

**SPECIAL RESEARCH FUND
CALL 2021
2 - 4 YEAR 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

Two to four year research project

Starting from 1 October 2021

The deadline is

3 March 2021 at 17h

¹ Board of Directors, 18 January 2013

Description and conditions:

This call intends to support professors to develop a research project for a period of 2-4 years. Through a 2-4 year research project, financial support can be granted for personnel, operating and/or equipment costs. The project has a duration of minimum 2 years and maximum 4 years. The funding depends on the duration of the project and amounts to max. € 105.000 (2 years) , max. € 157.500 (3 years) and maximum € 210.000 (4 years).

The **call is open** to promoters who applied in 2019 and/ or in 2020 as a promoter spokesperson for a general FWO project². This also includes the Lead Agency Projects³.

- The **result of the FWO-application** has no influence on the evaluation of the BOF application. This means that promoter-spokespersons of both awarded and non-awarded FWO projects can obtain a BOF 2-4 year research project.
- In case FWO has declared an FWO application inadmissible due to a **conflict of interests concerning the referees**, this application can still be used as access to the call for 2-4 year projects
- The **same research plan cannot be granted by both FWO and BOF**. Only if FWO partially finances a project, one can apply for supplementary funding at BOF.
- **If a parallel application (FWO or other funding channel) is pending for the same research plan**, the BOF project - if awarded - can only start after the result of the parallel application is known. If the parallel application is granted, the BOF funding will be cancelled in whole or in part. If the result of the parallel application is only known after 1 January 2022, this rule will no longer be applied.
- **Each promoter can submit one BOF application only**. Even if that promoter is the promoter of several FWO applications, only one BOF application is permitted.

The call is not open to beneficiaries of significant BOF funding:

- **Methusalem**: Recipients of Methusalem-funding cannot apply for a 2-4 year project;
- **GOA projects**: Spokespersons and promoters of GOA projects with an end date after 31 December 2022 cannot apply for a 2-4 year project;
- **BOF Interdisciplinary research projects**: Promoters of BOF Interdisciplinary research projects awarded in 2020 (starting date 1 October 2020) cannot apply for a 2-4 year project;
- **BOF 4 year research projects**: Promoters of BOF 4 year research projects awarded in 2019 in the framework of a BOF 2-4 year research project (starting date 1 October 2019) cannot apply for a 2-4 year project.

Language

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

Submission

- Applications should be submitted via the online application GISMO
- Deadline is 3 March 2021, 17:00

Evaluation

In order to evaluate the applications, the Research Council relies on three scientific committees. The committees consist of members representing the following faculties:

² It concerns the call <https://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/research-projects/junior-and-senior-research-projects/>

³ See <https://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/international-collaboration/intra-european-research-projects/weave/>

- Committee for the Humanities and Social and Behavioural Sciences ('Alpha' Working Group): Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences
- Committee for the Sciences and Engineering ('Beta' Working Group): Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Faculty of Bioscience engineering.
- Committee for Biomedical and Medical Sciences ('Gamma' Working Group): Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The project proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. **Scientific criteria for the project proposal:**
 - a. Innovative nature of the project
 - b. Well described research objectives and methodology
 - c. Coherence of the project
 - d. Feasibility of the project proposal
 - e. Development of the research potential of Ghent University
2. **Criteria concerning the quality of the (co)promoter**
 - a) International scientific recognition of the (co)promoter
 - b. The scientific achievements of the applicant(s), with special attention for scientific leadership and realised impact (academic and/or economic and/or societal) taking into account the differences between research disciplines and the number of years the (co)promoter is a member of the Tenured Academic Staff.
 - c. Is the (co)promoter active in applying and acquiring external and internal research funding

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.

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 Research Council⁴.

Announcement of the result

The day 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>

After the selection, 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.

Scientific report

Within one year after the end of the project a scientific report, signed by the promoters, has to be sent electronically to BOFApplication@UGent.be. This report is the only reporting on the 2-4 year project. The scientific report must be submitted on the required forms, which are available on the University website:

<https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/bof>

⁴ with authority delegated to him by the Board of Governors on 3 April 2015.



UNIVERSITEIT
GENT

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH CO-ORDINATION OFFICE

Information

For additional information, please contact the Research Coordination Office (BOF@ugent.be): Ms. Griet De Geyter – 09 264 36 32, or the secretary of the Research Council dr. Dirk De Craemer – tel. 09 264 30 33.

2-4 YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT: APPLICATION INFORMATION

PART I – PROJECT DATA

1 General

Give title, abstract, keywords and discipline codes of the project

2 Person(s) responsible for the project

2.1 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 lector, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at UGent who holds a PhD degree.
- **The promoter has applied in 2019 and/or in 2020 for a general FWO project (see p.2)**
- **The promoter cannot be holder of significant BOF funding:**
 1. **Methusalem:** Recipients of Methusalem-funding cannot apply for a 2-4 year project;
 2. **GOA projects:** Spokespersons and promoters of GOA projects with an end date after 31 December 2022 cannot apply for a 2-4 year project;
 3. **BOF Interdisciplinary research projects:** Promoters of BOF Interdisciplinary research projects awarded in 2020 (starting date 1 October 2020) cannot apply for a 2-4 year project;
 4. **BOF 4 year research projects:** Promoters of BOF 4 year research projects awarded in 2019 in the framework of a BOF 2-4 year research project (starting date 1 October 2019) cannot apply for a 2-4 year project.
- **Each promoter can submit one BOF application only.** Even if that promoter is the promoter of several FWO applications, only one BOF application is permitted.
- This 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.
- **The retirement of the promoter** can start during the project but the application needs to contain an explanation of how the project will be carried out after the retirement of the promoter.
- The promoter must mention his/her the **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>.

2.2 Co-promoter (more than one allowed) (not mandatory)

- At the moment of the deadline, the co-promoter must
 1. belong to one of the categories of the promoter or

2. have an appointment at Ghent University (including FWO , VLAIO and IWT postdoctoral fellows), the University Hospital, VIB Gent, IMEC Gent, IBBT and/or Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School or at one of the “hogescholen” from the Ghent University Association and have a PhD degree, or
 3. belong to the category of senior assistants, senior lecturers, assistant professors, associate professors, full professors or senior full professors who belong to the integration framework at Ghent University and who hold a PhD degree.
- **The co-promoter has no access to the budget** for this BOF funding. As is evident in the project description and the plan of work, the co-promoter must make a real contribution to the coordination of the project.
 - A co-promoter can participate in **more than one application**. It is also allowed to participate in one application as promoter and in another application as co-promoter.
 - The role of co-promoter **cannot be combined with an appointment to the account of the BOF budget**.
 - The co-promoter must mention his/her the ORCID-ID (*publically available*). If one doesn'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>.

3 Researcher 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 without being a (co-)promoter (by presenting methodologies, offering facilities, services in the form of subcontracting,...). Describe the role of this researcher in the project.

4 Research proposal

4.1 Description of the research proposal including aim, methodology and timing, and bibliography of the cited literature (max. 2250 words excluding the detailed bibliographic list)

Please describe the objectives of your research project in a concise way. Provide an insight into the scientific impact it might have on the current state of research in the field.

Please provide a work plan of your research program including the following items:

- Scientific background
- General aims
- Detailed outline of the objectives with methodological description

Please respect the maximum number of 2250 words excluding the bibliography.

4.2 Background and strategy of the promoter relating to the project proposal (max.750 words)

In this part, the proposed research work must be situated within the framework of the different research topics that are relevant to the application and that the promoter is currently studying or plan to study in the future. Other possible research topics of the promoter can be indicated. When this relates to a totally new topic of the promoter, then it must be briefly explained and justified.

Please respect the maximum number of words of 750 words.

4.3 Cooperation of the promoter with other researchers, research groups or institutions within the framework of the project proposal. (max. 750 words)

Explain (if applicable) the planned cooperation with other researchers, research groups or institutions in the framework of the proposed research project. Describe also the nature of this cooperation and the relevance for the proposed research project.

Please respect the maximum number of words of 750 words.

5 Ethics

Complete the ethical questionnaire. If an attestation of an ethical committee is already available, add it as an annex to the application. If there is already an attestation of the biosafety dossier, please add it as well.

6 Parallel project applications

Indicate whether the application as a whole – or some part of it – has also been submitted at BOF or at another funding agency. Answer the questions below:

1. Which researchers have contributed to the present project proposal? What is the contribution of each of these researchers?
2. Are there any other 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? Is this overlap (partly) the result of previous collaborations with other researchers?
3. In case of overlapping research proposals, why is additional funding applied for?
 - a. Is this to maximize the chances to receive funding? In this case the Research Council can decide to award its funding conditionally, meaning that the funding will only be granted if the parallel application is not successful. In that sense, the information regarding the overlap of research proposals will have no influence on the evaluation procedure itself. But if needed the research council will cancel the selection or reduce the allocated budget to avoid funding the same project twice.
 - b. Or is the additional funding supplementary to the parallel funding applied for via another funding program? In case both applications are successful: how will these budgets complement one another, what will each budget be used for?

If a parallel application (FWO or other funding channel) is pending for the same research plan, the BOF project - if awarded - can only start after the result of the parallel application is known. If the parallel application is granted, the BOF funding will be cancelled in whole or in part. If the result of the parallel application is only known after 1 January 2022, this rule will no longer be applied.

7 Project Timing

A project can be requested with a duration of 2 years, 3 years or 4 years. Linked to this, a budget of maximum € 105,000 can be applied for for a 2-year project, maximum € 157,500 for a 3-year project and maximum € 210,000 for a 4-year project.

8 Project plan GANNT diagram

Provide an overview of the planning of the project via a GANNT diagram

9 Project budget

Depending on the duration of the project, the promoter can apply for a budget of maximum €105.000 (2 years), maximum €157.500 (3 years) or maximum €210.000 (4 years).

The funding must contribute to the capacity to carry out advanced scientific research.

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.

Estimated personnel cost starting 1.10.2021

Category	1.10.2021 – 30.9.2022	1.10.2021 – 30.9.2023	1.10.2021 – 30.9.2024	1.10.2021 – 30.9.2025
<i>PhD scholarship student EU*</i> (unmarried, no dependent relatives)	44.500	91.000	139.000	189.500
<i>Researcher, 0 years of seniority</i>	70.000	140.000	212.500	289.000
<i>Researcher with PhD degree, 4 years of seniority</i>	92.500	185.500	280.000	381.000

10 Scientific committee

In order to evaluate the applications, the Research Council relies on three scientific committees. The committees consist of members representing the following faculties:

Committee for the Humanities and Social and Behavioural Sciences ('Alpha' Committee): Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences

Committee for the Sciences and Engineering ('Beta' Committee): Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering.

Committee for Biomedical and Medical Sciences ('Gamma' Working Group): Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

As a rule, the application will be discussed in the Committee to which the promoter's faculty is assigned. One can submit a well-founded request to deviate from this rule.

PART II – QUALIFICATIONS OF THE (CO-)PROMOTER

The promoter and any co-promoters must each complete the following sections.

1 BOF publication list

An overview report of your publications and supervised PhDs from the last 5 years is automatically retrieved from Biblio. Within this section, this report is automatically opened as a pop-up so that you can check whether this list is complete and/or register any missing publications in Biblio.

If this report does not open automatically, you can view the report using the url shown.

The report is automatically added to the application when the application is submitted.

2 Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)

In this section a 2 pages CV must be added. This CV should include a standard academic and research record. A suggested outline (template) is available. The structure of the CV may be modified. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths (due to for example maternity leave, sick leave, etc..) should be clearly explained so that they can be fairly assessed.

See the application form for a suggested template for the CV.

3 Overview of all ongoing, concluded (since 2016) and pending grants and funding of the applicants

Please specify ongoing, concluded and pending research grants and their subject. Please add the following information: funding agency, start and end date, budget, title, and name of the researchers

4 Overview of achievements (scientific leadership, impact, other)

At least one of the scientific achievements must be related to the project proposal.

4.1 Scientific leadership (mandatory)

Scientific leadership refers to a person's ability to pursue scientific questions independently, confidently and creatively, combined with an ability to inspire others towards a common vision. This requires good personal relations within a team with room for critical reflection. It is manifested through a range of tasks such as managerial duties; project coordination and the supervision of others - and through less tangible activities such as independent critical thought, balancing individual and group objectives, and contributing to a university's mission.

This section, may not exceed 750 words.

4.2 impact (academic and/or economic and/or societal)

Academic impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes in shifting understanding and advancing scientific method, theory and application across and within disciplines. Economic and societal impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy, and its benefits to individuals, organizations and/or nations.

This section, may not exceed 750 words.

4.3 Other

Provide a selection of important scientific achievements, excluding publications.

These may include, for example, granted patents; invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools; prizes; awards; academy memberships; other ...

Briefly describe why these achievements demonstrate that you are entitled to outstanding contributions in your field of expertise.

This section may not exceed 750 words.

5 most important publications

Please select your 5 most important publications from Biblio (Academic Bibliography UGent) and explain why you have chosen each of them. Describe the innovative nature of each publication. What is the expected research impact ((scientific and/or economic and/or societal)? If the publication has several authors, please explain your specific contribution to the research mentioned in the publication.