

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call: THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2024 on [e-space](#) for the online submission.

INSTRUMENTS			GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2025		
			ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹ ON E-SPACE		
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Research Associate	CQ	Thursday 9 th January at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 16 th January at 2 p.m.	Thursday 23 rd January at 2 p.m.
	Postdoctoral Researcher	CR	Tuesday 21 st January at 2 p.m.*	Tuesday 28 th January at 2 p.m.	Monday 3 rd February at 2 p.m.
	Postdoctoral Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc	CSPD			
	Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist	SPD			
	Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist renewal	SPD-REN			
	Clinical Researcher	CCL			
	Clinical Researcher renewal	CCL-REN			
	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 13 th February at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 20 th February at 2 p.m.	Monday 3 rd 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 on time.

The decision to allocate grants and fellowships will be made by the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees in June 2025. The grants and fellowships will start on 1st October 2025.

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, CCL-REN, MISU-PROL) access to the electronic form via the [e-space](#) application.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

² BSD instrument: see chapter 6, section 6.3 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 further information, click on the relevant instrument below:

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	CR	CSPD	SPD	SPD-REN	CCL	CCL-REN	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 2025	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENTS
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Thursday 16 th January ³ at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from the promoter	CQ
	Thursday 23 rd January	Appendices (see section 2.1) ⁴	CQ
	Tuesday 28 th January ³ at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from the promoter	CR, CSPD, SPD, CCL
	Monday 3 rd February	Appendices (see section 2.1) ⁴	CR, CSPD, SPD, SPD-REN, CCL, CCL-REN, MISU
		Letter of support from the rector of the host university	MISU
	Monday 17 th March ³	Reference letters from the reference persons	CQ, MR, DR, MISU
	Thursday 1 st May ³	Only for applicants who will not have their PhD on 3 rd February 2025 (validation deadline for rectors): Certificate or copy of the Ph.D. diploma and Minutes of the thesis defence ⁴	CR, CSPD, SPD
		"Seal of Excellence Certificate" granted after the applicant validation deadline ⁴	CR, CSPD, SPD, CQ, MISU
Publications accepted after the applicant validation deadline ⁴		All	
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Thursday 20 th February ³ at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from the promoter	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Monday 3 rd March	Appendices (see section 2.1) ⁴	All except ASP-REN
	Monday 31 st March ³	Inputs from scientific experts (see chapter 5)	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Thursday 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 applicant validation deadline ⁴	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD, CSD-REN2
	Saturday 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 additional documents relevant to the application are 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 2024

3.1 Implications of the Brussels Treaty for Research Fellow (ASP – Aspirant e) applicants

On 1st May 2024, the Brussels Treaty on the automatic recognition of higher education qualifications between the Benelux countries and the Baltic States came into force.

Consequently, as is the case for holders of a master's degree of at least 120 credits awarded by a Belgian higher education institution, holders of a master's degree of at least 120 credits awarded by a higher education institution in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania will no longer be required to provide a certificate of eligibility for a doctoral programme or a certificate of registration to a doctoral programme issued by the university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium where the studies leading to the doctorate will be pursued.

Students who are completing the last year of one of these masters are also eligible.

All the required appendices for eligibility of ASP are listed in section 2.

3.2 Eligibility criteria relating to the seniority of biological or adopting parents

On 3rd October 2024, the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees decided to increase the maximum eligibility period. It is calculated based on how many years prior the academic degree was obtained:

- Per childbirth: 15 months for mothers and 12 months for biological fathers;
- Per adoption: 12 months for adopting mothers and fathers.

3.3 Valorisation of Open Science practices in the evaluation of applications

Starting with the Grants and Fellowships Call of 2025, Open Science (OS) practices implemented by researchers are eligible for consideration in the evaluation of applications. This initiative is part of the agreement on the reform of the research evaluation system, signed by the F.R.S.-FNRS in June 2023.

Specifically, applicants are **optionally** invited to describe their OS practices in an additional section of the application file. This narrative format will allow reviewers to recognise their efforts in this area. The comprehensive [OS-CAM](#) model provides examples of practices, but is not the sole reference source for this purpose.

It should be noted that these practices constitute a key element adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), but is not an evaluation criterion per se. (F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees on 3rd October 2024).

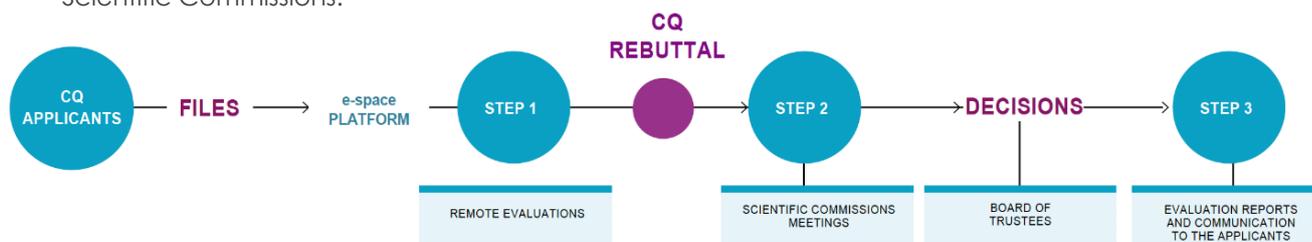
4. CQ APPLICANTS

4.1 REBUTTAL step

Since the Grants and Fellowships Call of 2024, a rebuttal opportunity for applicants has been implemented, allowing applicants to clear up any misunderstanding or refute any allegation from the reviewers.

The rebuttal step takes place on [e-space](#), between step 1 (review by remote experts) and step 2 (review by the Scientific Commissions members).

CQ applicants will be provided more information about the rebuttal in early February. This step is planned to take place between early April and mid-May 2025, depending on the calendar of the Scientific Commissions.



4.2 Diffusion of the reference letters for CQ applicants recommended by the Scientific Commissions

The F.R.S.-FNRS will provide the universities with the reference letters (promoter and reference persons) 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.

5. SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS FOR DOCTORAL APPLICANTS

Applicants to the call "PhD 2025" must provide the F.R.S.-FNRS with the references of two scientific experts attached to institutions located outside the French Community of Belgium and close to your research field so that they can give an external opinion on your project.

You are requested to:

1. Contact these people independently of one another to ensure that they accept this mission. The experts must not be aware of each other's identities to guarantee the independence of the evaluations conducted.
2. First make sure that these people have no conflict of interest with your application. They 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 or its (co-)promoter, 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 over 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 (co-)promoter is a close person to the reference person (friend, family, etc.).

Should a conflict of interest occur, or be reported by the scientific expert, the F.R.S.-FNRS will not come back to you and the input will not be communicated to the Scientific Commission, as stated below. It is therefore essential that the scientific expert is not in a conflict of interest situation.

They will be asked to give their input in **a one-page form (or maximum 4,000 characters)** on the quality of the research project according to these aspects:

1. Strengths
2. Weaknesses
3. General comment.

This input **is not** a recommendation letter. It is an unbiased opinion, that will be relayed to the "F.R.S.-FNRS PhD Scientific Commission" of your choosing.

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.

6. SPECIFIC REMARKS

6.1 Doctoral Researcher fellowships

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

6.2 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).

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

6.3 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 2025" 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 in the secondary education.

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

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

The F.R.S.-FNRS reimbursements are limited to an annual amount. Limitations in force in 2026 are:

➤ Temporary doctor/veterinary	€57,500-
➤ Permanent doctor	€75,800-

6.5 Part-time Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist fellowship (SPD) and Clinical Researcher (CCL) Renewal

Only the first renewal (SPD-REN) 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 SPD renewal and the CCL fellowship (renewals included), the application will be subject to an evaluation by the relevant Scientific Commission.

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

The promoter-applicant shall contact the relevant department of their host university to assess the status of the personnel requested (mobility situation, grant, employee...), their working arrangements and an estimate of their cost based on the scientific seniority.

7. 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 the documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and reminds that the Scientific Commissions have the final say in the assessment of the application file.

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

The application file contains the main sections described hereafter.

SECTION	CONTENT
RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify the eligibility criteria (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	Academic background
	Awards and honours (max. 5) ➤ <i>As stated in section 2.2, applicants to CR, CSPD, SPD, CQ and MISU can notify until 1st May a « Seal of Excellence Certificate » granted after the applicant validation deadline.</i>

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p>The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted), structured according to the template.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applicants holding the academic degree of Doctor, who have been working <u>for 2 years at least</u> 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. ➤ As stated in section 2.2, in case of publications accepted after the applicant validation deadline, applicants may add them until 1st May. <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 demonstrating that formalities are being processed. <p>List of supervised master and doctoral theses (only for applicants seeking a MR or DR promotion).</p>
RESEARCH PROJECT	<p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In case of funding, these are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website. <p>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 selected Scientific Commission), they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the selected Scientific Commission, 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). <p>To be completed imperatively using 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 general orientation planned 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 EXPERTS	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 2 scientific experts (only for applicants to ASP, SD, CSD, VETE-CCD). → See instructions in chapter 5</p>

SECTION	CONTENT
REFERENCE PERSONS	Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 3 reference persons (only for applicants to CQ, MR, DR, MISU). <p>➤ 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 a reference letter as part of their application.</p>

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the confidential inputs related to their application (promoter, scientific experts and reference persons).

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

8. 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 CV⁵ ➤ 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 ➤ Open Science practices (optional)⁵ 	40%
	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 ➤ Open Science practices (optional)⁵ 	40%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ feasibility ➤ methodology ➤ originality ➤ potential impact 	25%

⁵ It should be noted that Open Science practices constitute a key element adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), but is not an evaluation criterion per se.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
	Research environment	10%
	Potential / International recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ long stays abroad⁶ ➤ 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-privee)

QUESTIONS : bourses-mandats@frs-fnrs.be

⁶ A long-term stay outside the institution of origin is a key element adding value to the application file, whether it is a stay outside the institutions of the French-speaking community of Belgium (CFB) or in another institution of the CFB.