

RULES AND REGULATIONS
« WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME » 2023

ADOPTED BY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FRFS
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CHAPTER I: SCOPE

Article 1

The Fund for Strategic Fundamental Research (FRFS) is an Associated Fund of the F.R.S.-FNRS. Its purpose, within the framework of a mission assigned by the Walloon region, is to fund fundamental research of excellence in strategic axes through carried out by Principal Investigators within the universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

The WEL Research Institute is an inter-university research institute whose mission is to support excellence in strategic fundamental research within its departments, with a view to translate disruptive innovations into a societal impact in the fields of health and sustainable transition.

The WELBIO (Walloon Excellence in Life Sciences and Biotechnology) funding instrument corresponds to a strategic axis of the FRFS and a department of the WEL Research Institute. It supports strategic fundamental research of excellence in the life sciences, with a view to translate discoveries into industrial applications in all fields of medical, pharmaceutical and veterinary biotechnology. Through this funding instrument, Wallonia grants significant resources over several years to WELBIO Investigators within the WEL Research Institute to develop ambitious research programs and achieve major scientific breakthroughs. These programmes constitute a pillar of the Investigators' laboratory and are flexible so the research scope can be adapted over time as needed. Investigators within the WEL Research Institute must demonstrate a combination of scientific excellence, an awareness of unmet medical and technological needs in their field, and a willingness to seek application opportunities for their discoveries.

The Rules and Regulations hereinafter shall apply exclusively to applications submitted under the call WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME 2023, via the instruments referred to in article 2, which funds research programmes led by team leaders, also designated as principal investigator (PI).

Article 2

In the present FRFS-WELBIO call, applications can be received through 2 instruments:

- Starting,
- Advanced.

The FRFS-WELBIO research programme spans a 4-year period. It is renewable every 4 years based on positive evaluation by the Scientific Commission. Each 4-year programme is divided in two 2-year funding periods. At the end of the first two years, administrative reconduction for the second funding period is conducted within the limits of the financial resources available to the FRFS for the WELBIO strategic axis and in the absence of serious ethical or productivity issues (article 34).

Article 3

The research programme must be conducted within a university from the French-speaking Community of Belgium which have signed a collaboration agreement with the FRFS, the WEL Research Institute and the university to which the PI is related.

Article 4

The PI is the responsible person for the scientific and administrative management of the funded research programme.

The PI is also an Investigator of the WEL Research Institute, based on the collaboration agreement mentioned at article 3.

CHAPTER II: CANDIDACY

II- A.: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE PI

Article 5

The F.R.S.-FNRS ensures that the eligibility criteria are met.

The PI applicant should be:

- Either a Research Associate, a Senior Research Associate or a Research Director of the F.R.S.-FNRS and assuming the function and duties of such position by the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) to validate the application,
- Or a researcher-promoter of an ongoing Ulysse Incentive Grant for Mobility in Scientific Research (MISU) who genuinely carries out the fellowship by the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) to validate the application,
- Or a researcher appointed in a university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB) listed in [Appendix 1](#) and meet the following conditions altogether:
 - To be permanently appointed to an academic or scientific position or on probation in that university.
 - 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 by the time of the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) at the latest.
 - This academic or scientific position must be effective by the starting date of the programme, that is 1st of June 2024 at the latest.

If the applicant accesses pension / professor emeritus status after the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors), but before the end of the projected funding period, the submission of the application shall be subject to the prior approval by the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

The applicant who accesses pension / professor emeritus status prior to the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) is not eligible¹.

Article 6

The applicant to the Starting instrument must be, by the validation deadline of his/her application by the academic authorities (rectors), holder of the academic degree of doctor, obtained after defense of a thesis and delivered by an academic institution, for a maximum of 12 years. The applicant must demonstrate scientific autonomy within the laboratory in which he/she evolves (the candidate has e.g. :

¹ This ineligibility criterion does not apply to PI applicants submitting an administrative reconduction after the first 2-year funding period (article 10 of this Regulation).

publications as last author, publications independent from his/her usual environment,). The maximum period of 12 years is increased by one year by childbirth and/or adoption.

This article does not apply to applicants who have been awarded a Starting or Continuation Starting Grant in a previous FRFS-WELBIO call, regardless of their seniority.

Article 7

The instrument Advanced is open to the following researchers:

- Experienced with a seniority of more than 12 years ;
And/or
- Who have been awarded a Starting or Continuation Starting Grant in a previous FRFS-WELBIO call, regardless of their seniority.

Applicants who were funded under the FRFS-WELBIO 2019 call, and who meet the eligibility criteria set out in article 5 of this regulation, must indicate the type of the instrument obtained in the 2019 call: Advanced or Continuation Advanced Grant; Starting or Continuation Starting Grant.

II- B.: CUMULATION RULE

Article 8

The PI applicant may only submit a single application:

- Through the Starting instrument;
- Through the Advanced instrument.

The FRFS-WELBIO programmes cannot be cumulated: a PI who obtained funding under the WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME 2021 call cannot submit a new application under the present call.

II- C.: APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Article 9

The FRFS-WELBIO call is launched following decision by the FRFS Board of Trustees, after receiving the proposals from WEL Research Institute.

The opening of this call is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/> and on the WEL Research Institute website <https://welri.org/>.

Applications must be submitted in English and online via the e-space platform at <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be/>.

The PI indicates in the application, with support from the TTO (Technology Transfer Office) of his/her university if needed:

- If there are existing industrial contracts (licence, collaboration, spin-off, other) ;
- The potential link with the proposed research programme;
- The potential constraint on the freedom to use any future intellectual property that could be generated by the proposed Investigator Programme (joint IP, right of first refusal, other)

Completion of the application process requires two successive electronic validation steps by the deadlines indicated in the mini-guide:

- a. The validation by the PI applicant, accountable to the budget administration: this serves as a confirmation that the application file is complete.
- b. The validation by the academic authorities (rectors) of the academic institution to which the PI applicant is related and to which the application file is transferred once the PI applicant has given her/his confirmation. This authority may accept or decline the application and confirms all the information provided in the application for funding. This includes, with the advice of the TTO if applicable, the information related to valorisation and the potential impact of industrial contracts that would be in place (licence, collaboration, spin-off, other) on the freedom of valorisation of the future intellectual property that could be generated by the proposed Investigator Programme. The validation deadline fixed for the rectors puts a final end to the call for projects.

Applications that have not been validated within the time-frame of the call for projects will not be taken into consideration.

A mini-guide specifies the various deadlines.

II- D.: ADMINISTRATIVE RECONDUCTION AFTER THE FIRST 2 YEARS OF THE PROGRAMME

Article 10

The PI who is completing the first 2-year funding period of his/her four-year programme may submit an application for administrative reconduction for the second 2-year period. This application includes the updated budget for years 3 and 4, within the limits of the FRFS' financial resources for the WELBIO strategic axis.

The total budget for years 3 and 4 is limited to the total granted for years 1 and 2.

The administrative reconduction application must be submitted in English and online on the e-space platform accessible at <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be/>. Completion of the application process also involves two successive electronic validation steps as described at article 9.

II- E.: RENEWAL OF THE WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME

Article 11

The PI whose four-year programme is nearing the end of the reconduction research agreement (years 3 and 4) and who meets the eligibility criteria, may apply for a renewal of their programme by applying to the next call.

Article 12

The renewal of the Investigator Programme is subject to the rules of the relevant call.

Article 13

If an Investigator Programme is not renewed at the end of its 4-year period, a phasing out period is proposed to the PI. This consists of a maximum 6-month extension of the research agreement for years 3 and 4, with no additional budget, to be determined with the PI on a case-by-case basis.

CHAPTER III: INSTRUMENTS

Article 14

The start and end dates of the Starting and Advanced instruments are indicated in the mini-guide.

Article 15

An application via the Starting instrument enables to apply for funding of a maximum of € 200k per year.

An application via the Advanced instrument enables to apply for funding of a maximum of € 350k per year.

Article 16

The eligible costs that can be requested through the Starting or Advanced instruments are of 3 types:

- Personnel
- Operating
- Equipment

Article 17

Categories related to the personnel² are detailed in the table below:

Categories	Activity	
	Part time	Full time
Doctoral Researcher – Grant ³ or Salary	x ³	x
Postdoctoral Researcher ⁴	x	x
Non-doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Technician - Salary	x	x

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, conduct any personal research work contributing to a Ph.D. degree during the working hours devoted to this function.

The host university shall determine the appropriate scheme (grant or salary) for the personnel listed in the proposed budget.

For the research agreement covering years 1 and 2 of the research program, a deferral of the employment of staff planned but not effective at the start date of the agreement is allowed. This deferral, equivalent to

² *For all personnel, the promoter shall contact the relevant department of their host institution to determine their status and obtain an estimate of the total personnel costs involved based on the scientific seniority.*

Total personnel costs cannot be changed after application submission. However, if funding is granted, these may be adjusted if necessary in accordance with Article 23 of this Regulation.

³ *In case of a grant, the Doctoral Researcher must only be hired on a full-time basis.*

⁴ *The promoter shall contact the relevant department of their host institution in order to determine the Postdoctoral Researcher's status (Mobility situation, grant, employee...) and the work time.*

the duration of the employment lost, may not exceed the end date of the agreement by more than 6 months. The duration of the employment initially granted may not be exceeded. The staff concerned will be dedicated to the FRFS-WELBIO program for the duration of their employment.

The duration of the staff employment requested must be for **at least one month** and may not exceed the maximal duration of the funding application, except in the case of a deferral of the hiring of staff as stipulated above. The identity of the personnel is not requested at the time of application, but the personnel category must be specified (see above). Curricula vitae of staff are not communicated to the members of the Scientific Commission.

Article 18

The eligible operating expenses are the following:

- Consumables
- Costs for small scientific and technical equipment
- Costs for equipment⁵ maintenance and insurance
- Internal services
- Costs related to services by a university hospital eligible for VAT exemption
- Trainings
- Missions⁶
- Publications
- Overhead costs equals to 15% of the personnel costs and of the operating costs (except subcontracting costs and costs related to services by a university hospital eligible for VAT exemption)
- Subcontracting
- Software

Regarding services provided by a university clinic eligible for VAT exemption :

University hospitals, clinics or hospital departments, hereafter referred to as "CHU", provide specific services to university researchers to carry out projects funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its associated funds such as the FRFS.

To best use the funds allocated to scientific research, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables researchers to include, as research partners, the CHU actively participating in the research project provided that these partner institutions are considered as entities affiliated with the host university receiving the funding requested.

In this respect, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables the university to declare the costs strictly generated by the CHU to carry out the funded project. The university is responsible for the CHU's compliance to regulations applying to beneficiaries of F.R.S.-FNRS funding, as well as to relevant tax regulations.

To proceed, the researcher must imperatively detail in their application form:

- the tasks and work packages undertaken by the CHU (in the template),
- the budget required to conduct these tasks (under "Budget").

⁵ Only equipment acquired with FRFS-WELBIO funding

⁶ Missions carried out for research purposes by research staff having their remuneration partially or fully or not included in eligible expenses.

The researcher shall contact the relevant departments of their host university regarding the legal and financial regulations pertaining to this measure.

Please note: Are eligible only the hospitals, clinics or hospital departments affiliated with a university and listed in this Appendix. Article 19

The eligible expenses for equipment are the following:

- Acquisition cost of cutting-edge scientific equipment essential for scientific research
- Depreciation costs of scientific and technical equipment essential for scientific research

Article 20

Team's staff, other than those whose remuneration is included in the proposed budget, may include:

- members of the teaching, scientific, administrative or technical staff pertaining to a university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium,
- members who benefit from a grant allocated by a Belgian or a foreign body promoting research.

No compensation can be granted to the PI or to the above-mentioned staff.

CHAPTER IV: APPLICATIONS EXAMINATION

Article 21

Evaluation procedure of the FRFS-WELBIO is detailed in [Appendix 2](#).

CHAPTER V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

The funding granted is the subject of a research agreement concluded for a period of 2 years. This agreement may be subject to an administrative reconduction of 2 additional years in accordance with article 10 of this Regulation.

This agreement is signed by the following parties:

- **The principal investigator (PI)** commits to initiate and/or continue the subsidised research described in his/her programme;
- **The FRFS** commits to allocating grants covering the personnel costs, the operating and equipment costs, each year covered by the agreement;
- **The WEL Research Institute** ensures full compliance with the valorisation provisions mentioned in the research agreement;
- **The host institution** provides the necessary logistics but makes no commitment to take on this financial charge at the end of the research agreement.

The agreement provides unilateral termination clauses, which must be accompanied by notice clauses.

Article 23

Grants allocated to the PI may cover personnel, operating and equipment costs. Each of these sections may include subsections.

Transfers between subsections of the same section are unrestricted. However, prior written approval of the FRFS is required for transfers between sections.

Article 24

If the IP is authorised to recruit scientific and technical staff under his/her research agreement, these commitments may not exceed the duration of the agreement except in the case of a deferral of the appointment of staff as provided for in article 17. Such appointments shall be made in accordance with the salary scales and regulations in force within the host institution.

Article 25

The financial participation of the FRFS is limited to the total amount mentioned in the research agreement.

Article 26

The grants may be carried over to the fiscal year following the one for which they are awarded. Amounts not used at the end of the research agreement revert to the FRFS for the WELBIO strategic axis.

Article 27

At the end of the research agreement, after receipt of the supporting documents, the FRFS establishes a final account and proposes the decommitment of any unused budget.

The PI is always notified of this operation and should react as soon as possible if he/she wishes to make any changes to the final account.

Article 28

The grants made available to the PI are managed by the financial department of the institution to which they are attached.

The financial department of the institution is requested to forward the supporting documents to the FRFS as soon as possible. The deadline for the transmission of supporting documents is determined in accordance with the provisions of the research agreement.

CHAPTER VI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 29

Any device acquired with a credit from the FRFS for the WELBIO instrument becomes the property of the host institution, to which the credit recipient is attached.

The purchase of any device 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 device at the disposal of the researchers involved for the time needed in order to pursue the research which led to its purchase in the first place. In addition, the host institution commits not to alienating or lending the equipment without the prior written approval of the FRFS-.

In the event that the device was purchased with the provision of an additional funding, the Board of Trustees of the FRFS will settle the ownership issue with the competent authorities.

Article 30

Given that grants are exclusively allocated for the execution of a research programme approved by the FRFS-WELBIO, PIs are required to use them solely for that purpose. Grants or any remaining budget will be recovered by the FRFS for the WELBIO strategic axis as soon as their use ceases to satisfy this obligation.

CHAPTER VII: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PI

Article 31

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

Article 32

PIs must submit to the rules imposed by the academic authority of the host institution where they work and observe its regulations. Regarding the FRFS-WELBIO funding, PIs must also adhere to the [collaboration agreement](#) between the FRFS, the WEL Research Institute and their host university.

Article 33

Throughout the duration of the research programme approved by the FRFS, the PI is forbidden to pursue any research for third parties on the subject of the research programme unless prior written approval from the FRFS is obtained.

Article 34

The PI is required to submit annual administrative reports to the FRFS by the date specified in the research agreement.

The FRFS and the WEL Research Institute reserve the right to terminate the programme, at the time of administrative reconduction or at any other time, if ethical or productivity shortcomings are noted. In the event of a serious breach noticed by the WEL Research Institute or the FRFS, they shall inform each other. The WEL Research Institute may then refer the matter to the Scientific Commission for advice before informing the boards of trustees of the WEL Research Institute and FRFS. A PI's research programme can only be terminated after approval by both the WEL Research Institute and FRFS boards.

Article 35

PIs are Investigators of the WEL Research Institute and members of the university and are required to mention their double affiliation in each of their publications or communications as follows:

**University name, University address, Belgium*

**WEL Research Institute, avenue Pasteur, 6, 1300 Wavre, Belgium*

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 through an instrument of the call FRFS-WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS for the FRFS-WELBIO, with the support of the Walloon region, under Grant(s) n° (agreement number).

The PI guarantees the possibility of publishing their results to the researchers involved in his/her Investigator Programme.

CHAPTER VIII: RESULTS VALORISATION

Article 36

WEL Research Institute ensures, with the help of experts, the monitoring of research progresses, the respect of confidentiality, the detection of results with a valorisation potential, and the respect of the publication constraints necessary for the protection of intellectual property resulting from the Investigator programme.

Article 37

The intellectual property of the results obtained within the framework of the research agreement is the exclusive property of the university of the French-Speaking Community of Belgium in which the research was carried out.

Article 38

The valorisation of intellectual property is the responsibility of the WEL Research Institute, which carries out this mission within the framework of a valorisation committee, comprising the university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium, represented by a representative from the university's Technology Transfer Office, the PI and a representative of the WEL Research Institute.

The valorisation Committee can invite external people, subject to signature of a confidentiality agreement.

APPENDIX 1: HOST INSTITUTIONS GIVING ACCESS TO A FRFS-WELBIO FUNDING

Investigateur principal (PI)	<p>➤ Universités de la Communauté française de Belgique (CFB) <i>Universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB)</i></p> <p>Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain)</p> <p>Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)</p> <p>Université de Liège (ULiège)</p> <p>Université de Mons (UMons)</p> <p>Université de Namur (UNamur)</p>
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APPENDIX 2: EVALUATION PROCEDURE OF THE WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME

1. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

The evaluation and selection process is done in several steps and is the responsibility of the Scientific Commission. These steps lead to a priority ranking which is transmitted to the Boards of Trustees of the FRFS and the WEL Research Institute. The Board of Trustees of the FRFS decides on the allocation of funding based on the proposals of the Governing Board of the WEL Research Institute.

The Scientific Commission is composed of 14 to 17 members, including:

- 7 to 9 internationally recognized scientific experts in the fields of life sciences and located outside Belgium or at least outside of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation;
- 2 or 3 experts in the valorisation of scientific results (e.g. KTO, industrialists, ...) competent in the theme and located outside Belgium or at least outside the Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- 5 members from the universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium. These members have a purely consultative role; they cannot vote and act as rapporteurs.

The composition of the Scientific Commission is proposed to the Board of Trustees of the FRFS by the Board of Directors of the WEL Research Institute and by the Support Committee of the F.R.S.-FNRS competent in the topic and extended to include members of the WEL Research Institute Scientific Council competent in the topic. The composition of the Scientific Commission is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/> and the WEL Research Institute website <https://welri.org/>.

2. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria are:

- the quality of the applicant;
- the quality of the programme;
- the focus on valorisation.

For researchers who received funding in the FRFS-WELBIO 2019 call:

- scientific results obtained;
- valorisation actions undertaken.

These criteria are detailed in the table at the end of Appendix 2.

3. PROPOSALS EVALUATION

3.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The principle of a two-step procedure has been adopted: individual evaluations by experts of the first step, followed by a consolidation within the Scientific Commission to draw up the final ranking.

During the first step, the proposals are reviewed by several experts. Each expert works individually and remotely through e-space and evaluates the proposal according to the evaluation criteria detailed in the table at the bottom of the Appendix 2.

An expert may be asked to evaluate several proposals, but is not asked to rank them, as each proposal should be evaluated independently. A marking grid of the proposals is provided in section 3.3, with the intention to standardise the grading system.

The names of the experts linked to a proposal remain undisclosed.

3.2 EXPERTS APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The FRFS shall send a letter of appointment to each selected expert, whether they are an individual reviewer or a member of a Scientific Commission. This letter constitutes an agreement between the FRFS and the expert, specifying the precise terms and conditions for the expert: it imposes respect of a code of conduct and lays down essential regulations in terms of confidentiality. It includes the description of tasks s/he is entrusted with, as well as the conditions of allowance or payment and reimbursement of expenses.

Upon information provided by the experts, the FRFS has put in place a mechanism that ensures they do not face any conflict of interest regarding the proposals they are invited to evaluate. To that end, experts must sign a declaration stating that there is no conflict of interest at the time of the appointment and that they commit to informing the FRFS in case where such a conflict would arise during the fulfilment of their tasks.

3.3 PROPOSALS GRADING SYSTEM

The experts (both individual experts and members of the Scientific Commissions) examine the proposals for each evaluation criterion and give them an overall rating according to the following scale:

Category	Grade	
A	A+	outstanding
	A	excellent
	A-	very good
B	B+	good
	B	average
	B-	weak
C	C	insufficient

3.4 STEP 1 - INDIVIDUAL EVALUATIONS

Experts selection

- Potential experts registered on e-space are identified according to their field of expertise, based on the descriptor fields selected that they may, if necessary, complete with unrestricted keywords and on the programme.
- The applicant indicates up to 5 experts he/she does not wish to have as reviewer for reasons of a potential conflict of interest.

- For each proposal, the potential experts confirm whether or not they are competent to assess the programme based on the title and on the summary of the programme. They also confirm that they do not face a potential conflict of interest with regards to the evaluation of the given proposal.
- The President of the Scientific Commission validates step 1 experts assignment performed by the F.R.S.-FNRS administration for the FRFS.

Individual evaluation procedure

- The programmes are assessed by at least 2 scientific experts.
- The experts of a given proposal work individually, drawing up an evaluation report for that proposal using the electronic form provided.
- The individual evaluation report of the expert cannot be subsequently changed.

3.5 STEP 2 – CONSOLIDATION WITHIN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

The Starting candidates are pre-selected by the Scientific Commission for an interview.

To carry out the pre-selection, the Scientific Commission takes into consideration the evaluation criteria specified in point 2 of the present Appendix and on the individual evaluations received from remote experts (step 1 of the evaluation process).

The dates reserved for the interviews are listed in the mini-guide. The exact date and time and the practical modalities of the interview will be communicated to the PIs in due course. It is the responsibility of the candidates in the Starting category to be available on these dates, no exceptions will be made.

Advanced candidates are evaluated on the basis of their application and on the individual evaluations of the first-step experts in accordance with the criteria mentioned in point 2 of the present Appendix.

Role of the Rapporteurs and the co-rapporteurs

The proposals are assigned to a single “rapporteur” who is assisted by a “co-rapporteur” and, possibly by readers, for the task.

- The rapporteur shall prepare the work and the debates of the Scientific Commission, through the elaboration of a consolidated evaluation draft report, based on individual evaluations. The draft report will afterwards be reviewed by the Scientific Commission.
- Co-rapporteurs and readers (if any) are not required to draw up any evaluation report but will be invited to express his/her opinion during the meeting of the Scientific Commission to bring a complementary perspective or a different point of view.

Responsability of the Scientific Commission

- The Scientific Commission shall establish for each instrument (Starting and Advanced) a consolidated ranking of the proposals and budget recommendations and shall submit this ranking to the Governing Board of the WEL Research Institute and the Board of Trustees of the FRFS.
- The Scientific Commission is responsible for the final evaluation report which will be sent to the applicant.

4. NOTIFICATION OF THE FUNDING DECISION

The funding decision (granting or rejection) is within the competence of the Board of Trustees of the FRFS based on the proposals of the Governing Board of the WEL Research Institute.

The funding decision and budget granted are notified in writing to the applicant by the F.R.S.-FNRS Secretary-General and the General Manager of the WEL Research Institute.

The administrative staff of the F.R.S.-FNRS shall communicate to the applicants:

- the final evaluation report by the Scientific Commission and,
- the evaluation reports by the first-step individual experts on an anonymous basis.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME CALL

QUALITY OF THE APPLICANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adequacy between the level of education and experience of the applicant to carry out the programme proposed. ➤ International visibility/recognition. ➤ Productivity: number and quality of the publications considering the size of the team and the grants already obtained. ➤ For Starting researchers holding a Ph.D. for 12 years maximum: scientific independence of the applicant. ➤ Other...
QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the programme address an important issue? ➤ Scientific originality: Does the project include new concepts or approaches? Are the objectives original and innovative? Does the project question established paradigms? ➤ Technical originality, use of new technologies. ➤ Questions to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the programme properly planned? • Is the programme feasible? • Is the programme based on a hypothesis? • Is the experimental approach appropriate? • Are the preliminary results on which the programme is based quality results? • Is the presentation clear? • If a "screening" approach is used, are the organisation and the analysis of the results explained? ➤ Adequacy between the proposed budget and the objectives of the programme. ➤ Other...
FOCUS ON VALORISATION AND RELEVANCE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WELBIO STRATEGIC AXIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Knowledge of unmet medical and/or technological needs in the field of the proposed research programme, as well as application opportunities. ➤ Attention to the protection of intellectual property ➤ Considerations of the PI on the technology transfer potential. ➤ Experience of the PI in valorisation (optional for Starting applicants). ➤ If industrial and/or MTA contracts have been put in place, what is the impact on the freedom to use the future intellectual property that could be generated by the laboratory?
For researchers who already have benefited from a funding during the FRFS-WELBIO 2019 call :	
SCIENTIFIC RESULTS ACHIEVED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do the publications over the last 5 years meet expectations?
CONCRETE ACTIONS CARRIED OUT FOR A POTENTIAL VALORISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have any concrete actions been taken to explore opportunities for application and/or to implement valorisation of results?

EVALUATION CRITERIA
WELBIO INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMME CALL

**OF THE RESULTS OF THE
PREVIOUS WELBIO
PROGRAMME**

- Are the actions taken towards the valorisation of intellectual property convincing?

ANNEXE 3 : LISTE F.R.S.-FNRS DES HÔPITAUX ET SERVICES HOSPITALIERS UNIVERSITAIRES / F.R.S.-FNRS LIST OF THE HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S DEPARTMENTS

<p><u>Hôpitaux et services hospitaliers universitaires rattachés à l'UCLouvain</u> / <i>UCLouvain Hospitals and University hospital's departments</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CLINIQUES UNIVERSITAIRES SAINT-LUC ➤ CLINIQUES UNIVERSITAIRES MONT-GODINNE
<p><u>Hôpitaux et services hospitaliers universitaires rattachés à l'ULB</u> / <i>ULB Hospitals and University hospital's departments</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 :

- Service de diagnostic et traitement chirurgical comprenant :
 - Service de chirurgie digestive
 - Service d'orthopédie
 - Service de chirurgie vasculaire et thoracique
 - Clinique de chirurgie réparatrice
 - Service d'urologie
 - Service de stomatologie et chirurgie maxillo-faciale
 - Service d'ORL
 - Service d'ophtalmologie
- Service de diagnostic et de traitement médical comprenant :
 - Service des soins intensifs
 - Service de pneumologie
 - Service de gastro-entérologie
 - Service de neurologie
 - Service d'hématologie-oncologie
 - Service d'endocrinologie
 - Service de médecine physique
 - Service de révalidation cardio-pneumo
 - Service de dermatologie
- Programme de soins « patient gériatrique » comprenant :
 - Service de gériatrie
 - Service de psycho-gériatrie
- Service des maladies contagieuses
- Service des maladies infantiles comprenant :
 - Service de pédiatrie
 - Service de néonatalogie
 - Service de pédo-psychiatrie
- Service d'anesthésiologie-réanimation
- Service des urgences
- Service de gynécologie-obstétrique comprenant :
 - Service de gynécologie
 - Service d'obstétrique
 - Clinique de sénologie
- Service « pathologies cardiaques » comprenant :
 - Service de cardiologie
 - Service de chirurgie cardiaque
 - Service de révalidation cardia-pneumo
- Laboratoire de biologie clinique LHUB

**Hôpitaux et services
hospitaliers universitaires
rattachés à l'ULiège /**

*ULiège Hospitals and
University hospital's
departments*

➤ CHU LIÈGE

➤ C.H.R. DE LA CITADELLE

- 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

- Service de gynécologie-sénologie-obstétrique