

SPECIAL RESEARCH FUND
Call 2022
BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Announcement and application information

Each year the Flemish Government allocates research funds to Ghent University so as to implement the Flemish Government's 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). Each year the Research Council invites research proposals for the different initiatives.

PROJECTS AIMED AT THE PURCHASE OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE
WITH A MAXIMUM VALUE OF 150.000 EURO (VAT included)

Budget available from 15 December 2022

Deadline for applications:
28 June 2022 at 5 pm (Belgian time)

Description

The call for Projects aimed at the purchase of basic infrastructure focuses on proposals for a type of basic infrastructure with a maximum value of €150.000 (VAT incl.). The applicant(s) must demonstrate that the infrastructure is essential for their research ('basic') and that a large part of the applicants (and their research groups) will use/rely upon the availability of the infrastructure ('widely used').

(Research) infrastructure is an umbrella term that includes equipment, (e-)resources such as databases, archives and software, and facilities.

More expensive infrastructure (> €150.000) with the surplus possibly being financed by the applicant promoters is **not** permitted. However, infrastructure with a list price of more than €150.000 (VAT incl.) but which, as a result of a discount already negotiated, costs a maximum of €150.000 (VAT incl.) is permitted.

The purchase of multiple equipment (with a total value of €150.000 VAT incl.) can only be requested if this equipment forms an inseparable whole and it is demonstrated that it is not possible to carry out the proposed research programme if one piece of equipment is not available. The purchase of multiple equipment cannot be requested if the components can function independently of each other.

Maintenance costs and running costs cannot be included in the total cost.

Especially for the alpha-faculties, the call also provides the opportunity to purchase or implement large databases, such as commercial databases, data collections obtained through surveys or panel studies.

Proposals for the purchase of basic infrastructure should be related to the research activities of the research group in question. The importance of the basic infrastructure should be demonstrated by referring to the group's research activities and scientific output, and to the relevant funding that the researchers have acquired in the recent past.

Evaluation criteria

In addition to the scientific level of the (co)promoter(s) and the qualitative scientific basis of the application, the relevance of the requested basic research infrastructure within the context and strategy of the research group at Ghent University will be considered whilst assessing the application. This includes the following conditions:

- basic character of the requested research infrastructure: is the infrastructure essential for a research group to realise output?
- added value of the basic research infrastructure for Ghent University: efficiency, wide availability of the infrastructure for other researchers, etc.
- use of the basic research infrastructure for research/education/academic services: the purchased infrastructure has to be used mainly for research purposes and, to a lesser extent, in the context of teaching assignments or academic services.

Language

Applications can be submitted either in 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/>
- Only the promoter (or his/her proxy) can submit the proposal definitively.
- You will receive an automatically regenerated email confirming the receipt of the application.
- The deadline is **28 June 2022, 5pm**.
- The deadline will be strictly respected; late, incomplete or incorrectly drafted 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 Research Council makes a selection of the best proposals and formulates a well-founded advice. The advice of the Research Council is based on the evaluation of the scientific potential of the research group(s) and on the motivation of the application taking into account the opportunities to the further development of Ghent University's research potential. The Research Council can also recommend to allocate a reduced budget.

The funds for the purchase of research infrastructure are granted by the chairperson of the Research Council, based on the advice of the Research Council.¹

The success rate of the last call for research infrastructure is shown in the following table:

Projects basic infrastructure	2020			To be awarded in 2022	
		Applications	Selected for funding		Success rate
	Numbers	131	41	31%	
	Budget	€ 14.421.218	€ 3.750.000	26%	€ 3.000.000

Result

The day after the selection by the Research Council, the list of selected proposals will be published on the website of the Special research Fund (BOF), see <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/bof/results/overview.htm> .

Promoters of non-awarded applications can always request feedback by sending an e-mail to the Special Research Fund (BOF@ugent.be) after the publication of the results.

All applicants will also receive a letter or e-mail from the Chairperson of the Research Council with the selection result.

After allocation of the funds

All infrastructure purchased with this BOF-funding must be registered in GISMO.

No later than two years after the infrastructure came into operation, the promoter must submit a scientific report on the use of the basic infrastructure for research purposes. This scientific report must be sent electronically to BOFapplication@ugent.be.

The scientific report must be submitted on the required form, which is available on the University website: [Ghent university - Special Research Fund — Ghent University \(ugent.be\)](#) (template final report).

Additional information

For additional information concerning this call please contact the Research Coordination Office, e-mail: BOF@ugent.be or the secretary of the Research Council, dr. Dirk De Craemer.

¹ with authority delegated to him by the Board of Governors on 4 June 2021.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

GENERAL SECTIONS

1 General

1.1 Dutch and English project title

Short title of the project (this title must be more than the name of the infrastructure. After purchase, the infrastructure will have to be registered separately in gismo under its specific name). When granted, both are sent to the FRIS portal and the research explorer.

GISMO instructions: use the provided text box.

1.2 Abstract of the project in Dutch and English

Short description in Dutch and English of the 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 one 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 Person(s) 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)promotor (or his proxy).

2.1 Promoter (mandatory - only one allowed)

The proposals must be submitted by a promoter who is, at the moment of the deadline of this call, associated with Ghent University either as:

- a) a member of the tenured academic staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel - ZAP)
- b) a visiting professor with (at least) a research assignment
- c) a senior assistant, senior lector, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at UGent who holds a PhD degree

This promoter acts as the sole authorized person for the granted research budget (Grants Code) and as spokesperson. The promoter carries the responsibility for the proper implementation of and reporting on the project. If the promoter retires before the end of the project, it is obligated to mention a co-promoter who will take over.

2.2 Co-promoters (not mandatory - maximum number limited to 3)

Co-promoters have no access to the budget (Grants Code) for this BOF project.

At the moment of the deadline of this call, each co-promoter must:

- have 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**
- hold a PhD degree

‘External’ co-promoters (= the University Hospital, VIB Ghent, IMEC Ghent, IMinds Ghent and/or Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School or at one of the University Colleges (“hogescholen”) from the Ghent University Association) 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 co-promotor 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.

Every co-promoter must have a completed personal profile in GISMO, i.e. an ORCID (if UGent staff, the ORCID is also linked to UGent) and at least one discipline code of level 4.

2.3 Contact person (mandatory)

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

3 Project proposal

GISMO instructions: the text for 3.1 to 3.4 included, is maximum 5 pages long in font Arial 10 (spacing 1). Use the provided template and upload one pdf file. A file which exceeds the number of pages allowed cannot be uploaded.

3.1 Replacement, extension and/or acquisition

Indicate and explain whether it concerns the replacement of existing basic infrastructure with basic infrastructure of the same type (or a more current version), the extension of existing basic infrastructure or the acquisition of new basic infrastructure (e.g. introduction of new technology).

GISMO instructions: tick what is applicable.

3.2 Description of the basic infrastructure

Describe the requested basic infrastructure, including technical specifications.

Also state whether comparable basic infrastructure is available in the immediate vicinity of the applicant's research group(s) or at Ghent University in general. If so, specify in more detail to what extent the applicant(s) have access to the existing infrastructure or not and clarify the need / added value of having this basic infrastructure at their disposal for carrying out the research. The applicant(s) must be able to demonstrate that this infrastructure is essential for their research ('basic').

3.3 Use and potential users of the basic infrastructure

Indicate which potential persons/research groups at Ghent University will be able to use the basic infrastructure and in which context (research/education/service). The applicant(s) must be able to demonstrate that the requested basic infrastructure is broadly applicable.

3.4 Other elements in support of your application, if applicable

If applicable, mention special capacities or opportunities of the requested infrastructure that support the application (for example innovative character of the infrastructure, exceptional high efficiency of the device, etc...).

4 Qualifications of the research group (maximum 3000 characters)

Describe the context and strategy of the research in relation to the proposal.

Situate the research infrastructure within the different research topics which are relevant for the application and which are currently being (or will be) studied by the research unit(s). Other research expertise can also be added at this point. If the topic signifies a completely new research area for the research unit(s), please explain and motivate.

GISMO-instructions: use the provided text box.

5 Cost basic infrastructure

An application can be made for basic infrastructure with a maximum value of €150,000 (VAT included). More expensive infrastructure (> € 150,000) with the surplus possibly being financed by the applicant promoters is not permitted. Infrastructure with a list price of more than € 150,000 but which, as a result of a discount already negotiated, costs a maximum of € 150,000 (including VAT) is permitted.

State the cost (including VAT. If the quote does not mention VAT, the Belgian VAT must be calculated and added) of the requested basic infrastructure with a possible breakdown into possible modules. If relevant, give a breakdown between the basic infrastructure and possible expansion modules or options. The purchase of multiple equipment can only be requested if this equipment forms an inseparable whole and it is demonstrated that it is not possible to carry out the proposed research programme if one piece of equipment is not available. The purchase of multiple equipment cannot be requested if the components can function independently of each other.

Maintenance costs and running costs cannot be included in the total cost.

Attach **at least one price quote** per requested component (or other infrastructure).

Applicants are encouraged to add several price quotes if possible. If several competitive price quotes are added to the request and/or if an (academic) discount has already been negotiated, this may be taken into account in the final budget allocation. For applications without negotiated price quotes (discounts), the Research Council may decide to reduce the budget allocation factoring in possible future reductions.

GISMO instructions: use the provided table and upload module. Mention prices including VTA. Obtained discounts need to be mentioned separately in the provided table.

6 Requested funding and possible co-funding (if applicable)

1. The required amount (maximum €150.000) is **only** requested from the Special Research Fund (BOF)

2. Part of the required amount is requested from the Special Research Fund (BOF) and part is provided through **co-funding**. This co-funding must already be available (e.g. from existing UGent Grants codes/cash funds) at the time of application. **The sum of the requested BOF amount and the co-funding is maximum €150.000.**

GISMO instructions: use the provided tables.

Caution: all amounts you mention must be inclusive of VAT (i.e. VAT will not be added when the project is awarded).

7 Parallel applications (if applicable)

If parallel funding for the full amount has been requested from other bodies for the purchase of the proposed basic infrastructure, this must be stated, giving full details.

Approval at the expense of the BOF can take place under the suspensive condition of the granting of this other funding. After all, the same infrastructure cannot be funded twice.

One copy of this parallel application should be added to the proposal.

GISMO instruction: use the provided table and upload module. Mention amounts inclusive of VAT.

8 Project timing

A BOF basic infrastructure project has a standard duration of 24 months, with a fixed start date on 15/12/2022. Budget spending is possible for 24 months.

GISMO instructions: click 'save and continue'.

9 Larger implications

Please indicate whether the proposal has larger implications by using the questionnaire. For more information on this questionnaire see: <https://www.ugent.be/intranet/nl/op-het-werk/onderzoek-onderwijs/onderzoek/context/core-fac/vragenlijst-dgfb.htm>.

GISMO instructions: download the questionnaire, complete and upload a pdf version in this section.

10 Scientific committee

In order to evaluate the applications, the Research Council relies on three scientific committees.

The committees consist of members representing the following faculties:

Committee for the Humanities and Social and Behavioural Sciences ('Alpha' Committee): Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences

Committee for the Sciences and Engineering ('Beta' Committee): Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering.

Committee for Biomedical and Medical Sciences ('Gamma' Working Group): Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

As a rule, the application will be discussed in the Committee to which the promoter's faculty is assigned. One can submit a well-founded request to deviate from this rule.

GISMO instructions: choose the appropriate committee. If the committee deviates from the one that is linked to the promoter's affiliation, complete the provided text box with a motivation.

11 Other annexes

If you wish, you can add your own attachments that are not requested in the other sections.

ADDENDUM – PERSONAL SECTIONS FOR THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT

1 BOF publication list

GISMO instructions: external copromoters need to upload a pdf file for this section. A template is provided.

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). If any publications still need to be approved in Biblio, you can contact the Biblio staff at biblio@ugent.be until 3 weeks before the deadline of the BAS call. Publications that are not yet classified by the Biblio staff, appear in the BOF report under the category U (unclassified).

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.

GISMO instructions: external copromoters need to upload a pdf file for this section. A template is provided.

3 Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages)

The promoter 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. 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 which exceeds the number of pages allowed cannot be uploaded.

4 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.

5 Overview of ongoing, concluded and pending grants and funding of the applicants since 2017

Please specify **for each applicant** (promoter and possible co-promoter(s)) currently ongoing, concluded (since 2017) and pending research grants (projects, fellowships and equipment). 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.