

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MOST) AND THE FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)

Call for scientific joint exchange projects for the period 2023-2024

In compliance with the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation signed by **the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)** and the **Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)** on the ^{xx} of December 2021, Parties agree upon the following provisions. Present guide for applicants sets the selection and evaluation procedures and financial guidelines of joint exchange projects under the above agreement for the period of 2023-2024.

Co-operative actions are based upon the principle of reciprocity for the mutual benefit of both Parties.

I. Definition, aim of the collaboration

Joint exchange projects are performed with the participation of research teams of both Taiwan and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium) and have duration **of two years**.

Proposals for joint exchange projects between researchers from the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium) and Taiwan can be submitted for **fundamental research in all scientific domains** with the objective of increasing and developing cooperation between the scientific communities of the Parties. Joint exchange projects should:

- a) encourage bilateral fundamental research,
- b) promote the exchange of knowledge, and
- c) promote the implementation of joint research activities.

II. Guidelines for applicants

The proposals should meet the usual requirements for scientific research quality and meet the specific requirements for scientific cooperation projects of the funding organisation (F.R.S.-FNRS / MOST) they are submitted to. **Please be aware that the guidelines as stated in this document are to be respected by both the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and the Taiwanese research team(s).**

Application:

In order to be eligible, a proposal must meet the following criteria:

- Projects must be endorsed by **Principal Investigators (PIs) (one Taiwanese and one from the Wallonia Brussels Federation)** duly authorized to conduct research and providing the guarantees on the operational (financial) resources. Principal Investigators (the Wallonia Brussels Federation as well as Taiwanese) are required to have a PhD degree to submit a proposal;
- In the Wallonia Brussels Federation, PIs are required to conform to the eligibility criteria listed in the PINT-BILAT-M regulations.
- In Taiwan, PIs are required to conform to the Principal Investigator qualifications of General Research Projects of the MOST (for additional information, please visit the MOST-website: <https://www.most.gov.tw/most/attachments/920c4b8e-21d4-4d2b-b603-5602690c575e>);
- Proposals must be **submitted simultaneously at F.R.S.-FNRS by the PI in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and at MOST by the PI in Taiwan**, respecting the submission deadline and by using the respective application forms of the Parties. In the Wallonia-Brussels Federation the proposal must be submitted according to the regulations of the F.R.S.-FNRS. In Taiwan the proposal must be submitted according to the regulations of MOST;
- Proposals must be **written in English** jointly by the PI in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and the PI in Taiwan. The title, names of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Taiwanese PIs, project description, methodology, work packages, etc. in the research proposal submitted by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Taiwanese PI should be identical;

- In the Wallonia-Brussels Federation: proposals must be submitted on e-space (<https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be/>).
- In Taiwan: The Taiwanese PI needs to log in to the MOST website (<https://www.most.gov.tw>) to apply;
- **Please note that in each joint exchange project, from Wallonia-Brussels Federation side as well as at Taiwanese side, stimulation of involvement of postdoctoral researchers.**
- Principal Investigators are responsible for the management of the funds provided by their respective organisations.

F.R.S.-FNRS and MOST will check whether the proposals have been submitted to both funding agencies and will inform each other of the eligibility of the applicants. Lack of submission of the application to one of the parties will cause the application to be considered ineligible.

Funding principles:

Beneficiaries of this Agreement may not receive remuneration for their activities in the host country during their stay funded by the exchange project.

Wallonia-Brussels Federation

F.R.S.-FNRS will fund up to €15.000 per project. Funds should be used for covering:

- Travel expenses
- Operating costs (up to %15 of the total Budget required to F.R.S – FNRS)
- Organization costs for scientific meetings (up to €3.500 per scientific meeting planned).

In accordance with the requirements at PINT-Bilat-M, for those not being the Project Head of the project, only those persons holding a doctoral degree could be beneficiaries of the funds.

Taiwan

Taiwan will fund up to NT\$ 240,000 annually per project. Funds should be used for covering:

- Travel expenses, the accommodation costs and a daily allowance. For more information, please see the MOST website:

<https://mycloud.most.gov.tw/public.php?service=files&t=y7T1osJ3Sz67Gizs2ujKWA GbyQIWLjDdzUOO9rShiEQiZMaYIF6QMkNy0eRCNH2t>

- Operating costs for collaboration project
- Organization costs for scientific meetings

Evaluation:

- Eligible applications are evaluated separately by F.R.S.-FNRS and MOST according to their own evaluation mechanisms. More information on these procedures can be found on the respective websites of MOST and F.R.S.-FNRS during the application period.
- Based on the evaluation, proposals are classified and ranked by MOST and F.R.S.-FNRS in order to jointly select the projects recommended for funding. Only projects evaluated positively by both Parties can be funded.

Ex-post evaluation of joint exchange projects:

Following the end of the funding period, Taiwanese Principal Investigators are required to submit a project report to MOST.

III. Time schedule

- Opening of the Call: 11th of January 2022
- Deadline of the Call: 15th of April 2022
 - At F.R.S.-FNRS: 2 pm Belgian time
 - At MOST: 12 am Taiwanese time
- Eligibility check & scientific evaluation: April-September 2022
- Final joint selection and communication of the results: September-October 2022
- Start of projects: January 2023

IV. Contact information

At MOST:

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