



# F.R.S.-FNRS MINI-GUIDE CORONAVIRUS EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT CALL 2020

French version: [click here](#).

## 1. SCHEDULE

**Opening** of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based platform [e-space](#) for the online submission: **FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAI 2020**.

**Deadlines** detailed in the hereunder table.

CORONAVIRUS CALL 2020		
DEADLINES <sup>1</sup> FOR ONLINE VALIDATION		
MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m.	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m.

The decision to allocate the grants will be made by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS at the end of summer 2020. The starting date of the instruments is as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSTRUMENT AND DEFINITIONS

### Definitions:

**Main promoter:** Researcher responsible for the submission of the application. They can ask for budget related to the tasks of which they will be in charge during the accomplishment of the project.

**Co-promoter:** Researcher who takes part in the creation of the application and in the accomplishment of the project in case of granting. As such, they can ask for a budget related to the tasks of which they will be in charge.

**Project initiator:** Researcher whose skills and/or knowledge will be useful for the accomplishment of the project but who will not be in charge of any tasks. They can not ask for a budget.

**Exceptional Research Project (PER):** Funding instrument for operating, personnel and small equipment costs of a researcher (including their team) or several researchers (promoters and co-promoters) allowing the execution of a fundamental research project.

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

	Duration	Limits	Nature
PER	2 years	€260 K	Operating costs, small equipment, conferences...

Eligibility rules regarding fees as well as promoters / co-promoters are available in [PER Rules and Regulations](#).

### Caps for the personnel

Short-term Postdoctoral Researcher, Non-doctoral Researcher and Technician categories are subject to an annual amount, calculated in proportion to the days worked. Limitations in force in 2021 are the following:

➤ Short-term Postdoctoral Researcher	€52,800- (full time)
➤ Non-doctoral Researcher	€35,400- (part time); €70,100- (full time)
➤ Technician	€30,200- (part time); €59,500- (full time)

## 3. THEMATIC FRAMEWORK OF THE CALL

**The frame of the Coronavirus call** is the global health crisis related to covid-19 and/or recent coronavirus epidemics. It is directed towards researchers in all disciplines of which studies can contribute to:

- A better understanding of coronaviruses, the diseases they trigger or their spread;
- The development of clinical protocols, diagnostic tools or treatments;
- Studying and/or preparing the response of health care systems when facing these epidemics;
- A better understanding of societal challenges of such epidemics.

In practice, projects have to enter into the priorities listed below:

- **Epidemiological and translational studies**
  - Natural history of the disease (including anthropogenic factors) and the method of transmission of the virus
  - Diagnosis of the infection, of the asymptomatic carriage, of the evolution of the immune response
  - Clinical characterization and patient management
  - Predictive and retrospective digital models
- **Physiopathogenesis of the disease (virus-host interactions and immune response)**
  - Development of animal and cellular models
  - Therapeutic targets and evaluation models of drug candidates (not including vaccines)
- **Preventive and control measures of the infection in health care sites (including the most efficient way to protect health care workers) and in community sites**
  - Vulnerability and resilience of people, groups and organizations
  - Efficiency conditions and real conditions in executing information, prevention, care and struggle actions
  - Estimation and modelling of the epidemiological, economic, financial impact of the epidemic and its preventive and control measures
- **Development of tests in clinical biology**
- **Geopolitical stakes**
- **Research, care and human rights ethics**
- **Representations, perceptions, attitudes and behaviours regarding the epidemic and the organization of health care**
- **Health politics and acceptability of decisions**
- **Global economic impacts of the crisis.**

## 4. ACCUMULATION RULES

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PER are not subjected to any accumulation rule towards other F.R.S.-FNRS fundings, including “Crédits Urgents de Recherche (CUR)“ It is however required, for all candidates, to mention if their project is related to a CUR funding request.

A researcher may submit and be granted funding for a maximum of 1 project as main promoter and 1 project as a co-promoter. A researcher may, however, take part in other projects as a project initiator.

## 5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

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Applications will be submitted via e-space (<https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be>). The application form will be available from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 on.

## 6. FILES EVALUATION

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All submitted projects will be evaluated by a unique Scientific Commission according to the following criteria:

1. Quality of the promoter and co-promoter(s): ability to carry the project – 40%
2. Quality of the project: hypothesis, method and feasibility – 40%
3. Efficiency of the answers towards the stakes of global health crises – 20%

If the adequacy between the research program and the requested budget is not justified and appears to request more than 15% decrease, the application will not be considered fundable.

## 7. CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF AN APPLICATION

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Applicants will have the choice to write 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 in the fields of SEN (Exact and Natural Sciences), SVS (Health and Life Sciences) and in “Cognition, Psychology, Education“ 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 evaluation<sup>2</sup>.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance of the number of pages allowed** for documents that shall be enclosed with the application form and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Scientific Commission in case the file would exceed the applicable page limit.

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

ONLINE FORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identification of the researcher(s) associated to the project (including bibliometric data)</li><li>- Description of the project: title, summary, thematises and descriptors, ethics</li><li>- Budget: personnel, operating, equipment</li></ul>



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<sup>2</sup> In this case, the promoter will have 5 business days to send to the F.R.S.-FNRS, via e-mail, all translated documents ([credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be)).

## SCIENTIFIC SECTION – TO BE EXCLUSIVELY COMPLETED ON THE TEMPLATE FILE [FR](#) / [EN](#)

1. Brief report of previous works (max. 2 pages)
2. Project description (max. 4 pages + max 1 page of bibliography + max. 2 pages of graphs, tables or illustrations)
3. Publications and work environment of the main promoter
4. Publications of co-promoters
5. Interactions and task distribution between the main promoter and co-promoters (for PER with one or multiple co-promoters only – max. 1 page)
6. Additional comments (optional – max. 2 pages)

## APPENDICES

1. Scientific CV<sup>3</sup>
2. List of promoter and co-promoter(s) publications
3. Price offers or estimations for requested equipments

## 8. ETHICS - OPEN ACCESS POLICY - COMMUNICATION

### ▪ Ethics

F.R.S.-FNRS will proceed to the reimbursement of expenses based on supporting documents only after receiving favourable decision from the competent bodies regarding ethical matters.

### ▪ Open Access policy

The F.R.S.-FNRS endorses the principle of Open access to partly or fully publicly funded research. This support has led to the implementation of an institutional mandate providing Open access to publications from F.R.S.-FNRS funded research projects and researchers under the “Open Access Green Road” business model. The adopted [regulations](#) specifies the conditions under which the F.R.S.-FNRS grant recipients shall store, when possible, all the funded research results of which they are authors or co-authors in their institution's repository.

### ▪ Policy related to communications and publications as part of F.R.S.-FNRS projects

Any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding granted as part of the Coronavirus call instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows: “*This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS under Grant(s) n° [agreement number]*”. This measure also applies to Open Access publications.

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/reglements-guides> AND <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/charte-vie-privee>

<sup>3</sup> Max. 5 pages, publications excluded.