

Guide for Reviewers

Ex-ante evaluation procedures

The purpose of this guide is to help the reviewers in different practical aspects of their work and more particularly to provide clear rules and contribute to consistency among individual reviewers and the Scientific Commissions.

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I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

I.1 THE FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH-FNRS¹

The FNRS is a foundation of public interest funded at more than 90% from public funds which supports the development of fundamental research in the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB)². To this end, the FNRS strengthens the training of individual researchers and funds research programmes in the universities of the CFB, in all fields of science (<https://www.frs-fnrs.be/>).

The selection of files submitted to the FNRS for funding is performed according to scientific excellence, and depends on a peer review.

For this purpose, the FNRS Board of Trustees appoints independent experts who participate in the evaluation of the proposals.

Proposals, data, and the related documents communicated to the FNRS are considered confidential.

I.2 GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR THE EX-ANTE EVALUATION

For instruments related to calls for proposals, the FNRS Board of Trustees has adopted the principle of a one-phase and a two-step evaluation of the proposals. The entire process occurs in three successive parts, including key elements:

- **The administrative work:** for the instruments related to this type of evaluation, the FNRS receives proposals submitted through [e-space](#), a web-based management platform dedicated to the calls for proposals.
- **The evaluation** is divided in **two** different **steps** (except for some instruments). Step 1 consists in the remote individual evaluation and depends on experts selected by the FNRS and who are specialised in the field of the proposal. Step 2 depends on Scientific Commissions made up of experts who meet in sessions in order to set up a consolidated ranking and finalise the evaluation reports to be communicated to the applicant.
- **The funding decision** is made when the FNRS Board of Trustees approves the funding and provides the applicants and promoters (if any) with the result of their proposal and the final evaluation report. If applicable and depending on the instrument, applicants and promoters may receive the evaluation report issued by the first-step individual experts anonymously.

¹ In order for the document to be easier to read, the Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) is afterwards shortened to FNRS.

² In order for the document to be easier to read, the French-speaking Community of Belgium is afterwards shortened to CFB.

I.3 GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2026

The call was opened in early December 2025 and closed early March 2026. The “Researcher” instruments are covered in Appendix 1.

The “Researcher” instruments are part of the “European Charter for Researchers” and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. They enable the researchers to be funded through fellowships, in the form of grants (doctoral researchers), fixed-term fellowships (postdoctoral researchers) or open-ended fellowships (experienced researchers).

Success rates may vary depending on the budget, the number and the quality of the applications. The rate is lower for open-ended research fellowships (less than 20%).

I.4 CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL 2026

The call was opened mid-May and closed in mid-July 2026, in particular for the instruments covered in Appendix 2:

- Research Credit (CDR),
- Research Project (PDR),
- Equipment (EQP),
- Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (MIS).

I.5 INFRASTRUCTURE & LARGE EQUIPEMENT CALL 2024

The call was opened mid-May and closed end of September 2024. The Infrastructure & Large Equipment instrument (INFRA-GEQ) is covered in Appendix 3.

I.6 OPEN SCIENCE

I.6.1 OPEN ACCESS POLICY

The FNRS endorses the principle of open access to scientific publications financed wholly or partly from the public funding. This support has led to the implementation of an institutional mandate providing Open Access to publications from FNRS funded research projects and by researchers under the "Open Access Green Road" business model.

The Regulation ([FR-EN](#)) specifies the conditions under which the 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.

Scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding of the FNRS and its Associated Funds shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

- In case of a project:

"This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) n° [ID number]",

- In case of a fellowship:

"[Full name or Initials] is a [title] of the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS".*

*Title:

- Aspirant (ASP) = Research Fellow
- Boursier FRESH = FRESH grantee
- Boursier FRIA = FRIA grantee
- Boursier Télévie = Télévie grantee
- Candidat spécialiste doctorant (CSD) = Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D.
- Spécialiste doctorant (SD) = Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D.
- Vétérinaire clinicien-chercheur doctorant (VETE-CCD) = Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student
- Chargé de recherches (CR) = Postdoctoral Researcher
- Spécialiste postdoctorant (SPD) = Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist
- Chercheur clinicien (CCL) = Clinical Researcher
- Collaborateur scientifique = Scientific Collaborator
- Chercheur qualifié (CQ) = Research Associate
- Maître de recherches (MR) = Senior Research Associate
- Directeur de recherches (DR) = Research Director
- Bénéficiaire d'un Mandat d'impulsion scientifique - mobilité Ulysse (MISU) = Recipient of an Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research

I.6.2 VALORISATION OF OPEN SCIENCE PRACTICES IN THE EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

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 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.

I.7 SAN FRANCISCO DECLARATION ON RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (DORA)

The FNRS is signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on research assessment, which consists of a set of recommendations for best practices in assessment of scholarly research (www.sfdora.org).

A major element of DORA is to oppose the use of impact factor to evaluate the quality of scientific work

II. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

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 FNRS may require the applicant to provide a translation in English for the purpose of conducting the [ex-ante evaluation](#).

The FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the instructions given for each template instrument** (expected contain, number of pages...) and reminds that the Scientific Commissions have the final say in the assessment of the application file.

II.1 APPLICATION FILE – GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL

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

SECTIONS	CONTENTS
Researcher	Information that enables to verify the eligibility criteria (degrees, graduation date, institution) Academic background Awards and honours (max. 5) ➤ <i>Applicants to a Postdoctoral Research fellowship (CR), as well as a Postdoctoral Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc (CSPD), Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist (SPD), a Research Associate (CQ) and an Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research fellowship (MISU) can notify until 1st May a « Seal of Excellence Certificate » granted after the applicant validation deadline.</i> The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted), attached in a PDF format and structured according to the following categories: 1. Published works, as an author, a co-author or an editor 2. Book chapters where the applicant is an author or a co-author 3. Articles published in peer-review journals (or any equivalent category (to be justified) in the relevant field) 4. Articles published in conference proceedings 5. Oral presentations during conferences including a review committee. Posters are allowed for a doctoral fellowship (Research Fellow, Special Doctoral Grant, Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D., Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D., and Veterinary MD. Ph.D. student) or for a Postdoctoral Researcher fellowship. 6. Patents For each category, the bibliographical information will appear according to the institutional repository order. If the list is created manually it should keep the following order: 1. Author(s), title of the work, edition, city, year 2. Author(s), title of the chapter, title of the work, publisher(s), edition, city, year, pages 3. and 4. Author(s), title of the article, journal or proceedings, year, volume, number, pages 5. Author(s), title of the paper, conference, year, city, country 6. Inventor(s), title of the invention, year when the patent was registered, countries covered ➤ <i>Applicants holding the academic degree of Doctor who have been working <u>for 2 years at least</u> in institutions of the 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 FNRS format. Please note that the list of publications must be a PDF document exported directly from a word processor or publishing software, not a scanned document.</i> ➤ <i>In case of publications accepted after the applicant validation deadline, applicants may add them to their application file by 1st May via a dedicated page at https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be, as a follow-up of their application file.</i> Bibliometric data (except for applicants applying for a doctoral fellowship: Research Fellow, Special Doctoral Grant, Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D., Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D., and Veterinary MD. Ph.D. student): Total number of publications, total number of citations, h-index, average number of citations and indication of the source chosen for these bibliometric data. Professional experience: career path, professional stays abroad of more than 30 days, academic positions, collaborations with other institutions (the 3 most important), main funding obtained. ➤ <i>Applicants to a Postdoctoral Research fellowship who are planning one or several research stays will be required to provide a letter of approval or email exchanges demonstrating that formalities are being processed.</i> List of supervised master and doctoral theses (only for applicants seeking a promotion as Senior Research Associate or Research Director).

SECTIONS	CONTENTS
Research project	Title, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Abstract, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces). ➤ In case of funding, these are released and made public on the FNRS website. Selection of the Scientific Commission and selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance (at least 2 descriptor fields must be relevant to the selected Scientific Commission), they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords. ➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the selected Scientific Commission, 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). To be completed imperatively using the template document available in French or in English. Description of past research and project proposal: ➤ Summary of previous research achievements ➤ For all applicants (except Senior Research Associate and Research Director), description of the project divided in 4 parts accompanied by a reference bibliography: I. Goals of the research II. State of the art III. Research project IV. Work plan ➤ For Senior Research Associate/Research Director promotion applicants, description of general orientation planned for their research for the next 5 to 10 years (max. 2 pages).
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. ➤ Data can vary depending on the nature of the project, the scientific field and the type of fellowship.
Scientific experts	Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 2 scientific experts → only for applicants to a Research Fellow fellowship (ASP), as well as a Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD), a Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. (SD) and a Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student (VETE-CCD).
Reference persons	Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 3 reference persons → only for applicants to a Research Associate fellowship (CQ), as well as a Senior Research Associate (MR), a Research Director (DR) and an Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research fellowship (MISU).

Applicants shall contact the scientific experts or reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form to make sure that they are willing to accept the mission entrusted to them.

By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the confidential opinion letters related to their application (promoter³, scientific experts or reference persons).

³ For applicants to a fellowship for Research Fellow (ASP), Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD), Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. (SD), Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student (VETE-CCD), Postdoctoral Researcher (CR), Postdoctoral Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc (CSPD), Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist (SPD) and Research Associate (CQ), an opinion letter is requested from the promoter at the time of the validation.

No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.

Opinion letters are intended for the Scientific Commissions members.

Opinion letters (promoter and reference persons) of a Research Associate fellowship (CQ) applicants recommended by the Scientific Commissions for appointment will also be sent to the universities, as part of the internal selection by the universities.

II.2 APPLICATION FILE - CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL

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

SECTIONS	CONTENTS
Promoters	Scientific Curricula vitae and list of publications. ➤ The promoters who have been working <u>for 2 years at least</u> in institutions of the 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 FNRS format. Please note that the list of publications must be a PDF document exported directly from a word processor or publishing software, not a scanned document. Bibliometric data: Total number of publications, total number of citations, h-index, average number of citations and indication of the source chosen for these bibliometric data).
Research project	Title, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Abstract, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces). ➤ For the funded proposals, these are released and made public on the FNRS website. Selection of the Scientific Commission and selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance (at least 2 descriptor fields must be relevant to the selected Scientific Commission), they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords. ➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the selected Scientific Commission, 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). To be completed imperatively using the template documents available in French or in English: 1) Report on previous works, establishing a link with the new project 2) Description of the project⁴ divided in 4 parts accompanied by a reference bibliography: I. Goals of the research II. State of the art III. Research project IV. Work plan (to be described for the whole duration of the project) 3) Publications and environment of the promoter <u>For projects including several promoters:</u> 1) Publications of the other promoters 2) Interactions and distribution of the tasks between the different partners of the research project Previous funding applications (submitted or granted)

⁴ As for FNRS permanent researchers, the CDR project may be composed of a part of the five-year report project that requires the requested resources, which have to be elaborated on as part of the project description.

SECTIONS	CONTENTS
Reference persons	Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 3 reference persons → <u>only</u> for applicants to an Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (MIS). ➤ <i>Applicants shall contact the reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form to make sure that they are willing to provide an opinion letter following the instructions they will be given.</i> <i>By submitting an application form, the applicant renounces all access to the confidential reference letters related to their application. No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.</i> ➤ <i>The opinion letters are intended for the Scientific Commissions members.</i>

II.3 APPLICATION FILE – INFRASTRUCTURE & LARGE EQUIPMENT CALL

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

SECTIONS	CONTENTS
Promoters	Curriculum vitae (max. 5 pages) + list of publications of each promoter/co-promoter ➤ Promoters who have been working <u>for 2 years at least</u> in institutions of the 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 FNRS format. Please note that the list of publications must be a PDF document exported directly from a word processor or publishing software, not a scanned document. Bibliometric data: Total number of publications, total number of citations, h-index, average number of citations and indication of the source chosen for these bibliometric data).
Project	Title, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, Abstract, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces). ➤ In case of funding, these are released and made public on the FNRS website. Selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance, they can be completed by some unrestricted keywords. Budget • Description and justification of the resources requested: operating, equipment and personnel • Price offers Scientific Section and Work Plan, to be completed imperatively using the templates available in French or in English. ➤ <u>Scientific Section:</u> 1. Thematic research justifying the proposal 2. Information about the main promoter (expertise, most significant publications, main research achievements, team composition) 3. Information about the co-promoters (expertise...) ➤ <u>Work Plan:</u> 1. Scientific and technical relevance 2. Human and material management 3. Access, sharing and use policy 4. Financial plan 5. Governance plan 6. Additional information

II.4 SELECTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION AND DESCRIPTOR FIELDS

When submitting an application via E-SPACE, applicants select the Scientific Commission they would like the proposal to be evaluated by (except when there is a unique panel created for a specific call, such as the Infrastructure & Large Equipment call).

Then, they select 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance (at least 2 descriptor fields⁵ must be relevant to the Scientific Commission of their choice) and, they may complete this selection by adding unrestricted keywords (if necessary).

When selecting the Scientific Commission, applicants should consider the various Scientific Commissions as a whole and make a choice while taking into account all the fields covered by the Scientific Commission desired.

The suggested descriptors which are used to define a proposal are based on the panels and descriptor fields used by the ERC (European Research Council), and to which some particular FNRS keywords have been added, in order to describe more accurately the specificities of research in human and social sciences carried out in the CFB.

https://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/FRS-FNRS_Champs_descripteurs.pdf

II.5 SUMMARY SHEET OF THE PROPOSAL

Any proposal contains a summary that includes the identifiers of the proposal as well as a short description of the scientific project. Unlike other personal or administrative information and description of the project, the elements included in the summary sheet are not confidential.

The basic administrative identifiers of the proposal are the following:

- the unique number of the proposal, assigned either by E-SPACE or the administrative staff of the FNRS;
- the name(s) of the applicant(s) and of the possible promoter ("Researcher" instruments).

The scientific proposal is summarised in 3 elements:

- the title, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces);
- the abstract, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces);
- the descriptors linked to the proposal.

Aims of the summary sheet and the descriptors:

The summary sheet of the proposal is used within three contexts:

- evaluation: on the basis of this sheet, possible experts in step 1 can assess whether they are in a position to evaluate the proposal;

⁵ In the case applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the selected Scientific Commission, 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).

- statistics: data are registered in a database, for instrument and programme analysis purposes;
- accountability: for funded proposals, this information is made public through the FNRS website.

The title and summary of the research project must be not only understandable to non-experts, but also precise and explicit enough so that step 1 possible reviewers, who receive a summary sheet from the FNRS, are able to assess whether they are competent to evaluate the project.

III. EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS

III.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Except for some instruments⁶, the FNRS Board of Trustees has adopted the principle of a two-step procedure: individual evaluations by first-step experts, followed by a consolidation performed in Scientific Commissions.

During the first step, the proposals are reviewed by several experts. Each expert shall work individually and remotely, and evaluate the proposal according to the evaluation criteria known to the applicants.

An expert is usually in charge of reviewing several proposals, which may depend on different instruments within the same call for proposals. However, the expert is not required to establish any ranking between them, as each proposal must be reviewed independently. A marking grid for the proposals is provided in section III.3.3, with the intention to standardise the grading system.

The composition of the Scientific Commissions is published on the [FNRS website](#).

The names of the reviewers linked to a proposal remain undisclosed.

III.2 EXPERTS APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

III.2.1 LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

The FNRS shall send a letter of appointment to each selected expert, whether they are an individual reviewer or a member of a Scientific Commission. This letter constitutes an agreement between the FNRS and the expert, specifying the precise terms and conditions for the expert: it imposes respect of a code of conduct and lays down essential regulations in terms of confidentiality. It includes the description of tasks s/he is entrusted with, as well as the conditions for the remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

Upon information provided by the experts, the FNRS has put in place a mechanism that ensures they do not face any conflict of interest regarding the proposals they are invited to evaluate. To that end, experts must sign a declaration stating that there is no conflict of interest at the time of the appointment and that they commit to informing the FNRS in case where such a conflict would arise during the fulfilment of their tasks.

⁶ Instruments intended for young researchers who expect to obtain a doctoral thesis do not provide for the participation of individual reviewers (step 1). Indeed, for such instruments, the proposal is assigned to two "rapporteurs", both members of the Scientific Commission selected by the applicant.

Moreover, for instruments which are not related to calls for proposals, or in case of a request for the renewal of a proposal that has already been reviewed in a previous session, the FNRS Board of Trustees bases the funding decision on opinions, which recommend or not the continuation of the funding for a new period. Depending on the instruments, opinions may come from academic authorities, a dedicated Commission, etc.

III.2.2 POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Experts must cease their work when they might, in any way, benefit from the acceptance or the rejection of a proposal.

Experts shall also withdraw from the evaluation in the following circumstances:

- they have an active collaboration with the applicant⁷ (e.g. being co-author of a publication with the applicant, having participated in the writing of the proposal, or being involved in the publication or implementation of the possible results of the proposal during the last 3 years);
- they hold (or have held for the last 3 years) a hierarchic or directly subordinate position with regard to the applicant;
- they are currently competing with the applicant for the same position;
- they have introduced a funding application to the FNRS under the same call and as part of the same instrument;
- the applicant is a close person; the notion of closeness will be explained at the time of the appointment;
- they are cited as scientific expert or reference person in an application file submitted by the applicant;
- they have been member of the applicant's thesis jury and belong to the same university.

Experts shall cease their work in case where they face any other situation that may raise doubts as to their ability and impartiality to evaluate the proposal, or that could reasonably give an external third party this impression.

III.2.3 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of natural language processors, large language models, or other generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in the evaluation work of remote experts and/or members of Scientific Commissions is prohibited. No data (whether personal or not) may be processed using these tools.

III.2.4 DATA PROTECTION

The FNRS expects certain standards regarding data management when allocating a proposal for assessment by an expert. Therefore, the funds invites each expert to read the [information notice](#).

III.2.5 PAYMENTS

As stated in the letter of appointment, an expert is entitled to the payment of a lump sum in addition to the payment of expenses. This lump sum varies according to the type of application to be evaluated and the evaluation step in which they participate.

The FNRS reserves the right to refuse the granting of such financial contribution in cases of non-performance or poor performance and/or breach of any significant duty,

⁷ Depending on the call in question, the term "applicant" shall be understood to mean:

- An applicant to a fellowship or the applicant's promoter/co-promoter,
- A promoter/co-promoter or the project leader of a funding request.

including the duty of confidentiality as well as any obligation described in the letter of appointment and in the declaration certifying that there is no conflict of interest.

The FNRS reserves the right to refuse the granting of a financial contribution for any report or other documents to be provided as stated in the letter of appointment and which are submitted after the date specified in the letter of appointment.

The FNRS reserves the right to recover financial contribution and to exclude an expert from further evaluations if s/he has breached the obligations stated in the declaration of confidentiality and in the one certifying that there is no conflict of interest as well as in the code of conduct specified in the letter of appointment.

III.3 INDIVIDUAL EVALUATIONS (STEP 1)

III.3.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA - GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL

The objectives of each instrument and their related evaluation criteria and possible weightings are presented in detail in Appendix 1.

For the main instruments of the Grants and Fellowships call, three general criteria are taken into account, i.e. the applicant, the project and the research environment⁸. The weightings applied to these criteria differ depending on the instrument. There is an additional fourth criterion for the Research Associate instrument, namely the international potential and recognition.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
Research Fellow (Doctoral researcher)	Quality of the applicant: - academic CV⁹ - promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual ability, etc.)	60%
	Quality of the project: - feasibility - methodology - originality - potential impact	25%
	Research environment	15%
Postdoctoral Researcher	Quality of the applicant: - number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) - promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual ability, independence, etc.) - awards - Open Science practices (optional)⁹	40%

⁸ The research environment: the intellectual, human, equipment means, collaborative networks at the disposal of the researcher in order to carry out the project, in adequacy with the project submitted.

⁹ It should be noted that Open Science 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.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
	Quality of the project: - feasibility - methodology - originality - potential impact	40%
	Research environment	20%
Research Associate (Experienced researcher)	Quality of the applicant: - number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) - opinion of worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independence, etc.) - projects funding and grants obtained - awards - Open Science practices (optional)⁹	40%
	Quality of the project: - feasibility - methodology - originality - potential impact	25%
	Research environment	10%
	International potential/recognition: - long-term stays outside the institution of origin¹⁰ - invitations to international conferences - active collaborations, participation in networks	25%

III.3.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA – CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL

The following criteria are taken into consideration for the evaluation of the applications detailed in Appendix 2:

CRITERIA
Quality of the (co-)promoters: - CV and publications - International recognition - Main research achievements

¹⁰ A long-term stay outside the institution of origin is a key element adding value to the application file, whether it is a stay outside the CFB institutions or in another institution of the CFB.

CRITERIA
Quality of the project: • Feasibility • Methodology and relevance • Originality • Collaboration

Open science practices may constitute element potentially adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), without constituting a mandatory evaluation criterion.

The adequacy of the requested budget with regard to the submitted research programme will also be evaluated. The Scientific Commission may reduce the requested budget up to a maximum of 15% based on a scientific justification. If the adequacy between the research programme and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the research programme will not be deemed fundable.

III.3.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA – INFRASTRUCTURE & LARGE EQUIPMENT CALL

The following criteria are taken into consideration for the evaluation of the Infrastructure & Large Equipment instrument (INFRA-GEQ) detailed in Appendix 3:

CRITERIA
Quality of the (co-)promoter(s): • CV and publications • International recognition • Main research achievements
Quality of the research programmes related to the application: • Feasibility • Methodology and relevance • Originality • Collaboration
Relevance of the equipment/quality of the infrastructure project: • Match between the project and the needs of the scientific community • Capacity for implementation in terms of available expertise and resources • Relevance in terms of access, sharing and use • Relevance of other resources requested (personnel, operating) • Financial and organisational soundness of the project

III.3.4 PROPOSALS GRADING SYSTEM

The experts (individual experts as well as members of the Scientific Commissions) shall review the aspects to be considered for each evaluation criterion and classify them into three categories:

Grade		Description
A+	Outstanding	The quality of the assessed criterion is outstanding, meaning it is highly convincing and impressive relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. No weakness or flaw can be identified.
A	Excellent	The quality of the assessed criterion is excellent, meaning it is convincing and impressive relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. Very few weaknesses or flaws can be identified.
A-	Very good	The quality of the assessed criterion is very good, meaning it is convincing relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. A few weaknesses or flaws can however be identified.
B+	Good	The quality of the assessed criterion is good, meaning it is reasonable relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. Some weaknesses or flaws can however be identified and deserve to be addressed.
B	Average	The quality of the assessed criterion is average, meaning it is medium to low relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. Several weaknesses or flaws can be identified and deserve absolutely to be addressed.
B-	Weak	The quality of the assessed criterion is weak, meaning it is not challenging relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. Many weaknesses or flaws can be identified and deserve absolutely to be addressed.
C	Insufficient	The quality of the assessed criterion is insufficient, meaning it is below the minimum expectations relative to the international standard in the scientific domain. Many important weaknesses or flaws can be identified and deserve absolutely to be addressed.

III.3.5 INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION REPORTS

When assessing a proposal, experts shall work independently and draw up an individual evaluation report related to the proposal using the electronic form they are provided with.

These evaluation reports are subsequently sent to the applicants and promoters (if any) on an anonymous basis, notifying them of the FNRS Board of Trustees' decision.

Experts must provide comments - preferably in the language chosen by the applicant - (stressing on the strengths / the weaknesses / providing general comments) consistent with the grades assigned and that can be used to sustain the work of the "rapporteurs" of the Scientific Commissions and the final evaluation report to be sent to the applicant.

Project identification		
Name of the expert		
CRITERIA	COMMENTS	CATEGORY
Quality of the applicant	Strengths ▪ ... ▪ ...	▫ A / ▫ B / ▫ C
	Weaknesses ▪ ... ▪ ...	
	General comments	
Quality of the project	Strengths ▪ ...	▫ A / ▫ B / ▫ C
	Weaknesses ▪ ...	
	General comments	
Research environment	Strengths ▪ ...	▫ A / ▫ B / ▫ C
	Weaknesses ▪ ...	
	General comments	
Ethical issues	Has the applicant taken into consideration the ethical aspects in her/his proposal?	Y/N not applicable
Degree of personal expertise in the field of the project	Choose one of the three levels and add comments if any	Specialised Semi-specialised General

The individual evaluation report of the expert cannot be subsequently changed. By validating the individual evaluation report, experts confirm that they are not in a situation of conflict of interest regarding the evaluation of the proposal.

III.4 SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS (STEP 2)

III.4.1 MISSIONS

The Scientific Commissions (FNRS PhD [FR-EN](#) / International [FR-EN](#) or for a specific call such as Infrastructure & Large Equipment) shall meet at the FNRS (Rue d'Egmont, 5 – 1000 Brussels) to establish a consolidated ranking of the proposals that will be suggested to the FNRS Board of Trustees. They also validate the final evaluation report to be sent to the applicant and to the possible promoter (“Researcher” instrument), along with the notification of the decision of the FNRS Board of Trustees.

In order to carry out their work, the Scientific Commissions have the application files, individual evaluation reports (if applicable) and consolidated draft reports prepared by the “rapporteurs” at their disposal. The Scientific Commissions base their decisions on the evaluation criteria, which are provided both to the applicants and the first-step reviewers.

III.4.2 ROLE OF THE PRESIDENTS

The President of a Scientific Commission is in charge of:

- Validating Step 1 experts to whom the administrative staff of the FNRS has assigned the submitted application files (fellowships and projects);
- Nominating “rapporteurs” and “co-rapporteurs” from among the members, and assigning them proposals related to their field of expertise while making sure to equally distribute the workload;
- Leading the work of the Scientific Commission, in an independent way;
- Organising a vote in which all members participate, if the “consensus” procedure is unsuccessful;
- Signing the final evaluation reports.

III.4.3 ROLE OF THE “RAPPORTEURS” AND THE “CO-RAPPORTEURS”

For instruments aiming at obtaining a doctoral thesis, given that individual experts (step 1) are not involved, the weight of the “rapporteur” is thus crucial within the evaluation procedure. Therefore, a second “rapporteur” is designated. The “rapporteurs”, both members of the Scientific Commission selected by the applicant, shall draw up a preliminary evaluation report individually in order to prepare the work and the debates of the Scientific Commission.

For the other instruments, each proposal is assigned to a single “rapporteur”, who is assisted by a “co-rapporteur” for the task. Both are members of the Scientific Commission selected by the applicant.

- The “rapporteur” shall prepare the work and the debates of the Scientific Commission, through the elaboration of a consolidated evaluation draft report, based on all the elements made available to them. The draft report will afterwards be reviewed by the Scientific Commission.
- The “co-rapporteur” is not required to draw up any evaluation report but shall examine it by ticking off the appropriate box. During the meeting of the Scientific Commission, the “co-rapporteur” will be invited to express his/her opinion on the

proposal and may bring, when appropriate, a complementary perspective or a different point of view.

If the instrument provides for the participation of individual experts (step 1), and if a major disagreement arises concerning their reports, the “rapporteur” can organise a debate (by email) before the meeting of the Scientific Commission to reach a consensus, in which s/he will act as a moderator.

At the end of the meeting, the designated “rapporteur” shall draw up the final evaluation report intended for the applicant on the basis of preliminary reports and considering the discussions held by the Scientific Commission.

III.4.4 APPLICATIONS RANKING

As part of the ex-ante evaluation procedure, the Scientific Commissions, meeting in session, establish a consolidated ranking of the applicants.

The main criterion of the FNRS evaluation policy is the scientific excellence of the projects, in the light of the specific evaluation criteria defined (and potentially weighted) for each funding instrument.

However, members of the Scientific Commissions often have to decide between applications that have received the same score for excellence according to these evaluation criteria.

The FNRS Board of Trustees has decided to allow the following for the ranking of these projects:

- The use of a balance between major fields/major disciplines,
- Drawing lots¹¹, if the use of a balance between major fields/major disciplines does not help to decide between applications.

For the Research Fellow (ASP – *Aspirant*) and the Postdoctoral Researcher (CR – *Chargé de recherches*) instruments, the FNRS Board of Trustees has decided that applicants whose application is not ranked within the top 70% by the Scientific Commission in a call for proposals will not be allowed to resubmit an application to the same instrument in the following call. This measure will enter into force **as of the 2026 call**.

¹¹The details of the draw will be specified and implemented during the Scientific Commission's meeting.

III.5 FUNDING DECISION AND FINALISATION

The funding decision (granting or rejection) is within the competence of the FNRS Board of Trustees.

III.5.1 FUNDING DECISION

At the end of the evaluation, the decision on the funding will be taken by the FNRS Board of Trustees, depending on the budget available, and on the basis of the final grading and final consolidated reports elaborated by each Scientific Commission. The Board of Trustees shall decide on the granting or rejection, as well as on the granted amounts, if necessary.

III.5.2 COMMUNICATION TO THE APPLICANTS

The administrative staff of the FNRS informs the applicant(s) about the funding decision for their proposal. Within 15 days following the Board of Trustees meeting (the month is specified in the mini-guide of the concerned call), the administration transfers to the applicant(s), and to the promoter(s) if applicable:

- the final evaluation report and,
- the evaluation reports by the first-step individual experts on an anonymous basis if provided for in the instrument process.

APPENDIX 1: THE INSTRUMENTS UNDER GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2026

A.I FELLOWSHIPS FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS¹²

Goals of the instruments:

The purpose of these fellowships is the training of young researchers who wish to obtain a doctoral thesis.

General eligibility criteria:

Applicants to a doctoral fellowship must hold a 2nd cycle degree which allows them to access doctoral studies.

A.I.1 FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH FELLOWS (ASP – ASPIRANT)

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

- The Research Fellow fellowship (ASP – *Aspirant*) aims at the completion of a Ph.D. within 4 years. The fellowship appears in the form of a 2-year grant, which may be renewed for maximum 2 years, subject to the approval of the competent academic body.
- The doctor who is granted with an ASP fellowship shall decide to suspend a complementary Master degree/medical specialisation during the whole duration of the fellowship.
- Holders of an ASP fellowship receive an operating credit under the responsibility of their promoter, which enables them to conduct their research.

Eligibility criteria:

An applicant to an ASP fellowship must hold a 2nd cycle degree (Master's) for maximum 3 years (for no more than the duration of the specialisation for doctors and veterinarian applicants who have been undertaking a medical or veterinary specialty training¹³), by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) of the host university at the latest.

Starting from the 2027 Grants and Fellowships Call, the academic degree seniority will be of 4 years maximum. This term shall expire at the latest on the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) to validate applications.

¹²University studies are organised into a 1st cycle Bachelor's degree (3 years) and a 2nd cycle Master's degree for didactic, knowledge improvement or specialisation purposes (usually 2 years, or 3 years in veterinary medicine and 4 years in medicine). These studies may be completed with a 2nd cycle complementary Master's degree (1 or 2 years).

When awarded, these degrees must be accompanied with the grade obtained at the end of the cycle.

Three different grades levels can be awarded:

- LPGD: "La plus Grande Distinction" The Highest Distinction (18 to 20/20)
- GD: "Grande Distinction" High Distinction (16 to 18/20)
- D: "Distinction" (14 to 16/20)

The marking scale is given only as a rough estimate since these ranges may slightly vary between universities and between faculties of the same university. It is also common that a jury grants a LPGD grade as from 17.5/20.

An S grade, which stands for "Satisfaction" designates a pass with no honours /distinction.

¹³Applicants in this situation are required to enclose to their application file a registration document concerning the specialty in question.

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Students enrolled in a Belgian university in their (Master's) graduation year giving access to doctoral studies may also submit an application file, provided that the graduation date is prior to the starting date of the requested fellowship (1st October of the year of the considered Grants and Fellowships Call).

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 3 parts relevant to the "Researcher" instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (60%): academic CV*, promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.);
- quality of the project (25%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (15%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.I.2 FELLOWSHIPS FOR CLINICAL DOCTORS (PART-TIME)

This category is restricted to clinical doctors who wish to dedicate themselves to fundamental research while pursuing a part-time hospital activity.

The promoter of an applicant to a Medical Doctor Applicants to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD – *Candidat spécialiste doctorant*) or a Clinical Master Specialist Applicants to a Ph.D. (SD – *Spécialiste doctorant*) fellowships shall be appointed in a CFB university which has a faculty of medicine offering a complete curriculum.

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

Clinical doctors keep on receiving their hospital salary (full-time position). The FNRS transfers a (capped) compensation directly to the hospital employing the clinical doctor, as a reimbursement for the clinical activities that are not performed during the time dedicated to research.

Characteristics of the fellowship:

This fellowship is intended for doctors in order to carry out a Ph.D. in one of the fields of the health sector and complete an Advanced Master's degree simultaneously.

A part-time fellowship for Medical Doctor Applicants to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD – *Candidat spécialiste doctorant*) can start anytime during the specialisation but shall end 4 years after the end of the specialisation at the latest.

The duration of this part-time fellowship is applicable for 2 years maximum, renewable three times (equivalent to a duration of 8 years maximum). Concerning the second renewal (CSD-REN2) fellowship, the application will be subject to an evaluation by the relevant Scientific Commission.

Eligibility criteria:

The applicant to a CSD fellowship must hold the academic degree of medical doctor at the latest on 1st October of the year when the fellowship is granted and shall start.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 3 parts relevant to the "Researcher" instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (60%): academic CV*, promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.);
- quality of the project (25%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (15%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

Characteristics of the fellowship:

This fellowship is intended for accredited medical specialists in order to carry out a Ph.D. in one of the fields of the health sector.

The duration of this part-time fellowship is applicable for 2 years maximum, renewable once (equivalent to a duration of 4 years maximum).

Eligibility criteria:

The SD fellowship is opened to applicants holding the academic degree of Doctor and who have a medical specialisation degree, at the latest on 1st October of the year when the fellowship is granted and shall start.

Specific application rule:

Applicant to a SD fellowship must have received the accreditation of medical specialist from one of the three Communities responsible for accreditation for maximum 3 years. This period expires on 1st October of the year when the fellowship is granted and shall start.

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 3 parts relevant to the "Researcher" instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (60%): academic CV*, promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.);
- quality of the project (25%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (15%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.I.3 PART-TIME FELLOWSHIP FOR VETERINARY MD. PH.D. STUDENTS (VETE-CCD – VÉTÉRINAIRE CLINICIEN-CHERCHEUR DOCTORANT)

This category is restricted to veterinary doctors in the course of a clinical specialisation in order to enable them to prepare and present a doctoral thesis, while pursuing a part-time activity, within the framework of their clinical training.

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

Clinicians keep on receiving their hospital salary (full-time position). The FNRS transfers a (capped) compensation directly to the university to which they are attached, as a reimbursement for the clinical activities that are not performed during the time dedicated to research.

This part-time research fellowship is applicable for 2 years maximum, renewable once (equivalent to a maximum duration of 4 years).

Applicants who receive a Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Students (VETE-CCD – *Vétérinaire Clinicien-Chercheur Doctorant*) fellowship must be enrolled in the Doctoral School in veterinary sciences attached to the FNRS at the latest by the time of the granting.

Eligibility criteria:

In addition to general criteria applicable to doctoral fellowships, the following criteria are specific to the fellowship for Veterinary MD Ph.D. Students (VETE-CCD – *Vétérinaire Clinicien-Chercheur Doctorant*):

- Hold the academic degree of Veterinary Doctor,
- Be less than 35 years old by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) to validate the application,
- Have been enrolled for at least 2 years in a “Residency training programme” (including internship) approved by the European bodies (European Colleges recognised by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation), by 1st October of the year during which the fellowship is granted and should start, at the latest.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 3 parts relevant to the “Researcher” instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (60%): academic CV*, promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.);
- quality of the project (25%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (15%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.II FELLOWSHIPS FOR FIXED-TERM POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Goals of the instruments:

These fellowships are intended for researchers holding the academic degree of Doctor (with thesis) in order to further develop their research experience.

Within the framework of the "Researcher" call, two instruments are available for postdoctoral researchers:

- the fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, which is a full-time research fellowship (all fields);
- the fellowship for Postdoctoral Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc, which is a part-time research fellowship intended for clinical doctors;
- the fellowship for Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist, which is a part-time research fellowship intended for accredited specialist doctors.

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

The duration of the Postdoctoral Researcher fellowship (CR – Chargé de recherches) is 3 years. Any Postdoctoral Researcher may use the 3 years of the fellowship over a period of 6 years under specific conditions detailed in Article 8 of the [Rules and Regulations](#).

Postdoctoral Researchers benefit from an operating credit, which enables them to conduct their research.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants to a CR fellowship must meet one of the two following conditions:

- to hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) for maximum 5 years by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) at the latest

or

- to hold this degree at the latest by 1st May of the year of the considered Grants and Fellowships Call (in such case the applicant must upload a [sworn statement](#) in the application file).

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 3 parts relevant to the “Researcher” instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (40%): number and quality of publications (journals, citations, etc.), promoter’s opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independence, etc.), awards, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the project (40%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (20%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.II.2 PART-TIME POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR CLINICAL DOCTORS

This category is restricted to clinical doctors who wish to dedicate themselves to fundamental research while pursuing a part-time hospital activity.

The promoter of an applicant to a Postdoctoral Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc (CSPD - *Candidat spécialiste postdoctorant*) or a Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist (SPD - *Spécialiste postdoctorant*) fellowships shall be appointed in a CFB university which has a faculty of medicine offering a complete curriculum.

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

Clinical doctors keep on receiving their hospital salary (full-time position). The FNRS transfers a (capped) compensation directly to the hospital employing the clinical doctor, as a reimbursement for the clinical activities that are not performed during the time dedicated to research.

Characteristics of the fellowship:

This fellowship is intended for doctors who simultaneously undertake an Advanced Master.

The duration of this part-time fellowship is applicable for 2 years maximum, renewable twice times (equivalent to a duration of 6 years maximum).

A part-time fellowship for Postdoctoral Medical Doctor Applicants to an MSc (CSPD - Candidat spécialiste postdoctorant) can begin anytime during the specialisation but shall end at the latest 4 years after the end of the specialisation.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants to a CSPD fellowship must meet the 2 following conditions:

- hold the academic degree of Medical Doctor,
- hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in one of the fields of the health sector for maximum 5 years by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) at the latest,

or

to hold this degree at the latest by 1st May of the year of the considered Grants and Fellowships Call (in such case the applicant must upload a [sworn statement](#) in the application file).

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content is structured around 3 parts specific to the "researcher" instruments. Each category is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (40%): number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.), awards, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the project (40%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (20%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.II.2.2 FELLOWSHIP FOR POSTDOCTORAL CLINICAL MASTER SPECIALIST (SPD – SPÉCIALISTE POSTDOCTORANT)

Characteristics of the fellowship:

The part-time SPD fellowship consists of a 6-year probation period divided in three 2-year fellowships followed by 4-year fellowships that can be renewed without limits. As from the first 4-year renewal, the name of the fellowship becomes Clinical Researcher (CCL – *Chercheur Clinicien*).

Evolution of career and scientific evaluation cycles			
Period	Duration	Requested fellowship	Scientific evaluation
1 st period (6 years)	2 years	Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist (SPD)	Two-step procedure : - Individual evaluation by remote experts - Evaluation by a Scientific Commission (CS)
	2 years	SPD 1 st Renewal	Non applicable (renewal on request)
	2 years	SPD 2 nd Renewal	Evaluation by a CS
2 nd period* (yearly reports of activities)	4 years	Clinical Researcher (CCL)	Evaluation by a CS
	4 years	CCL 1 st Renewal and following	Evaluation by a CS

* In case the fellowship holder switches to another hospital, service or research topic during the fellowship, they must inform the FNRS who will re-evaluate the file.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants to a fellowship for Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist (SPD – *Spécialiste postdoctorant*) must meet the 2 following conditions:

- hold the academic degree of medical specialist;
- hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in one of the fields of the health sector for maximum 5 years by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) at the latest

or

to hold this degree at the latest by 1st May of the year of the considered Grants and Fellowships Call (in such case the applicant must upload a sworn statement in the application file).

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 3 parts relevant to the "Researcher" instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (40%): number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.), awards, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the project (40%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (20%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.II.2.3 FELLOWSHIP RENEWAL FOR POSTDOCTORAL CLINICAL MASTER SPECIALIST (SPD-REN - SPÉCIALISTE POSTDOCTORANT RENOUVELLEMENT)

Evaluation of the proposal:

The first renewal of the Postdoctoral Clinical Master Specialist fellowship shall be requested during the second year of the fellowship and simply upon request by the applicant.

The second renewal will be assessed by the relevant Scientific Commission.

Content and evaluation of the proposal as from the second renewal:

The content consists of 3 parts specific to the "Researcher" instruments. Each part is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (40%): number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.), awards, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the project (40%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (20%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.II.2.4 CLINICAL RESEARCHER AND RENEWALS (CCL – CLINICIEN CHERCHEUR / CCL-REN – CLINICIEN CHERCHEUR RENOUVELLEMENT)

Evaluation of the proposal:

The fellowship will be assessed by the relevant Scientific Commission.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content is structured around 3 parts specific to the “researcher” instruments. Each category is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (40%): number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.) promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.), awards, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the project (40%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (20%).

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.III FELLOWSHIPS FOR PERMANENT RESEARCHERS¹⁴

The fellowship for permanent researchers is an instrument enabling researchers to dedicate themselves to research. This open-ended fellowship includes 3 levels:

- the fellowship for Research Associates (CQ – *Chercheur qualifié*);
- the fellowship for Senior Research Associates (MR – *Maître de recherches*), a promotion of the CQ fellowship based on merit;
- the fellowship for Research Directors (DR – *Directeur de recherches*), a promotion of the MR fellowship based on merit.

¹⁴The number of positions assigned to permanent researchers currently stands at 423, and is divided among the universities of the CFB. These permanent researchers' positions are essential to the development of research. They allow already experienced and brilliant researchers to freely develop their research thematic, without being overwhelmed by significant administrative constraints and pedagogical duties.

A number of these positions are annually freed, due to the retirement and the integration of some researchers into the academic staff in universities, and enables the hiring of new permanent researchers, thus ensuring a renewal of the scientific potential in the CFB. However, the number of vacant positions is limited.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants to a Research Associate fellowship (CQ – *Chercheur qualifié*) must hold the academic degree of Doctor, obtained after the defence of a thesis, and issued by an academic institution for maximum 10 years by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) at the latest.

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

As from their appointment, the Research Associate is independant from the promoter who carried their application. They may carry their research, use their funding and submit applications on their own.

Holders of a Research Associate fellowship benefit from an operating credit during the first 3 years of the fellowship. After these 3 years, they will receive an operating credit, automatically renewed every 3 years.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content is structured around 3 parts specific to the “Researcher” instruments, to which the notion of “international potential/recognition” is added. Each category is assigned a weight in order to calculate the overall grade of the proposal:

- quality of the applicant (40%): number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.), opinion of the promoter and of 3 worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independency, etc.), funded projects, grants, and awards obtained, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the project (25%): feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact;
- research environment (10%);

¹⁵ As for Research Associate fellowships, the Scientific Commissions will not suggest a ranking but a list of maximum 4 applicants ranked A, who may be nominated during the same year. The size of this list will be increased if the total number of applications exceeds 16, by adding one slot for every additional group of 4 applications. No recruitment other than among the 4 applicants will be allowed. Thus, the Scientific Commissions make recruitment suggestions and the final selection is made by the FNRS Board of Trustees, guided by the opinion of the Scientific Commissions, on the one hand, and by the respective institutional strategies and permanent positions availabilities assigned to the universities, on the other hand.

- international potential/recognition (25%): long-term stays outside the institution of origin¹⁶, invitations to international conferences, active collaborations, participation in networks.

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.III.2 PROMOTION: SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (MR – MAÎTRE DE RECHERCHES)

Eligibility criteria:

In accordance to Article 10 §1 of the Rules and Regulations:

“Holders of a FNRS Research Associate fellowship (CQ – *Chercheur qualifié*) may seek promotion to the title of Senior Research Associate (MR – *Maître de recherches*) as from the beginning of the 8th academic year following their appointment, provided that they carry out a fundamental research for those years.”

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

Holders of a Senior Research Associate fellowship will receive an operating credit, automatically renewed every 3 years.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content provided is used to evaluate the relevance of the promotion requested by the applicant:

- quality of the applicant: number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.), opinion of 3 worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independency, etc.), funded projects, grants, and awards obtained, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- research orientation;
- international recognition: long-term stays outside the institution of origin, invitations to international conferences, active collaborations, participation in networks, list of supervised Master dissertations and Ph.D. theses.

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.III.3 PROMOTION: RESEARCH DIRECTOR (DR - DIRECTEUR DE RECHERCHES)

Eligibility criteria:

In accordance to article 11, §1 and §3 of the Rules and Regulations:

“Senior Research Associates (MR – *Maître de recherches*) who genuinely assume the function and duties of their position may seek promotion to the title of Research Director (DR – *Directeur de recherches*) as from the beginning of the 4th year of the Senior Research Associate fellowship (MR).

¹⁶ A long-term stay outside the institution of origin is a key element adding value to the application file, whether it is a stay outside the CFB institutions or in another institution of the CFB.

At the date of validation of their application on [e-space](#), an applicant seeking promotion to the title of Research Director must have successfully completed the supervision of at least one doctoral thesis that has been publicly defended."

Operational conditions of the fellowship:

Holders of a Research Director fellowship will receive an operating credit, automatically renewed every 3 years.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content provided is used to evaluate the relevance of the promotion requested by the applicant:

- quality of the applicant: number and quality of publications (journals, citations, etc.), opinion of 3 worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independency, etc.), funded projects, grants, and awards obtained, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- research orientation;
- ability to assume supervisory or management responsibilities and international recognition: long-term stays outside the institution of origin, invitations to international conferences, active collaborations, participation in networks, list of supervised Master dissertations and Ph.D. theses.

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

A.IV MOVING IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM (CFB)

The goal of the funding granted within the framework of the Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU - *Mandat d'Impulsion Scientifique – Mobilité ULYSSE*) consists of supporting highly-qualified Belgian or foreign researchers, who have a scientific research activity abroad and are paid abroad, to come and pursue their career in a university of the CFB.

The MISU promoter is remunerated by the host university and receives a credit which can be allocated to cover personnel, operating or equipment costs. The duration of the fellowship is applicable for 2 years (MISU), renewable for 1 year (MISU-PROL).

Budgetary limits:

The MISU application enables to apply for a maximum total budget of:

2 years	420.000 €
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The MISU-PROL application enables to apply for a maximum total budget of:

1 year	210.000 €
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A.IV.1 ULYSSE INCENTIVE GRANT FOR MOBILITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MISU – MANDAT D'IMPULSION SCIENTIFIQUE - MOBILITÉ ULYSSE)

The MISU Call will not be opened in 2026.

Eligibility criteria:

When submitting their application, applicants must not hold a FNRS fellowship.

Applicants must meet the following conditions at the latest by the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors):

- have a full-time scientific research activity and be paid abroad since at least five years;
- may have completed maximum 12 months put together of research stays in Belgium during the last five years.

Applicant's profile:

The applicant must be an active researcher who has an excellent career track record during the past ten years, demonstrating significant research results. They must have the required skills for leading a research team and enjoy an international scientific recognition evidenced by awards and scientific prizes.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content is structured around 2 parts:

- quality of the promoter: CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements, Open Science practices (optional)*;
- quality of the research programme: feasibility, methodology and relevance, originality, collaborations.

**It should be noted that Open Science 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.*

In addition to the criteria mentioned above, the following criteria will also be taken into account as part of the MISU:

- Originality and novelty of the project;
- Possibility to launch a new research unit;
- Scientific autonomy with respect to any existing research unit or laboratory in the host university;
- Future-oriented theme (development prospect of the field of study);
- 3 recommendations from scientific experts;
- Scientific experience of the applicant.

APPENDIX 2: THE INSTRUMENTS UNDER CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL 2026

A.I COMMON RULES - ELIGIBLE AND NON ELIGIBLE COSTS

The FNRS policy on the eligibility of costs is set out in the [Practical Guide to Costs](#).

The FNRS reimburses only eligible costs in accordance with the provisions set out in this guide.

A.II RESEARCH CREDIT (CDR) INSTRUMENT

Research Credit (CDR): a funding instrument to support the basic activities of a researcher (or their team) required to set up or continue a research project.

The CDR instrument is intended for individual researchers.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible as a promoter, the applicant must meet one of the following conditions within a university of the CFB no later than 15 November of the year of application submission:

- be a Research Associate (*Chercheuse qualifiée ou Chercheur qualifié* - CQ), Senior Research Associate (*Maître de recherches* - MR) or Research Director (*Directrice ou Directeur de recherches* - DR) of the FNRS and have effectively taken up that position;
- genuinely carry out a Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (*Mandat d'impulsion scientifique* - MISU);
- genuinely carry out a FED-TWIN mandate;
- hold an academic or scientific appointment and meet the following cumulative conditions:
 - be appointed on a permanent* or probationary basis;
 - this appointment must have been definitively and irrevocably approved by the competent authority of the institution;
 - have effectively taken up that appointment.

**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 not eligible for the instrument CDR.*

Specific provisions relating to retirement and emeritus status

An applicant who retires or acquires emeritus status before the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities is ineligible.

If the applicant retires or acquires emeritus status after the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities and before the end of the funding, if granted, submission of the application is conditional upon prior approval from the competent authority of the institution certifying that the person may continue the research until the end of the funding.

Nature of the eligible costs:

As part of the CDR, the allocated fund can cover 2 types of expenses:

- Operating costs
- Equipment

Duration:

The funding CDR is for a period of 2 years.

The start date of funding is set at 1st January following the funding decision.

The subsidies may be used during the funding duration extended by a period of 24 month.

Budgetary limits:

The CDR application enables to apply for a minimum and maximum total budget:

2 years	10.000 € - 63.000 €
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Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 2 parts relevant to the Credits and Projects instruments:

- qualities of the promoter: CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements;
- qualities of the research programme: feasibility, methodology and relevance, originality, collaborations.

Open science practices may constitute element potentially adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), without constituting a mandatory evaluation criterion.

The adequacy of the requested budget with regard to the submitted research programme will also be evaluated. The Scientific Commission may reduce the requested budget up to a maximum of 15% based on a scientific justification. If the adequacy between the research programme and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the research programme will not be deemed fundable.

A.III RESEARCH PROJECT (PDR) INSTRUMENT

Research Project (PDR): a funding instrument for research projects to advance knowledge across all fields of research by supporting the implementation of ambitious and original research projects.

The FNRS distinguishes 3 types of projects based on the roles and institutions involved.

Types of projects:

- Single-promoter: project conducted by a promoter within a university, with no co-promoter
- Single-university: project conducted by a promoter in collaboration exclusively with one or more co-promoters within the same university
- Multi-university: project conducted by a promoter in collaboration with at least one co-promoter within an institution different from that of the promoter

Roles:

- Promoter: Researcher responsible for submitting an application to the FNRS, presenting the project proposal and detailing the budget required for its implementation.
- Co-promoter: Researcher who contributes to the preparation of the application and in the implementation of the project if funding is granted.
- Project contributor: Researcher who has significantly contributed to the drafting of the application and/or who has expertise useful to the execution of the project. They may not be assigned tasks, nor request budget.

Initiative Weave:

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

Currently, the 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.
The PDR starting date is set for the 1st April and the ending date for the 31st 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](#).

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible as a promoter, the applicant must meet one of the following conditions within a university of the CFB no later than 15 November of the year of application submission:

- be a Research Associate (*Chercheuse qualifiée ou Chercheur qualifié* - CQ), Senior Research Associate (*Maître de recherches* - MR) or Research Director (*Directrice ou Directeur de recherches* - DR) of the FNRS and have effectively taken up that position;
- genuinely carry out a Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (*Mandat d'impulsion scientifique* - MISU);
- genuinely carry out a FED-tWIN mandate;
- hold an academic or scientific appointment and meet the following cumulative conditions:
 - be appointed on a permanent or probationary basis;
 - this appointment must have been definitively* and irrevocably approved by the competent authority of the institution;
 - have effectively taken up that appointment.

**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 allowed to be co-promoter-applicant provided they hold a Ph.D.*

Specific provisions relating to the FED-tWIN mandate

If the FED-tWIN mandate expires after the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities and before the end of the funding period if granted, the submission of an application is conditional on designation of a replacement able to ensure the continuity of the research project as promoter in the event that the mandate holder no longer meets the eligibility criteria upon the end of their mandate.

Specific provisions relating to retirement and emeritus status

An applicant who reaches retirement or emeritus status before the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities is ineligible.

If the applicant reaches retirement or emeritus status after the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities and before the end of the funding period if granted, the submission of an application is conditional upon one of the following conditions:

- prior agreement from the competent authority of the institution confirming that the person will be able to continue the funded research project until the end of the funding period.
- the designation of a replacement able to ensure the continuity of the research project as promoter upon reaching retirement or emeritus status.

To be eligible as a co-promoter, an applicant must meet the same eligibility conditions as those applicable to a promoter within an eligible institution.

Nature of the eligible costs:

As part of the PDR, the allocated fund can cover 3 types of expenses:

- Staff
- Operating costs
- Equipment

Duration:

The duration of PDR is either 2 or 4 years.

The start date of funding is set at 1st January following the funding decision.

In the specific case of a PDR in collaboration with a German partner (DFG):

- The PDR has a duration of 3 years,
- The start date is set at 1st April following the funding decision.

Funding characteristics and provisions:

A PDR application allows to request a minimum and maximum total budget depending on the duration and type of project:

	Single-promoter	Single-university	Multi-university
2 years	60.000 € - 170.000 €	60.000 € - 200.000 €	60.000 € - 245.000 €
4 years	120.000 € - 340.000 €	120.000 € - 400.000 €	120.000 € - 485.000 €

A **PDR in collaboration with a German partner (DFG)** application allows to request a minimum and maximum total budget depending on the type of project:

	Single-promoter	Single-university	Multi-university
3 years	120.000 € - 340.000 €	120.000 € - 400.000 €	120.000 € - 485.000 €

Categories of staff:

Categories	Working arrangement	
	Part time	Full time
Doctoral Researcher – Grant	n/a	x
Doctoral Researcher –Salary	x	x
Postdoctoral Researcher	x	x
Non-doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Technician – Salary	x	x

n/a = non applicable

The identity of the staff is not required when submitting the application.

The minimum employment duration for the requested staff position must be at least one month.

For all staff position included in the application, the applicant contacts the relevant department of their host institution to determine the staff's status (mobility situation, grant, salary, etc.) and working arrangement in order to establish a cost estimate based on their research seniority.

The staff is employed by the host institution.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 2 parts relevant to the Credits and Projects instruments:

- quality of the (co-)promoters: CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements;
- quality of the research programme: feasibility, methodology and relevance, originality, collaborations.

Open science practices may constitute element potentially adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), without constituting a mandatory evaluation criterion.

The adequacy of the requested budget with regard to the submitted research programme will also be evaluated. The Scientific Commission may reduce the requested budget up to a maximum of 15% based on a scientific justification. If the adequacy between the research programme and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the research programme will not be deemed fundable.

A.IV EQUIPMENT INSTRUMENT (EQP)

Equipment (EQP): a funding instrument to support the acquisition of specialised equipment required for the development of research projects or infrastructures, or for the upgrading of existing equipment.

The application concerns the acquisition of one or more specialised pieces of equipment intended to support the implementation of one or more research projects.

The acquisition of equipment must pursue one of the following objectives:

- Project objective: to enable the implementation of one or more research projects presented in the application.
- Infrastructure objective: to contribute to the development or strengthening of research infrastructure capacities, in particular through integration within a technological platform.

When the application pursues an infrastructure objective, it presents one or more research projects benefiting from the requested equipment.

Promoter: Researcher responsible for submitting an application to the FNRS, presenting the project proposal and detailing the budget required for its implementation.

Co-promoter: Researcher who contributes to the preparation of the application and in the implementation of the project if funding is granted.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible as a promoter, the applicant must meet one of the following conditions within a university of the CFB no later than 15 November of the year of application submission:

- be a Research Associate (Chercheuse qualifiée ou Chercheur qualifié - CQ), Senior Research Associate (Maître de recherches - MR) or Research Director (Directrice ou Directeur de recherches - DR) of the FNRS and have effectively taken up that position;
- genuinely carry out a Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (Mandat d'impulsion scientifique - MISU);
- genuinely carry out a FED-tWIN mandate;
- hold an academic or scientific appointment and meet the following cumulative conditions:
 - be appointed on a permanent or probationary basis;
 - this appointment must have been definitively* and irrevocably approved by the competent authority of the institution;
 - have effectively taken up that appointment.

**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.*

Specific provisions relating to the FED-tWIN mandate

If the FED-tWIN mandate expires after the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities and before the end of the funding period if granted, the submission of an application is conditional on designation of a replacement able to ensure the continuity

of the research project as promoter in the event that the mandate holder no longer meets the eligibility criteria upon the end of their mandate.

Specific provisions relating to retirement and emeritus status

An applicant who reaches retirement or emeritus status before the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities is ineligible.

If the applicant reaches retirement or emeritus status after the deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities and before the end of the funding period if granted, the submission of an application is conditional upon one of the following conditions:

- prior agreement from the competent authority of the institution confirming that the person will be able to continue the funded research project until the end of the funding period.
- the designation of a replacement able to ensure the continuity of the research project as promoter upon reaching retirement or emeritus status.

To be eligible as a co-promoter, an applicant must meet the same eligibility conditions as those applicable to a promoter.

Nature of the eligible costs:

As part of the EQP, the allocated fund can cover 2 types of expenses:

- Equipment
- Operating costs

Operating costs must relate to the equipment in order to ensure its operation and maintenance.

Only the costs listed below are eligible as operating costs:

- Consumables and other laboratory products or supplies
- Consultancy
- Training
- Transport or delivery costs
- Rental and leasing
- Software
- Maintenance
- Mobility (for consultancy or training purposes only)
- Small equipment
- Subcontracting

Duration:

The EQP is applicable for 2 years.

The start date of funding is set at 1st January following the funding decision.

Budgetary limits:

An EQP application enables to apply for a minimum and maximum total budget:

2 years	30.000 € - 300.000 €
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Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 2 parts relevant to the Credits and Projects instruments:

- quality of the (co-)promoters: CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements;
- quality of the research programme: feasibility, methodology and relevance, originality, collaborations.

Open science practices may constitute element potentially adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), without constituting a mandatory evaluation criterion.

The adequacy of the requested budget with regard to the submitted research programme will also be evaluated. The Scientific Commission may reduce the requested budget up to a maximum of 15% based on a scientific justification. If the adequacy between the research programme and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the research programme will not be deemed fundable.

A.V INCENTIVE GRANT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTRUMENT (MIS)

Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (MIS): a funding instrument to support research projects led by early-career researchers wishing to develop a research unit and to acquire scientific autonomy.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible as a promoter, the applicant must meet one of the following conditions within a university of the CFB no later than 15 November of the year of application submission:

- be a Research Associate (*Chercheuse qualifiée ou Chercheur qualifié* - CQ), Senior Research Associate (*Maître de recherches* - MR), or Research Director (*Directrice ou Directeur de recherches* - DR) of the FNRS and have effectively taken up that position;
- or be Senior assistant (*Première assistante ou Premier assistant*), Head of Works (*Cheffe ou Chef de travaux*) or member of the academic staff, and meet the following cumulative conditions:
 - be appointed full-time on a permanent or probationary basis;
 - this appointment must be definitively and irrevocably approved by the competent body responsible for finalising the appointment under university legislation or regulations;
 - have effectively taken up that appointment.

The applicant must hold an academic doctoral degree obtained after a successful public defence, awarded by a university institution no more than 12 years prior, this period expiring no later than the deadline for validation of the application by the rectoral authorities.

Year extension possibility:

The maximum period used to calculate eligibility based on the required academic seniority is extended by:

- 15 months per childbirth regardless of the number of children per delivery
- 12 months per child for whom the applicant is a parent ⁽¹⁾ (as a legal parent, co-parent, adoptive mother or father, adoptive co-parent, or any other form of legal parenthood established by recognition or court decision) and whom the applicant did not give birth to;
- 12 months for applicants who have taken in one or more children at the same time as foster parents ⁽²⁾, designated as such by the court, by an accredited placement service of the competent community, or by a community service responsible for youth protection (youth welfare services, Special Youth Assistance Committee), in the context of a long-term placement.

These extensions are cumulative.

⁽¹⁾ In case of multiple pregnancy, the non-birthing parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

⁽²⁾ In the case of fostering siblings, the concerned parent will have their eligibility extension capped at 12 months.

Nature of the eligible costs:

As part of the MIS, the allocated fund can cover 3 types of expense:

- Staff
- Operating costs
- Equipment

Duration:

The MIS is applicable for 3 years.

The start date of funding is set at 1st January following the funding decision.

The supervisor who, at the time of the start of their MIS and due to scientific activities abroad, is on 100% unpaid leave for a maximum duration of two years may request the FNRS's approval to freeze their MIS and start it at the end of their unpaid leave.

Budgetary limits:

The MIS application enables to apply for a maximum total budget of:

3 ans	475.000 €
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If the research project includes the training of a doctoral researcher, the promoter may request the doctoral researcher for a maximum duration of 4 years, at constant budget, in order to enable completion of the doctoral thesis.

Categories of staff:

Categories	Working arrangement	
	Part time	Full time
Doctoral Researcher – Grant	n/a	x
Postdoctoral Researcher	x	x
Non-doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Technician – Salary	x	x

n/a = not applicable

The identity of the staff is not required when submitting the application.

The minimum employment duration for the requested staff position must be at least one month.

For all staff position included in the application, the applicant contacts the relevant department of their host institution to determine the staff's status (mobility situation, grant, salary, etc.) and working arrangement in order to establish a cost estimate based on their research seniority.

The staff is employed by the host institution.

Content and evaluation of the proposal:

The content consists of 2 parts relevant to the Credits and Projects instruments:

- quality of the promoter: CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements;
- quality of the research programme: feasibility, methodology and relevance, originality, collaborations.

Open science practices may constitute element potentially adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), without constituting a mandatory evaluation criterion.

In addition to the criteria mentioned above, the following criteria will also be taken into account:

- originality and novelty of the project;
- possibility to launch a new research unit;
- scientific autonomy with respect to an existing research laboratory;
- future-oriented thematic focus (development perspectives of the field of study);
- 3 recommendations from reference persons.

The adequacy of the requested budget with regard to the submitted research programme will also be evaluated. The Scientific Commission may reduce the requested budget up to a maximum of 15% based on a scientific justification. If the adequacy between the research programme and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the research programme will not be deemed fundable.

APPENDIX 3: INFRASTRUCTURE & LARGE EQUIPMENT INSTRUMENT UNDER CALL 2024

A.I INFRASTRUCTURE & LARGE EQUIPMENT INSTRUMENT (INFRA-GEQ)

Infrastructure & Large equipment (INFRA-GEQ): a funding instrument for single or multi-university research programmes, supported by a main promoter, and including operating, personnel and equipment costs.

The aim of the INFRA-GEQ instrument is to promote and consolidate the state-of-the-art infrastructure in the CFB by funding the acquisition of large-scale specialised equipment, the setting up of research infrastructures and the upgrading of existing facilities.

Large-scale specialised equipment means any instrumentation or material specifically dedicated to experimentation and research and costing more than €300,000.

Research infrastructure means any specialised facility that provides resources and services to the scientific community to enable cutting-edge scientific and technological research to be carried out in various fields.

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 implementation of the project.

Co-promoter: Researcher who takes part in the preparation of the application and in the implementation 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.

Eligibility criteria:

A **single- or multi-university INFRA-GEQ** application allows the participation of co-promoters, including co-promoters from the same university as the main promoter.

Both main promoter and co-promoter-applicants applying for a Single or a Multi-university INFRA-GEQ must be:

- Either a Research Associate, a Senior Research Associate or a Research Director of the FNRS who carries out the fellowship at the latest by 15th November of the year in which the application is submitted.
- Or a researcher-promoter of an ongoing Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU) who carries out the fellowship at the latest by 15th November of the year in which the application is submitted.
- Or a researcher appointed in a university of the CFB and must meet the following conditions altogether:
 - Be permanently* 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 in which the application is submitted.
 - This academic or scientific position must be effective at the latest by 15th November of the year in which the application is submitted.

**Research logistics 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.

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 if it is granted, the submission of the application shall be subject to prior approval by the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

The 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.

Nature of the eligible costs:

As part of the INFRA-GEQ, the allocated fund can cover 3 types of expenses:

- Personnel
- Operating
- Equipment

Categories of personnel:

Categories	Work regime	
	Part time	Full time
Non-doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Technician – Salary	x	x
Research Logistician	x	x

The personnel will be employed by the host university.

The promoter-applicant will contact the relevant department at the host university to determine the status of the personnel requested (mobility status, grant, salary, etc.), their working arrangements and an estimate of their cost based on their seniority.

The duration of employment requested must be **at least one month**. The identity of the personnel is not requested when the INFRA-GEQ application is submitted.

Concerning other eligible costs:

The operating costs requested must relate to setting up, running, maintaining, or upgrading the facility and its activities.

Only the following operating costs are eligible:

- Consumables and other laboratory products or supplies
- Small items of equipment (< €30,000)
- Maintenance
- Rental or leasing
- Other costs related to the nature of the infrastructure's activities
 - Compensation for participants in a longitudinal survey
 - ...
- Consultancy for expertise relating to equipment or infrastructure
- Mobility costs only for consultancy, formation, exchange of expertise, or collection of resources (specimens, archives, samples, etc.)
- Training to develop relevant skills and expertise

- Software
- Office equipment and other support equipment for carrying out activities
 - Desktop or laptop computer for office use
 - Tablet
 - Recorder
 - ...
- Temporary work or student jobs for occasional support tasks
 - Encoding
 - ...
- General services
 - Translation and interpreting
 - Secretarial and logistical coordination
 - IT development
 - Shipping, handling and other transport costs
- Internal services
- Services provided by a partner university hospital
- Sub-contracting
 - Construction of an experimental prototype
 - Conducting interviews
 - Taking samples
 - ...

Travel, accommodation and per diem expenses relating to consultancy, formation, exchange of expertise and resource gathering mobility comply with the rules set out in the practical guide on expenses.

Subcontracting costs are not limited provided they are duly justified in the application.

The amount of equipment requested will be supported by one or more price quotations (catalogue, price list, quotations from one or more potential suppliers, etc.).

Duration:

The INFRA-GEQ is applicable for 3 or 6 years.

The starting date is set for 1st June 2025.

Budgetary limits:

An INFRA-GEQ application allows you to apply for funding of between €300,000 and €800,000 maximum, to be distributed freely over the duration of the application.

Criteria taken into account for the evaluation of the proposal:

- Qualities of the (co-)promoters: CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements
- Qualities of the research programmes related to the application: feasibility, methodology and relevance, originality, collaborations
- Relevance of the equipment / quality of the infrastructure project:
 - Match between the project and the needs of the scientific community
 - Capacity for implementation in terms of available expertise and resources
 - Relevance in terms of access, sharing and use
 - Relevance of other resources requested (personnel, operating)
 - Financial and organisational soundness of the project

APPENDIX 4: FIELDS COVERED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS

Domaines couverts par les Commissions scientifiques

Fields covered by the Scientific Commissions

Commissions scientifiques décidés par le Conseil d'administration du 03.10.2023
Scientific Commissions decided by the Board of Trustees on 03.10.2023

SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	
SHS-1	Sciences Humaines et sociales – 1 Human and Social Sciences – 1
	Sciences politiques, relations internationales; Sociologie, communication, études des sciences et technologies; Anthropologie sociale et culturelle; Géographie humaine et sociale, démographie, santé, sciences de la durabilité Political sciences, international relations; Sociology, communication studies, science & technology studies; Social and cultural anthropology; Human and social geography, demography, health, sustainability science
SHS-2	Sciences Humaines et sociales – 2 Human and Social Sciences – 2
	Cognition; Psychologie; Sciences de l'éducation Cognition; Psychology; Education sciences
SHS-3	Sciences Humaines et sociales – 3 Human and Social Sciences – 3
	Linguistique; Philosophie; Littérature; Arts, études culturelles Linguistics; Philosophy; Literature; Study of the arts, cultural studies
SHS-4	Sciences Humaines et sociales – 4 Human and Social Sciences – 4
	Approche historique des arts; Histoire, archéologie; Études religieuses Historian approach of arts; History, archaeology; Religious studies
SHS-5	Sciences Humaines et sociales – 5 Human and Social Sciences – 5
	Économie; Finance, gestion; Droit; Géographie économique, démographie, santé, sciences de la durabilité, aménagement du territoire, analyses spatiales Economics; Finance, management; Law; Economic geography, demography, health, sustainability science, spatial analyses

SCIENCES EXACTES ET NATURELLES EXACT AND NATURAL SCIENCES	
SEN-1	Sciences Exactes et Naturelles – 1 Exact and Natural Sciences – 1
	Structure, propriétés électroniques, fluides, nanosciences, physique biologique; Chimie analytique, chimie théorique, chimie physique/physico-chimie; Nouveaux matériaux et nouvelles approches de synthèse, relations structure-propriétés, chimie du solide, architecture moléculaire, chimie organique Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics; Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics; New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry, molecular architecture, organic chemistry
SEN-2	Sciences Exactes et Naturelles – 2 Exact and Natural Sciences – 2
	Tous les domaines des mathématiques, pures et appliquées, plus les fondements mathématiques des sciences informatiques, la physique mathématique et les statistiques; Physique des particules, nucléaire, des plasmas, atomique, moléculaire, des gaz, optique; Astro-physique/-chimie/-biologie, système solaire, systèmes planétaires, astronomie stellaire, galactique et extra-galactique, cosmologie, sciences de l'espace, instrumentation et données astronomiques All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics; Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics; Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology, solar system, planetary systems, stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy, cosmology, space sciences, astronomical instrumentation and data
SEN-3	Sciences Exactes et Naturelles – 3 Exact and Natural Sciences – 3
	Systèmes informatiques et d'information, informatique, calcul scientifique, systèmes intelligents; Ingénierie électrique, électronique, de communication, optique et ingénierie des systèmes; Conception de produits et de procédés, génie chimique, civil, environnemental, mécanique, automobile, procédés énergétiques et méthodes de calcul appropriées; Développement de matériaux avancés : amélioration des performances, modélisation, préparation à grande échelle, modification, adaptation, optimisation, utilisation nouvelle et combinée de matériaux, etc. Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems; Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering; Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods; Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.
SEN-4	Sciences Exactes et Naturelles – 4 Exact and Natural Sciences – 4
	Géographie physique, géologie, géophysique, sciences de l'atmosphère, océanographie, climatologie, cryologie, écologie, changements environnementaux globaux, cycles biogéochimiques, gestion des ressources naturelles; Écologie, biodiversité, changement environnemental, biologie de l'évolution, écologie comportementale, écologie microbienne, biologie marine, écophysiologie, développements théoriques et modélisation; Biotechnologie utilisant tous les organismes, biotechnologie pour l'environnement et les applications alimentaires, sciences végétales et animales appliquées, bioingénierie et biologie synthétique, biomasse et biocarburants, risques biologiques

Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management; Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling; Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels, biohazards

SCIENCES DE LA VIE ET DE LA SANTÉ LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES	
SVS-1	Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé – 1 Life and Health Sciences – 1
	Biologie moléculaire, biochimie, biologie structurale, biophysique moléculaire, biologie synthétique et chimique, conception de médicaments, méthodes innovantes et modélisation; Génétique, épigénétique, génomique et autres études 'omiques', bioinformatique, biologie des systèmes, maladies génétiques, édition de gènes, méthodes innovantes et modélisation, 'omiques' pour la médecine personnalisée; Structure et fonction de la cellule, communication cellule-cellule, embryogenèse, différenciation tissulaire, organogenèse, croissance, développement, évolution du développement, organoïdes, cellules souches, régénération, approches thérapeutiques Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling; Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine; Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches
SVS-2	Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé – 2 Life and Health Sciences – 2
	Physiologie des organes et des tissus, physiologie comparée, physiologie du vieillissement, physiopathologie, communication inter-organes et inter-tissus, endocrinologie, nutrition, métabolisme, interactions avec le microbiome, maladies non-transmissibles en ce compris le cancer (à l'exception des troubles du système nerveux et des maladies dysimmunitaires); Le système immunitaire, troubles associés et leurs mécanismes, biologie des agents infectieux et de l'infection, base biologique de la prévention et du traitement des maladies infectieuses, outils et approches immunologiques innovants, en ce compris les thérapies, médecine vétérinaire Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, interorgan and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases); The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies, veterinary medicine
SVS-3	Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé – 3 Life and Health Sciences – 3
	Développement du système nerveux, homéostasie et vieillissement, physiologie et physiopathologie du système nerveux, neuroscience des systèmes et modélisation, bases biologiques des processus cognitifs et du comportement, troubles neurologiques et mentaux Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders
SVS-4	Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé – 4 Life and Health Sciences – 4
	Technologies et outils médicaux pour la prévention, le diagnostic et le traitement des maladies humaines, approches et interventions thérapeutiques, médecine préventive, épidémiologie et santé publique, médecine digitale, éthique médicale; Pharmacie, pharmacologie; Dentisterie Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine, medical ethics; Pharmacy, pharmacology; Dentistry

RECHERCHE STRATÉGIQUE STRATEGIC RESEARCH	
SUSTAINABILITY	Durabilité Sustainability
	La Commission SUSTAINABILITY du F.R.S.-FNRS est dévouée à promouvoir la recherche d'excellence en matière de durabilité par l'intermédiaire de l'interdisciplinarité. La durabilité est comprise au sens large comme englobant les nombreux défis que présente le maintien des sociétés humaines dans le respect des limites planétaires. L'interdisciplinarité est comprise comme l'articulation entre des disciplines habituellement traitées par différentes Commissions scientifiques thématiques du F.R.S.-FNRS. La Commission SUSTAINABILITY elle-même est composée de manière à refléter précisément une telle articulation. Les projets soumis à la Commission SUSTAINABILITY doivent donc, premièrement, viser à faire progresser la durabilité et, deuxièmement, s'appuyer sur au moins deux disciplines précisément articulées. The SUSTAINABILITY Commission of the F.R.S.-FNRS is committed to promoting excellent research on sustainability through interdisciplinarity. Sustainability is understood in a broad sense as encompassing the many challenges of sustaining human societies within planetary boundaries. Interdisciplinarity is understood as the articulation between disciplines usually addressed by different F.R.S.-FNRS thematic Scientific Commissions. The SUSTAINABILITY Commission itself is composed so as to correctly appreciate such an articulation. Projects submitted to the SUSTAINABILITY Commission should thus first aim at advancing sustainability, and second rely on at least two precisely articulated disciplines in doing so.