

Transitional measures

PhD fellowships fundamental and strategic basic research

In application year 2019, applications can still be made under the old seniority rules if it is not the first application and the candidate has not yet exhausted the number of applications allowed under the old regulations.

[The following scheme gives an overview of the applicable rules depending on the year in which you make/made your first application \(2017, 2018 or 2019\).](#)

Postdoctoral fellowship junior & senior

The existing scheme for first postdoctoral fellowships will be considered as being equivalent with the new junior type, whereas the existing postdoctoral fellowship renewal will be considered as being equivalent with the new senior type. Consequently, candidates who applied for a first postdoctoral fellowship before 1 December 2018 can submit one more application for the junior type and those who applied for a renewal before that date can apply once more for a senior type.

Of course, all candidates are required to meet the eligibility and other rules under the new regulations. However, candidates who applied already once for an FWO postdoctoral fellowship before the 2019 call (submission deadline: 1 December 2018) and still meet the eligibility requirements except for the postdoctoral seniority can apply a second time during the 2019 call under the former eligibility requirements. Consequently, a candidate who wants to apply a second time for a postdoctoral fellowship during the 2019 call (attention: "year of application" and "year of call" is 2019 with deadline no later than 1 December 2018), should have been obtained his/her PhD not earlier than **1 June 2016**. The new postdoctoral seniority rules will apply to all candidates applying for the first time for a PhD during the 2019 call, meaning that they should have been obtained their PhD not earlier than **1 October 2016**.

Research Grants

The research grants will be abolished after 2018. Exceptionally, a last call for research grants will be opened for postdoctoral fellows who started on:

- 1 October 2017 (end of fellowship: 30 September 2020);
- 1 October 2018 (end of fellowship: 30 September 2021).

Also all other postdoctoral fellows whose mandate ends on 30 September 2020 or 2021 following an administrative extension or suspension can participate in this last call for research grants.

Projects fundamental research

Both the existing/old and the new regulations for these research projects will have consequences for projects awarded under the 2018 round (submission deadline: 1 April 2018; start of project: 1 January 2019).

Under the **existing /old regulations**, supervisors - spokespersons of an awarded project will not be allowed to apply for a new project under the next call. This rule will be abolished starting from the 2019 call (submission deadline: 1 April 2019), but will continue to apply for those who still submitted an application on 1 April 2018.

Under the **new regulations**, the sum of requested and ongoing research projects fundamental research on behalf of a single supervisor-spokesperson, supervisor or co-supervisor may not be greater than two. The date on which a new awarded research project fundamental research would normally start (first of January of the year following the year in which the application was submitted, i.e. 1 January 2020 for the 2019 call) will serve as reference date for the calculation of this total.

For new project applications submitted on 1 April 2019, the FWO will therefore check how many projects of the applicants will still be ongoing on 1 January 2020. Projects awarded under the 2018 call (submitted no later than 1 April 2018) will therefore be included in the count because they will still be running on 1 January 2020. Projects already awarded before 2018, by contrast, will not be counted towards the total.