

FNR

INTER MOBILITY

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY SCHEME
FOR ESTABLISHED RESEARCHERS

FONDS NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE

Programme description



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Fonds National de la
Recherche Luxembourg

INTER MOBILITY PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

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1. General Principles

1.1. Objective of the INTER Mobility programme

The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to promote the scientific exchange between research groups of the Luxembourg public research institutions and outstanding research groups abroad in order to foster 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 as well as on the career development of the Luxembourg 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).¹

More specifically, the FNR intends to support:

- Post-Docs² and senior researchers working in Luxembourg to visit the **leading research institutions** in the field (Mobility – OUT)
and/or
- the visit from outstanding **established senior researchers** to Luxembourg public research institutions (Mobility – IN).

Within the INTER Mobility Scheme, the FNR does not intend to support research stays of early stage researchers (e.g. 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 private companies outside of Luxembourg are highly welcome.

1.2. Beneficiaries

The following organisations are eligible for INTER Mobility funding:

- Public institutions performing research in Luxembourg
- Non-profit associations and foundations performing research in Luxembourg that have obtained a special authorization from the Ministry for Higher Education and Research³.

1.3. Requirements

1. The exchange must take place between an eligible Luxembourg public institution and a foreign public or private institution.
 - If duly justified, the Luxembourg-based researcher may also visit several organisations abroad.
 - If duly justified, the proposal may also cover the expenses for two researchers (e.g. one from the Luxembourg based group to the group abroad and one from the group abroad to the Luxembourg group).

¹ Foreign researchers having benefitted from the INTER Mobility Programme are still eligible in the ATTRACT and PEARL programmes.

² AFR funded Post-Docs are not eligible for INTER Mobility funding.

³ For more information on eligibility, please consult the following webpage: <https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries/>

2. The researcher(s) must
 - be employed as a researcher by his/her home institution before, during, and after the visit (applies to both incoming and outgoing researchers);
 - not have benefitted from support by a Mobility within the last three years for benefitting from another grant;
 - organize an open seminar at the end of their mobility for the research community and present the skills and experiences that were acquired abroad (applies to outgoing researchers).
3. The seconded fellow and the host institution will have to establish a contractual agreement guaranteeing that all necessary arrangements have been met in order to accomplish the research stay successfully.
4. There are no thematic or geographical limitations.
5. The research stay has to 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.
6. Projects which have been submitted to FNR in previous calls and have not been retained for funding may be resubmitted only **once** and only after the project has undergone substantial revision. It is strongly advised to take the previous reviews and panel conclusion into consideration. The FNR reserves the right to exclude projects which have not undergone substantial changes in the resubmitted application.

1.4. Duration

Duration of the research stay and of FNR funding:

- The total cumulated duration of the research stay must be of minimum 6 weeks and maximum 1 year.
- If justified, the research stay may be split in several intervals of at least 2 weeks each, although FNR may not cover each trip, see eligible costs below.
- The time between the start of the first stay and the end of the last stay is limited to 3 years.

1.5. Eligible Costs

FNR funding may cover full costs for the Luxembourg public research organisation (according to internal rules of this organisation), e.g.

- **Salary costs of the researcher**

For a Luxembourg researcher going abroad, the FNR will cover the full salary of the researcher for the whole duration of the research stay⁴.

In the case of a foreign researcher coming to Luxembourg, the FNR funding should guarantee that the researcher will benefit from a funding which is comparable to a standard salary of a researcher (with the same track record) of the Luxembourg host institution. If the researcher still benefits from a salary of his/her home institution, the FNR funding will be reduced accordingly.

⁴ The salary costs of researchers during their sabbatical leave ("congé scientifique") will be covered by FNR only for the period or percentage not covered by the home institution.

- **Travel costs** between home country and host institution for researcher and family. In this context, 'family' is defined as persons linked to the researcher by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the national legislation of the country of the host organisation or of the nationality of the fellow; or (iii) dependent children who are currently being maintained by the fellow. The FNR covers at least one round trip for the researcher. Travels should be cost-effective, with two reference amounts depending on the family situation of the researcher:
 - 1 round trip per cumulated stay of 3 months for the researcher;
 - 1 round trip per cumulated stay of 6 months, per family member, if applicable.
- **Mobility allowance** for researcher and accompanying partner and family, if applicable. In addition to his/her salary, a mobility allowance will be paid to the researcher, taking due account of his/her family situation. This allowance is a flat-rate contribution to cover the personal household, relocation and travel expenses. There are two reference amounts depending on the family situation of the researcher at the time of his/her recruitment:
 - €1500/month: Researcher being accompanied by family and staying longer than 6 months;
 - €1000/month: Researcher without accompanying family or research stays shorter than 6 months.

If the mobility allowance is largely insufficient to cover the living costs, a Luxembourg researcher going abroad may request additional funding. Based upon this justification, FNR will decide whether to provide funding beyond the lump sums mentioned above.

- **Other costs** (upon justification and/or in exceptional circumstances), e.g. Visas, additional health insurance, child care.

2. Selection Procedure

2.1. Review Process

The proposals will undergo an administrative check by the FNR. A pre-screening of the proposals will be carried out by the FNR and the selected proposals will be evaluated through a state-of-the-art peer-review process.

The peer-review selection decision will rely on:

- Two written evaluations by independent experts;
- A review synthesis by FNR.

Based on the review syntheses, the FNR will select the proposals to be funded.

2.2. Selection Criteria

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

- Potential to foster innovative, internationally competitive research and exchange of key knowledge and technological know-how
- Added value to the research programme of the Luxembourg research group

- International reputation in the relevant domain of competence and research track record of the seconded researcher⁵
- International reputation and research track record of the host research group
- International reputation and research track record of the home research group
- Expected outcomes⁶

The evaluation process intends to select proposals where the selection criteria are rated as excellent in relation to international standards.

3. Application Procedure

3.1. Deadlines

The FNR has two call deadlines per year / Applicants must submit their application no later than 14:00 (CET) on the deadline:

- 1st call within year:
 - Deadline for submission: 20 January (14:00 CET) or the first working day afterwards
 - Communication of funding decision: by the end of April
- 2nd call within year:
 - Deadline for submission: 30 June (14:00 CET) or the first working day afterwards
 - Communication of funding decision: by the end of November

Earliest start of funding:

FNR funding may start at any moment in time as requested in the proposal. FNR funding may also be granted retroactively up to the date of submission to the FNR.

3.2. Submitting an Application

The application procedure is divided in 4 steps:

- **Step 1: Read the guidelines and the tutorial for the FNR Grant Management System**
- **Step 2: The applicant needs to complete the application form in the FNR Grant Management System**

The applicant is a researcher from a Luxembourg public research organisation (eligible at FNR) who prepares the INTER Mobility application;

In the case of an outgoing researcher, the applicant is the same person as the researcher who leaves for a research stay abroad.

⁵ Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles. The scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published. Other scientific outputs are also important, such as datasets, reagents, software, intellectual property, etc.

⁶ The FNR expects results to be published in peer-reviewed open access publications. The FNR considers the following as peer-reviewed publications:

- A publication in a journal of the list of journals with impact factors published yearly by ISI Thompson,
- A publication in the journal index established by SCOPUS, or
- A monograph with a review board.

In the case of an incoming researcher, the applicant is the person who invites the foreign researcher to Luxembourg and is the scientific contact for the invited scientist.

- **Step 3: The applicant then creates a pdf and submits it for validation to the administration of the Luxembourg institution.**
- **Step 4: The administration of the Luxembourg institution submits the proposal to the FNR.**

The application procedure is detailed in the INTER Mobility Application guidelines, which can be downloaded from the FNR webpage:

<https://www.fnr.lu/funding-instruments/inter-mobility>

Glossary

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

Contact

Ms. Linda Wampach
Programme Manager
Tel: +352 26 19 25-71
Email: linda.wampach@fnr.lu