## FONDAZIONE ITALIANA SCLEROSI MULTIPLA ONLUS

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF FINANCING APPLICATIONS

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#### A. GENERAL

#### A1 – How to use the software

- Suggested screen resolution is 1024 x 768.
- MAC users please note that the suggested browser is Firefox.
- Registered users only are allowed to use the software for filling in forms.
- The registered user has to be the applicant of the project.
- HTML characters are used to fill in the forms, no special characters can be used (bold, underline, italic, symbols, Greek characters)
- You can copy and paste from Word, .rtf and .txt files.
- If you wish to stop filling in the form and resume it later on, click "save proof". Your form will be temporarily saved. Click "save proof" to save each individual section of the form when going from one section to the other.
- The number of characters to be used to tape your answers to the form questions is limited and cannot be exceeded. The number of characters includes spaces. Each paragraph mark is two characters. These spaces are large and do not need to be fully used.
- After filling in the form, please click "save and submit" to send it.
- If you wish to print the form, click "create PDF" and print the PDF file that has been saved. If you wish to save directly the form click "download PDF". The PDF does not contain the attachments.
- If the form is not sent, please check that all compulsory fields have been filled in. If users think they do not have to fill in all compulsory fields (e.g. those fields concerning budget), please tape "0" in the corresponding box.
- If multi-centric projects are involved, forms concerning the corresponding available centres, available as attachments, need to be filled in. Please insert the data relating to each centre into separate sheets.

Scroll down the pages and add those data concerning the second and third years. You may add lines to each item of expenditure, if needed (use the "insert line" button). The file is generated so that data are automatically summarized in the table on the first page. For this procedure to be successful, do not modify the file; please, be extra careful not to modify the cells containing formulas.

• Application forms may be modified by registered users until the deadline of the call for applications; no changes can be made afterwards. Application forms cannot be sent after the deadline of the call for applications.

#### A2 – How to fill in the form

- Application forms must be filled in English.
- Application forms must be fully filled in; if they are not, they will be excluded from the assessment process.
- Users are asked to be clear in order to ease the assessment work carried out by referees and the Scientific Committee of the Italian MS Foundation. Please use technical jargon, acronyms and abbreviations as little as possible, so to make it easier for people who are not experts in those fields to read the forms.
- Application forms ought to be text files. Should research projects be proposed, additional files may be attached (e.g. images, tables or charts, procedure details etc.); however this is to be done only if deemed necessary. 2MB and 4MB are available online for research fellowship applications, research projects and Rita Levi-Montalcini career fellowships. Inspectors will rather choose concise and clear projects, which contain all details needed to assess the project.

• ATTENTION. Upon submit an application form, you are asked to print, accept and sign the FISM (Italian MS Foundation) regulations and those terms and conditions concerning the privacy laws (FISM rules). The page has then to be scanned and attached to the application form to be sent with it. If you are applying for training or research fellowships, please scan your adviser's and the applicant's letters (this is an optional choice). As for Rita Levi-Montalcini career fellowships, what is needed is attaching the scanned letter of the Director of the host Institute.

## **B. RESEARCH PROJECTS**

## <u>Title of research project (maximum 200 characters)</u>

The title of the Research proposal must provide the necessary information concerning the proposal. It must be short and easily understandable, even to inspectors who are not experts in the field of the project. For technical reasons, please do not use capitals when writing down the title of your research proposal.

## **Duration and type of project**

Please add the envisaged duration of the project. Please say if this is a multi-centric project and the number of Centres taking part in it. If this is a pilot project, explain (maximum 1000 characters) why this project can be listed as such (a very innovative project; a risky project, which is worth of approving; the expected results for further extending it).

## Proposal type

Please specify if this is a new project, the extension of an earlier FISM-financed project, or a project that was proposed in a previous call for proposals, but had not been funded. In such a case (revised project), please explain criticism to the project and what has been done to modify and improve it (maximum 5000 characters).

ATTENTION: do not list as "new projects", those projects that had already been proposed in past call for proposals and were not funded. As a matter of fact, such procedure might entail the exclusion of the proposal from the assessment process in the future. For the sake of clarity, if a project is proposed again and has not been revised, it is still a "revised project" and the applicant is to explain why they have not taken into consideration the inspectors' comments and remarks.

## Personnel involved in the research project (maximum 2000 characters).

Please list all the members of the research team that are very much involved in the project.

#### External collaboration (maximum 4000 characters).

Should external collaboration be needed (e.g. suppliers of special components or materials, such as transgenic mice, samples of biological materials etc. or technical consultants or experts), please indicate their names, surnames and the institute or company they work for. Explain why these collaborations are needed, their added value and the specific role that each collaborator will play in the project.

ATTENTION: you MUST attach the scanned letters signed by these collaborators, in which they say they know the project and they are aware of their roles.

#### Research field

Please specify the field of expertise the project is referring to. If this is a multi-centric project, specify the main field of expertise in the box at the end of the application form. These pieces of information - that are often not included or are incorrectly included - are used for statistics and for pointing out the fields of expertise that must be known to inspectors.

## **Summary of the project** (maximum 3000 characters)

Please briefly and clearly describe the hypotheses and goals of the project. The abstract is part of the proposal. It must be fully understandable and summarize the full project. Goals, the rationale, the expectations, and the phases of the project need to be summarized in the corresponding boxes, both in Italian and English. General and useless statements must be avoided (e.g. MS affects the

CNS and is characterised by...); inspectors must clearly and precisely understand what the project is about. The project abstract must be always added to the progress reports; it is thus possible to monitor its compliance with the original project.

## **Lay summary** (maximum 2000 characters)

The research project must be summarized by using very simple language that can be understood by laymen. Please write in Italian. If the project is financed, such a summary will be used as a piece of information to be published on the mass media.

## Relevance for multiple sclerosis (maximum 10000 characters)

Please clearly state why the goals of the project are important to better understand the etiopathogenesis, the course, the diagnosis, the prognosis and the treatment of MS; do not add general statements.

## **Proximity to find new pathogenic mechanism (max 1000 characters)**

Please state, the possible short, medium and/or long term impact of the research's results on people with MS. In particular, indicate time and research's plan necessary to the characterization of new pathogenic mechanisms;

## **Proximity to cure (max 1000 characters)**

Please state, the possible short, medium and/or long term impact of the research's results on people with MS. In particular, indicate time and research's plan necessary to develop therapies for MS

## State of the art (maximum 8000 characters)

Please consider the current knowledge on these issues and what gap is the project supposed to fill in.

## The scientific rationale and main goals of the proposed project (maximum 10000 characters).

State the goals that the project wants to achieve and the hypotheses that need verifying. Please clearly state the specific goals of the proposed research project and add a persuasive and clear description of the scientific, technical and economic consequences of such a project. The project's goals must be implementable and innovative if compared to the current knowledge. Please specify the final goals. Should projects be two- or three-year projects, please specify the mid-project goals, after the first and second years.

## Preliminary results (if any) that have already been achieved (maximum 10000 characters).

Preliminary results concerning the project's subject matters are of the essence to envisage the possible success of the research project. Such preliminary results are achieved by the applicant and do not refer to data that can be found in medical literature.

## Research programme and method (maximum 16000 characters).

Precisely and realistically describe the research programme and the techniques to be used to achieve the project goals. Add the methods of analysis and interpretation of results. Describe any new method that is being used and what advantages it does entail if compared to the existing methods. Those methods that have not yet been described in medical literature must be explained as to allow other researchers to implement them.

The proposed project must be implemented in 1, 2 or 3 years, as envisaged, in compliance with the type of project. Please be careful not to propose a very large project, since it might not be possible to develop it within the envisaged time.

Point out the difficulties and limits that may result from the proposed techniques and the possible alternatives that will be used to achieve the project goals. Please describe the statistical details that are to be used.

As for more basic studies concerning cells or tissues (human or non-human tissues), state the origin of materials (you may add the acceptance letter of the supplier), the collection and preservation methods of human tissues, and specify if they have been already collected; why they are used and their advantages if compared to other materials.

As for those projects using animals, please specify their species, stock, age, gender, and why that species has been chosen. State the number of animals and the minimum size of the needed specimen. Describe the methods used to minimize animals' suffering during caging and experimental phases, as per EU Law no. 86/609, accepted by Italy by means of the L.D. no. 116/1992.

As for those projects studying diseases based on animal models: the adequacy of models chosen for the proposed projects must be verified.

As for clinical studies wanting to correlate clinical researches - old or new MRI techniques are also included - to disability or other clinical parameters, such as fatigue, relapses etc. the following must be listed:

- Preliminary results concerning the variability of the proposed outcomes and measurements among people or related to only one individual.
- Sample size must be calculated (patients and examinations): it must be large enough to obtain statistically valid data.
- Exclusion and inclusion criteria to be applied to the patients taking part into the project.
- Proposed techniques: their pros, effectiveness and suitability.

As for those studies monitoring the effectiveness of medications and drugs, by means of any technique:

- The side effects of such medications and drugs must be clearly stated (interactions with other meds and drugs must be listed as well).
- Please clearly explain how physicians may foresee and manage such side effects and how they may affect the number of patients involved; drop-outs must be taken into consideration.

As for those researches using non conventional MRI, please explain why you chose such techniques and why they are beneficial if compared to the more convenient traditional techniques.

As for the other clinical researches - rehab, therapy and marker assessments etc. are included - the inclusion criteria, the statistical assessment of the number of patients and the drop-out assessment must be clearly stated.

What must be done is a reasonable assessment of the duration of the study, including the time needed to involve patients into the study, and the statistical methods that are going to be used to interpret data must be described.

#### **Multi-centric studies**

Please describe each centre's role and specific contribution as far as the achievement of the overall goals of the project is concerned (maximum 8000 characters), as well as the coordinator's role (maximum 2,000 characters); please specify how the project is to be managed; how the activities of

each centre are to be monitored by the coordinator; how the development, methods and analysis of the project are regularly controlled, and how results are to be integrated.

Please note that "multi-centric" study does not mean a group of independent studies that are being carried out in a number of centres, but one single study to which more centres contribute.

## Bibliography (maximum 8000 characters)

Bibliography items MUST DETAIL all names of the authors, the titles of papers and books or magazines and journals, as well as the volume number, page numbers and year of publication. Please write an essential, updated and coherent bibliography.

#### Project responsible's curriculum vitae and publication

Please add the curriculum and the list of papers written by the Project Manager. Bibliography items MUST DETAIL all names of the authors, the titles of papers and books or magazines or journals, as well as the volume number, page numbers and year of publication.

As for multi-centric studies, what is needed is communicating the necessary pieces of information concerning the Centre managers or Operational Unit managers, each centre's staff involved into the carrying out of the project and activities and corresponding papers (bibliography must be detailed, as already mentioned) written by the manager in charge of each unit participating into the project.

## **More funds**

Provide the needed information on available funds or funds that have been requested.

Please specify those available amounts stemming from other sources.

#### **Budget**

The description of envisaged expenses must be accurate and related to the carrying out of the project. A general description or general expenses that cannot be precisely described will not be accepted, e.g. what cannot be done is specifying a specific sum for consumables without detailing individual items; moreover do not include amounts related to collaborators' salaries without specifying their qualification, roles, mission duration and whatever is necessary to correctly assess expenses.

You may apply for funds for the following budget items:

- Staff (maximum 2000 characters).

The Project Manager is allowed to employ external collaborators or sign collaboration contracts (through their institute), thus employing ad hoc collaborators - even part-time collaborators - that have been chosen for their expertise or as sheer workforce. The employment relationship can be established with graduates or people who did not get a degree and must concern the project's research activities (e.g. cleaning staff, delivery men, hospital porters etc.). Please clearly indicate the amount of money needed to establish such an employment relationship and those tasks expected from collaborators and workers; you do not have to communicate their names or send their CVs, since these collaborators are chosen exclusively by the institution receiving the money, and not by the Italian MS Federation.

This employment relationship cannot be described as a FISM "fellowship". Details concerning those being paid and the tasks performed must be explained upon reporting or receiving the payment request from the Italian MS Federation.

If consultancy services or contracts need to be paid  $\in$  18,000/year or more, no more fellowships will be awarded for that project. No payment over  $\in$  30,000/year is allowed for this kind of projects.

PLEASE NOTE that if your project envisages collaboration with foreign laboratories needing to hire local staff to carry out this research, the upper limit value might be increased (it needs to be approved by the Scientific Committee and the governing body

of the Italian MS Federation) to be in line with the laws in force in that given foreign country.

## - Risk insurance premiums and more insurance policies

The MS Foundation cannot be held responsible for any risks and/or accidents that may happen during the carrying out of the research activities. The body carrying out research activities must take out the needed insurance policies. Funds to be used to pay premiums related to risks or more insurance policies taken out for staff being paid thanks to the research contribution, may be included, however this is to be done only after the approval of the Italian MS Federation. No premium payment will be allowed for insuring equipment or supplies that have been purchased by using (or not) the granted funds.

#### - Patient costs (maximum 1500 characters).

Funds requested for health and welfare services dedicated to patients during the research activity, might be granted only if an explanation is added to the application; in such a way, what is shown is that such costs are needed for the proposed research and that the usual fund sources are either unavailable or inadequate. The same goes for any insurance policy that must be taken out for patients. The research body is to pay a number of services and they cannot be included among those services for which the contribution was requested.

## - Tools and instruments (maximum 2000 characters).

The scientific tools and instruments that have been bought by using the granted funds are owned by the Foundation. The receiving body owns these tools and instruments, only if explicitly agreed in writing. The costs for installing the purchased tools and instruments are not covered by the granted funds, unless this is requested in the application and explicitly and specifically approved by the cost estimate of the granted contribution. The receiving body must take care of the maintenance of the purchased tools and monitor the correct working of tools and instruments.

Expenses due to tools and instruments must be limited and must not exceed € 30,000, unless exceptions are accepted and agreed upon by the Foundation. Purchase of laptop computers, instead of desktop computers, must be clearly explained.

## - Consumables

This must be specified; generic definitions are not allowed. Consumable stocks may include any type of consumable supplies for laboratories, including the purchase and care of guinea pigs.

## - Research travels & Conferences (maximum 1500 characters)

Expenses needed for domestic or overseas travels and participation into conferences relating to the research plan can be granted only if requested in the application. If these costs are paid out of the contribution, they will have to abide by the rules of the receiving body or the Foundation, should FISM be in charge of their management. Costs related to travels and conferences must be explicitly referred to the research project and should be kept to a minimum. Please note that the expenses to take part into the progress and final report meetings organised by FISM on an annual basis, must be envisaged over the entire duration of the project.

Other expenses (not more than 10% of total budget) (maximum 1000 characters) -*Allowed Expenses*: publication and reprinting expenses, shipments of samples and animals. If software is required, specify what you need for the proposed research.

Expenses for the purchase of books and magazines are allowed in exceptional cases and only if they have been approved in the estimate of the granted contribution.

The following expenses are allowed only if indirect costs are not required (overhead) and only if in line with the approved research: stationery (paper, etc...), computer consumables (toners, CDs ...), instrument maintenance and repair, correspondence.

-Expenses that are not allowed: fax and telephone bills, except for those projects involving many telephone calls to patients (e.g. a number of epidemiological studies).

## Indirect costs (overhead) (maximum 1000 characters).

The receiving body – thanks to its legal representative -, who signed the application, is allowed to keep up to 5% of the sum requested by the lead researcher from the granted fund (indirect costs). The amount and reason of such indirect costs must be explained in the application, failure to do so may result in your application being rejected.

Indirect costs are not accepted if connected to funds requested or used for:

- a) Use of hospital beds;
- b) Purchase of, changes to or installation of equipment
- c) Structural changes to laboratories, benches, plants etc.

As for contributions to foreign institutes and bodies, indirect costs will not be accepted unless a special explanation is given. Indirect costs higher than 5% will be considered only in exceptional cases; please clearly and precisely detail and explain the reasons of these indirect costs in your application, they will be assessed by the Scientific Committee and the FISM governing body and must be specifically approved.

Expenses that are not included in the cost estimate attached to the application will not be accepted, unless they have been approved in writing by the Foundation following its specific request.

At the close of the project, the Foundation will ask for the reimbursement of all expenses that were not previously envisaged, and after the submission of the administrative account. The Foundation cannot be held responsible for those costs exceeding the contribution.

## C. TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

## <u>Title of the training programme</u> (maximum 200 characters)

The title of the Research proposal must provide the necessary information concerning the proposal. It must be short and easily understandable, even to inspectors who are not experts in the field of the project.

#### Training area

Please specify the main subject area of the proposed training. Should training include several disciplines, please specify the main area in the corresponding box.

## **Request for funds**

Please list the funds you request on an annual basis and the total amount of requested funds.

## Letter of acceptance of the candidate

This letter is optional. If it is written and submitted, please scan it and attach it to the application form.

## **Letter of acceptance of the mentor**

The mentor is required to approve the proposed training and the person who proposes it. The scanned letter must be attached to the application form.

## **Abstract** (maximum 2000 characters)

Please clearly and briefly describe the goals of the training. The abstract is part of the Proposal. It must be fully understandable and summarize the full project. Summarize the goals, reasons and training phases, both in English and Italian, in the corresponding boxes.

#### Lay summary (maximum 1500 characters)

Please summarize the proposed training programme; summary must be in Italian; use very simple terms that can be understood by non-specialist readers. If your application is accepted, this summary will be published and used for advertising campaigns on the mass media.

#### **Relevance for multiple sclerosis (maximum 500 characters)**

Please clearly indicate why the goals of training are important to young researchers, since they are preparing them to better understand the MS etiopathogenesis, progress, diagnosis or treatment.

## **Training programme (maximum 8000 characters)**

Please carefully describe the programme, tools, methods and phases of training (techniques that will be taught, how they will be applied, under the monitoring of which staff, data analysis and interpretation, statistical methods, seminars, classes, lectures, etc..). DO NOT describe your research programme in this section, as what is taken for granted is that those applying for training fellowships are unable to carry out an independent research project.

#### **Mentor's Research project (maximum 6000 characters)**

As a rule, the training programme takes place within one or more research projects that are supported by the mentor (these may be not financially supported by FISM). Please summarize such project(s) in this section, in order to allow those who are assessing the application to understand if the research programme which the grant recipients are participating into, is in line with the proposed training programme.

## **Bibliography** (maximum 6000 characters)

Bibliography items MUST DETAIL all names of the authors, the titles of papers and books or magazines, as well as the volume number, page numbers and year of publication. Please write an essential, updated and coherent bibliography.

## Funds available for the training programme (maximum 500 characters)

When awarding training fellowships, FISM wants to make sure the mentor has the necessary funds for the training programme to be carried out. Please specify the available funds (their sources and amounts) in this section; please specify if and to what extent the grant recipients' training is based on successful funds applications for research projects submitted to the FISM or other institutions.

## Fellowship Curricula - past research activities (maximum 4000 characters)

Describe the past research activities carried out with universities or other institutions (courses, internships, laboratory work, and clinical activity). Please specify the foreign languages known by grant recipients and the level of knowledge in this section.

## Papers and articles published (maximum 4000 characters)

List – according to the date of publication – all papers and articles published by the grant recipients. Bibliography items MUST DETAIL all names of the authors, the titles of papers and books or magazines, volumes, pages and year of publication.

## Future projects (maximum 1000 characters)

Please list the future professional projects that might be carried out after the end of the fellowship. Specify where and how you will use and build on this experience.

#### **Available equipment and services (maximum 1000 characters)**

Describe the equipment that is to be used during the proposed training and which is available in the premises hosting the programme.

# D. RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND "SENIOR" RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Please note that the instructions provided herein are similar to the instructions related to the research projects or training fellowships (PLEASE READ THEM AND ABIDE BY THOSE RULES). However, there are some differences, e.g. as far as the parts dedicated to the different sections. Please read these instructions.

## Proposal type

Specify if this is a new research project, or a project that was already submitted in the past, but it had not been funded. If so (revised project), please summarize criticism against the project and the improvements and corrections that were made to the project (maximum 5000 characters).

## Letter of acceptance of the candidate

This letter is optional. If it is written and submitted, please scan it and attach it to the application form.

## **Letter of acceptance of the mentor**

The mentor is required to approve the proposed training and the person who proposes it. The scanned letter must be attached to the application form.

## **Abstract (maximum 3000 characters)**

Please clearly and briefly describe the goals of the training. The abstract is part of the Proposal. It must be fully understandable and summarize the full project. Summarize the goals, reasons and training phases, both in English and Italian, in the corresponding boxes.

## Lay summary (maximum 2000 characters)

The research project must be summarized by using very simple language that can be understood by laymen. Please write in Italian. If the project is financed, such a summary will be used as a piece of information to be published on the mass media.

## Relevance for multiple sclerosis (maximum 1000 characters)

Please clearly indicate why the goals of training are important to better understand the MS etiopathogenesis, progress, diagnosis or treatment.

## State of the Art (maximum 6000 characters)

Assess the current knowledge of the subject and the gap that the project is expected to fill.

## Scientific rationale and main objectives of the proposal (maximum 6000 characters)

State the goals that the project wants to achieve and the hypotheses that need verifying. Please clearly state the specific goals of the proposed research project and add a persuasive and clear description of the scientific, technical and economic consequences of such a project. The project's goals must be implementable and innovative if compared to the current knowledge.

Please specify the final goals and - as far as the two-year fellowships are concerned - the goals to be achieved after the first year.

## <u>Preliminary results (if any) which have already been achieved (maximum 4000 characters)</u>

Preliminary results concerning the project's subject matters are of the essence to envisage the possible success of the research project. Such preliminary results are achieved by the applicant and do not refer to data that can be found in medical literature.

## Research Plan and Methods (maximum 14000 characters)

Precisely and realistically describe the research programme and the techniques to be used to achieve the project goals. Add the methods of analysis and interpretation of results. Describe any new method that is being used and what advantages it does entail if compared to the existing methods. Point out the difficulties and limits that may result from the proposed techniques and the possible alternatives that will be used to achieve the project goals. Please describe the statistical details that are to be used.

As for those projects using animals, please specify the minimum number of animals needed to achieve statistically significant results, their species, stock, age, gender. Please specify how animals will be treated during caging and experimental phases.

Please indicate the source and method of collection and storage of human material, specifying whether the material has already been collected.

As for clinical trials, please specify what follows:

- a) The study type (please say if it is a blind study);
- b) Data related to the people involved (number of patients, inclusion criteria etc.)
- c) Clinical procedures and their frequency;
- d) Limitations, difficulties, alternative procedures;
- e) Medication doses and drug administration;
- f) Safety, potential risks, how to deal with problems;
- g) Processing and interpreting data, statistical methods;
- h) The realistic planning of time, with a special reference to the time needed to recruit patients.

## Bibliography (maximum 6000 characters)

Bibliography items MUST DETAIL all names of the authors, the titles of papers and books or magazines, as well as the volume number, page numbers and year of publication. Please write an essential, updated and coherent bibliography.

#### IMPORTANT (maximum 2000 characters).

The applicant is required to say if the proposed project is an independent project or mentorsupported project. In such a case, they are requested to clearly state which part of the project they will be in charge of.

## Funds available for the training programme (maximum 500 characters)

When awarding training fellowships, FISM wants to make sure that the mentor has the necessary funds for the training programme to be carried out. Please specify the available funds (their sources and amounts) in this section; please specify if and to what extent the carrying out of the grant recipient' project is based on successful funds applications for research projects submitted to FISM or other institutions.

## Grant recipients' Curricula - past research activities (maximum 4000 characters)

Describe the past research activities carried out with universities or other institutions (courses, internships, laboratory work, and clinical activity). Please specify the foreign languages known by grant recipients and the level of knowledge in this section.

## E. RITA LEVI MONTALCINI CAREER FELLOWSHIPS

To fill in this application form, please refer to the instructions related to research projects (see Instructions - section B). Please note what follows:

#### **Request for funds**

Please specify the overall fund request on an annual basis; please be aware that the fellowship cannot exceed  $\in$  50,000 gross per year, whereas requests related to other expenses cannot exceed  $\in$  110,000 in the first year and  $\in$  80,000 in the second and third year. Therefore, the overall funds request for three years cannot exceed  $\in$  420,000.

## **Curriculum vitae**

In the "Additional Information" box (maximum 10000 characters), which is larger than those boxes available in other kind of application forms, add those details that you deem necessary for a thorough evaluation of the candidate.

#### Why this type of funding has been requested (maximum 6000 characters)

Please explain why this type of funding has been requested and why that specific host institute has been chosen. Please describe what developments may be expected for the recipients' careers and research after the three-year funding scheme granted by FISM has come to an end.

## Letter from the Manager of the host institute

In this letter, please specify what follows (please scan it and attach it to the application form):

- 1 The assessment of the applicant is needed, as well as why they might be accepted;
- 2 Please describe rooms, laboratories, equipment, staff and everything else that might be used by and available to guest researchers during the carrying out of the research activities.
- 3 The independence of the candidate researcher as far as the research programme is concerned must be officially guaranteed.
- 4 Any benefit or advantage that the host institute may enjoy from hosting the candidate researcher.
- 5 Any possibility of being hired by the host institute after the fellowship has come to an end and after assessing the outcomes that have been achieved in the past three years.
- 6 Your availability at being subjected to one or more inspections by FISM officials in order to verify the initial conditions and the project development.

# F. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

This type of program can be submitted at any time of year. FISM can also promote special programs, via special calls with dedicated funding, on specific area that FISM consider as priority for people with MS. For the special programs, please refer to the Regulations.