



Wallonie - Bruxelles  
International.be

## IN WBI Excellence Scholarship Program

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Short-term scholarships (1 to 3 months)**

**Long-term scholarships (1 to 2 years)**

Last updated: June 2022

#### **Presentation of the program**

In a context of increased mobility and globalisation, this scholarship program was set up by Wallonia-Brussels 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 program within higher-education institutions that are organised or subsidised by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

#### **IMPORTANT ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FILE**

- A maximum of three applications will be allowed for each candidate;
- In the event of a new application being re-submitted, the changes made in relation to the previous application shall be justified ;
- Files that are incomplete, without signatures submitted after the deadline or not meeting eligibility criteria will be considered inadmissible.
- For long-term scholarships, each applicant will be eligible for a maximum of one scholarship (possibly with a renewal). However, a long-term and a short-term scholarship may be combined, as well as several short-term scholarships, as long as the limit of three attempts to apply is not exceeded.

Any request for information and submission of the application must be addressed to:

[bourses@wbi.be](mailto:bourses@wbi.be)

## Wallonia-Brussels International

International Scholarship Department, ~~coordination of academic and cultural liaison officers (ACLO)~~  
2, Place Saintelette - 1080 Brussels (BE)

### 1. Profile

Researchers from any country with a degree of doctor by a given foreign university wishing to carry out a postdoctoral program in higher education institutions organised or subsidised by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

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 at the latest on :

- For long-term scholarships (stay between september and august): 15<sup>th</sup> of july ;
- For short-term scholarships :
  - for stay between march and july: 1<sup>st</sup> of december
  - for stay between september and february : 1<sup>st</sup> of july.

### 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 [Les pôles de compétitivité | Fédérateur \(wallonie.be\)](https://www.wallonie.be/fr/les-poles-de-competitivite) 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 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 **1<sup>st</sup> of february (UTC/GMT +1)** preceding the academic year during which the stay is requested (with arrival between september and 1<sup>st</sup> of december at the latest for EU laureates and between November and no later than 1 December for non-EU laureates).

- **For short-term scholarships :**

- for stay between march and july : no later than the preceding **1<sup>st</sup> of october (UTC/GMT +2)**  
- for stay between september and february (arrival 1<sup>st</sup> of december at the latest): no later than the preceding **1<sup>st</sup> of avril (UTC/GMT +2)**.

## **6. Submitting applications**

The form must be typed and sent by e-mail in one single PDF file (maximum 10 MB) to bourses@wbi.be.

## **7. Selection**

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

The jury is composed of members :

- from the Fund for Scientific Research - FRS-FNRS ;
- from the Directorate-General for “Economic Affairs, Employment and Research” of the Walloon Public Service (DG06) ;
- 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 ;
- The added value of the envisaged mobility ;
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> of june.

For long-term scholarships :

- for stays starting between march and july : by the 30 of december;
- for stays starting between september and february : by the 1<sup>st</sup> of july.

## **8. Financial arrangements**

- Monthly amount 2.120 euros covering living expenses, accommodation, educational materials and travel expenses within the country. **It'snt a salary** ;

- WBI will cover international travel costs (one round trip for the total duration of the program) ;
- WBI covers "healthcare" insurance for non-EU fellows ;
- WBI takes responsibility for "repatriation assistance" insurance

#### **9. Renewal procedure (*applies only to long-term scholarships*)**

The maximum duration of WBI funding is 2 years for a post-doctorate including one renewal.

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 **1<sup>st</sup> of avril** at the latest, an application for renewal (form to be requested from your manager) to be examined by the jury.

#### **10. To be included in the file**

The application form and its appendices must be duly completed and signed in the required places.

- **Application form** ;
- **Appendix 1** : Declaration of additional funding (template on page 10) ;
- **Appendix 2** : Minimum 2 letters of reference (template on page 11) 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 and cannot be sent to you ;
- **Appendix 3** : Letter of invitation or agreement from the host institution and from the professor(s) supervising the research . Highlighting the win-win nature of the cooperation will be evaluated positively (no template) .It should be noted that researching a host university or university college is a process that is your responsibility and WBI does not intervene in this process ;
- **Appendix 4** : Copy of diplomas (bachelor, 120 credits master and doctorate).