

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS CALL 2025

FOR JOINT SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY PROJECTS BETWEEN THE SÃO PAULO SCIENCE FOUNDATION (FAPESP) AND THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION – FLANDERS (FWO)

From December 8th 2025 to February 23rd, 2026, the call is open for two-year joint mobility projects between research groups from Brazil (State of São Paulo) and Flanders in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed by the São Paulo Science Foundation (FAPESP) and the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) on the 18th of December 2023.

Please be aware that the guidelines as stated in this document are to be respected by the research team(s) in Flanders. For specific guidelines for the research team(s) in Brazil (State of São Paulo), we kindly refer to [the FAPESP website](#) (Call 2025 – Edition 3) and the FAPESP contact person (see below, section V).

I. Definition and Objectives of the Collaboration

To strengthen collaboration in scientific research between Brazil (State of São Paulo) and Flanders, joint scientific mobility projects will be funded with a **duration of two years**. Please note that the project duration at FWO and at FAPESP side will be as follows: **01/01/2027 - 31/12/2028**.

Proposals for joint mobility projects between researchers from Flanders and Brazil (State of São Paulo) can be submitted for **fundamental research in all scientific domains** with the objective of increasing and developing cooperation between both scientific communities, **with special attention to the exchange of junior researchers**.

II. Guidelines for Applicants

The proposals should meet the usual requirements for scientific research quality and meet the specific requirements for scientific cooperation projects of the funding organisation they are submitted to (i.e. FWO or FAPESP).

Please be aware to always check, before starting your application, **if there are no restrictions in place regarding international cooperation in FWO funding instruments**. The FWO is keen on promoting international collaboration as a driver for excellence. However, a number of risks and challenges are present when collaborating internationally, regardless of the foreign funding partner. In order to safeguard fundamental values and avoid dual-use or military applications and to avoid breaches of academic freedom, integrity and ethics, the FWO is compelled to take some additional measures, also in its calls for joint mobility projects.

2.1. How to apply?

In order to be eligible, a proposal must meet the following criteria.

- **Who?** Projects must be endorsed by the **Principal Investigators** (PIs, being the supervisor-spokespersons), **one Brazilian and one Flemish**, duly authorized to conduct research and providing the guarantees on the operational (financial) resources.

In Flanders: PIs are required to have a PhD degree and they must hold, throughout the entire period of the project, an appointment of at least 50% at:

- a university in the Flemish Community (including the academic programmes within the corresponding association), or to
- a federal or Flemish scientific institute as scientific staff of the Dutch-speaking community, or to
- a university hospital in the Flemish Community as scientific staff, or to
- a hospital with an academic character recognized as research center in the Flemish Community as scientific staff.

Please be aware: at Flemish (FWO) side, in the framework of this call with FAPESP, you can only act once as a supervisor-spokesperson or co-supervisor.

In Brazil (State of São Paulo):

- Please consult [the FAPESP website](#) (Call 2025 – Edition 3 – Section 4 *Eligibility to submit a proposal*) for more specific details.
- **How?** Applications should be **submitted simultaneously** to FAPESP by the PI in Brazil (State of São Paulo) and to FWO by the PI in Flanders, respecting the submission deadline and by using the respective application forms of each funder. **Lack of submission** of the application to one of the funders **and/or reception after the deadline** will cause the application to be considered **ineligible**. Please note that at FWO side the proposals should be **written in English**. The project title, names of the Flemish and Brazilian PIs, project description, methodology, work packages, etc. in the research proposal submitted by the Flemish and Brazilian PI should be **identical**.

At FAPESP side, the **Research Project and CVs should be written in English**. For more information on what the Research Project must specifically include, consult [the FAPESP website](#) (Call 2025 – Edition 3 – Section 7. *Proposal Format*).

In Flanders:

- **NEW!!** At Flemish side, the application should be submitted through [the FWO E-portal](#) by using the specific **digital** application form under ‘International collaboration / Mobility projects’. Please note that each online FWO submission is automatically confirmed by a confirmation email. If you did not receive such an email, please verify whether you properly submitted your application.
- Visits must be indicated in the application form, duly justified, including their duration, the estimated dates and names of the involved researchers.

Specific points of attention FWO application:

- Please note that, as a **mandatory upload** in the **digital** application form, the **‘Template Curriculum Vitae’** (to be found [on the FWO webpage](#)) needs to be completed for **each**

- involved Flemish and Brazilian (co-)supervisor(-spokesperson). Please note that only the Flemish supervisor-spokesperson can upload these CVs in the FWO application.
- In addition, only the **Flemish supervisor-spokesperson should register at FWO by creating an online profile including an overview of academic positions and an updated list of publications on the [FWO E-portal](#)** before the submission deadline. Please note that the registration of your login/password **can take up to 24 hours**. It is therefore strongly advised to start well in advance.

Please be aware: Guidelines on formal requirements in application forms and accompanying documents of application programmes shall be strictly followed. If these are violated, the application may be declared inadmissible.

In Brazil (State of São Paulo):

- The Brazilian research group should submit the project proposal through the [online SAGE system](#) . Select the link *Institutions with Their Own Conditions* (as referred to in item 3.4 of the guidelines on [the FAPESP website](#) (Call 2025 – Edition 3).

2.2. Funding Principles

The funding within the frame of granted FAPESP-FWO mobility projects shall be used to cover the **travel, accommodation and living expenses**.

Each funder bears the full costs of its own researchers. Missions shall be funded as follows:

- FWO offers researchers from Flanders a daily living allowance of € 66 (or max. € 1,650 per month) on top of the travel expenses towards/from Brazil, to be booked through [a travel agency authorized by the FWO](#).
- FAPESP provides daily allowances (www.fapesp.br/17413). Please consult Ordinance PR No. 35/2020 (www.fapesp.br/14018) for the rules regarding the use of daily allowances. If the stay abroad is less than thirty days, a maximum of 10 daily allowances may be utilized for researchers and a maximum of seven for fellows and other team members. According to the Fellowship Value Table (BPE - www.fapesp.br/7797 and BEPE - www.fapesp.br/7798), the monthly maintenance value is only applicable if the stay abroad is 30 days or longer.

These amounts may be altered, if necessary, with the consent of both funders.

2.3. Evaluation

In a first phase, the eligible applications are evaluated separately by FWO and FAPESP according to their own evaluation mechanisms.

At FWO side

Please be aware that **at Flemish side proposals will be evaluated by [the Cross-Domain Panel](#)**, an international panel composed of members with a broad variety of scientific expertises. **Therefore you are kindly advised to write your proposal for a wide scientific audience.**

The evaluation criteria [at FWO side](#) are:

- Scientific quality of the proposal
 - Expected impact/importance
 - Originality
 - Feasibility
 - Focus
 - Methodology
- Scientific track record, output and other impact of the applicants (Flemish and Brazilian)
- Added value of the collaboration of the research teams
- Complementarity in expertise of the research teams involved
- Balanced contribution of both research teams
- Necessity of the planned stays and exchanges

At FAPESP side

At FAPESP side, proposals will undergo pre-qualification and will be analyzed for merit and relevance, including their connection to the ongoing project supported by FAPESP and potential for leveraging new funding opportunities. For more information, please contact the FAPESP contact person (see below, section V).

In a second phase, based on the separate evaluation results, proposals are classified and ranked by FAPESP and FWO in order to **jointly select the projects recommended for funding**. Only projects evaluated positively on both the FWO and FAPESP side can be funded.

III. Exchange Visits

At FWO side, the research team may apply for **a total of 6 months per project (for the entire project duration of 2 years)**. This annual quota can be divided into **maximum 6 visits per year (or max. 12 visits per project)**. The unused exchange quota cannot be carried forward to the following year. Visits can only be performed by researchers (from PhD student level onwards) holding, throughout the entire period of the exchange visit, an appointment of at least 50% at one of the eligible institutions in Flanders as listed under section 2.1.

Please note that in each joint mobility project, at Flemish side, **at least one junior researcher should be involved and perform a visit**. This junior researcher is supposed to be a PhD student or a postdoctoral researcher with no more than 12-year postdoctoral experience (i.e. first PhD degree can be obtained maximally 12 years before the submission deadline (23/02/2026) of the project, to be counted from the date of obtaining the doctoral degree).

1. Individual visits in the frame of granted FAPESP-FWO projects need to obtain an approval from FWO. In order to obtain such visit approval:
 - The involved researcher in Flanders needs to apply (at least two months before departure) **by e-mail to interprog@fwo.be** with the 'Notification for a stay abroad' form which can be downloaded at [the FWO website](#);
2. The sending Party should provide the host Party with all the details concerning the planned visit and the involved researcher(s), hereby requesting a final approval of the visit towards the host country.

- Researchers in Flanders should detail in the *'Notification for a stay abroad'* form the profile of the researcher(s) involved, dates and destination of the stay abroad, and a detailed scientific programme of their stay abroad. The request should include an invitation letter of the host institution of the receiving country.

At FAPESP side, prior notifications are not required for short-duration SPRINT missions.

IV. Timetable

- Launch of the new call for applications:
 - At FWO: December 8th, 2025
 - At FAPESP (opening of SPRINT call item to include foreign partner): December 8th, 2025
- **Deadline for submissions: February 23rd, 2026:**
 - **At FAPESP: submission possible until 11:59 pm São Paulo time**
 - **At FWO: submission possible until 5 pm Belgian time**
- Evaluation procedure: February-June 2026
- Announcement of results: June-July 2026
- Start of the joint mobility projects (both at FWO and FAPESP side): January 1st, 2027

V. Contact Details

Contact information at the São Paulo Science Foundation (FAPESP):
sprint@fapesp.br

Contact information at the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO):
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