

RULES AND REGULATIONS
RESEARCH CREDIT
(*CRÉDIT DE RECHERCHE - CDR*)
CREDITS AND PROJECTS
CALL 2026

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

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CHAPITRE I : GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

These rules and regulations define the terms for the allocation, use and management of granted funding within the framework of the instrument “Research Credit (*Crédit de recherche - CDR*)” of the call for projects “Credits and Projects” organised by the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS (*Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS - F.R.S.-FNRS*).

I-A : Objective

Article 2

The objective of the CDR instrument is to support the basic activities of a researcher (or their team) required to set up or continue a research project.

I-B : Scope

Article 3

The instrument supports scientific research across all fields, organized into the following three major domains: Exact and Natural Sciences (*Sciences Exactes et Naturelles – SEN*), Life and Health Sciences (*Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé – SVS*) and Human and Social Sciences (*Sciences Humaines et Sociales – SHS*).

I-C : Framework

Article 4

The research project is conducted by a promoter within a university of the French Community of Belgium (*Communauté française de Belgique - CFB*).

Article 5

The promoter is responsible for submitting an application to the F.R.S.-FNRS, presenting the project proposal and detailing the budget required for its implementation.

If funding is granted, the promoter assumes scientific and administrative responsibility for the project vis-à-vis the F.R.S.-FNRS. In this capacity, the promoter ensures in particular the proper execution of the funded project and manages its administrative follow-up with the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 6

The institution is responsible for the administrative validation of applications submitted by applicants affiliated with it.

If funding is granted, the institution is the recipient of the subsidies and assumes their financial and accounting management for the implementation of the project.

The institution is also responsible for the management of equipment and intellectual property rights arising from the funded project.

Article 7

The research project may include the collaboration of the university clinic linked with the university involved in the project (see list of university clinics and services in [Annex 2](#)).

This collaboration must imperatively be planned from the project design stage and detailed in the application form by completing the fields provided for this purpose.

When included as a partner in the project, the university clinic may have its services funded under the same conditions as those applicable to the university to which it is linked.

A university clinic that has not been declared as a partner at the time of application submission may not be added or recognised as such at a later stage.

CHAPITRE II : APPLICATION

II-A : Eligibility criteria

Article 8

To be eligible as a promoter, the applicant must meet one of the following conditions within a university of the CFB listed in [Annex 1](#) 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 F.R.S.-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.

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.

In the absence of such approval, the application may be deemed inadmissible.

Article 9

Research logisticians of rank A, as defined by the *Arrêté royal du 31 octobre 1953 fixant le statut des agrégés, des répétiteurs et des membres du personnel scientifique des universités de l'État*, may not exercise the role of promoter.

II-B : Cumulative rules

Article 10

Applicants must comply with the accumulation rules set out in the [accumulation rules document for the Credits and Projects call](#).

II-C : Submission modalities

Article 11

The call for projects is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

The call mini-guide specifies the opening and closing dates of the call.

Applications must be submitted during the opening period.

Any submission outside this period is inadmissible.

Article 12

Applications must be submitted online via the [e-space](#) platform.

Any application submitted by any other means is inadmissible.

Article 13

The application must be drafted in French or English.

Applicants who wish their application to be evaluated by the Scientific Commissions of the SEN and SVS domains, as well as by the Scientific Commission SHS-2, are recommended to submit their application in English. If the application is drafted in French, the F.R.S.-FNRS may request an English translation from the promoter for evaluation purposes. This translation must be provided to the F.R.S.-FNRS within 5 working days.

Article 14

The promoter completes the online form and uploads the required supporting documents, in accordance with the provided instructions.

They are solely responsible for the content of the application submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS, including the accuracy and compliance of the information provided.

Article 15

Any submitted application is subject to successive electronic validations on the dates communicated in the call mini-guide:

1. Validation by the promoter: this constitutes confirmation that the application is complete.

Any application not validated by the promoter within the required deadline is cancelled.

No modification or correction to the application is accepted after the validation deadline and time set for the promoter.

Once validated by the promoter, the application is transmitted to the rectoral authorities of the host institution for validation.

2. Validation by the rectoral authorities (or cellule de recherche) of the host institution: this authority accepts or rejects the application in accordance with the eligibility criteria, and may also apply other internal institutional criteria.

The deadline for validation by the rectoral authorities definitively marks the closure of the call for projects.

II-D : Administrative control of the F.R.S.-FNRS

Article 16

The F.R.S.-FNRS reserves the right to declare ineligible any application that is incomplete or does not comply with the provisions set out below:

- eligibility criteria;
- compliance with the provided guidelines;
- presence of all required elements;
- eligibility of the cost categories.

The F.R.S.-FNRS may declare an application ineligible at any stage of the process, right up until the funding decision is made.

The promoter concerned will receive a letter setting out the reasons for the ineligibility of their application.

II-E : Scientific evaluation

Article 17

Applications are evaluated in two stages:

- an individual evaluation carried out remotely by experts;
- an evaluation carried out by a Scientific Commission.

All details regarding the ex-ante evaluation are set out in the evaluation guide.

Article 18

Remote experts draft reasoned opinions on the applications submitted to them based on the evaluation criteria.

These opinions are forwarded to the members of the Scientific Commission.

Article 19

Applications are evaluated by 14 international Scientific Commissions whose respective competences are identified by the [descriptor fields](#) published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

These international Scientific Commissions are divided into 13 thematic Scientific Commissions: 4 in Exact and Natural Sciences (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).

A 14th Scientific Commission exercises its competence in the strategic field of sustainability through interdisciplinarity (SUSTAINABILITY).

Article 20

The promoter chooses the Scientific Commission before which they wish their application to be evaluated. They select between 2 and 6 descriptor fields in order of relative importance (at least 2 descriptor fields must belong to the chosen Scientific Commission) and may complement this choice with free keywords.

If a promoter chooses fewer than 2 descriptor fields belonging to the chosen Scientific Commission, they must justify the choice of the Scientific Commission in the form.

A promoter selecting the SUSTAINABILITY Scientific Commission, whose evaluation scope focuses on research projects related to sustainability through interdisciplinarity, must justify the “sustainability” nature of their research project as well as the interdisciplinary aspects.

Article 21

Members of the Scientific Commission carry out the evaluation and ranking of the applications submitted to them based on the evaluation criteria.

They also assess the adequacy between the requested budget and the research proposal, and may reduce the requested budget by a maximum of 15% based on a scientific justification. If the adequacy between the research proposal and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the application cannot be considered fundable.

The Scientific Commission has sole authority over the evaluation of the applications submitted to it.

Article 22

The criteria taken into account in the evaluation of applications are as follows:

Criteria
Qualities of the supervisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV and publications • International visibility • Main research achievements
Qualities of the research plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility • Methodology and relevance • Originality • Collaborations

Article 23

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.

II-F : Funding decision

Article 24

The F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees awards the funding based on the ranking established by the members of the Scientific Commission, within the limits of the available budgets. It decides on the granting or rejection of applications and, where applicable, on the amounts awarded.

Article 25

The decisions of the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees are communicated at the conclusion of the meeting following the evaluation of the applications.

Article 26

Within 15 days following the communication of the results, the F.R.S.-FNRS administration sends the final evaluation report to the promoter.

CHAPITRE III : FUNDING

III-A : Characteristics

Article 27

The funding is for a period of 2 years.

Article 28

The instrument allows to request a total budget of between 10.000 € and 63.000 €.

Article 29

The following cost categories are eligible :

- Operating costs
- Equipment

Article 30

Subcontracting is eligible under operating costs and is limited to 20% of the total budget requested.

Article 31

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

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

III-B : Granting and terms of use

Article 32

The granted funding is the subject of an award letter accompanied by an annex.

Article 33

The financial commitment of the F.R.S.-FNRS is limited to the total amount mentioned in the award letter.

Article 34

Funding is granted in the form of reimbursement of expenses incurred by the institution for the implementation of the funded project.

Article 35

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

Article 36

The granted subsidies are personal and non-transferable.

Therefore, any promoter who ceases to meet the eligibility criteria during the project will have their funding lapse.

Article 37

Transfers between operating and equipment cost categories, as well as changes within a single category, are authorised.

Any budgetary modification must be notified on the [e-space](#) platform via the module provided for this purpose.

Article 38

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

Article 39

Any unused sums at the end of the period of use shall revert to the F.R.S.-FNRS.

III-C : Accounting management

Article 40

The F.R.S.-FNRS reimburses only eligible expenses upon presentation of documentary evidence and within the limit of the amount awarded to the institution.

Article 41

The institution is responsible for the financial and accounting management of the expenses incurred in the framework of the funded project.

In this capacity, it ensures the eligibility of expenses, within the meaning of the present rules and regulations, and is responsible for the establishing, retaining and transmission of the documentary evidence necessary for reimbursement.

Where the project involves a university clinic, the university to which it is linked is responsible for the financial and accounting management of expenses incurred by the clinic and acts as its sole intermediary with the F.R.S.-FNRS for their reimbursement.

Article 42

The institution's financial department is invited to transmit the documentary evidence to the F.R.S.-FNRS as early as possible.

For operating costs, the deadline for transmission of documentary evidence is set before 1st March directly following the end date of the use period of the relevant subsidies.

For equipment costs, the deadline for transmission of documentary evidence is set before 1st March directly following the end date of the use period of the relevant subsidies.

Article 43

Documentary evidence must mention the reference number of the annex to the award letter governing the funding under which the financial department requests reimbursement.

Any documentary evidence that does not bear the appropriate reference is inadmissible and will not be reimbursed.

CHAPITRE IV : RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

IV-A : Host institution

Article 44

The host institution is responsible for the financial and accounting management of the granted subsidies in accordance with the provisions of these rules and regulations, and assumes all financial responsibility arising therefrom.

Article 45

Any equipment acquired using F.R.S.-FNRS subsidies becomes the property of the host institution.

The acquisition of any equipment must be carried out in compliance with the requirements defined in this regard by the relevant department of the host institution.

However, the institution undertakes to make the equipment in question available to the researchers involved for as long as necessary for the continuation of the research that motivated its acquisition. It also undertakes not to dispose of or lend this equipment without the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

In the event that the equipment could only be acquired with the contribution of additional funding, the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees shall decide on the issue of ownership together with the authorities concerned.

In the event of a dispute on issues of ownership, the F.R.S.-FNRS recommends that the parties involved ensure the continuity of the research activities of the persons affected.

Article 46

Intellectual property rights arising from the results of a funded research project belong to the host institution in which the project was carried out, in compliance with any internal regulations adopted on the matter.

If several institutions are involved in the research, the F.R.S.-FNRS recommends that all parties enter into a collaboration agreement at the start of the research, setting out the terms and conditions applicable to publications, confidentiality and the protection and exploitation of intellectual property rights resulting from a funded research project.

IV-B : Promoter

Article 47

The promoter undertakes to deploy all means necessary for the proper conduct of the funded project. Funds are awarded exclusively for the implementation of the research project approved by the F.R.S.-FNRS. The promoter is required to allocate them solely for this purpose.

The work plan may, where appropriate, be subject to adjustments during implementation, provided that these are justified by the needs of the project. Any fundamental change to the research project during its implementation must receive the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Any proven failure to comply with these obligations may give rise to measures of suspension or cancellation of the funding by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 48

The promoter is required to notify any budgetary change within the initially planned expenditures for the funded project on the [e-space](#) platform via the module provided for this purpose.

Any failure to comply with this notification procedure may affect accounting follow-up by delaying or preventing reimbursement by the F.R.S.-FNRS of the expenses concerned.

Article 49

The promoter must comply with the discipline imposed by the academic authority of the host institution in which they work and must respect its regulations; they are also required, vis-à-vis the F.R.S.-FNRS, to comply with the regulations concerning ownership, protection, and valorisation of the results of research carried out within their institution.

Article 50

Any funded research project must comply with the applicable legal provisions relating to ethics. This obligation applies to all stakeholders involved in the project.

Any proven failure to comply with these obligations may give rise, after examination by the Board of Trustees, to measures of suspension or cancellation of the funding by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 51

In accordance with the regulations 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.

Article 52

Three months after the end of the grant, a request for a final report is sent to the promoter.

The promoter is required to upload this final report to the [e-space](#) platform within two months following the request.

Annex

Annex 1 : List of eligible institutions

<p>Promotrice/Promoteur d'une université de la CFB <i>Promoter of a CFB university</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universités de la Communauté française de Belgique (CFB) <i>Universities of the French Community of Belgium</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain)– Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)– Université de Liège (ULiège)– Université de Mons (UMons)– Université de Namur (UNamur)
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Annex 2 : List of university clinics and services

<p>Cliniques et services universitaires liés à l'UCLouvain</p> <p><i>University clinics and services linked to UCLouvain</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc • Cliniques universitaires Mont-Godinne
<p>Cliniques et services universitaires liés à l'ULB</p> <p><i>University clinics and services linked to ULB</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hôpital Erasme • Institut Jules Bordet • CHU Brugmann : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Service de médecine (comprend aussi la dermatologie) – Service de chirurgie – Service de gériatrie – Service de psychiatrie – Service de revalidation physique – Service d'anesthésie – Service d'hospitalisation chirurgicale de jour – Service de biologie clinique – Service d'imagerie médicale – Service de médecine nucléaire – Service d'hospitalisation non chirurgicale de jour – Service d'anatomie pathologique – Service d'immuno-hématologie-transfusion – Service des soins intensifs • HUDERF : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Service de pédiatrie (comprend toutes les cliniques spécialisées liées à la pédiatrie : cardiologie, endocrinologie, gastro-entérologie, diabétologie, néphrologie, douleurs et soins palliatifs, pneumologie, néonatalogie, soins intensifs et urgence, nutrition et maladies métaboliques, cancéro-hématologie, neurologie) – Service de psychiatrie infanto-juvénile – Service de chirurgie cardiaque et pédiatrique – Service d'anesthésiologie – Laboratoire de biologie clinique – Service d'anatomie pathologique – Service de dermatologie • CHU Saint-Pierre :

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service de diagnostic et traitement chirurgical (chirurgie digestive, orthopédie, chirurgie vasculaire et thoracique, chirurgie réparatrice, urologie, stomatologie et chirurgie maxillo-faciale, ORL, ophtalmologie) - Service de diagnostic et de traitement médical (soins intensifs, pneumologie, gastro-entérologie, neurologie, hématologie-oncologie, endocrinologie, médecine physique, revalidation cardio-pneumo, dermatologie) - Programme de soins « patient gériatrique » (gériatrie, psychogériatrie) - Service des maladies contagieuses - Service des maladies infantiles (pédiatrie, néonatalogie, pédo-psychiatrie) - Service d'anesthésiologie-réanimation - Service des urgences - Service de gynécologie-obstétrique (gynécologie, obstétrique, clinique de sénologie) - Service « pathologies cardiaques » (cardiologie, chirurgie cardiaque, revalidation cardio-pneumo) - Laboratoire de biologie clinique LHUB
<p>Cliniques et services universitaires liés à l'ULiège <i>University clinics and services linked to ULiège</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHU Liège • C.H.R. de la Citadelle : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service d'anatomie pathologique + dermatopathologie - Service d'anesthésie et réanimation - Service de chirurgie cardio-vasculaire - Service de gynécologie-obstétrique - Service d'hématologie clinique - Service de neurologie - Service de néonatalogie - Service de pédiatrie • Centre Hospitalier du Bois de l'Abbaye et de Hesbaye - Site Seraing : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service de gynécologie-sénologie-obstétrique