

Contact

Phone : 02 504 92 40

Fax : 02 504 92 10

[prix@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:prix@frs-fnrs.be)

## Gustave Boël - Sofina Fellowships 2016

### REGULATIONS



- Art. 1. Thanks to the generous patronage of the Fondation Roi Baudouin, acting on behalf of the Platform for Education and Talent, talented **PhD students** (max. MA or MSc + 4 years) may apply for a Gustave Boël - Sofina Fellowship to go abroad for a research and/or training stay of either **6 months or 12 months during the academic year 2016-2017**.
- Art. 2. These Fellowships consist of a **fixed allowance of 1.650 € per month and cover travel costs** (lump sum of 1.000 € covering an economy class return ticket). The monthly allowance may be used for accommodation, daily living expenses, expenses related to the research or training undertaken in the course of the Fellowship, and local transportation.
- Art. 3. Candidates may go abroad to a host institution of their choice in **all countries except the 28 EU and 4 EFTA member states, and the United States of America**. The **quality of the host institution** is an important criterion in the selection procedure, since the Platform for Education and Talent aims at promoting excellence through training at the best educational institutions abroad.
- Art. 4. The Gustave Boël - Sofina Fellowships can be awarded to **doctoral students with a clear attachement to Belgium**. They must have been affiliated to a Belgian university for at least one full year prior to the submission deadline and will be affiliated to a Belgian university for at least the entire duration of the research stay. Beneficiaries of clinical PhD fellowships, as well as candidates from the Royal Military Academy, are eligible.
- Art. 5. Applicants should have an outstanding academic record and have an excellent command of English.
- Art. 6. The deadline to submit the applications is **November 2, 2015** (inclusive).
- Art. 7. The application file is composed of :
  - the application form;
  - a detailed curriculum vitae (including a list of publications);
  - a letter of reference by the applicants's PhD supervisor;
  - a personal motivation letter; please be certain to explain why you want to go abroad with the Gustave Boël-Sofina fellowships as well as your affiliation to Belgium (previous, current and future affiliations);
  - an invitation letter from the foreign host institution, in which the responsible contact person in the country of destination acknowledges that the successful candidate will be received at the institute chosen for his/her training or research activities for the duration of the Fellowship;
  - a detailed curriculum vitae (with list of publications) of the head of the foreign research group.

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- Art. 8. The F.R.S. – FNRS will check the eligibility of applications submitted prior to the evaluation by the Jury. A scientific Jury appointed by the F.R.S.-FNRS / FWO will evaluate all applications according to the following evaluation criteria :
- the applicant's profile;
  - the applicant's motivation, expressed in his/her motivation letter;
  - the quality of the host institution;
  - the potential to realise the project described in the application;
  - the project will be evaluated on its merits and benefits to the candidate and his/her career.

The final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees of the Platform for Education and Talent, on proposition of the F.R.S.-FNRS / FWO Jury's recommendations.

- Art. 9. A representative of the Platform for Education and Talent will attend the Jury meeting as observer.
- Art. 10. Within three months after returning to Belgium, the beneficiaries of the Fellowships shall submit to the F.R.S. - FNRS a detailed scientific report on their stay abroad. In addition, they are required to submit a financial report accounting for the use of the granted credit.
- Art. 11. The scientific outline, presentations and evaluation reports generated in the framework of these Fellowships will be treated confidentially.
- Art. 12. Any question concerning the eligibility of the applications and the awarding of the Fellowships will be settled in a final and binding manner by the Platform for Education and Talent.

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September 2015.

