

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS (PINT)

➤ PROJETS MULTILATÉRAUX DE RECHERCHE (PINT-MULTI)

ADOPTED BY

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

Reference : FRS-FNRS_PINT-MULTI_EN_CA20241210_2025.02.01_3_Final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I : SCOPE	3
CHAPTER II : APPLICATION	4
II-A : ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4
II-B : ACCUMULATION RULES	5
II-C : SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION	5
II-D : ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICATIONS	6
CHAPTER III : NATURE AND DURATION OF THE FUNDING	6
III-A : ELIGIBLE AND NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	6
III-B : FUNDING CHARACTERISTICS AND PROVISIONS	7
CHAPTER IV : EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS	9
CHAPTER V : FINANCIAL PROVISIONS	10
CHAPTER VI : MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	11
CHAPTER VII : RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS	11
ANNEX I : ATTACHED INSTITUTIONS	13

CHAPTER I : SCOPE

Article 1

The rules and regulations hereinafter are only applicable to the PINT-MULTI instrument enabling the funding of international multilateral research programmes (personnel, equipment, operating costs) within the framework of transnational calls that the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) participates in.

Instrument	Duration	Type	Co-promoter(s) from the (CFB) possible ?
PINT-MULTI	3 years ¹	PINT-MULTI includes one or several institutions from the CFB.	Yes

Main promoter from the Communauté française de Belgique (CFB): Researcher responsible for the submission of the application. They can ask for budget related to the tasks of which they will be in charge during the project.

Co-promoter from the CFB: Researcher who takes part in the preparation of the application and in the accomplishment of the project in case of granting. As such, they can ask for a budget related to the tasks which they will be in charge of.

Article 2

The CFB part of the research programme shall be conducted in one or several institutions listed in [annex 1](#).

Article 3

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

Article 4

A project involving co-promoters does not lead to an increase of the project budget.

Article 5

The specific rules for participation are set out in the “call text” or “call announcement” document and the F.R.S.-FNRS national annex that accompany each call for transnational projects.

¹ Project duration is defined by the Call Secretariat.

Candidates are required to comply with those specific rules as well as those set out in the present PINT-MULTI regulations. Any rules set out in the national annex take precedence over the PINT-MULTI regulations.

CHAPTER II: APPLICATION

II-A : ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Article 6

The main promoter applicant to a PINT-MULTI must be:

- Either a CQ, MR, DR² of the F.R.S.-FNRS who genuinely carries out the fellowship at the latest by the call closure.
- Or a researcher-promoter of an ongoing Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU) who genuinely carries out said mandate no later than the deadline for validation of their candidacy by the rectoral authorities.
- Or a researcher appointed in a university of the French-speaking community of Belgium listed in [annex 1](#) and must meet the following conditions altogether:
 - Be permanently appointed³ to an academic or scientific position or on probation in that university or institution.
 - This appointment must have a final and conclusive assent from the competent body to legitimize this appointment in accordance with the Law or the university regulations at the latest by the call closure.
 - This academic or scientific position must be effective at the latest at the call closure.

If the main promoter-applicant who is appointed permanently accesses the legal age of retirement / becomes professor emeritus after the call has closed and before the end of the funding in case of granting, the submission of the application shall be subject to prior approval by the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

The main promoter-applicant permanently appointed who will access the legal age of retirement / become professor emeritus by the call closure is not eligible.

Article 7

Any co-promoter applicant involved in a PINT-MULTI must also meet the eligibility criteria as referred to in article 6 in an institution listed in [annex 1](#).

² Research Associate (CQ), a Senior Research Associate (MR) or a Research Director (DR)

³ Research logisticians of rank A, as defined by the Royal Decree of October 31, 1953 establishing the status of agrégés, répétiteurs and members of the scientific staff of state universities, may be co-promoter candidates provided they hold the academic degree of doctorate.

II-B : ACCUMULATION RULES

Article 8

By default, it is only possible to participate in one PINT-MULTI application per transnational call, either as partner or coordinator.

In the specific case of calls co-financed by the European Commission, or under a derogation linked to a particular call, a candidate may participate in a maximum of two projects, of which only one as coordinator.

Article 9

Cumulation is authorized with other types of F.R.S.-FNRS funding (CDR, PDR and EQP, WEAVE, PINT-BILAT-P, PINT-BILAT-M, etc.). As double funding is forbidden, the project submitted may not be identical to projects currently being funded, nor may it consist of the resubmission of previously funded projects.

II-C : SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Article 10

Openings for transnational calls are published on the [F.R.S.-FNRS website](#).

Applications must be submitted via the online platforms set up by the networks concerned. Full details of the application procedures are available in the specific documents for each call ("call text" or "call announcement").

In parallel, the main promoter applicant must complete an administrative application on the call management platform [e-space](#). The deadline for submission of this application is 5 working days after the closure of the call at the level of the network in question. As part of this submission, it is requested to attach the (pre)proposal file submitted to the network in charge of the call.

All PINT-MULTI applications are submitted to a procedure including successive electronic validations:

- a. The validation by the main promoter applicant, accountable to the F.R.S.-FNRS administration: it is considered as a confirmation that the application file is complete.
- b. The validation by the co-promoter-applicants (if any): it is considered as an electronic signature.
- c. The validation by the research administration (or Rectorate) of the institution to which (co-)promoter-applicants are related – the Authority to which the application file is transferred following the validation by the (co-)promoter-applicants. That authority may accept or refuse the application. The validation deadline set for the rectors puts a final end to the call for proposals.

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

No further changes or modification can be made in the proposal after the validation deadline set for the main promoter applicant.

II-D : ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICATIONS

Article 11

The F.R.S.-FNRS and the research institutions validate the eligibility of applications. The F.R.S.-FNRS reserves the right to refuse applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria defined in the present regulations.

CHAPTER III: NATURE AND DURATION OF THE FUNDING

III-A: ELIGIBLE AND NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Article 12

As part of the PINT-MULTI instrument, allocated funds can cover 3 types of expenses:

- Personnel
- Operating
- Equipment

Article 13

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

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

Article 14

The use of subcontractors is authorized up to 20% of the total budget requested from the F.R.S.-FNRS, and must meet the following conditions:

1. A precise description of the services
2. A precise demonstration of the indispensable nature of the services
3. Presentation of invoices or expense statements issued by the service provider

Article 15

Equipment costs are capped at 20% of the total budget requested from the F.R.S.-FNRS.

III-B : FUNDING CHARACTERISTICS AND PROVISIONS

Article 16

The amount of funding requested through the PINT-MULTI instrument may vary depending on the call. This amount is systematically included in the “call text” or “call announcement” of each call, as well as in the F.R.S.-FNRS national annex.

Article 17

Transnational calls are open to funding applications with a standard duration of 3 years⁶.

The start date of the project is agreed between the partners of the transnational consortium. However, the project must start no later than 6 months after the official announcement of the results by the structure in charge of the call (Call Steering Committee-CSC and/or Call Secretariat).

Article 18

Personnel costs (non-mandatory) are limited to an annual average of €50,000 over the duration of the project for projects from networks funded under Horizon 2020.

Personnel costs (non-mandatory) are limited to an annual average of €80,000 over the duration of the project for projects from networks financed under Horizon Europe.

For each call, the F.R.S.-FNRS national annex will specify whether it is a call from a network funded by Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe, and whether or not it is co-financed.

If the research project includes the training of a doctoral student, there are two possible scenarios:

- In the case of co-financed calls or calls benefiting from a derogation, the funding of the doctoral student may be extended for a fourth year, subject to the agreement of the F.R.S.-FNRS. The request for extension must be submitted 6 months before the end of the project and must be accompanied by the positive opinion of the promoter and the Supervisory Panel (Thesis Advisory Committee). In this case, the final year of the thesis will be paid for by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
- In the case of calls that are not co-financed and do not benefit from a derogation, the promoter has the option of spreading the use of the “personal” budget over a period of 4 years, in order to allow the finalization of the thesis work. In this case, the last year of the thesis is charged to the project budget.

For all other multilateral calls outside these two programs, the maximum amount for personnel costs will be specified in the F.R.S.-FNRS national annex.

⁶ Project duration is defined by the Call Secretariat.

Article 19

Categories of personnel are detailed in the table hereafter.

Categories	Working conditions	
	Part time	Full time
Doctoral Researcher – Grant		x
Doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Postdoctoral Researcher	x	x
Non-doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Technician – Salary	x	x

Personnel is employed by the host institution.

The (co-)promoter applicant shall contact the relevant department of their host institution to assess the status of the personnel requested, their working arrangements and an estimate of their cost based on the scientific seniority.

In case of a grant, the Doctoral Researcher must be hired on a full-time basis.

The duration of employment requested must be at least one month. The identity of the personnel is not required when submitting a PINT-MULTI application, but the category of personnel must be specified.

The duration of the personnel requested must be at least one month.

Article 20

On the date of the hiring by the host institution, Doctoral Researchers must have obtained one of the following degrees:

1. a master degree for a value of at least 120 credits awarded by a Higher Education Institution within the French-speaking Community of Belgium;
2. a master degree for a value of at least 120 credits awarded by a Higher Education Institution within the Dutch-speaking Community, German-speaking Community or from the Royal Military Academy;
3. another degree as referred to in Article 115 of the French-speaking Community of Belgium Decree of 7th November 2013 that defines the landscape of Higher Education and the academic studies organisation.

Article 21

On the date of the hiring by the host institution, Postdoctoral Researchers must have obtained a doctoral academic degree after the defence of a thesis.

Article 22

Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) or a Ph.D. are not eligible under the Technician category.

Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) are eligible for Non-doctoral Researcher category. The Non-doctoral Researcher cannot, under any circumstances, start any personal research work leading to a Ph.D. during the working hours devoted to this function.

Article 23

Teams' personnel whose remuneration costs are not charged to the PINT-MULTI may include amongst others:

- Members of the teaching, scientific, administrative or technical personnel from the French-speaking community of Belgium universities,
- Members who benefit from a grant allocated by a Belgian or a foreign body promoting research.

No compensation can be granted to the (co-)promoters or to the above-mentioned personnel.

CHAPTER IV : EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

Article 24

For transnational calls, evaluation is carried out by one or more joint evaluation committees. These committees are totally independent of the F.R.S.-FNRS and are made up of experts appointed by the agencies participating in the transnational call.

The criteria taken into account in the evaluation of these international proposals are set out in the text describing the procedure for each call ("call text" or "call announcement"). These criteria may vary slightly according to the context and field(s) of each call. Nevertheless, in line with its general policy, F.R.S.-FNRS only participates in calls where the main evaluation criterion remains scientific excellence.

The timetable and organization of evaluations are specific to each transnational call and are rigorously described in the "call text" or "call announcement" accompanying its publication.

Article 25

The decision-making body 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 26

Funding granted through the PINT-MULTI instrument is subject to a research agreement.

This agreement shall bear the signature of the following parties:

- **The main promoter** commits to carrying out the funded research;
- **The F.R.S.-FNRS** commits to allocating grants covering the personnel, operating and equipment costs, each year covered by the agreement;
- **The host institution** of the French-speaking Community

In the particular case of joint research carried out by several (co-)promoters in several host institutions, each institution takes part in the agreement, which contains all the relevant provisions regarding grants management and equipment ownership.

The agreement provides for unilateral termination clauses, which must include a period of notice.

The financial participation of the F.R.S.-FNRS is limited to the global amount indicated in the agreement.

Article 27

Grants awarded to (co-)promoters include the following categories: personnel costs, operating costs and equipment costs.

Transfers of funds between categories and changes within a category or changes to personnel hiring periods are allowed.

Any change to planned expenses must be notified to the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 28

Scientific and technical personnel shall be recruited in accordance with the scales and regulations in force within the host institution.

Article 29

Grants can be used for up to 12 months from the end of the agreement¹¹.

The unspent amount will be recovered by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 30

Grants at the disposal of the (co-)promoters are managed by the financial department of the institution to which they are attached.

¹¹ All grant commitment periods can be found in the [Periods of use table](#).

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

The supporting documents justifying personnel, operating and equipment costs must be sent before 1st March directly following the deadline to use the concerned budget.

CHAPTER VI : MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 31

All material acquired with a grant from the F.R.S.-FNRS becomes the property of the host institution, to which the beneficiary of the grant is attached.

The purchase of any material must be done with due respect for the provisions defined by the relevant department of the host institution.

This institution commits, however, to putting the mentioned material 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 institution commits not to alienating or lending the material without the prior written approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

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

Article 32

Grants are exclusively allocated for the execution of the research programme approved by the F.R.S.-FNRS. (Co-)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

Article 33

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

Article 34

(Co-)Promoters must submit to the rules imposed by the academic authority of the host 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.

In addition, the F.R.S.-FNRS encourages the signature of a consortium agreement between the partners of the funded project. This agreement should include all relevant intellectual property provisions.

Article 35

Promoters are required to comply with the project monitoring rules in force within each network, as defined in the “call text” or “call announcement”. These include, but are not limited to

- Signature of a Consortium Agreement, where applicable
- Mandatory participation in project follow-up activities (surveys, seminars, etc.)
- Submission of annual and final reports at network level.

Article 36

Researchers are required to inform their institutions of their missions via the procedures in place within their institutions.

F.R.S.-FNRS researchers are obliged to comply with the provisions governing stays abroad as defined in the regulations governing their mandate.

Article 37

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 PINT-MULTI instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

- In English : *“This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) n° [ID number] ”*,
- En Français : *« Ce travail a été réalisé avec le soutien financier du Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS via la (les) bourse(s) n° [identifiant numérique] »*.

ANNEX I : ATTACHED INSTITUTIONS

<p>Candidat-e (co-) promoteur-trice 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 (UCLouvain) Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) Université de Liège (ULiège) Université de Mons (UMons) Université de Namur (UNamur)</p>
<p>Candidat-e (co-) promoteur-trice (de régime linguistique francophone) en rattachement à l'une de ces institutions / French speaking co-promoter-applicant attached to one of these institutions</p>	<p>➤ École royale militaire (E.R.M.)</p> <p>➤ Établissements scientifiques fédéraux State Scientific Institutions</p> <p>Archives de l'État (AE) Institut d'Aéronomie spatiale de Belgique (I.A.S.) Institut royal météorologique de Belgique (I.R.M.) Institut royal du Patrimoine artistique (I.R.P.A.) Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique (I.R.S.N.B.) KBR (Bibliothèque royale de Belgique) Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale (M.R.A.C.) Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire (M.R.A.H.) Musées royaux des Beaux-arts de Belgique (M.R.B.A.B.) Observatoire royal de Belgique (O.R.B.)</p> <p>➤ Centre d'Étude de l'énergie Nucléaire (SCK-CEN)</p> <p>➤ Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques (CRA-W)</p> <p>➤ LABIRIS</p> <p>➤ Agence Jardin botanique Meise</p> <p>➤ Musée royal de Mariemont</p> <p>➤ Sciensano</p>