

1. FRESH: A FUND DEDICATED TO HUMAN SCIENCES RESEARCH

In 2012, the Government of the French-speaking Community of Belgium created the Human Sciences Research Fund (FRESH – Fonds pour la Recherche en Sciences Humaines). The aim of this Fund is to meet the different and complementary needs of the **fundamental research in social and human sciences**.

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS of 21st June 2018 has decided to restrict the call to doctorate grants for graduates in Social and Human Sciences (term: 2+2 years).

2. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call on the F.R.S.-FNRS web-based application '[SEMAPHORE](#)' for the online submission: **Wednesday 10th July 2019**.

INSTRUMENTS		APPEL FRESH 2019			
		DEADLINE ¹ TO ACCESS THE E-FORM	ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹		
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	RECTOR
1 st Grant	FRESH-B1	Monday 26 th August at 2 p.m.	Tuesday 27 th August at 2 p.m.	Monday 9 th September at 2 p.m.	Thursday 12 th September at 2 p.m.
			APPLICANT	PROMOTER	
2 nd Grant	FRESH-B2	-	Tuesday 27 th August at 2 p.m.	Monday 9 th September at 2 p.m.	

- The F.R.S.-FNRS will give researchers who may be granted with a fellowship renewal (FRESH-B2) access to the electronic form via the [SEMAPHORE](#) application.
- For the 1st Grant (FRESH-B1) applicants, a reference letter will be requested from the promoter by the time of the validation.
- FRESH Juries will meet in November 2019 on the premises of the **F.R.S.-FNRS, 5 rue d'Egmont, B-1000 Brussels**. Pre-selected applicants to a 1st Grant will be informed of the date of the oral examination during the second half of October. That date cannot be modified by no means. There is no possibility for any applicant to attend this interview on Skype or via any other means.
- The decision to allocate the grants will be taken by the Management Committee of the FRESH in December. First Grant scheme starts as from 1st October 2019 while Second Grant scheme starts as from 1st January 2020.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

3. APPENDICES

3.1 For each instrument, appendices must be enclosed with the application. For more information on the appendices, click on the link of the instrument considered:

1ST GRANT	FRESH-B1
2ND GRANT	FRESH-B2

3.2 Deadlines for providing appendices

DEADLINES IN 2019		DOCUMENTS
1ST GRANT	Monday 30 th September	Appendices (see point 3.1) ²
		Reference letters from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 referee (member of the academic staff of a scientific institution) in addition to the promoter, - 1 referee involved in the field outside the academic sphere. They will be contacted by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
		Ranking ² completed by the faculty(ies) awarding undergraduate and master degrees
2^N GRANT	Thursday 31 st October	Advisory opinion from the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee)

4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

4.1 Rules and Regulations

[FRESH Rules and Regulations](#) are available on the website.

Graduates in:

- Art of Building and Urban Planning
- Public Health Sciences
- Geographic Sciences
- Environmental Sciences and Management
- Psychology Sciences

are not allowed to apply for both FRIA and FRESH instruments the same year.

Holders of a Master degree in Psychology Sciences (biomedical discipline in the broad sense and the likes) are invited to apply for a FRIA Grant (decision of the Board of Trustees of the FRIA on 22nd June 2017).

CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maximum 7 years following the latest Master /complementary Master degree obtained, on the condition that this period includes the ongoing academic year (01/10/2018 – 30/09/2019) ➤ One-year extension per childbirth or adoption

² 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.

4.2 Grants Renewal

Applications for a FRESH 2nd Grant will be evaluated by the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee).

4.3 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. Effective funding will be subject to a favorable opinion of the Committee (decision of the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 4th October 2017).

5. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice to write their proposal either in French or in English.

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 juries assessing the application file.

NOTICE: no further changes or modification can be made in the proposal after the validation deadline fixed for the main promoter.

One of the specificities of the FRESH Fund relates to the **societal impact** of the funded research programmes, as stressed and redefined by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on 21st June 2018: "The FRESH Fund supports basic research projects whose outcomes are likely to improve the understanding or functioning of one sector in the society in the short-medium term at a local, regional, national or international level, from many perspectives such as culture, economy, politics, sociology and psychosociology."

Applicants have the opportunity to justify the potential societal impact of their project in their application file. They should highlight the players, groups or sectors that are likely to benefit from the results of the research in the short-medium term.

Applicants must enclose with their application file a **support letter from a referee actually involved in the filed outside the academic sphere**.

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

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCHER	Information that enables to verify whether the eligibility criteria are met (degrees, graduation date, institution)
	Academic background
	Awards and honours (maximum 5)
	The applicant's list of publications (published or accepted, if any), structured according to the template ➤ In case of publication accepted after the validation deadline set for the applicant, applicants may add them to their application file by 30 th September via a dedicated page at https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be , as a follow-up of their application file.
	Professional background , including relevant activities with regard to the research project
	Title of the Master thesis

SECTION	CONTENT
THE RESEARCH PROJECT	Title in English and in French (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) Summary in English and in French (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces) ➤ <i>Funded proposals are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.</i>
	Selection of the jury
	Selection of 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of relevance which may be completed by some unrestricted keywords . ➤ <i>If applicants select only one descriptor field corresponding to the jury selected, they must justify their choice.</i>
	Description of the project , it is mandatory to use the template available in English or in French. The description shall be limited to 4 pages maximum (Arial 12, single space) and divided in 4 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goals of the research 2. State of the art 3. Research project 4. Work plan Graphs and tables may be added (max. 2 pages) to the 4-page description. Additionally, the reference bibliography (max. 1 page) should be included and listed by order of appearance in the text.
	Summary of the 1 st year of Ph.D. -- For 1 st Grant-2 nd year applicants only.
	Applicants have the opportunity to justify the societal impact of their project in their application file. They should highlight the players, groups or sectors that are likely to benefit from the results of the research in the short-medium term.
THE WORK ENVIRONMENT	Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with achieving the aims of the project. ➤ <i>For this criterion, information may vary depending on the nature of the project and the scientific field.</i>
THE REFEREES	Contact details (full name, email) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 referee (member of the academic staff of a scientific institution) other than the promoter, - 1 referee involved in the field outside the academic sphere. ➤ <i>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 submission of the application file, 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.</i>

6. (PRE)SELECTION PROCEDURE, JURIES

6.1 Composition of juries

Applications for a 1st Grant are evaluated by two juries: the first one is dedicated to **cultural challenges**, the second to **economic and social challenges**.

Each jury is made up of 3 civil society representatives, plus 9 members from French-speaking Community of Belgium universities, respecting the balance between universities:

- 2 UCLouvain, 2 ULB, 2 ULiège
- 1 UMons, 1 UNamur, 1 USL-B

Applicants' promoter and co-promoter may not sit or even partially take part in the jury of their applicants.

The composition of the FRESH juries is available at the following address: <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/commissions-scientifiques>. It is subject to modifications depending on the conflicts of interest (COI) that might be reported by juries' members. The composition also depends on the availability of members, any withdrawal or replacement, and may vary accordingly.

6.2 Selection of the jury

Applicants shall select the jury themselves in the application form in accordance with the descriptor fields selected.

6.3 (Pre) selection procedure

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has decided to establish a **pre-selection** of the application files. Members of the jury will focus on the scientific quality of the application by assessing four criteria as follows: **the research project (40%), the competencies of the applicant with regard to his/her speciality (CV) (40%), the research environment and the societal impact of the project (10%)**. Irrespective of the weight of each criterion, applicants must meet a minimum quality threshold.

Pre-selected applicants are required to take an oral examination at the **F.R.S.-FNRS, 5 rue d'Egmont, B-1000 Brussels**. Each application file is assigned to a rapporteur, depending on the 2-6 descriptor fields selected by the applicant. The applicant is interviewed by members of the jury and the rapporteur, who leads the discussion.

Juries shall devote 30 minutes at most to each applicant.

The oral presentation of the applicant may not exceed 10 minutes.

Following the interview, the jury shall debate and give a grade to the applicant in the absence of the applicant.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA - EVALUATION REPORT

The evaluation criteria that will be taken into account are the following:

CRITERIA
Quality of the research project: Feasibility, originality, host laboratory, work plan, societal impact, and activity report (applicable only for applicants to a 1 st Grant 2 nd Year)
Competencies of the applicant with regard to his/her speciality (CV)
Presentation and answers given to questions about the project
Scientific knowledge in general

For applicants to a FRESH 1st Grant, juries will assess their capability to conduct their doctoral research in 4 years. Depending on the progress of the research work, juries may decide to recommend applicants whether for a 1st Grant 1st year or 1st Grant 2nd year.

To respect the European Charter for the Researcher, interviewed applicants will receive an evaluation report following the meeting of the FRESH Management Committee in December.

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS AND PRIVACY POLICY

ARE AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/REGLEMENTS-GUIDES](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/reglements-guides) AND [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/CHARTE-VIE-PRIVEE](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/charte-vie-privee)