

RULES AND REGULATIONS

LARGE EQUIPMENT (GEQ) CALL 2018

ADOPTED BY

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

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CHAPTER I: SCOPE

Article 1

The rules and regulations hereinafter are only applicable to the instrument enabling the funding of a research programme within the framework of the Large Equipment (GEQ) Call 2018 of the Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS¹ (F.R.S.-FNRS).

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

Article 2

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

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

CHAPTER II: CANDIDACY

II- A: PROMOTERS

Article 5

By the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors), the main promoter-applicant of a GEQ must be:

- Either a Research Associate, a Senior Research Associate or a Research Director of the F.R.S.-FNRS and assuming the function and duties of such position.
- Or a researcher permanently appointed or on probation, but holding a position equivalent to a permanent appointment in a university of the French-speaking community of Belgium listed in [Appendix 1](#).

If the main promoter-applicant who is appointed permanently and accesses pension / becomes professor emeritus after the validation deadline fixed 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 the prior approval of the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

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

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

Article 6

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

Article 7

F.R.S.-FNRS cumulative funding (PDR, EQP, MIS...) is allowed alongside.

II- B: APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Article 8

The call for "Large Equipment" applications is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

Applications can only be submitted online, either in French or in English, through SEMAPHORE, the management platform dedicated to calls for proposals at the following address <https://applications.frs-fnrs.be>

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

- a. The validation by the promoter, responsible proponent accountable to the F.R.S.-FNRS administration: it accounts as a confirmation that the application file is complete.
- b. The validation by co-promoters (if any): it accounts as an electronic signature.
- c. The validation by the research unit (or Board of Education) of the university of the French-speaking community of Belgium to which promoters are related – the Authority to which the application file is transferred once promoters have validated the application form. That authority may accept or refuse the application. The validation deadline fixed for the rectors puts a final end to the call for proposals.

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

The validation dates are available in the mini-guide.

CHAPTER III: NATURE AND DURATION OF THE FUNDING

Article 9

The GEQ is applicable for 2 years.

The starting date of the GEQ 2018 is set for 1st October 2018 and the ending date for 30th September 2020.

Article 10

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

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

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

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

Article 11

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

Article 12

Only equipment fees including "upgrades" are eligible.

CHAPTER IV: EVALUATION PROCESS

Article 13

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

CRITERIA
Qualities of the promoter(s) and potential equipment users: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ CV and publications➤ International recognition➤ Main research achievements
Qualities of the research programme(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Feasibility➤ Methodology and relevance➤ Originality➤ Collaborations
Requested equipment features: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Choice in terms of technicality and performance➤ The need, potential double use➤ Usage (utilisation rate)➤ Capability and Capacity (expertise, infrastructure)➤ Correspondence between the tender and the requested equipment

Article 14

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

This Scientific Commission is made up of:

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

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

Article 15

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

CHAPTER V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 16

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

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

The deadline to send the supporting documents is set for 28th February 2021, i.e., 29 months following the starting date of the granting.

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

CHAPTER VI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 17

Any device acquired with a credit from the F.R.S.-FNRS becomes the property of the host academic 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 academic 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 academic institution commits not to alienating or lending the equipment without the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

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

Article 18

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

Grants can be used for the duration of the granting.

The remaining amounts will be recovered by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 19

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

CHAPTER VII: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROMOTER

Article 20

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

Article 21

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

Article 22

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

The main promoter must send this final report to the F.R.S.-FNRS within two months following the request.

Article 23

Pursuant to the [Regulation](#) on the application of the Open Access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its Associated Funds, any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding granted as part of the GEQ instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

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

APPENDIX 1

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

GEQ instrument

Institutions de rattachement / Attached institutions

Instrument Grands Équipements / Large Equipment

(SINGLE AND CROSS-UNIVERSITY GEQ)

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