UNIVERSITEIT
GENT

SPECIAL RESEARCH FUND

CALL 2020

COVID-19 RESEARCH PROJECT

Announcement and application information

Each year the Flemish Government allocates research funds to Ghent University so as to implement the Flemish Government's Resolution of 3 May 2019. In accordance with this resolution, Ghent University has drawn up rules and regulations regarding the funds of the Special Research Fund (BOF, Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds)[1]. Each year the Research Council invites research proposals for the different initiatives.

Call

COVID-19 research project

Starting from 15 April 2020

The deadline is

7 April 2020 at 23.59 CET

---

[1] Board of Directors,18 January 2013

Description and conditions:

This call intents to support Ghent University professors with a maximum amount of €50.000 to develop a research project for a period of 6 months that will focus on the prevention, diagnostics, treatment and/or (medical or non-medical) consequences of COVID-19 (the infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2). To be admissible within this call, it remains important that substantial and meaningful results are pursued that can really make a difference in the relatively short term. Studies that look at medical, economic and/or psychosocial consequences in the longer term are not eligible.

The total budget available for this call is €500.000.

The **call is open** to all Ghent University professors but **each promoter can submit one BOF application only**.

The project proposals can be submitted in either Dutch or English.

The proposals have to be submitted on the application forms that are available on the Ghent University website: https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/bof/covid/covid19.htm.

Deadline for submission is 7 April 2020, 23:59 CET.

Please submit your application electronically to BOFapplication@ugent.be (use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf[2]). You will receive an email confirming the receipt of the application[3].

The document has to be named as follows: "**surname promoter_name promoter_COV-aanvraag**".

It is not requested to submit a signed application on paper.

For additional information, please contact the Research Coordination Office (BOF@ugent.be)

The deadline will be strictly respected; late or incomplete applications will be rejected without review.

Evaluation

In order to evaluate the applications, each proposal will be assigned to two members of the Research Council and/or members of one of the Committees of the Research Council. The Research Coordination Office and the Bureau of the Research Council will try to match the expertise of the evaluators as closely as possible with the topic of the applications, taking into account the regulations concerning conflicts of interest.

Based on the assessment of the evaluators, the Bureau of the Research Council will make a selection of the applications and formulate an advice. The research projects are granted by the chairperson of the Research Council, based on the advice of the Bureau of the Research Council[4].

The project proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Will it likely have an impact on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19?
- Does it provide novel insights into consequences of COVID-19?
- Is it feasible within the time frame proposed and with the financial means available?
- Are the envisaged project results substantial and meaningful and can they really make a difference in a relatively short term?
- Is it innovative and scientifically sound?
- Track record of the applicants in this specific domain.

If projects are ranked ex aequo, the evaluation committees can decide not to give priority to proposals from research groups that have substantial external financial means at their disposal.

Announcement of the result

---

[2] Via File < Export < Create PDF document
[3] e-mails are not generated automatically, it is possible that there is some delay in receiving a confirmation e-mail.
[4] with authority delegated to him by the Board of Governors on 3 April 2015.

Immediately after the selection in the Research Council, a list of the selected projects is published on the website of the Special research Fund: http://www.ugent.be/nl/onderzoek/financiering/bof and successful applicants will immediately be informed by mail. Eventually all applicants will receive a letter from the chairperson of the Research Council with the result of the selection. This letter explains how promoters can ask for feedback and whom to contact.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

The application forms have to be completed in Arial pt. 10.

PART I – PROJECT DATA

1   Administrative data

1.1   Title project proposal

Short title of the project

1.2   Promoter (only one allowed)

The promoter belongs to one of the following categories:

1. a member of the tenured academic staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)
2. a visiting professor with at least a research assignment
3. senior assistant, senior lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at UGent who holds a PhD degree.

The promoter acts as the sole authorized person for the granted research budget and as spokesperson. The promoter carries the responsibility for the proper implementation of and reporting on the project.

Each promoter can submit one BOF application only. **However, a promotor can participate in multiple applications as additional researcher (see below).**

The promoter must mention his/her ORCID-ID (*publically available*). If you don't have an ORCID-ID yet: please check the following webpage for more information on ORCID-ID at Ghent university: https://www.ugent.be/orcid.

1.3   Additional researcher(s) involved in the project

Researcher within or outside the Ghent University Association who will make a contribution to the project (if applicable). This researcher supports the research project in a substantial way (by presenting methodologies, offering facilities, services in the form of subcontracting, ...).

All involved researchers must mention his/her ORCID-ID (*publically available*). If you don't have an ORCID-ID yet: please check the following webpage for more information on ORCID-ID at Ghent university: https://www.ugent.be/orcid.

1.4   Possible ethical and/or biosafety implications

Indicate whether one's project proposal may possibly have ethical and/or bio-safety implications. More in particular, the promoter needs to indicate whether:

- the research will involve experiments on human beings?
- the research will involve experiments on vertebrates?
- personal data will be processed (privacy legislation)?
- the research will involve working with genetically modified organisms?
- the research will involve working with biological agents or with plant or animal pathogens?

If the research proposal is approved, then it will be requested to submit a positive recommendation from the competent ethics committee in the relevant field of study and/or evidence of a bio-safety dossier before your project can begin. It is the promoter's responsibility to deliver the ethical advice and/or evidence of a bio-safety dossier in time.

If bio-safety approval is required but has not yet been granted, the proposal can only be supported if approval of the bio-safety dossier is expected to occur in the very near future, i.e. on 30 April 2020 the latest. For the bio-safety dossier, please mention the SBB code (or AMV code) of the bio-safety approval as registered at the Office of the Environmental Coordinator. In case of a valid bio-safety approval, it is not necessary to enclose the bio-safety dossier as an annex.

If the committee for ethics gives the project a negative evaluation, as a rule this project cannot be initiated, unless such ethics approval can be obtained by minimal modifications to the study protocol that do not affect the global set up of the study.

1.5   Data Management Plan

If the research proposal is approved, the promoter will be asked to **draw up a data management plan (DMP) at the start** of the project and **add it to the project file in GISMO within 6 months** after the start of the project.

The DMP has to be based on one of the templates that are available on DMPonline.be. It is preferable to use this tool also for the drafting of a DMP.

Promoters are also expected to keep the DMP **up-to-date** in the course of the project and are accountable for the data management of their projects at any time. **At the end of the project**, the promoters need to upload the final draft of the DMP in GISMO. Questions about writing a DMP or the templates can be addressed to rdm.support@ugent.be

1.6   Abstract of the research proposal in Dutch and English

Give a short abstract (maximum 60 words) in Dutch and English of the research proposal. In addition to the title and abstract, minimum 3 keywords need to be given.

Please include at least 1 research discipline code. For the different research disciplines, see

https://www.ugent.be/en/research/research-ugent/research-discipline.htm

2   Research proposal (max 2 pages, excluding bibliography)

Please describe the objectives of your research project in a concise way. Provide an insight into the scientific impact it might have on COVID-19 related research and/or management of the disease and/or its consequences.

Make clear what the role is of the promotor and of the additional researcher(s) involved. If clinical samples will be investigated, clarify how these will be obtained.

Provide a work plan of your research program with a tentative time schedule, keeping in mind this is a 6 month research project.

Please respect the maximum number of 2 pages (bibliography/references excluded) and use font type Arial size 10.

3   Financial data

The promoter can apply for a budget of maximum €50.000. The funding can be used for personnel, operational and/ or equipment costs. Please describe in detail how the requested budgets will be spent within the framework of the project.

4   Parallel applications

Indicate whether this research application as a whole – or some parts of it – also has been submitted at BOF or at other funding agencies. Answer the questions below:

1. Are there other submitted research proposals that overlap partly or entirely with the present proposal? If so, how do they overlap and what is the status of the other proposals?
2. In case of overlapping research proposals, why is additional funding needed?

Only in very specific circumstances the Special Research Fund will finance applications on research topics that are already receiving substantial funds through other sources (i.e. in principle no top-up funding will be awarded).

PART II – QUALIFICATIONS OF THE (CO-)PROMOTER

1   Link to the academic bibliography 'biblio'

For the promoter and additional researchers give the link to the bibliographic data in biblio. It is **not** necessary to download the file and add it to the application. Just add the UGent ID code to the link (replace the red part in the link).

2   Track record of the consortium (promoter + involved researchers) with regard to the proposal (max. 1 page)

The consortium must demonstrate that it has the necessary scientific and technical expertise to start the proposed research almost immediately and to achieve results in the short term (6 months).

Items that can be discussed include available equipment and specialized personnel. Pay attention to clearly mention access to crucial resources (e.g. patient-derived material) if applicable.

Preferably also illustrate the expertise of the consortium in the specific discipline by referring to own relevant publications.