BeIPD-COFUND - “Be(lgium) International Post Doc”

MSCA-BeIPD-COFUND: enhancing ULg’s existing postdoctoral fellows hosting practices

The BeIPD-COFUND scheme was launched in February 2013 and till 2018, offers the ULg the opportunity to organise 4 incoming- and 4 outgoing calls for international, experienced postdoctoral researchers. A total of 100 incoming- and 28 outgoing fellowships will be awarded to young scientists and allow them to establish themselves as independent researchers in Academia.

A total number of 49 incoming and 14 outgoing fellows have already been recruited at the ULg. The group of attracted BeIPD-COFUND postdoctoral fellows represent a good gender- and origin (EU/non-EU) balance. The selected research projects match the following (main) research sectors: Social Sciences, Health Science and Sciences & Technology.

And there’s more to come: 2 more incoming- and outgoing calls will be launched in 2015 & 2016, each of them enabling the ULg to host some more 25 incoming fellows and to send 7 of the most promising young PhD graduates from the University of Liege around the world.

Building on our former experience with the ULg institutional IPD scheme, the FP7-COFUND co-financing enabled the ULg to enhance the former post doc programme in quite some aspects:

The introduction of external reviewers in the evaluation process
Following the evaluation of the institutional Post doc programme (2006-2011), ULg expressed a need to enhance the evaluation & selection procedure. Since the launch of the BeIPD-COFUND programme, each single application is now reviewed by 2 internal and 2 external reviewers. One of the 2 external reviewers is suggested by the applicant. The second external reviewer is a member of ULg’s international scientific network. One of the 2 internal evaluators acts as the reporter. Following the reception of the 4 individual evaluation reports, the reporter writes a feedback report which is validated by the other 3 evaluators and which is presented during the Research Council meetings that is in charge of the selection of the applicants that will be offered a BeIPD-COFUND fellowship.

The “bottom-up” approach: foster self responsibility & independence
The bottom-up approach that has been decided upon is a particular feature of the ULg BeIPD-COFUND postdoctoral programme. In the past, the research unit leaders introduced the application of the applicants who intended to realise their postdoctoral stay in his/ her research unit. By means of strengthening self autonomy and
independence, the applicants now apply for a COFUND fellowship mandate themselves and in doing so, are supported by their future scientists-in-charge.

**Ethical issues matter!**
Ethical issues are to be considered and, in our opinion, go way beyond the completion of the Ethics Issue list which is one of the compulsory documents to introduce whenever applying for a BeIPD fellowship grant. Selection of the applicant also heavily depends on the way the applicant intends to deal with the ethical issues that his/her research involves. The internal and external evaluators are invited to take the explanations on this matter into account in the ranking of the applications. Insufficient precaution or attention is heavily punished and almost automatically induces that the application will not be ranked among the “A” (top score) applications.

**Double your research output!**
Since the start of the BeIPD-COFUND programme, the duration of the incoming fellowships has been extended to 2 years. A survey that was conducted among the applicants and fellows that benefit from an ULg incoming post doctoral research mandate with a duration of 1 year revealed that most of the post docs being hosted at ULg experienced that the duration of their fellowships should ideally be extended. The BeIPD-COFUND scheme enables ULg to provide fellowships that largely enhance the fellows’ capacity of publishing a significant number of publications and displays a valuable contribution to the scientific world. It also enables fellows to take an active part in their host University and host society, to enlarge their personal and transversal skills and to prepare them properly for their professional - and their future scientific career scientific after they’ve completed their COFUND fellowship.

**The applicant’s right to be informed: the feedback report**
The feedback report is another valuable improvement of our post doc hosting experience. Each applicant, either successful or not, receives a feedback report that was validated by all 4 evaluators that evaluated his/her application file. Is constitutes a valuable measure that enables young researchers to readjust their future scientific careers and /or academic aspiration and to focus on matters that revealed to be less convincing in their application and which should be enhanced, enlarged etc. in order to stay competitive on the “academic job market”.

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ULgWebTV

« BeIPD-COFUND »
Liege ardente et émergente

Bilingual (FR-EN) promotion video for the BeIPD-COFUND programme

Link: https://www.ulg.ac.be/cms/c_4129555/fr/liege-ardente-et-emergente
Europe 80%
Non-Europe 20%

Gender fellows incoming 2013

Male 48%
Female 52%

Research area division fellows incoming 2013

SH 52%
SV 16%
ST 20%
intersectoriel 12%
Marie Curie research area division fellows outgoing 2013

Destinations applicants outgoing 2013

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