UNIVERSITEIT GENT

SPECIAL RESEARCH FUND
Call 2022
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Announcement and application information

Each year the Flemish Government allocates research funds to Ghent University so as to implement the Flemish Government Resolution of 3 May 2019. In accordance with this resolution, Ghent University has drawn up rules and regulations regarding the funds of the Special Research Fund (BOF, Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds)[1]. Each year the Research Council invites research proposals for the different initiatives.

This call concerns:

Interdisciplinary research projects starting on 1 October 2022

Deadline: 24 February 2022, 5pm.

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[1] *Board of Directors, 18.01.2013*

Description:

The budgets for interdisciplinary research projects have a standard duration of 48 months. The objective is to enable a consortium, consisting of two professors, to establish a joint interdisciplinary research project. Promoters, with a different field of research, work together on the same research topic, which is studied from different perspectives.

Through an interdisciplinary research project, financial support can be granted for personnel, operating and/or equipment costs. The project has a duration of 4 years. This amounts to a budget of maximum €420.000.

This call is launched every two years.

The call is **open to** the following categories of promoters connected to Ghent University:

1. a member of the professorial staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)

2. a visiting professor with (at least) a research assignment

3. a senior assistant, senior lector, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at Ghent University who holds a PhD degree

One may be involved in only one application for an interdisciplinary research project as a promoter.

The call **is not open to:**

1. Holders of **Methusalem-funding**.

2. **GOA projects ending after 31 December 2023**: Promoters of a GOA with an end date after 31 December 2023 cannot apply for an interdisciplinary research project.

3. **Interdisciplinary research projects**: promoters of a BOF interdisciplinary research project awarded in 2020 (starting date 1 October 2020) cannot apply for a new interdisciplinary research project.

Only proposals with a clearly and unarguably interdisciplinary and concerted nature will be taken into consideration for funding. The concerted nature of the project is reflected by the fact that the research must be carried out in an integrated way and cannot be divided into two monodisciplinary lines of research which are each supervised by one of the promoters. This needs to be clearly indicated in the project proposal. A check will be performed whether the promoters belong to research domains that are sufficiently distinct from one another.

Both the interdisciplinary nature and the research excellence of the project proposals and of the promoters are regarded as selection criteria. Only the best interdisciplinary project proposals will be selected for funding.

Language

The project proposals can be submitted in either Dutch or English.

Submission

- The project proposals must be submitted via the application module in GISMO. Additional information about the use of GISMO in this (re)search tip: https://onderzoektips.ugent.be/en/tips/00001932/

- You will receive an automatically regenerated email confirming the receipt of the application.

- The deadline is 24 February 2022, 5pm.

- The deadline will be strictly respected; late or incomplete applications will be rejected without review

- It is not requested to submit a signed application on paper. The electronic application via GISMO is sufficient.

Evaluation and granting

The applications will be evaluated by a special evaluation committee for interdisciplinary research, the omega committee, which will give advice to the Research Council. This evaluation will take place in 2 steps.

1. Preselection: in the first phase, the level of interdisciplinarity of the proposals is evaluated. The following criteria are used:

    a. The disciplines and the kinds of expertise that are brought together in the proposal are dissimilar from one another. For both disciplines, a broad definition rather than a narrow one must be given.

    b. The input of expertise, knowledge and methodology from both disciplines must be equally essential in order to carry out the proposed research. The research project can only be carried out in an integrated, concerted way and cannot be split up into two separated research lines. One discipline cannot be an auxiliary science for the other.

    c. The results of the interdisciplinary research lead to new scientific insights in both disciplines or contribute to the development of a new field of study.

2. In a second phase the preselected interdisciplinary projects as such are evaluated using the following criteria:

    a. scientific criteria for the project proposal:

        a. Innovative nature of the project

        b. Well described research objectives and methodology

        c. Coherence of the project

    b. criteria concerning the quality of the research consortium

        a. Evidence of the "state of the art" knowledge in both fields of research

        b. Expertise and competence of the promoters in their respective fields of research

        c. Coherence of the proposed consortium

        d. International scientific recognition of the promoters

        e. Output based on former research, with special attention for publications with international visibility and PhDs.

The Research Council will make a selection of the applications and formulate an advice. The interdisciplinary research projects are granted by the chairperson of the Research Council, based on the advice of the Research Council[2].

Result

The day after the preselection as well as the final selection in the Research Council, a list with selected projects is published on the website of the Special research Fund: https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/bof/results/overview.htm

Preselection: Research Council of 17 May 2022; results online from 18 May 2022.

Final selection: Research Council of 15 June 2022; results online from 16 June 2022.

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[2] *with authority delegated to him by the Board of Governors on 3 April 2015.*

After the final selection, applicants will receive a letter from the chairperson of the Research Council with the result of the selection. This letter explains how promoters can ask for feedback and whom to contact.

Scientific report

Within one year after the end of the project a scientific report, has to be sent electronically to BOFapplication@UGent.be. Both promoters are included in the e-mail, either as sender or in copy.

The scientific report must be submitted on the required forms, which are available on the University website:

http://www.ugent.be/nl/onderzoek/financiering/bof/iop/overzicht.htm

Additional information

For additional information, please contact the Research Coordination Office: BOF@UGent.be or the secretary of the Research Council Dr. Dirk De Craemer.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

PART I – GENERAL SECTIONS

1 General

1.1 Dutch and English title of the research project

Short title of the project. When awarded, these titles are forwarded to the FRIS-portal and the research explorer.

GISMO instructions: use the provided text box.

1.2 Dutch and English abstract of the research project

Short description in Dutch and English of the research project (max. 1000 characters). When awarded, these abstracts are forwarded to the FRIS portal and the research explorer.

GISMO-instructions: use the provided text box.

1.3 Research discipline codes

Provide at least three research discipline codes of level 4. To consult the research discipline codes: https://www.ugent.be/en/research/research-ugent/research-discipline.htm

GISMO instructions: make use of the provided selection module.

1.4 Keywords

Provide at least three Dutch and three English keywords.

GISMO-instructions: use the provided text box.

2 Persons responsible for the project

For all persons responsible for the project (except "contact person") a completed personal profile is required in GISMO, according to the conditions for delivery to the FRIS portal. Completeness means an ORCID linked to Ghent University and at least one research discipline code of level 4.

- For those who do not have an ORCID yet: further information on the creation of an ORCID can be found on this web page: https://www.ugent.be/orcid.
- Information on the research discipline codes: https://www.ugent.be/en/research/research-ugent/research-discipline.htm

GISMO instructions: for each role a search box is available (search on name, first name, organisation, e-mail). Select or add the desired person yourself. The module automatically checks whether a complete personal profile is available. Use the jump button 'Go to my profile' to complete the missing data or contact the person concerned.

All persons responsible for the project can edit the application in the GISMO application module, except for the contact person (who has read-only rights). They can also designate a proxy to manage sections on their behalf - more information in this (re)search tip. They can work on the same application at the same time, but not on the same section. Personal sections must be completed by the specific (co)promoter (or his proxy).

2.1 Promoters (mandatory)

The application must be submitted by two promoters. One of those acts as **promoter-spokesperson**. Both promoters carry the responsibility for the proper implementation of and reporting on the project.

Both promoters are connected to Ghent University and belong to one of the following categories on the deadline of this call:

- a member of the professorial staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)

- a visiting professor with at least a research assignment

- a senior assistant, senior lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at Ghent University who holds a PhD degree

The call is not open to:

- Holders of **Methusalem-funding**.

- **GOA projects ending after 31 December 2023**: Promoters of a GOA with an end date after 31 December 2023 cannot apply for an interdisciplinary research project.

- **Interdisciplinary research projects**: promoters of a BOF interdisciplinary research project awarded in 2020 (starting date 1 October 2020) cannot apply for a new interdisciplinary research project.

A promoter can be involved in only one application for an interdisciplinary research project.

If a promoter retires before the end of the project, it is obligated to mention a co-promoter who will take over.

2.2 Co-promoter(s) (not mandatory) – (only postdocs)

Co-promoters have no access to the budget (Grants code) for this project. As is evident in the project description and the plan of work, the co-promoter must make a real contribution to the project.

At the moment of the deadline of this call, the co-promoter must meet the following conditions

- The co-promoter has an appointment at Ghent University (FWO postdoctoral researchers and VLAIO researchers included), the University Hospital, VIB Gent, IMEC Gent and/or Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School or at one of the University Colleges ("hogescholen") from the Ghent University Association and

- holds a PhD degree and

- is not a member of the professorial staff (ZAP). **Exception**: If one of the promoters retires before the end of the project, it is obligated to mention a co-promoter who will take over. The co-promoter must then meet the conditions for promotership.

'External' persons need to be registered in GISMO in advance, before they can be linked to the application.

GISMO instructions: prior to starting the application, the person acting as external co-promoter logs on to https://gismo.ugent.be. If this person is not yet known within the Ghent University systems an error message will appear. In that case the person needs to register via https://gismo.ugent.be/gismo-web/web/registratie. If the person is already known and does not receive an error message, they will be asked to complete their data for GISMO (i.e. their affiliation), before they can be linked to the application.

The status of the co-promoter (including the type and duration of the appointment) and his or her home institution have to be specified in the application. Each co-promoter needs to provide a complete personal profile in GISMO. Completeness means an ORCID (in case of Ghent University staff the ORCID needs to be linked to Ghent University) and at least one research discipline code of level 4.

Co-promoter(s) are asked to add the scientific cv to the application. The cv of the co-promoter(s) will be taken into consideration when evaluating the consortium.

The role of co-promoter cannot be combined with an appointment to the account of the project budget.

2.3 Contact person (mandatory)

One Ghent University staff member who acts as go-between for communication about the project application.

3 Researcher involved in the project

Researcher within or outside the Ghent University Association who will make a contribution to the project. This researcher supports the research project in a substantial way without being (co-) promoter (by presenting methodologies, offering facilities, services in the form of subcontracting,....).

GISMO instructions: search for or add a person via the search box. Add a short explanation about the role this person will take up, using the provided text box.

4 Research proposal

4.1 Interdisciplinary character (max. 6000 characters)

Describe the interdisciplinary and concerted nature of the project. Demonstrate that the research will be carried out in an integrated way.

GISMO instructions: use the text field provided. At the bottom there is a counter indicating how many characters and words have been used. Indicatively: 6,000 characters translates into about 1,000 words.

4.2 Description of the research proposal including aim, methodology and timing, and bibliography of the cited literature (max. 7 pages of which max. 2 for bibliography)

Concise scientific explanation with a description of the objective of the interdisciplinary research proposal and the progress it would represent in relation to the current state of research in both monodisciplinary fields.

The work plan should include a scholarly/scientific and technical description of the planned activities aimed at achieving the established objective. Also mention the planning and, if relevant, the division of tasks between the two promoters.

GISMO instructions: This document is a maximum of five pages and uses Arial 10 font (spacing 1). Start the bibliography on a new page, preceded by a heading of 'Bibliography'. The bibliography is a maximum of two pages and also uses Arial 10 font (spacing 1). Upload one pdf file. A file with more pages than indicated will not be able to be uploaded.

5 Qualifications of the participating promoters

5.1 Background and strategy with regard to the proposal (max 2 pages)

Situate the proposed research work within the framework of the different research topics that are relevant to the application and that the one or both promoters are currently studying or plan to study in the future. When this relates to a totally new topic, then it must be briefly explained and justified.

GISMO instructions: use the text box provided. At the bottom there is a counter indicating how many characters and words have been used. Indicatively: 12,000 characters translates into about 2,000 words.

5.2 Cooperation with other researchers, research groups or institutions with regard to this project proposal

If applicable, describe the collaboration with other researchers, research groups or institutions with regard to this interdisciplinary research project. Also describe the nature of the collaboration and how it is relevant for the proposed project. The role of the co-promoter(s) and/or researcher(s) described in 2 and 3 needs to explained here.

GISMO instructions: use the text box provided. At the bottom there is a counter indicating how many characters and words have been used. Indicatively: 3,000 characters translates into about 500 words.

6 Ethical implications

Please indicate whether the project proposal has ethical implications by using the Ethics Questionnaire. More information on this questionnaire: https://onderzoektips.ugent.be/en/tips/00001933/.

GISMO instructions: download the questionnaire, complete it and upload a pdf version in this section. Also answer the question about possible ethics approval. The following answers are provided:

- *Not applicable*
- *Positive ethics approval has been provided*
- *Ethics approval is being sought*
- *An ethics approval will be requested after the project has been awarded, if any*

If an ethics approval of the relevant ethics committee is already available, this can be added.

In the event of a negative evaluation by the ethics committee, the project will, in principle, not be started. Only if the ethical implications are no longer relevant after adjustment of the project and the innovation objective remains feasible can the reworked project still be carried out.

It is up to the promoter of the application to provide the ethics approval in time.

6.1 Data Management Plan

When research funding is granted by BOF and IOF, the researchers (promoters or holders of a pre-doctoral or post-doctoral fellowship) will be asked to **draw up a data management plan (DMP) at the start** of the project and **add it to the project file in GISMO within 6 months** after the start of the project.

The DMP has to be based on one of the templates that are available on [DMPonline.be](). It is preferable to use this tool also for the drafting of a DMP.

Researchers are also expected to keep the DMP **up-to-date** in the course of the project and are accountable for the data management of their projects at any time**. At the end of the project**, the researchers need to upload the final draft of the DMP in GISMO. Questions about writing a DMP or the templates can be addressed to [rdm.support@ugent.be]().

7 Parallel applications

1. Which researchers have contributed to the present project proposal? What is the contribution of each of these researchers?
2. Are there any other research proposals submitted or will be submitted in short term that overlap partly or entirely with the present proposal? If so, how do they overlap and what is the status of the other proposals? Is this overlap (partly) the result of previous collaborations with other researchers?
3. In case of overlapping research proposals, why is additional funding applied for?
    a. Is this to maximize the chances to receive funding? In this case the Research Council can decide to award its funding conditionally, meaning that the funding will only be granted if the parallel application is not successful. In that sense, the information regarding the overlap of research proposals will have no influence on the evaluation procedure itself. But if needed the research council will cancel the selection or reduce the allocated budget to avoid funding the same project twice.
    b. Or is the additional funding supplementary to the parallel funding applied for via another funding program? In case both applications are successful: how will these budgets complement one another, what will each budget be used for?

GISMO instructions: if applicable, use the three text boxes provided.

8 Project duration

A BOF interdisciplinary research project has a standard duration of 48 months, with a fixed start date of 1/10/2022. Budget execution is possible during 72 months.

9 Time commitment

Provide a realistic time commitment (timing of work packages, milestones, critical path). If relevant, illustrate by using a table or other graphic visualisation.

GISMO instructions: Upload one pdf file. A file which exceeds the number of pages allowed cannot be uploaded.

10 Requested budget

Promoters can apply for a budget of **€420.000**.

The funding must contribute to the capacity to carry out advanced scientific research.

The funding can be used for personnel, operational and/ or equipment costs. Please describe in detail how the requested budgets will be spent within the framework of the project. Please also demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature when describing the requested budget.

Appointment of scientific personnel from 1.10.2022 on:

- PhD student: € 49.000/ year on average

- Researcher with PhD degree (4 years of seniority): € 95.000/ year on average

GISMO instructions: Use the module to add relevant budget scenarios (personnel, equipment, operating costs, subcontracting). If relevant provide a description using the text box provided.

PART II – PERSONAL SECTIONS

1 Publication profile

GISMO instructions: External co-promoters upload a pdf file for this section. A template is provided for this purpose.

1.1 BOF Publications List

For this section, an overview report is automatically retrieved from Biblio (Academic Bibliography UGent) with all publications and doctorates of the last five years for the (co)promoters.

Note: make sure your Biblio profile has been completed in advance (there is a processing timelag between Biblio and GISMO).

1.2 Five top publications

For this section, the (co-)promoters select and motivate their five most important publications from Biblio.

Note: make sure your Biblio profile has been completed in advance (there is a processing timelag between Biblio and GISMO).

GISMO instructions: use the search tool to find and select the specific publications. Add a motivation in the text field provided.

2 Personal profile

The promoters and possible co-promoter(s) each have to add the annexes mentioned below to the application.

> **Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages per person)**

The promoters and possible co-promoter(s) have to attach their CV as an annex to this application. This CV should include a standard academic and research record. A suggested outline (template) is available: https://www.ugent.be/intranet/nl/op-het-werk/onderzoek-onderwijs/onderzoek/financiering-admin/administratie/gismo/template-cv.docx . The structure of the CV may be modified. Select the items that are most important to you. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths (due to for example maternity leave, sick leave, etc..) should be clearly explained so that they can be taken into account.

GISMO instructions: upload one pdf file. A file with more pages than indicated will not be able to be uploaded.

> **Achievements track record of the applicants**

Please attach a list of achievements **for each applicant**. At least one of the achievements must be related to the project proposal.

- **Scientific leadership (obligatory – max. 4500 characters):** Scientific leadership refers to a person's ability to pursue scientific questions independently, confidently and creatively, combined with an ability to inspire others towards a common vision. This requires good

personal relations within a team with room for critical reflection. It is manifested through a range of tasks such as managerial duties; project coordination and the supervision of others - and through less tangible activities such as independent critical thought, balancing individual and group objectives, and contributing to a university's mission.

- **Impact (obligatory – max. 4500 characters):** Academic impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes in shifting understanding and advancing scientific method, theory and application across and within disciplines. Economic and societal impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy, and its benefits to individuals, organizations and/or nations. Please indicate what has been the impact (academic and/or economic and/or societal) of the (co-)promoter's scientific work so far.

- **Other achievements (not obligatory – max. 4500 characters)**

    Provide a selection of important scientific achievements, excluding publications.

    These may include, for example, granted patents; invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools; prizes; awards; academy memberships; other ...

    Briefly describe why these achievements demonstrate that you are entitled to outstanding contributions in your field of expertise.

Indicatively: 4,500 characters translates into about 750 words.

GISMO instructions: for each of the three parts, a text box is provided. The third text box ('other achievements') is not mandatory.

➢ **Overview of all ongoing, concluded and pending grants and funding of the applicants**

Please specify **for each applicant** (promoters and possible co-promoter(s)) ongoing, concluded and pending research grants and their subject. Use the template provided: https://www.ugent.be/intranet/nl/op-het-werk/onderzoek-onderwijs/onderzoek/financiering-admin/administratie/gismo/template-financiering.docx. Please add the following information: funding agency, start and end date, budget, title, and name of the researchers.

GISMO instructions: Please indicate if this section is applicable. If so, please use the template provided and upload one pdf file.