

MINI-GUIDE FRIA CALL 2020

French version: [click here](#)

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application [e-space](#) for the online submission: **THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2020.**

INSTRUMENTS		APPEL FRIA 2020			
		DEADLINE ¹ TO ACCESS THE E-FORM	ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹		
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 st Grant	FRIA-B1	Wednesday 26 th August at 2 p.m.	Thursday 27 th August at 2 p.m.	Wednesday 2 nd September at 2 p.m.	Friday 4 th September at 2 p.m.
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	
2 nd Grant	FRIA-B2	-	Thursday 27 th August at 2 p.m.	Wednesday 2 nd September at 2 p.m.	
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	

- 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 [e-space](#) application.
- FRIA Juries will meet from Friday 9th October to Tuesday 10th November 2020 on the premises of the **F.R.S.-FNRS, 5 rue d'Egmont, B-1000 Brussels.**
- 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 2020 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1st January 2021.

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 2020	DOCUMENTS
1ST GRANT	Wednesday 2 nd September at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter
	Wednesday 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. They will be contacted by the FRIA.
		Ranking ² completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees
		Publication accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant ²
2ND GRANT	Monday 2 nd November ³	Advisory opinion from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2019

3.1 Rules and Regulations

Additional eligibility criteria

The Board of Trustees of the FRIA of 23rd June 2020 has decided to change the article relating to the field of the degree as follows:

“Additionally to the conditions defined in article 3, the master degree of at least 120 credits obtained by the applicant, by default, has to belong to one of the fields listed below:

- Art of Building and Urban Planning,
- Medical Sciences,
- Public Health Sciences (except for Human and Social Sciences disciplines and the likes),
- Veterinary Sciences,
- Dental Sciences,
- Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences,
- Motricity Sciences,
- Sciences, except for Tourism Studies and Management and Geographic Sciences (Human or Social Sciences disciplines and the likes),
- Agronomic Sciences and Biological Engineering,
- Technology and Engineering Sciences.
- Holders of a Master degree in Psychology Sciences (biomedical discipline in the broad sense and the likes) are also eligible.

However, an additional master degree 60 obtained by the applicant, in the fields listed above, can be enough, provided an unconditional permission regarding access to the doctorate issued from the field doctoral Commission must be enclosed in the application file by 30th September of the year the application is submitted at the latest.”

² Where applicable, to be uploaded or mentioned by the applicant on a dedicated page on [e-space](#), as a follow-up of their application file after the validation deadline fixed for the applicant.

³ The deadline for the Advisory opinion by the Supervisory Panel is generally on 31st October. In 2020, it falls on a Saturday so the deadline is postponed to the next business day.

Change of article 5 § 2: childbirth and/or adoption

The maximum period of time set in article 5 is extended for one additional year per childbirth and/or adoption (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS of 23rd June 2020).

3.2 Organisation of the examinations

Applicants to a 1st Grant are required to take an oral examination.

Oral examinations will take place on the premises of the F.R.S.-FNRS (5 rue d'Egmont, B-1000 Brussels), except for proven cases of force majeure in due course.

The F.R.S.-FNRS remains alert to the development of the situation related to the health crisis.

The date of the oral examination will be communicated early October and cannot be modified by any means.

3.3 Creation of a second jury in the PE6 (informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems)

Given the growing importance of this subject area and the large number of applicants who choose it, a second jury has been created.

The composition of the FRIA juries is available at the following address: https://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/FRS-FNRS_JurysFRIA.pdf.

3.4 Eligibility of Research Logisticians as Promoter

Research logisticians of rank B and C, as defined by the Royal Decree of 31st October 1953 fixing *'le statut des agrégés, des répétiteurs et des membres du personnel scientifique des universités de l'État'*, are eligible as promoters of doctorate fellowships. Research logisticians of rank A are not eligible as promoters; however, they are eligible as co-promoters provided that they hold a PhD (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS of 21st June 2019).

4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

4.1 Grants Renewal

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

4.2 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. Funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee.

4.3 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 fields 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.

4.4 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.

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 hereafter.

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 > As stated in section 2.2, In case of publication accepted after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them until 30 th September.
	Title of the Master thesis
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	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) > Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website .
	Selection of the subject area and of the jury . > The applicant chooses the subject area they wish their application to be assessed in as well as the jury within this subject area.
	Selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance which may be completed by some unrestricted keywords . > If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the subject area selected, they must justify their choice.
	It is mandatory to use the template: FRIA-B1 (FR / EN) – FRIA-B2 (FR / EN). The description of the project (4 pages max.) is divided in 4 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goals of the research 2. State of the art 3. Research project 4. Work plan Graphs and tables may be added (max. 2 pages) to the 4-page description. A reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed by order of appearance in the text.
	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 4.3).

SECTION	CONTENT
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 research project.</p> <p>➤ <i>Data can vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</i></p>
THE REFEREES	<p>Contact details (full name, email) 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>➤ <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></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 chemistry⁴
- **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: https://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/FRS-FNRS_JurysFRIA.pdf. 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 also depends on the availability of members, any withdrawal or replacement, and may vary accordingly.

6.2 Validation of the subject area and distribution of the files between the different juries of a subject area

The choice of subject area by the applicant will be accepted or denied by the Presidents of juries, as long as they don't come from the same university as the applicant (in which case a Vice-president will be in charge of this procedure).

When there are more than one jury in the subject area of the [jury](#) chosen by the applicant, the FRIA reserves the right to transfer the applicant to another jury, taking into account the number of applicants and the management of potential conflicts of interest. If necessary, the FRIA may transfer the applicant to another jury when their (co-)promoter is a member of the 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.

⁴ Since the 2019 FRIA call, 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.

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 FRIA 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/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)