

MINI-GUIDE FRIA CALL 2021

French version: [click here](#)

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

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application [e-space](#) for the online submission: **TUESDAY 6TH JULY 2021.**

INSTRUMENTS		FRIA CALL 2021		
		ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹ ON E-SPACE		
		APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 st Grant	FRIA-B1	Thursday 26 th August at 2 p.m.*	Wednesday 1 st September at 2 p.m.	Friday 3 rd September at 2 p.m.
2 nd Grant	FRIA-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 (FRIA-B2) access to the electronic form via the [e-space](#) application.
- FRIA Juries will meet from Friday 8th October to Wednesday 10th November 2021. Applicants to a 1st 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 Board of Trustees of the FRIA in December. First Grant scheme starts as from 1st October 2021 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1st January 2022.

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 considered instrument:

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

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

	DEADLINES IN 2021	DOCUMENTS
1 ST GRANT	Wednesday 1 st September at 2 p.m.	Reference letter from promoter, structured according to the template
	Thursday 30 th September	Appendices (see point 2.1) ²
		Reference letters from: - 2 referees (different from the promoter) member of the academic staff of a scientific institution, structured according to the template , - 2 referees from the industry and/or agriculture sectors, structured according to the template . They will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
		Ranking ² completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master (or equivalent) degrees
	Publications accepted after the deadline of validation by the applicant ²	
2 ND GRANT	Tuesday 2 nd November ³	Advisory opinion from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

3. SPECIFIC REMARKS

3.1 Grants Renewal

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

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

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 2021, it falls on a Sunday so the deadline is postponed to the next business day.

3.4 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.

4. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

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 changes 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)
	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 publications 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 French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Summary in French and in English (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 , they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords . ➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the subject area selected, they shall justify their choice in the application form.
	It is mandatory to use the template: FRIA-B1 (FR / EN) – FRIA-B2 (FR / EN). The description of the project (max.4 pages) 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 (max. 2 pages) are authorised in addition to the 4 pages. A reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed by order of appearance in the text.

SECTION	CONTENT
	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 3.3).
THE WORK ENVIRONMENT	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. ➤ <i>Data can vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</i>
THE REFEREES	Contact details (first name, surname, email) of: - 2 referees (different from the promoter) member of the academic staff of a scientific institution, - 2 referees from the industry and/or agriculture sectors. ➤ <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> <i>After submission of the application file, the F.R.S.-FNRS will contact the reference persons indicated 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>

5. SELECTION PROCEDURE, JURIES

5.1 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 U Mons and/or 1 UNamur, depending on the field concerned

The composition of FRIA juries is available [here](#). 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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 descriptor fields also cover PE3 subject area.

6. 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)
Skills 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, 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)