers involved for the time needed in order to conduct the research, which led to its purchase in the first place. In addition, the host university commits not to alienating or lending the equipment without the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

In the event that the device was purchased with the provision of an additional funding, the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS will settle the ownership issue with the competent authorities.

Article 29

Grants are exclusively allocated for the execution of the research programme approved by the F.R.S.-FNRS. The promoter is required to use them solely for that purpose. Any fundamental change in the ongoing research programme must obtain the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

CHAPTER VII: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROMOTER

Article 30

Any funded research programme must comply with the legal provisions in force regarding ethics.

Article 31

Promoters must submit to the rules imposed by the academic authority of the host university where they work and observe its regulations. In addition, regarding the F.R.S.-FNRS, they must adhere to the regulation on property, protection and promotion of the results from the research carried out within the institution.

Article 32

Three months after the end of the research agreement, a request for a final report is sent to the promoter.

The promoter must upload this final report on their personal page [e-space](#) within two months following the request.

Article 33

Pursuant to the [Regulation](#) on the application of the Open Access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its Associated Funds, any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding of the MISU instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

"This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS under Grant(s) n° [agreement number]".

CHAPTER VIII: ACCUMULATION RULES

Article 34

Any promoter must comply, in addition to the eligibility rules related to the requested instrument, with all the accumulation rules as referred to in [Appendix 2](#).

APPENDIX 1

Relevant institutions giving access to the funding of the F.R.S.-FNRS

MISU instrument

Grants and Fellowships Call

Instrument Mandat d'impulsion scientifique - mobilité Ulysse / Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU)

<p>Candidat promoteur / Promoter-applicant</p>	<p>► Universités de la Communauté française de Belgique (CFB) Universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB)</p> <p>Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) Université de Liège (ULiège) Université de Mons (UMons) Université de Namur (UNamur) Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles (USL-B)</p>
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APPENDIX 2

Cumulation Rules

CDR/EQP/PDR/MIS/MISU Instruments

Every promoter who takes part in a call must comply with all the accumulation rules as detailed below.

Rule 1

The number of applications that can be submitted within a call as a co-promoter is limited to a single application for the Cross-university PDR instrument.

Rule 2

The number of applications that can be submitted within a call as a co-promoter is limited to a single application for the Single or Cross-university EQP⁶ instrument.

Rule 3

A **main promoter-applicant** who has no ongoing funding may apply for one of the following as part of a call:

- 1 CDR,
- 1 PDR⁷,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 MIS,
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR,
- 1 MIS + 1 CDR⁸ on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS.

Rule 4

Promoters in charge of an ongoing CDR may apply for a new CDR application as from the second year of funding.

Promoters in charge of an ongoing CDR may apply for one of the following as part of a call:

Within the first year of funding:

- 1 PDR,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 MIS,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR,

Within the second year of funding:

- 1 CDR
- 1 PDR
- 1 EQP
- 1 MIS
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR,

⁶ Single and Cross-university EQP instrument is further shortened to EQP, so that the document is easier to read.

⁷ Single and Cross-university PDR instrument is further shortened to PDR, so that the document is easier to read.

⁸ If the MIS is granted, the CDR will not be funded.

- 1 EQP + 1 PDR
- 1 MIS + 1 CDR⁹ on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS.

Rule 5

Main promoters and any co-promoters in charge of an ongoing EQP may apply for a new EQP application as from the second year of funding.

Main promoters and any co-promoters in charge of an ongoing EQP may apply for one of the following applications as part of a call:

Within the first year of funding:

- 1 CDR,
- 1 PDR,
- 1 MIS,
- 1 MIS + 1 CDR⁹ on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS.

Within the second year of funding:

- 1 CDR,
- 1 PDR,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 MIS,
- 1 EQP + CDR,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR,
- 1 MIS + 1 CDR⁹ on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS.

Rule 6

Main promoters in charge of an ongoing PDR may apply for one of the following as part of a call:

- 1 CDR,
- 1 PDR, on condition that the shortest overlap between both PDR is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of PDR;
- 1 EQP,
- 1 MIS on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MIS is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MIS;
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between both PDR is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of PDR;
- 1 MIS + 1 CDR⁹ on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS and on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MIS is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MIS.

⁹ If the MIS is granted, the CDR will not be funded.

Rule 7

The promoter of a MIS whose start has been postponed may not submit any PDR application before the effective starting date of the MIS.

Rule 8

Promoters in charge of an ongoing MIS¹⁰ may apply for one of the following applications as part of a call:

Within the first year of funding:

- 1 CDR on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS,
- 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MIS is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MIS,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR on the condition that the research programme or the study is genuinely different from the aim of the MIS,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MIS is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MIS.

Within the second year of funding:

- 1 CDR,
- 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MIS is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MIS,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MIS is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MIS.

Rule 9

Promoters in charge of an ongoing MISU (Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research), as long as their position within the university (their employer) makes them eligible for the concerned instrument, may apply for one of the following as part of a call:

Within the first year of funding:

- 1 CDR on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MISU,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MISU.

Within the second year of funding:

¹⁰Promoters of an ongoing MIS, who have been granted a third year automatically following the submission of an ERC Grant application with no success after being interviewed by the juries and further to the second-step evaluation, should respect the accumulation rules which apply to promoters of a MIS in their second year of funding.

- 1 CDR on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MISU,
- 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MISU is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MISU,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR on the condition that the research programme or study is genuinely different from the aim of the MISU,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MISU is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MISU.

Within the third year of funding:

- 1 CDR,
- 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MISU is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MISU,
- 1 EQP,
- 1 EQP + 1 CDR,
- 1 EQP + 1 PDR on condition that the shortest overlap between the PDR and the MISU is taken into account, with regard to each call schedule and starting date of the PDR and the MISU.