

French version: [click here](#).

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call on the web-based application of the F.R.S.-FNRS [e-space](#) for the online submission:
THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2022.

INSTRUMENTS			GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2023		
			ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹ ON E-SPACE		
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Postdoctoral Researcher	CR	Thursday 19 th January at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 26 th January at 2 p.m.	Thursday 2 nd February at 2 p.m.
	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist	SPD			
	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist renewal	SPD-REN			
	Clinical Researcher	CCL			
	Research Associate	CQ			
	Senior Research Associate	MR			
	Research Director	DR			
	Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research	MISU			
	Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research extension	MISU-PROL			
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Research Fellow	ASP	Thursday 16 th February at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 23 rd February at 2 p.m.	Thursday 2 nd March at 2 p.m.
	Research Fellow renewal	ASP-REN			
	Special Doctoral Grant ²	BSD			
	Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D.	CSD			
	Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. renewal	CSD-REN			
	Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D.	SD			
	Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. renewal	SD-REN			
	Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student	VETE-CCD			
	Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student renewal	VETE-CCD-REN			

*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 in advance.

The F.R.S.-FNRS will give researchers who may be granted with a fellowship renewal or a fellowship extension (ASP-REN, CSD-REN, SD-REN, VETE-CCD-REN, SPD-REN, CCL, or MISU-PROL) access to the electronic form via the [e-space](#) application.

The decision to allocate grants and fellowships will be made by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS in June 2023. The grants and fellowships will start on 1st October 2023.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

² BSD fellowship: see chapter 4, section 4.3 of this mini-guide.

2. APPENDICES

2.1 For each instrument (except MR, DR and MISU-PROL), appendices must be enclosed with the application. For more information on the appendices, click on the link of the considered instrument:

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	CR	SPD	SPD-REN	CCL	CQ	MISU			
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	ASP	ASP-REN	BSD	CSD	CSD-REN	SD	SD-REN	VETE-CCD	VETE-CCD-REN

2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

	DEADLINES 2023	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENTS
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Thursday 26 th January ³ at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter	CR, SPD, CQ
	Thursday 2 nd February	Appendices (see section 2.1) ⁴	CR, SPD, SPD-REN, CCL, CQ, MISU
		Letter of support from the rector of the host university	MISU
	Friday 17 th March ³	Reference letters from referees	CQ, MR, DR, MISU
	Monday 1 st May ³	Only for applicants who won't have their PhD on 2 nd February 2023 (validation deadline for rectors): Certificate or copy of the Ph.D. diploma and Minutes of the thesis defence ⁴	CR, SPD
		"Seal of Excellence Certificate" granted after the deadline of validation by the applicant ⁴	CR, SPD, CQ, MISU
Publications accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant ³		All	
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Thursday 23 rd February ³ at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Thursday 2 nd March	Appendices (see section 2.1) ⁴	All except ASP-REN
	Friday 31 st March ³	Opinion letters from scientific scholars	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Monday 1 st May ³	Ranking ⁴ completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
		Publications accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant ⁴	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD, CSD-REN2
Wednesday 31 st May	Advisory opinion from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)	ASP-REN, BSD, CSD-REN, SD-REN, VETE-CCD-REN Except CSD-REN2	

³ Any addition to applications is intended for Scientific Commissions members.

⁴ 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.

3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2022

3.1 Personnel hired for projects funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS (Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research - MISU)

Removal of the limitation of scientific seniority for the personnel hired as part of projects funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS, i.e. 3 years for the doctoral personnel and 5 or 6 years for postdoctoral personnel.

3.2 Eligibility of the researcher-promoters MISU

The researcher-promoter of a MISU who genuinely carries out the fellowship by the time of the starting date of the fellowship, i.e., by 1st October of the year of the Grants and Fellowships Call concerned at the latest, eligible to be promoter of an applicant to a F.R.S.-FNRS fellowship.

3.3 Reference letters (promoter and reference persons) of the Research Associate applicants (CQ)

The F.R.S.-FNRS will provide the universities with the reference letters of the CQ applicants recommended for appointment by the Scientific Commissions, as part of the internal selection by the universities.

By validating their application form, the CQ applicant accepts this transfer to the university of their choice.

3.4 Evolution and adaptation of the Scientific Commissions (CS) of the F.R.S.-FNRS

Every CS maintains its own scientific scope but will be split into an international CS in charge of the evolution of the applications for the "Grants & fellowships" Call (except for the doctoral level) and the "Credits & Projects" Call and a PhD CS in charge of the doctoral applications.

3.5 Scientific scholars for doctoral applicants

As an applicant to the call "PhD 2023", you are asked to provide the F.R.S.-FNRS with the references of two scientific scholars attached to institutions located outside the French Community of Belgium (CFB) and close to your research field so that they can give an external opinion on your project.

Each of them will be asked to give their appreciation in **one A4 page maximum and in PDF format** on the following elements of your research project:

1. Quality of the project: strengths and limitations
2. Originality of the project: strengths and limitations
3. Feasibility of the project: strengths and limitations
4. General comment

This opinion does not correspond to a classic letter of recommendation which would only underline the progress made thanks to the project. It will later be sent to the "F.R.S.-FNRS PhD CS" of your choice.

You are requested to:

1. First contact these people to make sure that they accept this mission.
2. Make sure that the scientific scholars have no conflict of interest with your application. Indeed, those must be able to evaluate your research project with impartiality. For example, the F.R.S.-FNRS usually considers that there is a conflict of interest when:
 - there is an active collaboration with the applicant or its (co-)promoter (e.g. being co-author of a publication with the applicant, having participated in the writing of the proposal, or being involved in the publication or implementation of the possible results of the proposal during the last 3 years);
 - there is (or has been for the last 3 years) a hierarchical or directly subordinate position with regard to the applicant or the (co-)promoter;
 - there is competition with the applicant or the (co-)promoter;
 - the applicant or their promoter/co-promoter is a close person to the reference person (friend, family...).

The people invited by the F.R.S.-FNRS based on the references you will have provided will also be informed about the assessment criteria used for your research project and the conflicts of interest management policy.

4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

4.1 Doctoral Researcher fellowships

The result of the Master thesis, if available at the latest by the validation deadline set for the applicant, will be communicated to the Scientific Commission.

4.2 Doctoral Researcher fellowships Renewal

Research Fellow (ASP-REN), Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD-REN), Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. (SD-REN) and Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student (VETE-CCD-REN) Renewal fellowships applications will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panels (Thesis Advisory Committees).

Concerning the second renewal Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD-REN2) fellowship, the application will be subject to an evaluation by the relevant Scientific Commission.

4.3 Special Doctoral Grant (BSD)

To apply for a BSD, instrument intended for secondary education teachers, please send an email to the F.R.S.-FNRS at bourses-mandats@frs-fnrs.be. Please mention "BSD Call 2023" in the subject line and attach the following documents:

- a curriculum vitae (including date of birth, degrees, career path, information about the doctorate thesis: starting date, CFB university and promoter),
- a copy of the appointment letter for secondary education.

BSD applications will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panels (Thesis Advisory Committees).

4.4 Part-time clinical fellowships (CSD, SD, SPD, CCL) and veterinary fellowship (VETE-CCD)

The F.R.S.-FNRS reimbursement is limited to an annual amount. Limitations in force in 2024 are the following:

➤ Temporary doctor/veterinary	€55,100-
➤ Permanent doctor	€72,800-

4.5 Part-time Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist fellowship (SPD-REN) Renewal

The **first renewal** shall be requested during the second year of the fellowship and simply upon request by the applicant. The request needs to be validated by the promoter and the host institution on [e-space](#). **From the second renewal on**, the application will be subject to an evaluation by the relevant Scientific Commission.

4.6 Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU, MISU-PROL)

For all personnel, 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 in 2024 are the following:

➤ Non-doctoral Researcher	€39,700- (part time); €78,400- (full time)
➤ Technician	€34,000- (part time); €66,500- (full time)

4.7 Ethical aspects

As from 2018, in order to reduce the Ethics Committees workload and to make the administrative procedures more flexible for applicants, the researchers concerned by ethical questions will be required to submit their questionnaire as well as the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the F.R.S.-FNRS only in case the submitted grant is awarded. Effective granting will be subject to a favourable opinion of the Committee.

5. 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. The [guide for applicants](#) provides further information about the content of a proposal.

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](#).

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the instructions given for each part of the proposal** (scientific section relevant to the instrument selected, number of pages allowed for documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Scientific Commissions assessing the application file.

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

The application file contains the main sections described hereafter.

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify the eligibility criteria (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	Academic background
	Awards and honours (max. 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>As stated in section 2.2, applicants to CR, SPD, CQ and MISU can notify until 1st May a « Seal of Excellence Certificate » granted after the deadline of validation by the applicant.</i>
	The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted), structured according to the template . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Applicants holding the academic degree of Doctor, who have been working for 2 years at least in institutions of the French-speaking community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an <u>institutional repository (IR)</u>, must absolutely submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format.</i> ➤ <i>As stated in section 2.2, in case of publications accepted after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them until 1st May.</i>
	Bibliometric data (except for applicants applying for ASP, BSD, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD): total number of publications, total number of citations, h-index, average number of citations and indication of the source chosen for these bibliometric data.
	Professional experience: career path, professional stays abroad of more than 30 days, academic positions, collaborations with other institutions (the 3 most important), main funding obtained. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Applicants to a post-doctorate CR fellowship who are planning one or several research stays will be required to provide a letter of approval or email exchanges which demonstrate that formalities are being processed.</i>
List of supervised master and doctoral thesis (only for applicants seeking a MR or DR promotion).	
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	Title in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Summary in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.</i>
	Selection of the Scientific Commission and selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance (at least 2 descriptor fields must be relevant to the Scientific Commission selected), they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>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.</i> ➤ <i>Applicants who select the Scientific Commission FORESIGHT, 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).</i>

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p>It is mandatory to use the template available in English or in French.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summary (max. 2 pages) of previous research achievements (non-compulsory for ASP, CSD, SD and VETE-CCD doctoral fellowships). ➤ For all applicants (except MR and DR), description of the project divided in 4 parts (max. 4 pages) accompanied by a reference bibliography (max. 1 page besides the 4 pages dedicated to the project): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Goals of the research II. State of the art III. Research project IV. Work plan <p>Graphs and charts may be added (max. 2 pages) in addition to the 4 pages.</p> ➤ For MR/DR promotion applicants, description of planned general orientation for their research for the next 5 to 10 years (max. 2 pages).
WORK ENVIRONMENT	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data can vary depending on the nature of the project, the scientific field and the type of fellowship.
SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARS	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 2 scientific scholars (only for applicants to ASP, SD, CSD, VETE-CCD).</p> <p>→ See section 3.5</p>
REFEREES	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 3 referees (only for applicants to CQ, MR, DR, MISU).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applicants shall contact the referees prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form to make sure that their referees are willing to provide a reference letter as part of their application.

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the reference letters related to their application (promoter, reference persons or scientific scholars).

No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

The application conditions, the goals of the different sections and the applicable criteria are detailed in the [guide for applicants](#).

The applicant is free to read the [evaluation guide](#) intended for experts in order to have a better understanding of the proposal's evaluation.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
RESEARCH FELLOW (DOCTORAL RESEARCHER)	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ academic CV ➤ promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.) 	60%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	25%
	Research environment	15%
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) ➤ promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.) ➤ awards 	40%

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	40%
	Research environment	20%
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) ➤ opinion of worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independency, etc.) ➤ project funding and grants obtained ➤ awards 	40%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	25%
	Research environment	10%
	Potential / International recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ long stays abroad⁵ ➤ invitations to international conferences ➤ active collaborations, participation in networks 	25%

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-privée)

⁵ A long stay abroad is a key element adding value to the application file.