

2024 Changes Odysseus Regulations

In follow-up of a previous reform of the Odysseus programme in 2019-2020 and in preparation of the 2024 Odysseus call, the regulations and evaluation procedure have been further optimized. Provided that corresponding changes have been implemented in the Decree on the organisation and financing of science and innovation policy, the Odysseus regulations will be adjusted as follows:

1. Eligibility conditions Odysseus Type II applicants

Art. 3.: Besides the eligibility criteria that were already in force, Odysseus Type II applicants can have no more than 12 years of postdoctoral seniority at the time of the deadline.

Art. 3.

[...]

*Odysseus Type II: Researchers with the potential to develop a leading international status. **They have maximum 12 years postdoctoral seniority.***

Researchers who have at least 3 years' postdoctoral experience abroad and whose work has convinced leading colleagues in the field that they have potential to develop a leading international position can apply for an Odysseus Type II position. These researchers are expected to be leading a small team within a research group, made up of one or more PhD students and possibly one or more post-docs. They have some experience applying for external research funding. Within a few years they will be able to mature to the level required for a position as part of the independent academic staff. The support for this set-up ranges from €100,000 to €200,000 per year (€500,000 to €1,000,000 for the 5-year period).

2. Budget modalities Odysseus Type I application

Art. 3.: The upper limit for funding requested in the framework of an Odysseus Type I application has been reduced to 700,000 EUR/year. This means that for an Odysseus Type I application with a duration of 5 years a maximum budget of 3,500,000 EUR can be requested.

Art. 3.

The Odysseus subsidy is used for two types of start-up funding:

Odysseus Type I: Internationally leading researchers

*Researchers who are internationally recognised as pioneers in their field and who already have a permanent academic position of at least 80% at a foreign research institute, can apply for an Odysseus Type I position. These researchers are expected to already lead their own research group made up of permanent staff, several post-docs and a number of PhD students, within the institute to which they are affiliated. **The support for this set-up ranges from €400,000 to €700,000 per year (€2,000,000 to €3,500,000 for the 5-year period).***

[...]

3. Pre-selection phase

Art. 7.: If there are more than 20 eligible nominated applicants of a certain Type of Odysseus project (I or II), the FWO reserves the right to conduct a pre-selection. This pre-selection by the jury will take place online based on the international external referee reports.

Art. 7.

[...]

For the evaluation, all eligible nominated candidates will be invited to present their Odysseus project to the international jury in an oral presentation, after which they will be interviewed by the jury members. For its evaluation, the jury draws on scientific advice from, in principle, 4 international external referees having the specific expertise required for the proposed research.

*However, if there are more than **20** eligible nominated candidates of a specific Type of Odysseus project (I or II), the FWO reserves the right to conduct a pre-selection. In that case, the international jury shall **during an online pre-selection meeting**, based on the scientific advice from, in principle, 4 international external referees having the specific expertise for the proposed research, decide which eligible nominated candidates will be invited to present their Odysseus project in an oral presentation, after which they will be interviewed by the jury members.*

[...]

4. Local co-supervisor

Art. 10.: It will be no longer possible to act as local co-supervisor for more than one Odysseus application (independent of the Type) during a particular application round. For interdisciplinary projects, from now on more than one local co-supervisor can be added in the application.

Art. 10.

The awarded grants are specified in detail in an agreement. The parties to the agreement are:

- *the appointed Odysseus researcher, hereinafter called the supervisor;*
- *the FWO;*
- *the university-host institution;*
- *where appropriate, the other Flemish research organisation(s) as partner.*

*A co-supervisor is designated for the facilitating function within the host institution. **If the research is interdisciplinary, a second co-supervisor can be appointed. A co-supervisor may only be involved in 1 application per application round.***