

French version: [click here](#)

FRESH Rules and Regulations: [click here](#)

## 1. FRESH: A FUND DEDICATED TO HUMAN SCIENCES RESEARCH

In 2012, the Government of the French-speaking Community of Belgium created the Human Sciences Research Fund (FRESH – Fonds pour la Recherche en Sciences Humaines). The aim of this Fund is to meet the different and complementary needs of the **fundamental research in social and human sciences**.

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 has decided to restrict the call for doctorate grants for graduates in Social and Human Sciences (term: 2+2 years).

## 2. SCHEDULE

**Opening** of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application [e-space](#) for the online submission: **TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022.**

INSTRUMENTS		FRESH CALL 2022		
		ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES <sup>1</sup> ON E-SPACE		
		APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 <sup>st</sup> Grant	FRESH-B1	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> August at 2 p.m.*	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m.	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grant	FRESH-B2			

\*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 (FRESH-B2) access to the electronic form via the [e-space](#) application.
- FRESH Juries will meet in autumn of 2022 on the premises of the F.R.S.-FNRS (as long as the sanitary situation allows it). Pre-selected applicants to a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant are required to take an oral examination. The date of the interview, as well as its terms and conditions, will be communicated in due time. That date will not be modified by any means.
- The decision to allocate the grants will be made by the Management Committee of the FRESH in December. First Grant scheme starts as from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

## 3. APPENDICES

**3.1 For each instrument**, appendices must be enclosed with the application. For more information on the appendices, click on the link of the considered instrument:

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> GRANT</b>	<a href="#">FRESH-B1</a>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> GRANT</b>	<a href="#">FRESH-B2</a>

<sup>1</sup> All times are Brussels local time.

### 3.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

DEADLINES IN 2022		DOCUMENTS
1 <sup>ST</sup> GRANT	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter, structured according to the <a href="#">template</a>
	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Appendices (see point 3.1) <sup>2</sup>
		Reference letters from: - 1 reference person (different from the promoter) member of the academic staff of a scientific institution, structured according to the <a href="#">template</a> , - 1 reference person involved in the field outside the academic sphere. They will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
		<a href="#">Ranking</a> <sup>2</sup> completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees
	Publications accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant <sup>2</sup>	
2 <sup>ND</sup> GRANT	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<a href="#">Advisory opinion</a> from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

## 4. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2021

### 4.1 Jury's division "Economic and social challenges" (DES)

To ensure that the topics of the submitted files properly match the "Economic and social challenges" (DES) jury members' profiles, the Management Committee of the FRESH of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 has decided to divide the DES jury in three distinct juries, covering respectively the following subject areas:

- DES-1: Psychology, Social Psychology, Education Sciences
- DES-2: Economics, Management, Law, Criminology
- DES-3: Political Science, Social Science, Urban Planning, Mobility, Communication, Human Geography, Environmental Management

### 4.2 Evaluation report

To respect the European Charter for the Researcher, the Management Committee of the FRESH of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 has decided to communicate to all applicants (including applicants not selected to take the oral examination) will receive an evaluation report following the meeting of the Management Committee of the FRESH in December.

### 4.3 Eligibility of the researcher-promoters MISU

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 has decided to make the researcher-promoter of a Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU) who genuinely carries out the fellowship by the time of the starting date of the grant, i.e., by 1<sup>st</sup> October of the year of the FRESH Call concerned at the latest, eligible to be promoter of an applicant to a FRESH Grant.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## 5. SPECIFIC REMARKS

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### 5.1 Grants Renewal

Applications for a FRESH 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee).

### 5.2 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 accompanied by the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the F.R.S.-FNRS only in case of granting. Effective funding will be subject to a favourable opinion of the Committee.

### 5.3 Only one FRIA/FRESH application

Graduates in:

- Art of Building and Urban Planning
- Public Health Sciences
- Geographic Sciences
- Environmental Sciences and Management
- Psychology Sciences

are not allowed to apply for both [FRIA](#) and [FRESH](#) instruments the same year.

## 6. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

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Applicants will have the choice of writing their proposal either in French or in English.

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 juries assessing the application file.

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

One of the specificities of the FRESH Fund relates to the **societal impact** of the funded research programmes, as stressed and redefined by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018: "The FRESH Fund supports fundamental research projects whose outcomes are likely to improve the understanding or functioning of one sector in the society in the short-medium term at a local, regional, national or international level, from many perspectives such as culture, economy, politics, sociology and psychosociology."

Applicants have the opportunity to justify the potential societal impact of their project in their application file. They should highlight the players, groups or sectors that are likely to benefit from the results of the research in the short-medium term.

Applicants also mention **a reference person actually involved in the field outside the academic sphere** who will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS to provide a reference letter as part of their application.

The application file contains the main sections described hereafter.

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify the <b>eligibility criteria</b> (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	<b>Academic background</b>
	<b>Awards and honours</b> (max. 5)
	The applicant's <b>list of publications</b> (published or accepted, if any), structured according to the <a href="#">template</a>

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p>➤ As stated in section 3.2, in case of <b>publications accepted</b> after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them until 30<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p><b>Professional background</b>, including relevant activities with regard to the research project</p> <p>Title of the <b>Master thesis</b></p>
<b>THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<p><b>Title</b> in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, <b>Summary</b> in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces)</p> <p>➤ Funded proposals are released and made public on the <a href="#">F.R.S.-FNRS website</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Selection of the jury and selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance</b>, they can be completed by some <b>unrestricted keywords</b>.</p> <p>➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the <a href="#">jury</a> selected, they shall justify their choice in the application form.</p>
	<p>It is mandatory to use the template: FRESH-B1 (<a href="#">FR</a> / <a href="#">EN</a>) - FRESH-B2 (<a href="#">FR</a> / <a href="#">EN</a>).</p> <p>The <b>description of the project</b> (max. 4 pages) is divided in 4 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Goals of the research</li> <li>2. State of the art</li> <li>3. Research project</li> <li>4. Work plan</li> </ol> <p>Graphs and tables (max. 2 pages) are authorised in addition to the 4 pages.</p> <p>A reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed by order of appearance in the text.</p>
	<p>Summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Ph.D. - For 1<sup>st</sup> Grant-2<sup>nd</sup> year applicants only.</p>
	<p>Applicants have the opportunity to justify the <b>societal impact</b> of their project in their application file. They should highlight the players, groups or sectors that are likely to benefit from the results of the research.</p>
<b>THE WORK ENVIRONMENT</b>	<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> <p>➤ Data can vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</p>
<b>THE REFERENCE PERSONS</b>	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 reference person (different from the promoter) member of the academic staff of a scientific institution,</li> <li>- 1 reference person involved in the field outside the academic sphere.</li> </ul> <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 <a href="#">reference letter</a> as part of their application.</p> <p>After submission of the application file, the F.R.S.-FNRS will contact the reference persons referred in the application form and a reminder will be sent to each of them in due course. No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.</p>

## 7. (PRE)SELECTION PROCEDURE, JURIES

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### 7.1 Composition of juries

**Applications for a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant** will be evaluated by four juries: one is dedicated to cultural challenges, the three others to economic and social challenges.

These 4 juries cover the following subject areas:

- **"Cultural challenges" jury (DC):** Cultural Anthropology, Art and Architecture, Performing Arts, Contemporary History, History of Pre-Industrial Societies, Languages, Literature, Heritage and Archaeology, Philosophy
- **"Economic and social challenges 1" jury (DES-1):** Psychology, Social Psychology, Education Sciences
- **"Economic and social challenges 2" jury (DES-2):** Economics, Management, Law, Criminology
- **"Economic and social challenges 3" jury (DES-3):** Political Science, Social Science, Urban Planning, Mobility, Communication, Human Geography, Environmental Management

The DC jury is made up of 3 civil society representatives and 18 members, 9 full members and 9 alternate members, from French-speaking Community of Belgium universities, respecting, for both full members and alternate members, the balance between universities:

- 2 UCLouvain, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège
- 1 UMONS, 1 UNAMUR, 1 USL-B

The DES juries are made up of 1 civil society representative and 9 members from French-speaking Community of Belgium universities, respecting the balance between universities:

- 2 UCLouvain, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège
- 1 UMONS, 1 UNAMUR, 1 USL-B

Applicants' promoter and co-promoter may not sit or even partially take part in the jury of their applicants.

The composition of the FRESH juries is available [here](#). It is subject to modifications depending on the conflicts of interest (COI) that might be reported by juries' members. The composition also depends on the availability of members, any withdrawal or replacement, and may vary accordingly.

### 7.2 (Pre) selection procedure

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has decided to establish a **pre-selection** of the application files. Members of the jury will focus on the scientific quality of the application by assessing four criteria as follows: **the research project (40%), the skills of the applicant with regard to their specialty (CV) (40%), the research environment (10%) and the societal impact of the project (10%)**. For each criterion, irrespective of their weight, applicants must meet a minimum quality threshold.

**Pre-selected applicants** are required to take an **oral examination**. Each application file is assigned to a rapporteur, depending on the 2-6 descriptor fields selected by the applicant. The applicant is interviewed by the members of the jury and the rapporteur, who leads the discussion.

Juries shall devote 30 minutes at most to each applicant.

The oral presentation of the applicant may not exceed 10 minutes.

Following the interview and the departure of the applicant the jury shall debate and grade them.

## 8. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

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The evaluation criteria that will be taken into account are the following:

CRITERIA
Quality of the research project: Feasibility, originality, host laboratory, work plan, societal impact, and activities report (applicable only for applicants to a 1 <sup>st</sup> Grant 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)
Skills of the applicant with regard to their speciality (CV)
Presentation and answers given to questions about the project
Scientific knowledge in general

For applicants to a FRESH 1<sup>st</sup> Grant, juries will assess their capability to conduct their doctoral research in 4 years. Depending on the progress of the research work, juries may decide to recommend applicants whether for a 1<sup>st</sup> Grant 1<sup>st</sup> year or 1<sup>st</sup> Grant 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

To respect the European Charter for the Researcher, all applicants will receive an evaluation report following the meeting of the Management Committee of the FRESH in December.

**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)**