

- 1) Article 5, interpretation of the term “paid affiliation”:** applicants need to receive a salary or income. The source of the income can vary. It could be in the form of a fellowship from FWO, FNRS or similar, by the university (e.g. academic assistant), through project funding etc. but it should be clear from the application that the applicant has a paid affiliation.
- 2) Article 4, candidates are encouraged to look for a host institution where they have not stayed before:** the SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent will not fund candidates returning to their home country, unless it is relevant for their research project and it is clear that they will return to Belgium after their stay, so that the results of their stay also benefit Belgium. Applicants should clearly motivate why they choose to return to an institution where they have already stayed before.
- 3) Climate change, carbon footprint:** the carbon footprint caused by travelling to the host institution is not an evaluation criterion per se. However, fellows are encouraged to take the sustainable travel policy of FWO into account (<https://www.fwo.be/en/the-fwo/research-policy/sustainable-travel-policy/>). A link to this policy is also included in the application form.
- 4) Eligibility of applications in the framework of a joint PhD:** Applicants who perform research in the framework of a joint PhD can be eligible for the SofinaBoël fellowships. However, a point of attention is to which extent a joint PhD finances part or total of the expenses which are covered by the SofinaBoël fellowships. The SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent does not want to provide double funding for these expenses. Applicants are expected to indicate in their application form if certain expenses are already financed in the framework of their joint PhD.
- 5) Academic or industrial perspectives:** the most important criterion is excellence; excellence of the candidate, excellence of the project, excellence of the host institution. In case of equal quality, the industrial and practical utility can exceptionally be taken into account.
- 6) Societal impact:** The SofinaBoël Fund for Education and Talent considers all disciplines, provided the candidate and the application are excellent. Whether a research topic has a short-term societal impact is not considered a criterion for eligibility. For example an application in pure mathematics may seem to have limited short-term societal impact, but may prove to have significant impact in the long run.