

Fund Orcadia

Seed Grant for Promising Researchers Applied Research on Health-Environment Interactions (postdoc level or equivalent – Belgian research institutions)

Fund Orcadia launches a **career development grant for young and talented researchers** pursuing their research career and/or strengthening their application for longer-term fellowships and funding (postdoc level or equivalent).

The Fund was created by Orcadia AM (www.orcadia.eu) – an asset management company focused on sustainable investment – and is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of an independent scientific jury and a management committee.

Subject and scope of the call

The Fund intends to support:

- **Applied Research:** the project should tackle practical, concrete and current issues and should impact the stakeholders involved in the topic (beyond the academic field, see selection criteria below);
- A project on the **interactions between the natural environment and human health** (physical or mental)

Various domains of research are eligible, including Public Health, Psychology, Medicine (both Preventive and Curative Care of physical and mental ailment), Epidemiology, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics or any other discipline/interdisciplinary work investigating the link between Environment and Health in current contexts.

Possible topics are (**non-exhaustive list**):

- Impacts of climate change disasters on health (heat waves, droughts, floods, water contamination, forest fires, ...) and preventive measures;
- Impacts of natural disasters on migration and conflicts, with their negative consequences on physical and mental health;
- Pollution and its impacts on health;
- Emerging infectious diseases linked to close interactions between humans and natural habitats and the animal world: deforestation, loss of biodiversity, intensive livestock farming, trade in animal species, ...;
- Psychological distress related to future environmental changes: eco-anxiety, solastalgia;
- Mental health benefits of contact with nature (environmental psychology), including the role of green spaces in cities, gardening therapies, connection with nature, biophilia, ...



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Public benefit foundation

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Eligibility criteria

- The candidates should have a maximum of 3 years of active research activities (with an additional year per childbirth or adoption) following the date of PhD award or are about to complete their PhD (defence within 6 months after deadline of the call);
- During the project, the candidates will work full-time or part-time (at least 70%) at a university, academic institution or research centre;
- The candidates have no guaranteed funding for their salary for the coming years but have the intention of applying for longer-term funding;
- The application is formally supported by an established researcher in the field, preferably from the host institution.

Selection criteria

Profile of the candidate and host institution

Candidate

- Track record (including most relevant publications and dissemination **beyond academia**) of the candidate
- Career potential of the candidate and motivation to develop his/her own research line
- Steps undertaken to find additional long-term support
- Expertise in applied research

Host institution

- Potential of the research team and/or collaborating teams: scientific environment, competence, experience, added value for the research team
- Located in Belgium

Scientific quality of the research project

- Design of the overall research proposal of the candidate
 - o Relevance of research question
 - o Clarity of objectives
 - o Approaches and methods of applied research
 - o Feasibility of the proposed study
 - o Specific focus on the work packages planned with the financial support of Fund Orcadia (suggested duration: between 9 and 18 months)
- The scope of the research can be Belgian or international. In either case, **relevance to a Belgian context** is considered a **very strong plus**.

Impact and dissemination plan

- Scientific impact
- Societal impact **beyond academia**. At least one concrete measure taken during the project to impact **the field** is demanded (e.g. companies, care providers or other types of professionals)
- Dissemination beyond academia (with a plan for communication). At least one concrete action for dissemination outside academia – preferably towards the **general public** – (with adapted tone and vocabulary) is demanded.
- Concrete impact within Belgium is considered a **strong plus**.



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Involvement of stakeholders

- List of key stakeholders (e.g. public authorities, companies, care providers...) and clear description of how they will be involved in the research and how their expertise will be taken into account.

Budget

- Adequacy of the budget. The budget should be used to increase the opportunities for the grantee to apply for long-term funding in the coming years (after accomplishment of the proposed research project). This should be demonstrated in the application.
- Co-funding should be detailed in the application.
- Overhead costs cannot exceed 17% of the total budget.

Ethical questions and GDPR

- Description of how ethical issues, if any, and GDPR are taken into account. If the project has to be submitted to an Ethics Committee, researchers should obtain ethical approval before the project can start (but not before the introduction of the application).

Grant

- A total amount of € 100,000 is available for this call and can be used to (co-)finance the excellent research project of one highly talented researcher.
- An Agreement will be drawn up between the King Baudouin Foundation and the host institution. Please indicate if the researcher's name should be explicitly mentioned in the Agreement.
- The grant will be paid to the host institution.

Duration

- **Between 9 and 18 months** supported by Fund Orcadia (whole duration can be slightly shorter/longer according to the project's needs) and starting within 9 months after the announcement of the results of this call.

Procedure

- **By 9th October 2024:** send the following table to lamotte.l@kbs-frb.be:

Last name applicant	
First name applicant	
E-mail address	
Phone number	
Host institution	
Supervisor	
Working title of the project	
5 keywords	
Discipline(s)	
10-line description of the project	



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Given the broad scope of the call, the information provided will enable KBF to appoint high-level jury members with the required expertise. This is **not** a go/no go preselection phase but it is yet a **compulsory** step.

- **By 7th January 2025 midnight:** submit **your online application** via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be. Applications should be submitted **in English**. Applicants will receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt.

Selection

Applications will be assessed by an independent scientific jury who will draw up recommendations for the Fund Steering Committee for final decision. Results will be announced by e-mail in March 2025.

Contact

- For technical assistance during the application process:
Contact centre – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – proj@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call:
Marie-Catherine Michaux (michaux.m@kbs-frb.be)

King Baudouin Foundation

Working together for a better society

The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society.

The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion in Belgium and Europe. We seek to maximize our impact by strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals. We also stimulate effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations.

The King Baudouin Foundation is a public benefit foundation. The Foundation was set up in 1976 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

With thanks to the Belgian National Lottery and to all donors for their valued support.



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