

RULES AND REGULATIONS

CREDITS OF THE INTERUNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES (IISN - INSTITUT INTERUNIVERSITAIRE DES SCIENCES NUCLÉAIRES) CREDITS AND PROJECTS CALL 2026

**ADOPTED BY
THE F.R.S.-FNRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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CHAPTER I: SCOPE

Article 1

The rules and regulations hereinafter are only applicable to the Interuniversity Institute of Nuclear Sciences (I.I.S.N.) research programmes introduced within the framework of the Credits and Projects Call of the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS (F.R.S. - FNRS).

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

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

Article 2

The I.I.S.N. research programme is meant to be carried out within one or several institutions listed in [Appendix 1](#).

Article 3

The starting date of an I.I.S.N. programme is set for the 1st January following the allocation decision date and the ending date for the 31st December.

Article 4

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

The main promoter shall decide if the research programme is conducted with one or several universities.

CHAPTER II: APPLICATION

II- A.: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Article 5

The main promoter-applicant of an IISN project must be:

- Either a Research Associate (CQ), a Senior Research Associate (MR) or a Research Director (DR)¹ of the F.R.S.-FNRS who genuinely carries out the fellowship at the latest by 15th November of the year when submitting the application.
- Or a researcher-promoter of an ongoing Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU) who genuinely carries out the fellowship at the latest by 15th November of the year when submitting the application.
- Or a FED-tWIN mandate who genuinely carries out the mandate at the latest by 15th November of the year when submitting the application.

¹ Chercheuse qualifiée / Chercheur qualifié - Research Associate (CQ), Maître de recherches - Senior Research Associate (MR) or Directrice de recherches / Directeur de recherches - Research Director (DR).

► Or a researcher appointed in a university of the French Community of Belgium listed in [Appendix 1](#) and must meet the following conditions altogether:

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

Specific provisions relating to the FED-tWIN mandate

If the FED-tWIN mandate expires after the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) 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 main promoter-applicant 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

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

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

Article 6

All co-promoter-applicants involved in an IISN project shall meet the eligibility criteria as referred to in article 5.

II- B.: SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Article 7

The Credits and Projects call is opened once a year and is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

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

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

- a) The validation by the main promoter-applicant, responsible proponent accountable to the F.R.S.-FNRS administration: it accounts as a confirmation that the application file is complete.

² Research logisticians of rank A, as defined by the Royal Decree of 31st October 1953 fixing 'le statut des agrégés, des répétiteurs et des membres du personnel scientifique des universités de l'État', are only allowed to be co-promoter-applicant provided they hold a Ph.D.

- b) The validation by the co-promoters-applicants (if any): it accounts as an electronic signature.
- c) The validation by the research administration (or Board of Education) of the institution to which promoters are related – the Authority to which the application file is transferred once promoters have validated the application form. This Authority may accept or refuse the application. The validation deadline set for the rector puts a final end to the call for proposals.

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

No further change or modification can be made in the proposal after the validation deadline set for the main promoter-applicant.

The validation dates are available in the mini-guide.

Article 8

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

CHAPTER III: THE IISN INSTRUMENT (INTERUNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES)

Article 9

The allocated fund through the IISN instrument can cover 3 types of expenses:

- Staff
- Operating costs
- Equipment

Article 10

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

The F.R.S.-FNRS only reimburses eligible expenses in accordance with the provisions set out in this guide.

Article 11

Categories of staff are detailed in the table hereafter.

Categories	Activity	
	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 staff is employed by the host institution.

The (co-)promoter shall contact the relevant department of their host institution to assess the status of the staff requested (mobility situation, grant, employee...), their working arrangements and an estimate of their cost based on the scientific seniority.

New technicians cannot be employed. Only renewals will be accepted (when justified).

The duration of employment requested must be **at least one month** and may not exceed the maximal duration of the funding agreement.

Article 12

On the date of the hiring by the host institution, each Doctoral Researcher must be an excellent applicant and must have obtained one of the following degrees:

- 1° A master degree for a value of at least 120 credits awarded by a Higher Education Institution within the French Community of Belgium.
- 2° A master degree for a value of at least 120 credits awarded by a Higher Education Institution within the Dutch-speaking Community, German-speaking Community or from the Royal Military Academy.
- 3° Another degree as referred to in Article 115 of the French Community of Belgium Decree of 7th November 2013 that defines the landscape of Higher Education and the academic studies organisation.

Article 13

On the date of the hiring by the host institution, Postdoctoral Researchers must have obtained, for maximum 6 years³, a doctoral academic degree after the defence of a thesis.

Article 14

Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) or a Ph.D. are not eligible under the Technician category.

Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) are eligible for Non-doctoral Researcher category. The Non-doctoral Researcher cannot, under any circumstances, start any personal research work leading to a Ph.D. during the working hours devoted to this function.

Article 15

The scientific staff (doctoral, postdoctoral, non-doctoral) is evaluated by the High and Low Energies Scientific Commission on the basis of the following criteria:

- The curriculum vitae,
- The diploma (Master or PhD), including their two years of Master's grades,
- A reference letter from the promoter, explaining the recruitment process along with the value added by the applicant to the project (referring, if needed be, to the applicant's scientific and technical capacities),
- 2 reference letters from outsiders.

³ For new nominations only.

Article 16

Teams' staff whose remuneration costs are not charged to the I.I.S.N. may include amongst others:

- members of the teaching, scientific, administrative or technical staff from universities of the French Community of Belgium,
- members who benefit from a grant allocated by a Belgian or a foreign body promoting research.

No compensation can be granted to the (co-)promoters or to the above-mentioned staff.

CHAPTER IV: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 17

Funding granted through the IISN instrument is subject to a research agreement.

This agreement shall bear the signature of the following parties:

- **The promoter** commits to carrying out the funded research;
- **The I.I.S.N.** commits to allocating grants covering the staff, operating and equipment costs, each year covered by the agreement;
- **The host institution.**

In the particular case of joint research carried out by several (co-)promoters in several host universities, each institution takes part in the agreement, which contains all the relevant provisions regarding grants management and equipment ownership.

The agreement provides for unilateral termination clauses, which must include a period of notice.

The financial participation of the I.I.S.N. is limited to the global amount indicated in the agreement.

Article 18

Grants awarded to (co-)promoters include the following categories: staff costs, operating costs and equipment costs.

Given the characteristic of the instrument, flexibility is ruled as such:

- Staff cannot be converted into operating or equipment.
- Operating or equipment cannot be converted into staff in order to hire more people.
- Operating or equipment transfers into staff are allowed in order to:
 - o Meet the project's additional staff costs,
 - o Grant the hired staff additional months (to avoid a break),
 - o Attract an excellent doctoral student before they switch to another contract,
 - o Allow a doctoral student to achieve their thesis.

Any change to planned expenses must be notified to the I.I.S.N.

Article 19

Scientific and technical staff shall be recruited in accordance with the scales and regulations in force within the host institution.

Article 20

The overall budget of the project can be used for up to 12 months from the end of the agreement.

The unspent amount will be recovered by the I.I.S.N.

Article 21

Grants at the disposal of the (co-)promoters are managed by the financial department of the host institution to which they are attached.

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

For the staff costs relevant to a given calendar year, the supporting documents must be sent before the 1st March of the following year.

The supporting documents justifying operating and/or equipment costs must be sent before 1st March directly following the deadline to use the concerned budget.

CHAPTER V: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 22

Any device acquired with a credit from the I.I.S.N. becomes the property of the host institution to which the beneficiary of the credit is attached.

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

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

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

Article 23

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

CHAPTER VI: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 24

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

Article 25

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

Article 26

Three months after the end of the research agreement, a request for a final report is sent to the main promoter. This final report must be uploaded on [e-space](#) within two months following the request.

Article 27

In accordance with the [Regulation](#) relating to the application of the open access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS, any scientific article produced partially or entirely through the present financial support must be deposited in the digital archive of the supervisor's institution after acceptance of the article by a publisher.

The F.R.S.-FNRS encourages the deposit of any other type of scientific publication produced partially or entirely through the present financial support in the institutional repository.

The promoter is required to reference the F.R.S.-FNRS as the funding body in the institutional repository in the following manner:

"Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS"

Any scientific publication or communication produced partially or entirely through the present financial support must mention the source of this funding in the following manner:

- In French: "Ce travail a été réalisé avec le soutien financier du Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS via le financement [acronym of the instrument] [agreement or funding letter reference]."
- In English: "This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS under the funding [acronym of the instrument] [agreement or funding letter reference]."

Where applicable, any publication, poster, or presentation produced partially or entirely through the present financial support must include the F.R.S.-FNRS logo.

APPENDIX 1

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

IISN instrument

Credits and Projects Call

Instrument

Institut Interuniversitaire des Sciences Nucléaires / Interuniversity Institute of Nuclear Sciences

(IISN)

Candidat e promoteur rice principal e et candidat e co-promoteur rice d'une université CFB / Main promoter-applicant and co-promoter-applicant of a CFB university	➤ Universités de la Communauté française de Belgique (CFB) Universities of the French Community of Belgium (CFB) Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) Université de Liège (ULiège) Université de Mons (UMons) Université de Namur (UNamur)
Candidat e co-promoteur rice (de régime linguistique francophone) attaché à l'institution / French speaking co-promoter-applicant attached to the institution	➤ Centre d'Étude de l'énergie Nucléaire (SCK-CEN)