

## 1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call: **TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025** on [e-space](#) for the online submission.

INSTRUMENTS		CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL 2025		
		ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES <sup>1</sup> ON E-SPACE		
		MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
<a href="#">Research Credit</a>	CDR	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m.*	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m.	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m.
<a href="#">Research Project</a>	PDR			
<a href="#">Equipment</a>	EQP			
<a href="#">Incentive Grant for Scientific Research</a>	MIS			
<a href="#">Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences<sup>2</sup></a>	IISN			

\*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.

Funding decision will be made by the decision-making bodies of the F.R.S.-FNRS at the end of the calendar year. The starting date for every instrument is the following: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026<sup>3</sup>.

## 2. INSTRUMENTS

Rules and regulations related to eligible expenses have been defined to meet the specific needs of wide-ranging scientific fields.

- **Research Credit (CDR - Crédit de recherche)**: a funding instrument for operating costs and equipment intended for an individual researcher (or their team). This instrument not only ensures the funding of basic research, ongoing research activities, and exploratory research, but also promotes the development of new research themes and researchers.
- **Research Project (PDR - Projet de recherche)**: a funding instrument supported by a main promoter-applicant, and including operating, personnel and equipment costs. The promoter is responsible for choosing the personnel to hire.
- **Equipment (EQP - Équipement)**: a funding instrument for equipment, and including operating, costs. Application can be built around a specific project or general research themes of a team.
- **Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (MIS - Mandat d'impulsion scientifique)**: a funding instrument for specific research projects intended for young researchers with the aim of encouraging their autonomy.

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

<sup>2</sup> IISN Instrument: see Chapter 5, point 5.1 Specific Remarks in this mini-guide.

<sup>3</sup> In the particular case of a PDR in collaboration with a German partner (DFG), the PDR starting date is set for the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

- **Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences (IISN - Institut Interuniversitaire des Sciences Nucléaires)**: a long-term, regularly renewed funding instrument financing successive recurrent projects lasting up to 4 years.

IISN scope:

- o Study of fundamental interactions and their possible unification through observation, experimentation, phenomenological and theoretical studies, including cosmological aspects.
- o Properties of atomic and subatomic bound systems.
- o Instruments for experimentation and study include, for example, particle accelerators, particle traps, cosmic ray detectors, neutrino detectors...
- o This list is not exhaustive, but does not include astronomical approaches (radio, IR, visible, UV telescopes, etc.).
- o Research and development on the technologies needed for the experimental and observational programmes carried out in the framework of these studies.

These instruments are summarised in the table below. The eligible expenses are detailed in the regulatory provisions.

	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Limits</b>	<b>Nature</b>
<b>Research Credit CDR</b>	2 years <sup>4</sup>	€10 – 63 k	Operating costs, equipment
<b>Research Project PDR</b>	2 years	€60 - 170 k	<b>For Mono-promotion PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
		€60 - 200 k	<b>For Single-university PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
		€60 - 245 k	<b>For Multi-university PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
	4 years	€120 - 340 k	<b>For Mono-promotion PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 400 k	<b>For Single-university PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 485 k	<b>For Multi-university PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
<b>Research Project PDR</b> in collaboration with a German partner (DFG)	3 years	€120 - 340 k	<b>For Mono-promotion PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 400 k	<b>For Single-university PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
		€120 - 485 k	<b>For Multi-university PDR</b> Personnel, operating costs, equipment
<b>Equipment EQP</b>	2 years	€30 -300 k	Operating costs, equipment
<b>Incentive grant for Scientific Research MIS</b>	3 years	€475 k	Personnel, operating costs, equipment

<sup>4</sup> For CDR, the allocated grants can be used over a 4-year period.

	Duration	Limits	Nature
Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences <b>IISN</b>	4 years max.	-	Personnel, operating costs <sup>5</sup> , equipment

## 3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2024

### 3.1 Instrument PDR

The F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees decided on one hand to make it feasible again for a PDR to be managed in co-promotion by a researcher from the same university and on the other hand to divide the PDR instrument into 3 categories in order to encourage collaboration within a university or between universities.

- **Mono-promotion PDR:** one promoter only of a university.
- **Single-university PDR:** one promoter only and at least one co-promoter from the same university.
- **Multi-university PDR:** one promoter only and at least one co-promoter from another institution.

The Board of Trustees also decided to abolish the ceilings for the different types costs within the PDR budget (personnel, operating costs, equipment), in order to allow the promoters of PDR projects greater flexibility.

### 3.2 Cumulative rules

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees decided the following:

- Restrict the number of co-promotions a PDR can have: a researcher is allowed 2 PDR fundings at the same time but can only be the main promoter on one of those projects.
- Maintain the existing rules on all of the other instruments.

The F.R.S.-FNRS has rewritten its cumulative rules ([FR](#) – [EN](#)).

### 3.3 Instrument MIS: Eligibility criteria relating to the seniority of biological or adopting parents

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.

### 3.4 Valorisation of Open Science practices in the evaluation of applications

Since 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.**

<sup>5</sup> "Maintenance and Operating (M&O) costs": Overheads (or similar costs based on the number of people) are only eligible for scientists devoting at least 45% of their activity to the experiment (max. 2 experiments per scientist).

## 4. INITIATIVE WEAVE

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Since 2021, some European research funding agencies have mutually opened their project funding instruments to research teams from partner agencies of the initiative Weave. Researchers from the French-speaking Community of Belgium can therefore include partners from another partner agency in the PDR instrument of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

In 2025, the F.R.S.-FNRS offers the possibility to submit collaborative project proposals (bi or trilateral) as part of the PDR instrument within the framework of the Credits and Projects Call with:

- German research institutions eligible to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG): German partners must comply with the guidelines of the [Weave page of DFG](#).
  - o Attention: projects in collaboration with a German partner have a duration of 3 years with a funding equal to that of a 4-year PDR.
  - o The PDR starting date is set for the 1<sup>st</sup> April and the ending date for the 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Flemish research institutions eligible to the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO): Flemish partners must comply with the guidelines of the [Weave FWO page as a partner agency](#).
- Luxembourg research institutions eligible to the FNR Luxembourg (FNR): Luxembourg partners must comply with the guidelines of the [INTER programme](#) of the FNR.
- Swiss research institutions eligible to the SNSF Switzerland (SNSF): Swiss partners must comply with the guidelines of the [SNSF Weave page](#).

## 5. SPECIFIC REMARKS

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### 5.1 IISN application submission

- The "labo" agreements aim at covering the 'shared services', i.e., technical personnel along with the related operating costs, as well as expenses for inviting lecturers in seminars of general interest, for instance. The flexibility decided by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS does not apply to the "labo" agreements.
- The "project" agreements may cover expenses related to specific scientific projects, e.g., testing, analysis, computing support to an experiment, research-development for a new detector, theoretical research, and scientific missions. Those expenses cannot be claimed via a "labo" agreement.

Expenses claims relating to a scientific project should be elaborated with the most comprehensive possible description of all the expenses.

In particular, the following should be detailed:

- Scientific missions expenses (Belgian researchers travelling abroad, temporary mobility of foreign scientific collaborators as part of the project);
- If applicable, an estimate of the cost for the new equipment to continue the experiment, in case of projects in the long run or a ten-year experiment project for instance<sup>6</sup>.

Details on the expenses should be provided in all applications (new applications, addendum, extension) submitted for the current Call.

Reminder: All "Interuniversity Institute for Nuclear Sciences" (IISN-New or Add/Ext) IISN projects may be submitted after the "[IISN PROJECT](#)" questionnaire has been duly completed and sent to [credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be) (specifying in the subject line: PROJET IISN). The main promoter will be given access to '[e-space](#)' after the F.R.S.-FNRS administration has verified the validity of the application.

### 5.2 Involvement of CHU partners

The following measure applies to PDR.

University hospitals, clinics or hospital departments, hereafter referred to as "CHU", provide specific services to university researchers to carry out projects funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

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<sup>6</sup> For example: submission of an initial 4-year project with no substantial expenses, however, unless a massive investment is planned, the development and achievement of the project may not be guaranteed.

To best use the funds allocated to scientific research, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables researchers to include, as research partners, the CHU actively participating in the research project provided that these partner institutions are considered as entities affiliated with the host university receiving the funding requested.

In this respect, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables the university to declare the costs strictly generated by the CHU to carry out the funded project. The university is responsible for the CHU's compliance to regulations applying to beneficiaries of F.R.S.-FNRS funding, as well as to relevant tax regulations.

To proceed, the researcher must **imperatively** detail in their application form:

- the tasks and work packages undertaken by the CHU (in the [template](#)),
- the budget required to conduct these tasks (under "Budget").

The researcher shall contact the relevant departments of their host university regarding the legal and financial regulations pertaining to this measure.

Please note: Are eligible only the hospitals, clinics or hospital departments affiliated with a university and listed in this [Appendix](#).

### 5.3 Reference persons (MIS)

Applicants shall contact the reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form if they want to make sure that they are willing to provide a [reference letter](#) as part of their application.

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the reference letters related to their application. No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.

Deadline for receiving letters from the reference persons is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## 6. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

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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.

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](#). This translation will have to be submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS within 5 working days.

First, applicants select the Scientific Commission<sup>7</sup> they would like the proposal to be evaluated by. Then, applicants will have to choose from 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of importance (at least 2 descriptor fields<sup>8</sup> must be relevant to the Scientific Commission selected by the applicant) and they may complete this selection by adding unrestricted keywords (if necessary). The F.R.S.-FNRS will base the selection of 1<sup>st</sup>-step experts on those pieces of information along with the summary of the project.

If necessary, applicants may indicate up to 3 experts they do not wish to have as reviewers and provide a justification.

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 main promoter.

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<sup>7</sup> Not applicable for the IISN instrument.

<sup>8</sup> If applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the Scientific Commission selected, 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).

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

<b>FORM</b>
<b>FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CDR/PDR/EQP/MIS/IISN</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. References of the application (for the funded proposals, these data are released and made public on the <a href="#">F.R.S.-FNRS website</a>).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Title</b>, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and,</li><li>- <b>Abstract</b>, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).</li></ul></li><li>2. Selection of Scientific Commission and descriptor fields</li><li>3. Bibliometric indicators</li><li>4. Scientific Curriculum vitae + Publications list<sup>9</sup> of each promoter/co-promoter<sup>10</sup></li><li>5. Scientific section (see template)</li><li>6. Ethical aspects</li><li>7. Reference persons (contact details) → MIS only</li></ol></li></ul>
<b>BUDGET</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CDR/EQP</b><p>Description and justification for the resources requested: Operating, Equipment</p></li><li>• <b>PDR/MIS/IISN</b><p>Description and justification for the resources requested: Operating, Equipment, Personnel</p></li></ul>
<b>PREVIOUS FUNDING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CDR/PDR/EQP/MIS</b><p>Connection with previous funding applications (submitted or granted)</p></li></ul>
<b>SCIENTIFIC SECTION - PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CDR</b><p><a href="#">CDR template</a></p><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Brief report on previous works</li><li>2. Description of the project</li><li>3. Comments on changes in case of resubmission</li><li>4. Potential interdisciplinary approach of the project</li><li>5. Publications and environment of the promoter</li><li>6. Description of Open Science practices</li><li>7. Additional comments</li></ol></li></ul>

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<sup>9</sup> Promoters who have been working *for 2 years at least* in institutions of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an institutional repository (IR) must submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format.

<sup>10</sup>Including promoter(s) associated with partner agencies of the Weave initiative.

## SCIENTIFIC SECTION - PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE

- **PDR**

[PDR template](#)

1. Brief report on previous works
2. Description of the project
3. Comments on changes in case of resubmission
4. Potential interdisciplinary approach of the project
5. Publications and environment of the main promoter
6. Publications of the co-promoters
7. Description of Open Science practices
8. Interactions and distribution of the tasks among the main promoter and the co-promoters
9. Additional comments

- **EQP**

[EQP template](#)

1. Brief report on previous works
2. Description of the project
3. Work plan
4. Comments on changes in case of resubmission
5. Potential interdisciplinary approach of the project
6. Publications and environment of the main promoter
7. Publications of the co-promoters (if any)
8. Description of Open Science practices
9. Interactions and distribution of the tasks among the main promoter and the co-promoters (if any)
10. Additional comments

- **MIS**

[MIS template](#)

1. Brief report on previous works
2. Description of the project
3. Comments on changes in case of resubmission
4. Potential interdisciplinary approach of the project
5. Arguments of the MIS project
6. Publications of the promoter related to the project
7. Description of Open Science practices
8. Additional comments

- **IISN**

**IISN templates :** [New project \(IISN-ND\)](#) - [Addendum/Extension \(IISN-AV/PR\)](#)

1. Brief report on previous works (IISN-ND) **or** Report on previous work (IISN-AV/PR)
2. Description of the project
3. Publications and environment of the main promoter
4. Publications of the co-promoters (if any)
5. Description of Open Science practices
6. Interactions and distribution of the tasks among the main promoter and the co-promoters (if any)
7. Laboratory staff

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 : [credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be)