

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS CALL 2026

FOR JOINT SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY PROJECTS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL TAIWAN (NSTC) AND THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION – FLANDERS (FWO)

From January 29th 2026 to March 31st, 2026, the call is open for two-year joint mobility projects between research groups from Taiwan and Flanders in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) on the 29th of July 2024.

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 Taiwan, we kindly refer to [this NSTC website](#) and the NSTC contact persons (see below, section V).

I. Definition and Objectives of the Collaboration

To strengthen collaboration in scientific research between Taiwan 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 NSTC side will be as follows: **01/01/2027 - 31/12/2028**.

Proposals for joint mobility projects between researchers from Flanders and Taiwan 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 NSTC).

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 Taiwanese 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 NSTC, you can only act **once** as a supervisor-spokesperson or co-supervisor.

In Taiwan: Please consult [this NSTC website](#) for more details.

- **How?** Applications should be **submitted simultaneously** to NSTC by the PI in Taiwan 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 Taiwanese PIs, project description, methodology, work packages, etc. in the research proposal submitted by the Flemish and Taiwanese PI should be **identical**.

In Flanders:

- 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 Taiwanese (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 Taiwan:

- The Taiwanese research group should submit the project proposal following the guidelines on this NSTC website.

2.2. Funding Principles

The funding within the frame of granted NSTC-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 Taiwan, to be booked through a travel agency authorized by the FWO.
- NSTC provides a maximum financial contribution for Taiwanese researchers of NT\$ 240,000 per project per year.

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 NSTC 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 Taiwanese)
- 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 NSTC side

Please be aware that **at Taiwanese side**, proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the proposal (including originality, methodology, and feasibility)
- Research track record and capacity of the applicants (both Taiwanese and Flemish teams)
- Necessity and added value of the bilateral collaboration (including complementarity of expertise and balance of contribution)
- Expected impact and potential for future large-scale international cooperation
- Involvement of junior researchers (PhD students and postdoctoral researchers)

In a second phase, based on the separate evaluation results, proposals are classified and ranked by NSTC and FWO in order to **jointly select the projects recommended for funding**. Only projects evaluated positively on both the FWO and NSTC 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 and at Taiwanese 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 (31/03/2026) of the project, to be counted from the date of obtaining the doctoral degree).

1. Individual visits in the frame of granted NSTC-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 NSTC side, prior notifications are not required for exchange visits. The Taiwanese researchers may manage their travel schedules according to the approved project plan.

IV. Timetable

- Launch of the new call for applications: January 29th, 2026
- **Deadline for submissions: March 31st, 2026:**
 - **At NSTC: submission possible until 12 am Taiwanese time**
 - **At FWO: submission possible until 5 pm Brussels time**
- Evaluation procedure: April-June 2026
- Announcement of results: December 2026
- Start of the joint mobility projects (both at FWO and NSTC side): January 1st, 2027

V. Contact Details

Contact information at NSTC:

Department of International Cooperation and Science Education

Ching-Mei Tang

Program Director

Tel: +886-2-2737-7695

cmtom@nstc.gov.tw

Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium

Ying-Chyi Chou

Director, Science and Technology Division

Tel: +32 2 287-2821

ycchou0601@nstc.gov.tw

Contact information at FWO:

Department International Affairs

Tinne Jacobs

Advisor International Affairs

Tel: +32 2 550 15 44

Tinne.Jacobs@fwo.be

Account administrators international mobility

interprog@fwo.be