

MINI-GUIDE FRIA CALL 2019

French version: [click here](#)

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application '[SEMAPHORE](#)' for the online submission: **Wednesday 10th July 2019**.

INSTRUMENTS		APPEL FRIA 2019			
		DEADLINE ¹ TO ACCESS THE E-FORM	ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹		
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 st Grant	FRIA-B1	Monday 26 th August at 2 p.m.	Tuesday 27 th August at 2 p.m.	Monday 2 nd September at 2 p.m.	Thursday 5 th September at 2 p.m.
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	
2 nd Grant	FRIA-B2	-	Tuesday 27 th August at 2 p.m.	Monday 2 nd September at 2 p.m.	

- The F.R.S.-FNRS will give researchers who may be granted with a fellowship renewal (FRIA-B2) access to the electronic form via the [SEMAPHORE](#) application.
- For the 1st Grant (FRIA-B1) applicants, an opinion letter will be requested from the promoter by the time of the validation.
- FRIA Juries will meet from Tuesday 8th October to Friday 8th November 2019 on the premises of the **F.R.S.-FNRS, 5 rue d'Egmont, B-1000 Brussels**. Applicants to a 1st Grant are required to take an oral examination. The date of the interview will be communicated early October and cannot be modified by no means. There is no possibility for any applicant to attend this interview on Skype or via any other means.
- The decision to allocate the grants will be made by the Board of Trustees of the FRIA in December. First Grant scheme starts as from 1st October 2019 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1st January 2020.

2. APPENDICES

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

1ST GRANT	FRIA-B1
2ND GRANT	FRIA-B2

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

DEADLINES IN 2019		DOCUMENTS
1 ST GRANT	Monday 30 th September	Appendices (see point 2.1) ²
		Reference letters from: - 2 referees (member of the academic staff of a scientific institution) in addition to the promoter, - 2 referees from the industry and/or agriculture sectors. who will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
		Ranking ² completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees
2 ^N GRANT	Thursday 31 st October	Advisory opinion from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2018

3.1 Correspondence between PE3 (structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences) and PE5 (materials synthesis, structure-properties relations, functional and advanced materials, molecular architecture, organic chemistry) subject areas

Given that correspondence between PE3 and PE5 subject areas, PE5-jury 2 has been broadened, henceforth including members whose competencies also cover PE3 subject area.

The composition of the FRIA juries is available at the following address: <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/commissions-scientifiques>.

3.2 Domains and themes considered a priority by the Walloon government

Since FRIA grants are strictly restricted to graduates with an academic education **who aim to develop their research career in the industry or agriculture, applicants whose project actually offers short, mid or long-term industrial or agronomic applications prospects**, may select one or several domains and themes in the [list](#).

The jury shall assess the application potential of the research programme and the "Industry and Agriculture" approach, and shall give its opinion accordingly.

4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

4.1 Rules and Regulations

[FRIA Rules and Regulations](#) are available on the website.

Graduates in:

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

² Where applicable, to be uploaded 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 fixed for the applicant.

➤ Psychology Sciences
are not allowed to apply for both FRIA and FRESH instruments the same year.

CONDITIONS	
➤	Maximum 7 years following the latest Master /complementary Master degree (for no more than the duration of the specialisation for doctors and veterinarian applicants who have been undertaking a medical or veterinary specialty training), on the condition that this period includes the ongoing academic year (01/10/2018 - 30/09/2019)
➤	One-year extension per childbirth or adoption

4.2 Grants Renewal

Applications for a FRIA 2nd Grant will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee).

4.3 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 FRS-FNRS only in case of granting. Effective funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 4th October 2017).

5. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice to write 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 changes or modification can be made in the proposal after the validation deadline fixed for the applicant.

The application file contains the main sections described in the table below.

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify whether the eligibility criteria are met (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	Academic background
	Awards and honours (maximum 5)
	The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted, if any), structured according to the template ➤ In case of publication accepted after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them to their application file by 30 th September via a dedicated page at https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be , as a follow-up of their application file.
	Title of the Master thesis

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	<p>Title in English and in French (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) Summary in English and in French (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces)</p> <p>➤ Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.</p>
	Selection of the subject area and of the jury
	<p>Selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance which may be completed by some unrestricted keywords.</p> <p>➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the subject area selected, they must justify their choice.</p>
	<p>Description of the project, it is mandatory to use the template available in English or in French. The description shall be limited to 4 pages maximum (Arial 12, single space), and divided in 4 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goals of the research 2. State of the art 3. Research project 4. Work plan <p>Graphs and tables may be added (max. 2 pages) to the 4-page description. Additionally, the reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed by order of appearance in the text.</p>
	Summary of the 1 st year of Ph.D. -- For 1 st Grant-2 nd year applicants only.
	Applicants to a FRIA grant may present the industrial or agronomic approach and prospects related to their project in the application file (see point 3.2).
THE WORK ENVIRONMENT	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with achieving the aims of the project.</p> <p>➤ For this criterion, information may vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</p>
THE REFEREES	<p>Contact details (full name, e-mail) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 referees (member of the academic staff of a scientific institution) other than the promoter, - 2 referees from the industry and/or agriculture sectors. <p>➤ Applicants shall contact the reference persons 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 reference persons referred 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.</p>

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE, JURIES

6.1 Composition of juries

The FRIA has adopted 19 subject areas corresponding to the 19 LS and PE panels of the ERC (European Research Council). These subject areas are identified in a list of ERC descriptor fields complemented by FNRS keywords reflecting certain specificities of research in the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB).

The list including the **19 subject areas** is the following:

- **LS1:** molecular biology, biochemistry, biophysics, structural biology, biochemistry of signal transduction
- **LS2:** genetics, population genetics, molecular genetics, genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics, computational biology, biostatistics, biological modelling and simulation, systems biology, genetic epidemiology
- **LS3:** cell biology, cell physiology, signal transduction, organogenesis, developmental genetics, pattern formation in plants and animals
- **LS4:** organ physiology, pathophysiology, endocrinology, metabolism, ageing, regeneration, tumorigenesis, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome
- **LS5:** neurobiology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neuroimaging, systems neuroscience, neurological disorders, psychiatry
- **LS6:** immunobiology, aetiology of immune disorders, microbiology, virology, parasitology, global and other infectious diseases, population dynamics of infectious diseases, veterinary medicine
- **LS7:** aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of disease, public health, epidemiology, pharmacy, pharmacology, clinical medicine, regenerative medicine, medical ethics
- **LS8:** evolution, ecology, animal behaviour, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, eco-toxicology, prokaryotic biology
- **LS9:** agricultural, animal, fishery, forestry and food sciences; biotechnology, chemical biology, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, industrial biosciences; environmental biotechnology and remediation
- **PE1:** all areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics
- **PE2:** particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics
- **PE3:** structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences
- **PE4:** analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics
- **PE5:** materials synthesis, structure-properties relations, functional and advanced materials, molecular architecture, organic chemistry
- **PE6:** informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems
- **PE7:** electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering
- **PE8:** product design, process design and control, construction methods, civil engineering, energy systems, material engineering
- **PE9:** astro-physics / chemistry / biology; solar system, stellar astronomy, galactic and extra-galactic; planetary systems, cosmology; space science, instrumentation
- **PE10:** physical geography, geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management

Some juries may be built around the same subject area, depending on the number of applicants.

Each jury is made up of 1 non-academic member from a research center or an expert from the industry sector, plus 6 or 8 members from CFB universities, respecting the balance between universities:

→ 2 UCLouvain, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège

→ 1 UMons and/or 1 UNamur, depending on the field concerned

The composition of FRIA juries is available at the following address: <http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/commissions-scientifiques>. The composition is subject to

modifications depending on the number of applicants and the conflicts of interest (COI) that might be reported by juries' members. The composition depends on the availability of members, any withdrawal or replacement, and may vary accordingly.

6.2 Selection of the subject area and jury

Applicants are entitled to select:

- Their **subject area**: applications will be assessed in accordance with the subject area selected. However, the selection of the subject area must be endorsed by the President of the jury, unless the President is from the same university as the applicant. In that case, the Vice-president instead shall accept or refuse the selection. Moreover, applicants must select two descriptor fields at least corresponding to their subject area. If they select only one descriptor field, they must justify their choice.
- The **jury** related to the subject area mentioned above. In case of conflict of interest and depending on the number of applicants, the FRIA may assign the applicant to another jury.

6.3 Selection of the jury

Juries shall devote 30 minutes at most to each applicant.

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

Following the interview, the jury shall debate and give a grade to the applicant in the absence of the applicant.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

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

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

For applicants to a 1st 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 1st Grant 1st year or 1st Grant 2nd year.

To respect the European Charter for the Researcher, interviewed applicants will receive an evaluation report following the meeting of the FRIA Board of Trustees in December.

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS, AND PRIVACY POLICY
ARE AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/REGLEMENTS-GUIDES](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/reglements-guides) AND
[HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/CHARTE-VIE-PRIVEE](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/charte-vie-priviee)