

Programme Description



Luxembourg
National
Research Fund

 **INTER**

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION INTER MOBILITY

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Changes to previous call:

No changes in 2025

Do not hesitate to contact the FNR staff for any further explanation (see section contact).

1. General Principals of the INTER Mobility Scheme

1.1 Objectives and Main Characteristics

The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to **promote the scientific exchange** between research groups of eligible Luxembourg research institutions and outstanding research groups abroad to foster the initiations/consolidation of international research collaboration, to allow for innovative, internationally competitive research and support the exchange of key knowledge and technological know-how. Thus, the activities should have a strong impact on the research programme of the Luxembourg research group, the Luxembourg research ecosystem in general as well as on the career development of the Luxembourg based researcher.

The INTER Mobility Programme allows for research stays **in both directions** (researchers working in Luxembourg to go abroad or for researchers from elsewhere to come to Luxembourg).

More specifically, the FNR intends to support:

- Luxembourg-based researchers (from levels R2 to R4) to visit the **leading research groups** in (**Mobility - OUT**)

and/or
- the visit from outstanding **leading senior researchers (R3 to R4)** to Luxembourg public research institutions (**Mobility - IN**).

Within the INTER Mobility Scheme, the FNR does **not support research stays of early-stage** researchers (i.e., PhD candidates).

This funding instrument also aims to bridge the gap between the research communities in the public and the private sector. Therefore, secondments to the private sector, i.e., companies outside of Luxembourg, are highly welcome.

Further, there are no thematic or geographical limitations for the mobility stay. The FNR reserves some ear-marked grants to foster research collaboration with specific partners, namely the province of Quebec, Singapore, the RIKEN institutes (Japan), and UC Berkeley (US).

1.2 Beneficiaries and research fellows

To qualify for an INTER mobility grant, the researcher(s) to be seconded (i.e., “fellows”) have to be **employed** by their home institution **before, during, and after the grant**. The research stay must be carried out in a different country from where the fellow has been principally (> 12 months) working in the 24 months preceding the call deadline.

The following beneficiaries are eligible for INTER Mobility funding:

- ✓ Public institutions performing research in Luxembourg
- ✓ Non-profit associations, societal impact companies (SIS), and foundations engaged in research in Luxembourg that have obtained a special authorization ("agreement") from the Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

1.3 Duration and Funding

The FNR financially supports the secondment of researchers and the costs related to the research stays. Some additional funding for accompanying family members can be provided. The INTER mobility grant does not cover costs related to research activities (e.g., consumables or field work).

The maximum grant duration of an INTER mobility is 3 years. The total cumulated duration of the research stay must be of minimum 6 weeks and maximum 1 year, to be accomplished within the grant duration. The research stay may be split in several stays.

For further detail, please check the INTER mobility Application guidelines and the FNR Financial Regulations.

2. Submission and selection procedure

2.1 Submission process

The submission procedure is organised in a single full proposal stage. The proposals must be submitted in electronic format using the online submission system (FNR Grant Management System) <https://grants.fnr.lu> until the deadline. All proposals have to be written in English.

Please read carefully the INTER Mobility Application Guidelines. They give detailed instructions on how to prepare and submit an application and have to be read in conjunction with the present document.

2.2 Selection process

The selection process is based on a Peer review process that guarantees an independent state-of-the-art evaluation with the objective to select those mobility projects that reflect the highest scientific quality and likeliness to foster innovative, internationally competitive research and to exchange of key knowledge and technological know-how.

All proposals undergo the following selection process:

- The proposals undergo an **eligibility check** based on the formal requirements;
- Eligible proposals are **reviewed** by members of the expert **panel**;
- The expert panel rates, and rank the proposals and recommends funding;
- FNR decision bodies formally approve the proposals to be funded;
- The **funding decision** is communicated to the applicants.

A detailed description of the selection process is available in the 'INTER Mobility Peer- Review Guidelines' available on the FNR website.

2.3 Evaluation criteria

The FNR funding decision is based on the following selection criteria:

- 1) **Overall potential to exchange and transfer** key scientific knowledge and technological know-how into the Luxembourgish research ecosystem
 - What is the added value for the Luxembourg research ecosystem and is it clearly expressed in the application?
 - Is there potential (and intention) for building a strategic collaboration to allow for innovative and internationally competitive research?
- 2) **Complementarity** of scientific expertise of research fellow(s) and research groups
 - Suitability of the seconded research fellow for the proposed knowledge exchange
 - Suitability of the hosting group/institution
 - Is the mobility likely to increase the international visibility of the research fellow and/or the Luxembourg research group?
- 3) **Feasibility** and **implementation** of the mobility in view of knowledge exchange
 - Is the duration and structure of the mobility sufficient to enable the intended knowledge exchange?
 - Are the activities planned during the stay suitable for knowledge exchange?
 - For Mobility IN: Are there activities addressing/involving researchers at all career stages, and how will the knowledge transfer to a broader research public be organised?
 - For Mobility OUT: Is the organisation of knowledge transfer to the home research group as well as to a broader research public in Luxembourg convincing?

3. General principles for FNR funded research activities

The research activities submitted and funded within the INTER mobility programme should fulfil the following general principles:

- Research activities should respect fundamental **Ethical Principles**, including those which are reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Applicants must comply with the [FNR Research Integrity Guidelines](#). **Research misconduct** e.g. non-compliance with ethical regulations and guidelines, provision of false information, plagiarism or falsification of data, may result in a rejection of the proposal. The FNR reserves the right to pursue further steps in the event of non-compliance with ethical standards and/or research misconduct.

The FNR attaches great importance to the impact of **research outputs** on science, industry, policy making, and society in general. To maximise the possibilities for the impact of research outputs, results from FNR-funded research are expected and required to be disseminated via high-quality publications that are made Open Access in accordance with the [FNR Policy on Open Access](#). Costs for project-related publications can be refunded through the [FNR's Open Access Fund](#). FNR also encourages the deposition of preprints in open access repositories. Researchers and research institutions are expected to ensure appropriate stewardship and curation of research data generated within FNR-funded projects, in accordance with the [FNR Policy on Research Data Management](#).

- The FNR will require a **Data Management Plan** (DMP) to be written for all projects accepted for funding. At project start, a [template](#) will be made available on FNR's Grant Management Platform. This document can be accessed and revised during the entire funding period. It is not required to submit a DMP at the application stage, but it might be relevant for specific research areas, to indicate already at submission stage how data is stored. Therefore, it is strongly advised to start preparations for a Data Management Plan already during the proposal writing. Please consult the FNR Policy on Research Data Management for further guidance.
- The FNR also encourages the **protection and the economic exploitation of research results** when it is possible and applicable and expects that an appropriate IP protection and exploitation strategy is in place at the host institution.
- The FNR attaches great importance to the **impact of research results** on science, industry, policy makers and the society in general. Therefore applicants are expected to list the value and impact of all research outputs (preprints, research publications reporting new knowledge, data, reagents, software, intellectual property, and training of skilled young scientists). In addition, the FNR also encourages the dissemination of research towards the general public and the media. Thus activities aimed at generating impact need to be foreseen from the initial project planning on.

- As a signatory of the [DORA declaration](#), the FNR encourages applicants to list a **range of research outputs** (including datasets and software, training of researchers, intellectual property). Applicants should not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors⁴, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, but rather focus on the scientific content.
- **Financial support from FNR must be acknowledged** in all publications and other forms of media communication, including media appearances, press releases and conferences, in compliance with the [FNR Communication Guidelines](#).
- In the **implementation of the research activities**, adequate attention needs to be paid to gender mainstreaming, as well as to, inter alia, working conditions, transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on FNR funded projects. In this matter, the [European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#) offer a reference framework.

4. Timeline INTER Mobility Call

January (call year)	Launch of the INTER Mobility Programme Call
1 April 14:00 (CET) (or in case of holiday or weekend: the first working day afterwards)	Deadline for the submission of proposals
End of June (call year)	Funding decision communicated to the applicants
1 September Call year+1	Latest funding start date of the INTER mobility grant. Please note that for projects which are not able to start on 1 September (call year+1), the FNR may revise its funding approval.

5. Glossary

Home Institution	The research institution where the visiting researcher is employed before, during, and after the secondment
Hosting Institution	The research institution where the visiting researcher will go for a given period of time to collaborate with local researchers
Applicant	A researcher from a Luxembourg public research organisation (eligible at FNR) who prepares the INTER Mobility application; In the case of a Mobility OUT , the applicant is the outgoing research fellow. In the case of an incoming researcher , the applicant is the person who invites the foreign researcher to Luxembourg
Fellow	The visiting researcher, who is seconded to another research group.

6. Contact

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