

Wallonie - Bruxelles International.be

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

IN WBI Excellence Grant Programme

Short-term scholarships (1 to 3 months)

Long-term scholarships (1 to 2 years)

Presentation of the programme

In a context of increased mobility and globalisation, this scholarship programme was set up by Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI).

In support of the competitiveness clusters determined by the [Marshall Plan 4.0](#) initiated by Wallonia, it allows the reception of researchers from foreign countries wishing to carry out a postdoctoral programme within higher-education institutions that are organised or subsidised by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.

Applicants who are interested and who meet the eligibility criteria detailed below are invited to fill in the application form attached to this call for applications.

Programme manager

Joëlle PORSON

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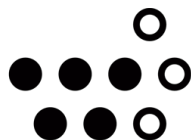
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IN WBI Excellence Scholarship Programme

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FILE

- The form must be typed and sent in one single PDF file (maximum 10 MB) by email;
- No wordcount is imposed for the writing of your file;
- Files that are incomplete, submitted after deadline or those not meeting eligibility criteria will be considered inadmissible.

1. Profile

Researchers from foreign countries wishing to carry out a postdoctoral programme in higher education institutions organised or subsidised by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.

It should be noted that you are allowed to submit a file even if you are in an active term and the doctorate certification is not yet in your possession. In this case, it will be necessary to send proof of achievement well in advance.

2. Areas

In order to support the various competitiveness clusters of the Marshall Plan 4.0, the following are the focus areas:

- Transport and logistics;
- Mechanical engineering;
- Life sciences;
- Agriculture-industry;
- Aero-space;
- Environmental technologies.

All other fields will be taken into account, whether in the human sciences, fundamental or applied.

What are the Walloon competitiveness clusters?

The Competitiveness Clusters, which bring together companies around a promising economic sector (see above), constitute a major economic asset for the development of Wallonia. This is made concrete by the creation of synergies around an innovative economic project stimulated by companies, training or research-innovation centres.

If the research theme is similar to one of the above, WBI will forward the file to the Clusters for their opinion.

We urge you to visit www.poles.be to find out about the activity of each cluster and to check if your research project could be in line with one of them.

3. Countries involved

Any foreign country.

4. Types of programme

- **Long-term** scholarships (minimum 1 year, renewable once) at postdoctoral level;
- **Short-term** scholarships (1 to 3 months, non-renewable) at postdoctoral level.

5. Application deadlines

- **For long-term scholarships:**

No later than the **1st of March** preceding the academic year during which the stay is requested.

- **For short-term scholarships:**

- for stays starting between February and May: no later than the preceding **1st of October**
- for stays starting between June and September: no later than the preceding **1st of February**
- for stays starting between October and January: no later than the preceding **1st of May**

6. To be included in the file

Application form (duly completed and signed in the required places), followed by the following appendices:

- **Appendix 1:** Letter of invitation or agreement from the host university or from the professor(s) supervising the research. It should be noted that researching a host university is a process that is your responsibility and WBI does not intervene in this process;
- **Appendix 2:** Copy of diplomas (bachelor, 120 credits master and doctorate). If the application is submitted while the doctoral degree is not yet in your possession, you will need to send proof of achievement well in advance;
- **Appendix 3:** Curriculum Vitae in Europass format (template on pages 11, 12 and 13);
- **Appendix 4:** Declaration of additional funding (template on page 14);
- **Appendix 5:** Any other documents;
- **Appendix 6:** Minimum 2 letters of recommendation (template on page 15) prepared by the faculty of an academic institution able to judge the scientific quality of your work. These must be sent by e-mail directly to WBI to the address j.porson@wbi.be and cannot be sent to you.

7. Submitting applications

The file should be sent by e-mail to j.porson@wbi.be.

Important notes:

- The form must be typed and sent in one single PDF file (maximum 10 MB);
- No wordcount is imposed for the writing of your file;
- Files that are incomplete, submitted after deadline or those not meeting eligibility criteria will be considered inadmissible.

8. Selection

WBI selects candidates in collaboration with all the scientific, academic and institutional partners involved in the programme.

The jury is composed of members:

- from the National Fund for Scientific Research - FRS-FNRS;
- from the Directorate-General for “Economic Affairs, Employment and Research” of the Walloon Public Service (DG 06);
- from WBI.

These base their decision on, but are not limited to, the following criteria when making their selection:

- Area related to the Marshall Plan 4.0 competitiveness clusters;
- Letters of recommendation attached to the form;
- Academic references;
- Interest in the field of research for our universities, research centres;
- Scientific publications;
- Professional career;
- ...

These criteria make it possible to set out classifications in three A-B-C categories. Only those applications which have been graded A by at least one of the members of the jury will be selectable. It should be noted that sub-categories (A- and A+) are part of category A.

In principle, the decision will be taken at the latest:

For long-term scholarships: no later than the 15th of July

For long-term scholarships:

- for stays starting between February and May: by the 1st of January
- for stays starting between June and September: by the 1st of May
- for stays starting between October and January: by the 1st of September

9. Financial arrangements

For long-term scholarships:

- Monthly amount 2,120 euros covering living expenses, accommodation, educational materials and travel expenses within the country;
- WBI will cover international travel costs (one round trip for the total duration of the programme);
- WBI covers "healthcare" insurance for non-EU fellows;
- WBI takes responsibility for “repatriation assistance” insurance.

For long-term scholarships:

- Monthly amount 2,120 euros covering living expenses, accommodation, educational materials and travel expenses within the country;

- WBI will cover international travel costs (one round trip for the total duration of the programme);
- WBI covers "healthcare" insurance for non-EU fellows.

10. Renewal procedure (<i>applies only to long-term scholarships</i>)
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The maximum duration of WBI funding is 2 years for a post-doctorate.

To the extent that nothing is automatically established, it will be the responsibility of the awarded fellow wishing to renew their funding to submit, every year by the **1st of May** at the latest, an application for renewal (form to be requested from your manager) to be examined by the jury.