

KHALED- AL-ASAAD SOLIDARITY FUNDS
TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME WITH RENEWABLE ONE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
RESEARCHERS AT RISK
ALL DISCIPLINES

Application deadline: 15 December 2024

Start date: September 2025

Job Description

The **Université libre de Bruxelles** has created a Solidarity Fund in order to provide support for researchers who no longer have the freedom to pursue their research in their home country, where they are threatened due to the content of their scientific work or to the opinions they have freely expressed.

The Solidarity Fund provides postdoctoral fellowships enabling threatened academics to continue their work at ULB in a climate of academic freedom.

The solidarity fellowship consists in a **one-year** (12 months) **postdoctoral position**, amounting to 53,000 euros gross (approximately 35,460 euros net), plus a discretionary relocation allowance of 2,500 euros net (payable to researchers resident in another country, after their move to Belgium).

The recipients will carry out research in a ULB research centre, supervised by a member of the University's academic staff. They may, if they so wish, take part in teaching activities or any other scientific activities organised on campus.

This two-year grant (renewable for one year), with limited duration, is intended to act as a "jump" out of a situation of danger and to then continue the career under better conditions.

Qualifications :

PhD

Eligibility Requirements

- hold a PhD and occupy (or have occupied) a research position in a university in their home country;
- not have been living for more than 8 years in a country other than the one in which they are at risk
- not have obtained their PhD more than 8 years before the fellowship start date;
- be currently at risk in their home country due to the content of their work or to the ideas they have openly expressed;
- not have resided or carried out their main activity in Belgium (work, studies etc.) for more than 24 months during the 36 months immediately preceding the fellowship start date (mobility rule);
- be able to reside in Belgium and work full time at ULB;
- have a good knowledge of written and spoken English and/or French (minimum B2) ;
- at the end of the first year of their fellowship, current beneficiaries may apply for a second year of funding to a positive evaluation by their supervisor

Selection criteria

- The dangerous situation to which the applicant is exposed
- The scientific quality of the applicant and of the research project
- The capacity for integration

The criteria of danger is the priority criteria in this call.

Researchers who are in a place that offers them long-term security will not be given priority for these grants.

A maximum of two applications may be submitted for the Solidarity Funds Program.

Interested ?

Applications must be submitted by 15 December 2024.

<https://forms.office.com/e/rmYiLbr67G>

Applicants must submit the completed online application form and send the following documents by email to solidarityfund@ulb.be

- a confidential application letter describing the researcher's situation (the letter must clearly mention the applicant's administrative situation, whether they have a valid passport, whether it is possible for them to travel and their current location);
- the applicant's CV, including a list of publications;
- a description (approximately 4 pages) of the research project that the applicant will work on at ULB;
- a copy of the applicant's PhD diploma;
- a copy of the applicant's passport;
- the form below, completed by the member of ULB academic staff who would supervise their research;
- two reference letters from scientists working in the same field, including, if possible, one from their PhD supervisor.
- any other document deemed relevant to support the application and substantiate the risk situation will be useful.

It is mandatory to carry out your research under the supervision of a member of ULB's academic staff, whom you should contact before submitting your application.

You will find the list of members of academics staff on the following page:

<http://cvchercheurs.ulb.ac.be/Site/repertoireUK.php>

Only complete applications, that include all the items listed above, can be taken into consideration.

Calendar

15 December – deadline for submission of applications

May 2025 – notification by the selection committee

September – fellowship start date

Should the applicant be offered another position before the results of the ULB call for applications are communicated, they will inform ULB immediately, by sending an email to solidarityfund@ulb.be

All documents will be handled with the utmost confidentiality by the selection committee.

For further information, please contact solidarityfund@ulb.be



Assessment of the application – Solidarity Fund– Call 2025

**Form to be completed by the ULB's supervisor and sent to solidarityfund@ulb.be
By the 15th of December 2024, mentioning the candidate's name in the subject of the message.**

Surname, First Name of the candidate:

Surname, First Name of the ULB's supervisor:

Interest of the candidate's research project for the ULB's research team and articulation of the project with the other projects in progress in the research team.

Reception arrangements and integration within the Research Centre. (Provision of an office, members' availabilities of the research centre, association/involvement of the candidate with/in research centre activities...)

It is important to point out that the reception of a researcher at risk requires more time and involvement than for any other researcher.

Researchers at risk will need to be accompanied, supervised and supported in order to deal with the many difficulties they may encounter during their stay in Belgium (post-traumatic stress, administrative difficulties, distance from their family, fears about the future, etc.).

If you would like to discuss this aspect of hosting a researcher, please contact us at: solidarityfund@ulb.be

If the researcher you are supporting is selected, we will offer you an interview to discuss the arrangements for hosting the researcher.

Assessment of the candidate's motivation and language skills (French and/or English) following an online interview.

Please indicate here any other information you consider relevant for the assessment