

# F.R.S.-FNRS MINI-GUIDE GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2019

French version: [click here](#).

## 1. SCHEDULE

**Opening** of the call on the web-based application of the F.R.S.-FNRS [SEMAPHORE](#) for the online submission: **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018**.

INSTRUMENTS			GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CALL 2019			
			DEADLINE <sup>1</sup> TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC FORM	DEADLINE <sup>1</sup> FOR THE ELECTRONIC VALIDATION		
				APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Postdoctoral Researcher	CR	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February At 2 p.m.
	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist	SPD				
	Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist renewal	SPD-REN				
	Research Associate	CQ				
	Senior Research Associate	MR				
	Research Director	DR				
	Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research	MISU				
	Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research extension	MISU-PROL				
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Research Fellow	ASP	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March At 2 p.m.
	Research Fellow renewal	ASP-REN				
	Special Doctoral Grant <sup>2</sup>	BSD				
	Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D.	CSD				
	Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. renewal	CSD-REN				
	Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D.	SD				
	Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. renewal	SD-REN				
	Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student	VETE-CCD				
	Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student renewal	VETE-CCD-REN				

- The F.R.S.-FNRS will give researchers who may be granted with a fellowship renewal or a fellowship extension (ASP-REN, CSD-REN, SD-REN, SPD-REN, VETE-CCD-REN or MISU-PROL) access to the electronic form via the [SEMAPHORE](#) application.
- For the ASP, BSD, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD, CR, SPD and CQ applicants, an opinion letter will be requested from the promoter by the time of the validation.

The decision to allocate the grants and fellowships will be made by the Board of Trustees of the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) in June 2019. The grants and fellowships will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

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

<sup>2</sup> To apply for a BSD intended for secondary education teachers, please send an email to the F.R.S.-FNRS at [semaphore@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:semaphore@frs-fnrs.be). Please mention "BSD Call 2019" in the subject line and attach the following documents:

- a curriculum vitae (including the date of birth, the degrees held, the career path, information about the doctorate thesis: starting date, CFB university and promoter),
- a copy of the appointment letter for secondary education.

The note hereby aims at informing the academic community about the main characteristics of the grants and fellowships in order to help the applicants prepare their application in the best way.

## 2. APPENDICES

**2.1 For each instrument** (DR and MISU-PROL excepted), appendices must be enclosed with the application. For more information on the appendices, click on the link of the instrument considered:

<b>POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER</b>	<a href="#">CR</a>	<a href="#">SPD</a>	<a href="#">SPD-REN</a>	<a href="#">CQ</a>	<a href="#">MR</a>	<a href="#">MISU</a>			
<b>DOCTORAL RESEARCHER</b>	<a href="#">ASP</a>	<a href="#">ASP-REN</a>	<a href="#">BSD</a>	<a href="#">CSD</a>	<a href="#">CSD-REN</a>	<a href="#">SD</a>	<a href="#">SD-REN</a>	<a href="#">VETE-CCD</a>	<a href="#">VETE-CCD-REN</a>

### 2.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

	DEADLINES IN 2019	DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENTS
<b>POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Appendices (see point 2.1) <sup>3</sup>	CR, SPD, SPD-REN, CQ, MISU
		Letter of support from the Rector of the host university	MISU
	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Reference letters from referees	CQ, MR, DR, MISU
	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Only for applicants who won't have their PhD on 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 (validation deadline for rector): Certificate or copy of the Ph.D. diploma and Minutes of the thesis defence	CR, SPD
<b>DOCTORAL RESEARCHER</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Appendices (see point 2.1) <sup>3</sup>	ASP, BSD, CSD, CSD-REN, SD, SD-REN, VETE-CCD
	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<a href="#">Ranking</a> completed by the faculty awarding the master degree <sup>3</sup>	ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD
	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<a href="#">Advisory opinion</a> from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)	ASP-REN, BSD, CSD-REN, SD-REN, VETE-CCD-REN

## 3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2018

### 3.1 Selection of the scientific commission

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) domains to submit their application in English. Applicants who will select the SHS-2 are recommended to submit their application in English as well [decision of the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2018].

Should the application file be submitted in French, the F.R.S.-FNRS may require the applicant to provide a translation in English for the purpose of conducting the [ex-ante evaluation](#).

### 3.2 Seal of Excellence Certificate

Postdoctoral applicants (CR, CQ, SPD or MISU) who would be awarded a "Seal of Excellence Certificate" after the validation deadline fixed for the postdoctoral applicant may add this piece

<sup>3</sup> Where applicable, to be uploaded by the applicant on a dedicated page at <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be>, as a follow-up of their application file after the validation deadline fixed for the applicant.

of information until 1<sup>st</sup> of May on a dedicated page at <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be>, as a follow-up of their application file [decision of the Board of Trustees on 21 June 2018].

### 3.3 Part-time clinical fellowships (SD, CSD, SPD)

Following the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2018, rules and regulations have been amended as follows:

CSD	<p><u>Clinical training:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most of the training in a university hospital or a university hospital department located in French-speaking Community of Belgium (federal Law)<sup>4</sup>,</li> <li>- Part of the training (max. 12 months FTE<sup>5</sup>) in a Belgian non-academic hospital or a Belgian hospital department not related to a university (federal Law) and,</li> <li>- Under the supervision of an academic coordinator training supervisor who performs their clinical activity in a university hospital (federal regulations) or a university hospital department as identified by the F.R.S.-FNRS<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>				
	Concerning CSD fellowships granted as from 2019, second renewal applications are subject to an evaluation performed by a Scientific Commission.				
SD, SPD	During their part-time fellowship, clinical practitioners must carry out their <u>clinical activity</u> in a university hospital (federal regulations) or a hospital department as identified by the F.R.S.-FNRS <sup>4</sup> .				
	The accreditation (recognition as a specialist which authorises to practice the speciality in Belgium) may be issued by one of the three Communities responsible for accreditation.				
CSD, SD, SPD	During their part-time fellowship, clinical practitioners must carry out their <u>research activity</u> in a university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium which has a faculty of medicine offering a complete curriculum, a university hospital (federal regulations) or a university hospital department as identified by the F.R.S.-FNRS <sup>4</sup> .				
	By the time of each renewal application (except for the 1st SPD renewal requested by the applicant), clinical practitioners are required to provide a report on the scientific activities.				
	The F.R.S.-FNRS will reimburse half of the full-time annual cost of the part-time clinical practitioner to the hospital upon reception of the supporting documents. Cost (on-call duties not included) includes salary cost plus all direct and indirect salary costs. In 2020:				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Temporary doctor<sup>6</sup></td> <td>€50,700-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Permanent doctor</td> <td>€67,100-</td> </tr> </table>	Temporary doctor <sup>6</sup>	€50,700-	Permanent doctor	€67,100-
Temporary doctor <sup>6</sup>	€50,700-				
Permanent doctor	€67,100-				

### 3.4 MR / DR promotion

In order to reduce applicants' workload when writing their proposal, MR and DR applicants to the promotion at hand will have to provide a description of their research orientation for the next 5 to 10 years (in 2 pages max. using the [template](#)), instead of a comprehensive 4-page description of their research project as formerly required [decision of the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2018].

## 4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

### 4.1 Doctoral Researcher fellowships

The result of the Master thesis, if available at the latest by the validation deadline fixed for the applicant, will be communicated to the Scientific Commission.

<sup>4</sup> Hospitals and university hospital's departments are listed in annexes in the regulations.

<sup>5</sup> FTE = Full-time Equivalent

<sup>6</sup>The annual amount of the part-time VETE-CCD fellowship and the temporary doctor is equivalent.

## 4.2 Doctoral Researcher fellowships Renewal

Research Fellow (ASP-REN), Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D. (CSD-REN), Clinical Master Specialist Applicant to a Ph.D. (SD-REN) and Veterinary MD. Ph.D. Student (VETE-CCD-REN) Renewal fellowships applications will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panels (Thesis Advisory Committees).

## 4.3 Special Doctoral Grant (BSD)

BSD applications will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panels (Thesis Advisory Committees).

## 4.4 Part-time Post-doctorate Clinical Master Specialist fellowship (SPD-REN) Renewal

The **first renewal** shall be requested during the second year of the fellowship and simply upon request by the applicant. The request needs to be validated by the promoter and the host institution on [SEMAPHORE](#). **From the second renewal on**, the application will be subject to an evaluation by the relevant Scientific Commission.

## 4.5 Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU)

For any requested staff unit the promoter shall contact the relevant service of her/his host university in order to establish an estimation of the staff cost based on the scientific seniority. Amounts cannot be changed after application submission.

Technician and Short-term Postdoctoral Researcher categories are subject to an annual amount, calculated in proportion to the days worked. Limitations in force in 2020 are the following:

➤ Technician	€58,300- (full time) - €29,600- (part time)
➤ Short-term Postdoctoral Researcher	€51,700-

As for the MISU, since the F.R.S.-FNRS is the employer of the Postdoctoral researcher, the promoter shall take into account the annual cost provided. Amounts in 2020:

➤ Postdoctoral Researcher	€80,100- (full time) - €40,200- (part time)
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## 4.6 Ethical aspects

As from 2018, in order to reduce the Ethics Committees workload and to make the administrative procedures more flexible for applicants, the researchers concerned by ethical questions will be required to submit their questionnaire accompanied by the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the FRS-FNRS only in case of granting. Funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 4 October 2017).

# 5. THE CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

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Applicants will have the choice to write their proposal either in French or in English<sup>7</sup>. For some fields, using English can broaden the number of experts likely to take part in the evaluations. The [guide for applicants](#) provides further information about the content of a proposal.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the instructions given for each part of the proposal** (scientific section relevant to the instrument selected, number of pages allowed for documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Scientific Commissions assessing the application file.

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

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify whether the <b>eligibility criteria</b> are met (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	<b>Class of honours and ranking</b> per cycle and per year of study
	<b>Awards and honours</b> (maximum 5)

<sup>7</sup> As mentioned under section 3.1, applicants are recommended to write their proposal in English if their application is assessed by SEN (Exact and Natural Sciences), SVS (Health and Life Sciences) and SHS-2 (Human and Social Sciences) Scientific Commissions.

SECTION	CONTENT
	<p>The applicant's <b>list of publications</b> (published or accepted), structured according to the <a href="#">template</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Applicants holding the academic degree of Doctor who have been working <i>for 2 years at least</i> in institutions of the French-speaking community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an <b>institutional repository (IR)</b> must absolutely submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format.</li> <li>➤ In case of <b>publication accepted</b> after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them to their application file by 1<sup>st</sup> May via a dedicated page at <a href="https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be">https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be</a>, as a follow-up of their application file.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bibliometric data</b> (except for applicants applying for ASP, BSD, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD): Total number of publications, total number of citations, h-index, average number of citations and indication of the source chosen for these bibliometric data).</p> <p><b>Professional experience:</b> career path, professional stays abroad of more than 30 days, academic positions, collaborations with other institutions (the 3 most important), main funding obtained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Applicants to a CR fellowship who are planning one or several research stays will be required to provide a letter of approval or emails exchanges which demonstrate that formalities are being processed.</li> </ul> <p>List of <b>supervised master and doctoral thesis</b> (only for applicants seeking a promotion as MR or DR).</p>
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	<p><b>Title</b> in English and French (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and, <b>Summary</b> in English and in French (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Funded proposals are released and made public on the <a href="#">F.R.S.-FNRS website</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Selection of the Scientific Commission and selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance</b> (at least 2 descriptor fields must be relevant to the Scientific Commission selected), they can be completed by some <b>unrestricted keywords</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If applicants select only one descriptor field relevant to the Scientific Commission selected, they shall justify the selection of the Scientific Commission in the application form.</li> <li>➤ Applicants who select the Scientific Commission FORESIGHT, dedicated to research projects relating to sustainable development (covering Nature Sciences, Applied Sciences, Human and Social Sciences), must demonstrate the "sustainable development" part of their research project, including interdisciplinary aspects (2000 characters max., including spaces).</li> </ul> <p>Summary (max. 2 pages) of <b>previous research achievements</b> (non-compulsory for ASP, CSD, SD et VETE-CCD doctoral fellowships).</p> <p><b>Description of the project</b><sup>8</sup>, it is mandatory to use the <a href="#">template</a> available in English or in French. The description shall be limited to 4 pages maximum (Arial 12, single space), including the reference bibliography classified by order of appearance in the text, and divided in 4 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Goals of the research</li> <li>II. State of the art</li> <li>III. Research project</li> <li>IV. Work plan</li> </ol> <p>Graphs and charts (max. 2 pages) are authorised in addition to the 4 pages.</p>
WORK ENVIRONMENT	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with the aims of the research project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Data can vary depending on the nature of the project, the scientific field and the type of fellowship.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> MR and DR applicants excepted, as specified under section 3.4.

SECTION	CONTENT
REFEREES	<p>Contact details (first name, surname, email) of 3 referees (only for applicants to a CQ, MR, DR, MISU fellowship).</p> <p>➤ Applicants shall contact the reference persons prior to mentioning their contact details in the application form if they want to make sure that their referees are willing to provide a reference letter as part of their application. After the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors), the F.R.S.-FNRS will contact the reference persons referred in the application form and a reminder will be sent to each referee in due course. No information will be communicated to the applicant on the receipt of the letters to ensure confidentiality.</p>

## 6. SELECTION PROCEDURE (EX-ANTE EVALUATION)

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has adopted the principle of a **two-step procedure**:

- **Step 1: individual evaluations (March to mid-April)**  
Each proposal<sup>9</sup> is evaluated by several remote individual experts, according to an evaluation grid known to the applicants (see "evaluation criteria").
- **Step 2: consolidation during the Scientific Commissions (May)**  
Fourteen Scientific Commissions formed by 15 members (9 of which come from outside the French Community of Belgium (CFB), including the President) are gathered at the F.R.S.-FNRS to draw up a consolidated final ranking. Each proposal is assigned to a rapporteur<sup>10</sup> who will prepare a draft evaluation report based on the individual evaluations of the first step. The draft report will be discussed, amended and validated by the Scientific Commission and then, it will be transferred to the applicant after the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has made a decision.

Thirteen of these fourteen thematic Scientific Commissions are built up from the [ERC](#) panels (European Research Council): 4 in Exact and Natural Science (SEN-1 to SEN-4), 4 in Life and Health Sciences (SVS-1 to SVS-4) and 5 in Human and Social Sciences (SHS-1 to SHS-5). The 14<sup>th</sup> Scientific Commission is a strategic interdisciplinary Commission (Foresight: Sustainable development).

The fields covered by these Scientific Commissions are defined according to a list of descriptor fields. This list includes the ERC's descriptor fields completed with F.R.S.-FNRS keywords, which reflect the specificities of research in the CFB.

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

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

## 7. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

The application conditions, the goals of the different sections and the applicable criteria are detailed in the [guide for applicants](#).

The applicant is free to read the [evaluation guide](#) intended for experts in order to better understand how the proposal will be evaluated.

<sup>9</sup> Except for doctoral applications (ASP, CSD, SD, VETE-CCD) and for SPD applications as from the second renewal.

<sup>10</sup> Doctoral applications are assigned to two rapporteurs.

FELLOWSHIPS	CRITERIA	WEIGHT
RESEARCH FELLOW (DOCTORAL RESEARCHER)	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ academic CV</li> <li>➤ promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, etc.)</li> </ul>	60%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ feasibility</li> <li>➤ methodology</li> <li>➤ originality</li> <li>➤ potential impact</li> </ul>	25%
	Research environment	15%
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.)</li> <li>➤ promoter's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities, independency, etc.)</li> <li>➤ awards</li> </ul>	40%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ feasibility</li> <li>➤ methodology</li> <li>➤ originality</li> <li>➤ potential impact</li> </ul>	40%
	Research environment	20%
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE	Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ number and quality of the publications (journals, citations, etc.)</li> <li>➤ opinion of worldwide renowned referees (creativity, international influence, ability to develop a team, independency, etc.)</li> <li>➤ project funding and grants obtained</li> <li>➤ awards</li> </ul>	40%
	Quality of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ feasibility</li> <li>➤ methodology</li> <li>➤ originality</li> <li>➤ potential impact</li> </ul>	25%
	Research environment	10%
	Potential / International recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ long stays abroad<sup>11</sup></li> <li>➤ invitations to international conferences</li> <li>➤ active collaborations, participation in networks</li> </ul>	25%

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT <http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/appels-reglements> AND <http://www.fnrs.be/en/index.php/privacy-policy>

<sup>11</sup> A long stay abroad is a key element adding value to the application file.