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SofinaBoël Fellowships 2026

REGULATIONS

- Art. 1. Thanks to the help of the King Baudouin Foundation, acting on behalf of the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent, FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS may grant the SofinaBoël fellowships to **talented PhD students for a research and/or training stay abroad.**
- Art. 2. The SofinaBoël Fellowships consist of:
 - A **fixed allowance of 1.650 € per month**; the monthly allowance is a top-up funding that may be used for accommodation, daily living expenses, expenses related to the research or training undertaken in the course of the Fellowship, and local transportation.
 - **Travel costs**, i.e. a lump sum of 1.000 € covering one economy class return ticket.
- Art. 3. The jury will take into account other funding granted to the applicant for the same stay abroad (e.g. travel grants); applicants are expected to indicate in the application form all other funding applied for to cover the same period and purpose.
- Art. 4. **Destination**

Candidates may go abroad to a host institution of their choice in **all countries worldwide except the United States of America**. The quality of the host institution is an important criterion in the selection procedure, since the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent aims at promoting excellence through training at the best educational institutions abroad. **Candidates can only go to one (1) host institution per stay abroad. Combinations of different host institutions are not allowed.** Also, the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent envisages these fellowships not only as a way to broaden the candidates' experience and training, but also to establish a global network of talent and develop new contacts abroad. **Hence they encourage candidates to look for a host institution where they have not been staying for a significant period prior to the SofinaBoël Fellowship research stay.**
- Art. 5. **Eligibility**

The following eligibility criteria apply for candidates who are seeking a SofinaBoël Fellowship:

 - You are a **PhD student with a fully paid affiliation** (e.g. fellowship or other form of salary) at a Belgian university at the deadline of the call and when leaving for your research stay abroad; beneficiaries of clinical PhD fellowships, as well as candidates from the Royal Military Academy, are eligible. Applicants are expected to maintain their paid affiliation for the entire duration of their stay.
 - You have obtained a MA or MSc **after November 1st, 2021**.
 - You have a **clear attachment to Belgium**: you must have been affiliated to a Belgian university for at least one full year prior to the submission deadline and will be affiliated to a Belgian university for at least the entire duration of the research stay.
 - Your stay abroad will last either **6 or 12 months** and should fall during the **academic year 2026-2027**.
 - You have not yet obtained a SofinaBoël Fellowship in the past.

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- Art. 6. Applicants should have an **outstanding academic record** (study results; academic results in your PhD research if already started) as well as an excellent command of the language which will be used at the host institution.

➤ Art. 7. **Criteria**

The F.R.S.-FNRS will check the eligibility of applications submitted prior to the evaluation by the Jury. A scientific Jury appointed by the F.R.S.-FNRS / FWO will evaluate and rank all applications according to the following evaluation criteria:

Candidate (50%)

- Applicant's profile: excellent study results / academic track record.
- Applicant's motivation: expressed in the motivation letter.
- Potential to realise the project.
- Other notable achievements on a personal or professional level.
- Excellent command of the language used at the host institution (if relevant).

Project (40%)

- Scientific quality.
- Merits and benefits for the candidate and their career.
- Transfer of knowledge, merits and benefits for the research group in Belgium.
- Quality of the host institution and invitation letter by the host.

Sustainable Development Goals (10%)

- Meaningful contribution to the realisation of the SDGs in quantitative and/or convincingly substantiated qualitative terms.

The final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees of the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent, on proposition of the F.R.S.-FNRS / FWO Jury's recommendations.

- Art. 8. A representative of the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent will attend the Jury meeting as observer.

➤ Art. 9. **Application procedure**

Applications have to be submitted **at the latest by November 17 midnight CET, 2025** by email to the address prix@frs-fnrs.be. The application file should contain:

- the application form, filled in completely and correctly, **in English**;
- a detailed curriculum vitae (including a list of publications), **in English**;
- a letter of reference by the applicant's PhD supervisor, **in English**;
- a personal motivation letter, **in English**; please be certain to explain why you want to go to the chosen host institution, why you need the SofinaBoël Fellowship as well as your affiliation to Belgium (previous, current and future affiliations);
- an invitation letter from the foreign host institution, **in English**, in which the responsible contact person in the country of destination acknowledges that the successful candidate will be received at the institute chosen for his/her training or research activities for the duration of the Fellowship;
- a detailed curriculum vitae (with list of publications) of the head of the foreign research group, **in English**.

- Art. 10. Within three months after returning to Belgium, the beneficiaries of the Fellowships shall submit to the F.R.S.-FNRS a **detailed scientific report** on their stay abroad with a **1-page summary in layman's terms**. In addition, they are required to submit a **financial report** accounting for the use of the granted credit. In order to create an Alumni Community of SofinaBoël fellows, the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent would like to be furthermore informed of all special events in the fellows' career such as receiving an

Award or interview in media etc. In this case, contact the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent via [Florence Legein](#) at the King Baudouin Foundation.

- Art. 11. The scientific outline, presentations and evaluation reports generated in the framework of these Fellowships will be treated confidentially.
- Art. 12. Any question concerning the eligibility of the applications and the awarding of the SofinaBoël Fellowships will be settled in a final and binding manner by the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent.
- Annex Frequently Asked Questions related to the SofinaBoël Fellowships.

September 2025

