

## 1. SCHEDULE

**Opening of the call: THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024** on [e-space](#) for the online submission.

INSTRUMENT	INFRASTRUCTURE & LARGE EQUIPMENT CALL 2024		
	ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES <sup>1</sup> ON E-SPACE		
	MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
Infrastructure & Large Equipment <a href="#">INFRA-GEQ</a>	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October at 2 p.m.	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October at 2 p.m.

\*Please note that this is a **fixed deadline**, and the applicant will not be able to edit, save or submit the application once this deadline has passed. Please make sure that it is submitted on time.

Funding decisions will be made by the F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees in April 2025. INFRA-GEQ projects will start on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

## 2. INFRA-GEQ INSTRUMENT CHARACTERISTICS

DURATION	CHARACTERISTICS	CO-PROMOTER PARTICIPATION?
3 or 6 years	The INFRA-GEQ is a single or multi-university programme	<b>Yes</b>

An INFRA-GEQ application allows you to apply for funding for the acquisition of large-scale specialised equipment, the setting up of research infrastructures and the upgrading of existing facilities.

It allows researchers to apply for funding of between €300,000 and €800,000 maximum, to be spread over a period of 3 or 6 years, to cover capital expenditure as well as certain staff and operating costs.

## 3. SPECIFIC REMARKS

### 3.1 Pre-approval

All applications must be pre-approved by the rectoral authorities of the university to which the main promoter-applicant is attached, based on feasibility criteria (financial, human, and technical) and redundancy (existence of equipment or infrastructure that is already available).

The research administrations are responsible for this procedure within each university.

No document or procedure is required from the F.R.S.-FNRS. Validation by the rectoral authorities will serve as proof of eligibility for the F.R.S.-FNRS.

<sup>1</sup> All times are Brussels local time.

### 3.2 Research infrastructure

A research infrastructure is a specialised facility that provides resources and services to the scientific community to enable cutting-edge scientific and technological research to be conducted in various fields.

The facility is open to external users on the basis of a long-term access, organisation and management policy.

This refers to a whole range of facilities such as instrument platforms (e.g., analysis, imaging and sequencing platforms, observatories, etc.), large-scale equipment (e.g., MRI, mass spectrometer, electron microscope, etc.), collections or archives (e.g., collection of botanical specimens, biobank for biological material, archive of ancient texts, etc.), IT facilities (e.g., intensive computing cluster, etc.) or longitudinal surveys.

A precise definition is available in Appendix 1 of the Rules and Regulations.

### 3.3 Personnel cost

Only the following categories are eligible:

- **Technician:** for technical staff with a bachelor's degree who carry out operational and maintenance tasks.
- **Non-doctoral Researcher:** for all staff at master's level who are not carrying on a personal research work leading to a Ph.D. during the working hours devoted to this function.
- **Research Logistician:** provides scientific and technical support in the planning, supervision and operational management of the infrastructure and its activities, particularly in regard to the use and maintenance of state-of-the-art equipment.

For information on hiring this type of staff, contact the relevant departments at the institution.

### 3.4 Operating costs

The operating costs requested must relate to setting up, running, maintaining, or upgrading the facility and its activities.

Only the following operating costs are eligible:

- Consumables and other laboratory products or supplies
- Small items of equipment (< €30,000)
- Maintenance
- Rental or leasing
- Other costs related to the nature of the infrastructure's activities
  - Compensation for participants in a longitudinal survey
  - ...
- Consultancy for expertise relating to equipment or infrastructure
- Mobility costs only for consultancy, formation, exchange of expertise, or collection of resources (specimens, archives, samples, etc.)
- Training to develop relevant skills and expertise
- Software
- Office equipment and other support equipment for carrying out activities
  - Desktop or laptop computer for office use
  - Tablet
  - Recorder
  - ...
- Temporary work or student jobs for occasional support tasks
  - Encoding
  - ...
- General services
  - Translation and interpreting
  - Secretarial and logistical coordination
  - IT development
  - Shipping, handling, and other transport costs
- Internal services
- Services provided by a CHU partner
- Sub-contracting
  - Construction of an experimental prototype
  - Conducting interviews

- Taking samples
- ...

## 4. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice of writing their proposal either in French or in English. For some fields, using English can broaden the number of experts likely to take part in the evaluations.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the instructions given for each part of the proposal** (number of pages allowed for the documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and reminds that the Scientific Commissions have the final say in the assessment of the application file.

**NOTICE: no further change or modification** to the proposal can be made after the validation deadline set for the main promoter.

The application file contains the main sections described in the table hereafter:

<p><b>FORM</b></p> <p><b>FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References of the application (<i>for the funded proposals, these data are released and made public on the <a href="#">F.R.S.-FNRS website</a></i>).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Title</b>, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and,</li> <li>- <b>Abstract</b>, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Selection of descriptors fields</li> <li>Bibliometric indicators</li> <li>Scientific curriculum vitae (max. 5 pages) + Publications list<sup>2</sup> of each promoter/co-promoter</li> <li>Scientific section (see template)</li> <li>Work plan (see template)</li> <li>Ethical aspects</li> </ol> <p><b>BUDGET</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description and justification of the resources requested: operating, equipment and personnel</li> <li>Price offers</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCIENTIFIC SECTION AND WORK PLAN - PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE</b></p> <p>➤ <a href="#">Template Scientific section</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thematic research justifying the proposal</li> <li>Information about the main promoter (expertise, most significant publications, main research achievements, team composition)</li> <li>Information about the co-promoters (expertise...)</li> </ol> <p>➤ <a href="#">Template Work plan</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific and technical relevance</li> <li>Human and material management</li> <li>Access, sharing and use policy</li> <li>Financial plan</li> <li>Governance plan</li> <li>Additional information</li> </ol>

<sup>2</sup> Promoters who have been working for 2 years at least in institutions of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an institutional repository (IR) must submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format.

## 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA – EVALUATION REPORT

The applicant is free to read the [Evaluation Guide](#) intended for experts in order to have a better understanding of the proposal's evaluation.

Criteria that will be taken into account for the evaluation of INFRA-GEQ applications are the following:

CRITERIA
<b>Qualities of the (co-)promoters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ CV and publications</li><li>➤ International recognition</li><li>➤ Main research achievements</li></ul>
<b>Qualities of the research programmes related to the application:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Feasibility</li><li>➤ Methodology and relevance</li><li>➤ Originality</li><li>➤ Collaborations</li></ul>
<b>Relevance of the equipment/quality of the infrastructure project:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Match between the project and the needs of the scientific community</li><li>➤ Capacity for implementation in terms of available expertise and resources</li><li>➤ Relevance in terms of access, sharing and use</li><li>➤ Relevance of other resources requested (personnel, operating)</li><li>➤ Financial and organisational soundness of the project</li></ul>

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/EN/REGLEMENTS-GUIDES](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/reglements-guides) AND [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/EN/CHARTE-VIE-PRIVEE](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/charte-vie-privee)

QUESTIONS: [credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be)