

RULES AND REGULATIONS

LARGE EQUIPMENT (GEQ) CALL 2021

ADOPTED BY

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE F.R.S.-FNRS

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CHAPTER I: SCOPE

Article 1

The rules and regulations hereinafter are only applicable to the Large Equipment instrument (GEQ) enabling the funding of research programmes within the framework of the Large Equipment Call 2021 of the Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS¹ (F.R.S.-FNRS).

Instrument	Duration	Characteristics	Co-promoter participation
GEQ	2 years	Single or Cross-university GEQ	Yes

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 preparation 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.

Article 2

Every sector of scientific research may be concerned by the GEQ instrument.

Article 3

Research programmes are set to be implemented either in one or several universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium listed [Appendix 1](#).

Article 4

The main promoter is the person who assumes the scientific responsibility, and is in charge of the administrative management of the funded research programme.

CHAPTER II: APPLICATION

II- A: PROMOTERS

Article 5

The main promoter-applicant of a GEQ must be:

- Either a Research Associate, a Senior Research Associate or a Research Director of the F.R.S.-FNRS and assuming the function and duties of such position at the latest by 15th November of the year when submitting the application.
- Or a researcher appointed in a university of the French-speaking community of Belgium (CFB) listed in [Appendix 1](#) and must meet the following conditions altogether:

¹ The Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS shall be understood as the F.R.S.-FNRS and its associated funds.

- Be permanently² appointed to an academic or scientific position or on probation in that university.
- This appointment must have a final and conclusive assent from the competent body to legitimize this appointment in accordance with the Law or the university's regulations at the latest by 15th November of the year when submitting the application.
- This academic or scientific position must be effective at the latest by 15th November of the year when submitting the application.

If the main promoter-applicant who is appointed permanently accesses the legal age of retirement / becomes professor emeritus after the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) and before the end of the funding scheme in case of granting, the submission of the application shall be subject to prior approval by the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

The main promoter-applicant permanently appointed who will access the legal age of retirement / become professor emeritus by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) is not eligible.

Article 6

The **Single or Cross-university GEQ** provides for the participation of co-promoters.

All co-promoter applicants involved in a **Single or a Cross-university GEQ** shall meet the eligibility criteria as referred to in article 5.

Article 7

Accumulation with other types of F.R.S.-FNRS funding (PDR, EQP, MIS...) is allowed.

II- B: APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Article 8

The "Large Equipment" Call is opened following the decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS and is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

The application can be submitted in French or in English. It must only be submitted through the [e-space](#) online platform dedicated to the calls for proposals.

All GEQ applications are submitted to a procedure including successive electronic validations on the dates that will be indicated when the call for applications is published:

- The validation by the main promoter, responsible towards the F.R.S.-FNRS administration: it accounts as a confirmation that the application file is complete.
- The validation by co-promoters (if any): it accounts as an electronic signature.
- The validation by the research administration (or Board of Education) of the university of the French-speaking community of Belgium to which promoters are related – the Authority to which the application file is transferred once promoters have validated the application form. That authority may

² *Research logisticians of rank A, 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 only allowed to be co-promoter-applicant provided they hold a Ph.D.*

accept or refuse the application. The validation deadline set for the rectors puts a final end to the call for proposals.

Applications that have not been validated within the time-frame of the call cannot be taken into account.

The validation dates are available in the mini-guide.

CHAPTER III: NATURE AND DURATION OF THE FUNDING

Article 9

The GEQ is applicable for 2 years.

The GEQ 2021 starting date is set for 1st January 2022 and the ending date for 31st December 2023.

Article 10

A GEQ application enables to apply for funding for the purchase of equipment or an experimental device.

The budget requested shall be over € 200,000- and equal to or lower than € 500,000-. In case the total cost of a piece of equipment is higher than € 500.000- and additional funding is needed, the budget requested must represent at least 60% of the remaining equipment cost to be covered.

The F.R.S.-FNRS will cover from 60% to 100% of the budget requested for the equipment in accordance with the decision of the Board of Trustees and within the limits of its budget.

One or a couple of price offers (catalogue, price list, offers from eventual suppliers...) shall accompany the budget request.

Article 11

The technical and dedicated facilities strictly necessary for the installation of the equipment are not included in the cost thereof, nor can be considered as a co-financing contribution from the university of the promoter.

Article 12

Only equipment fees including "upgrades" are eligible.

CHAPTER IV: EVALUATION PROCESS

Article 13

Criteria that will be taken into account for the evaluation of GEQ applications are the following, by order of importance:

CRITERIA
Qualities of the promoter(s) and potential equipment users: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ CV and publications➤ International recognition➤ Main research achievements

CRITERIA

Qualities of the research programme(s):

- Feasibility
- Methodology and relevance
- Originality
- Collaborations

Requested equipment features:

- Choice in terms of technicality and performance
- The need, potential double use
- Usage (utilisation rate)
- Capability and Capacity (expertise, infrastructure)
- Correspondence between the price offer and the requested equipment

Article 14

The evaluation process consists in a remote individual examination performed by external experts, and a ranking established by a Scientific Commission dedicated to the GEQ instrument.

This Scientific Commission is made up of:

- 9 members, including the President, external to the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles 'FWB' (including Presidents or international members of the 13 Scientific Commissions of the F.R.S.-FNRS),
- 4 members from the FWB universities,
- 2 observers from the Walloon Region.

The justified ranking adopted by the Scientific Commission will be communicated to the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 15

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS allocates funds according to the budget that is available. It decides on the granting or rejection, and where provided for, on the amounts to be granted.

CHAPTER V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 16

Any change made to the planned expenses must receive the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Grants can be used for the duration of the granting.

The unspent amount will be recovered by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 17

The grants at the disposal of the promoters are managed by the financial department of the institution to which they are attached.

The financial department of the institution shall send the supporting documents to the F.R.S.-FNRS as soon as possible.

The supporting documents must be sent at the latest 2 months after the end of the granting; that is to say on 29th February 2024.

The financial contribution from the F.R.S.-FNRS shall not exceed the actual charged amount.

CHAPTER VI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 18

Any device acquired with a credit from the F.R.S.-FNRS becomes the property of the host university, to which the beneficiary of the credit is attached.

The purchase of any device must be done with due respect for the provisions defined by the relevant department of the host university.

This institution commits, however, to putting the mentioned device at the disposal of the researchers involved for the time needed in order to conduct the research, which led to its purchase in the first place. In addition, the host university commits not to alienating or lending the equipment without the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

In the event that the device was purchased with the provision of an additional funding, the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS will settle the ownership issue with the competent authorities.

Article 19

Grants are exclusively allocated for the execution of the research programme approved by the F.R.S.-FNRS. Promoters are required to use them solely for that purpose. Any fundamental change in the ongoing research programme must obtain the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

CHAPTER VII: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROMOTER

Article 20

Any funded research programme must comply with the legal provisions in force regarding ethics.

Article 21

Promoters must submit to the rules imposed by the academic authority of the host university where they work and observe its regulations. In addition, regarding the F.R.S.-FNRS, they must adhere to the regulation on property, protection and promotion of the results from the research carried out within the institution.

Article 22

Three months after the end of the funding scheme, a request for a final report is sent to the main promoter.

The main promoter must upload this final report on their personal page [e-space](#) within two months following the request.

Article 23

Pursuant to the [Regulation](#) on the application of the Open Access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its Associated Funds, any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding of the GEQ 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° [funding number]”.

APPENDIX 1

Relevant institutions giving access to the funding of the F.R.S.-FNRS

GEQ instrument

Institutions de rattachement / Attached institutions

Instrument Grand Équipement / Large Equipment

(SINGLE AND CROSS-UNIVERSITY GEQ)

<p>Candidat promoteur principal et candidat co-promoteur d'une université CFB / Main promoter-applicant and co-promoter-applicant of a CFB university</p>	<p>➤ Universités de la Communauté française de Belgique (CFB) Universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB)</p> <p>Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) Université de Liège (ULiège) Université de Mons (UMons) Université de Namur (UNamur) Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles (USL-B)</p>
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