The Research Foundation - Flanders is the agency that funds fundamental research in Flanders. Science creates opportunities and drives innovation. The Research Foundation - Flanders mainly finances:
- Fellowships (PhD fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, etc.)
- Research projects
- International cooperation
- Scientific prizes

Research is international

The Research Foundation – Flanders stimulates international collaboration and promotes mobility in the field of science. How? By giving researchers the opportunity to gain experience in international research groups and by attracting researchers from abroad through individual travel grants, bilateral projects, scientific research communities, etc. Moreover, the Research Foundation – Flanders has joined forces with several European and international sister organisations.

The Research Foundation – Flanders in facts & figures

- 43% fellowships
- 2% international collaboration and mobility
- 1% research grants
- 53% research projects
- 2% administrative management

In 2012 the Research Foundation – Flanders has an annual budget of €218 million

- 79% is provided by the Flemish government
- 6% are subsidies from the Federal Government
- 15% is generated through fiscal and parafiscal

In 2012 the Research Foundation – Flanders provided financial support for various projects

- 43% fellowships
- 2% international collaboration and mobility
- 1% research grants
- 53% research projects
- 2% administrative management

- 46% male PhD fellows
- 54% female PhD fellows
- 61% male postdoctoral researchers
- 39% female postdoctoral researchers
- of which 14% PhD fellows from abroad
- 18% postdoctoral researchers from abroad

Keen to find out more about the Research Foundation - Flanders?

Visit our website:

www.fwo.be

Egmontstraat 5
1000 Brussel
T. +32 2 512 91 10
F. +32 2 512 58 90
E-mail: post@fwo.be

Make a difference thanks to the Research Foundation – Flanders
Diversity is enriching, especially in the field of scientific research. Blending various perspectives results in pioneering innovations. That is why the Research Foundation – Flanders promotes equal opportunities for all researchers.

The Research Foundation – Flanders strives to lower the barriers that currently prevent specific groups from pursuing a career in research. Family-friendly measures and flexible working conditions should help to balance possible gender inequalities. What is more, scientists with physical disabilities can count on support to fund specially adapted equipment.

Support for young researchers

- A PhD fellowship offers the opportunity to obtain a PhD after four years of research.
- A clinical PhD fellowship is intended for young clinical scientists who would like to focus on PhD research for two years (part-time).
- A postdoctoral research mandate supports young researchers who have obtained a PhD and wish to pursue (2 x) 3 years of full-time research at postdoctoral level.
- A senior clinical investigator mandate is intended for clinical scientists with a PhD who are granted (3 x) 5 years of part-time leave from their clinical positions to pursue their research activities.
- Research grants ensure that young scientists are given additional resources to finance their research projects.

Support for established research teams

- Via grants for research projects, research teams can obtain additional resources to recruit scientists and technicians, to purchase equipment and to cover their operating costs.

More men are given postdoctoral fellowships, that’s true, but the reason is that more men than women submit applications.

Research grants ensure that young scientists are given additional resources to finance their research projects.

Female researchers who fall pregnant can have their mandate extended by one year. For postdoctoral fellowship applications, one extra year per pregnancy is added to the maximum period that may elapse after obtaining a PhD.

The composition of the expert panels is subject to a gender equality standard, i.e. a maximum of two thirds of the panel may be composed of persons of the same gender.

Long stays abroad should be planned consecutively in principle. In the case of stays of over six months, flexibility is built in to meet the needs of researchers who have a family.

Researchers from abroad enjoy optimal conditions through the Pegasus and the Odysseus programme to further develop their scientific career in Flanders. Scientists with physical disabilities can use their bench fee to obtain adapted equipment.

I think it’s good that the bench fee of FWO can also be used to help researchers who have physical disabilities.

Thanks to the policy of the Research Foundation – Flanders I managed to avoid unemployment after having obtained my PhD.