

Guidelines for binding declaration of commitment

As set out in Art. 5 of [the regulations for the Odysseus programme](#), when nominating a candidate, the university must commit itself to offering the candidate in case the Odysseus project is awarded, **the necessary infrastructure** as well as **a ZAP position (Type I) or a full-time tenure track fellowship (Type II)** for a **term of five years**. To this end, a **binding declaration of commitment**, signed both by the **university (rector)** and by the relevant **department/faculty (head of department or faculty)**, needs to be uploaded in the online application form. In case such a declaration of commitment is absent, the application shall automatically be declared ineligible.

The FWO provides no standard template and leaves it to the discretion of universities to issue the declaration of commitment based on their own applicable internal procedures and rules. Each university may from this call onwards (2024) explicitly mention in the declaration of commitment the added value of the candidate in question for the own institution and the involved research group(s) in Flanders.

As a guideline, the declaration of commitment (signed both by the rector and by the head of department or faculty) **must in any case include the following elements**, must be issued **in English** and cannot be more than **max. 2 A4 pages** (*font Calibri 11, line distance 1*):

- Surname and first name of the nominated candidate
- Title of the submitted project
- Name of the nominating institution
- Confirmation that the nominated candidate meets the regulatory requirements
- Conditions of appointment provided to the candidate (ZAP position or full-time tenure track fellowship + appointment rate). In case of nomination by several host institutions: how (including appointment rates) this appointment will be distributed across the various host institutions.
- Department/faculty and research unit within which the candidate will be appointed
- Declaration that both the appointment and the infrastructure will be provided for a period of five years
- Declaration that the research proposal submitted by the candidate has been approved and aligns with the research policy of the nominating institution
- Surname, first name and position of the person signing the declaration of commitment
- Official signature and date of signature

In addition, the declaration of commitment **may** include:

- **(NEW!)** Explicit justification on why the involved institution/research group(s) wishes to attract this specific candidate to Flanders and embed them in its own operational structure