

BLAISE PASCAL INTERNATIONAL CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2020

OPPORTUNITY

Through the Blaise Pascal International Chairs of excellence, the Paris Region addresses research policy goals defined in the Regional Higher Education, Research and Innovation Plan (SRESRI) and confirms its support to higher education and research institutions of the Paris Region aiming at internationalization of campuses and higher education and research activities (creation of European universities alliances, the national plan “Bienvenue en France”^o, etc.)

By attracting the most talented researchers from all over the world, the Blaise Pascal International Chairs of Excellence aim at supporting top-level research projects and enhancing international visibility of the Paris Region in different scientific fields.

The Blaise Pascal International Chairs of Excellence enable world renowned researchers from all scientific fields and representing different scientific disciplines to be hosted by higher education and research institutions of the Paris Region and provide necessary co-funding for their research project. Since its foundation in 1996, the program has enjoyed an undisputable international reputation of excellence as there are 6 Nobel Prize winners among its 103 award holders.

By funding the International Chairs of Excellence, the Paris Region aims to:

- Improve international scientific attractiveness of the Paris Region and its higher education and research institutions;
- Enhance regional scientific potential by creating conditions for world renowned researchers and for development of international collaborations,
- Encourage experience exchange, transmission and dissemination of knowledge within regional scientific community, in particular between laureates and Master/ PhD students from the Paris Region.

The 2020 call for applications particularly aims to:

- Raise awareness of scientific challenges and disseminate the results of scientific work within general public,
- Encourage, in relation to one of the regional priorities for 2020, research in human and social sciences and promote social innovation,
- Contribute to the development of European research area (in particular through creation of European universities alliances) and to transnational scientific collaboration with non-EU countries.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Each Chair allows to host a researcher in a higher education and research institution(s) of the Paris Region for the minimum hosting period of 12 months (full-time) that can be spread over 24 months.

This 2020 campaign is open to projects of all disciplines and all scientific fields.

The candidate must propose an ambitious research project that he (she) intends to conduct in collaboration with a laboratory attached to a host higher education or research institution of the Paris Region, along with a teaching program which must include at least ten lectures and at least one seminar for students and young researchers of the Paris Region. Innovative teaching methods and practices will be encouraged.

In order to disseminate the results of their research, applicants must propose at least one public talk presenting research carried out during their stay. All scientific publications related to the Blaise Pascal Chair research project must be published in open archives, either directly on the HAL platform or through a local institutional archive under the conditions defined in Article 30 of the Digital Republic Bill (Loi pour une République numérique).

They also submit an end-of-stay report describing the results of their research and their activities during the stay. Depending on their availability, chairs-holders are invited to attend events organized by the Paris Region.

WHO CAN APPLY

The call for applications is open to high-level researchers in position abroad (without any condition of nationality).

This call for application is open to candidates without any age limit.

If a candidate can be subject to age limit during the recruitment procedure, the host institution must submit a letter of commitment specifying relevant conditions of candidate's recruitment. In the absence of such information, the Paris Region reserves the right not to examine the project proposal.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

The award-package is attributed to a public or private non-profit research or higher education institution situated in the Paris Region which laboratories will host the chairs-holders.

The maximum award package is 170 000€ per chair.

This award package covers the following operating expenses:

- researcher's remuneration adjusted according to his/her experience,
- mobility allowance covering mobility costs (installation and travel expenses, family-related expenses, French language courses),
- contribution for research: conference participation costs, publication costs, translation costs, consumables, organization of conferences and seminars within the framework of the Chair, etc,
- costs of paying assistants, researchers (PhD students, post-docs, research engineers) or interns,
- communication costs.

All other expenses such as management costs and capital expenses (like hardware and software acquisition, technology platform development) are not eligible.

In addition to funding provided by the «Blaise Pascal International Chairs of Excellence» program, host institutions are to provide additional resources that will reinforce the candidate's research activities. This co-financing may come from different sources, like COMUES, enterprises, foundations, etc.

Preference will be given to applications with co-funding.

SELECTION CRITERIA

➤ Scientific excellence and international recognition of the candidate: international scientific responsibilities, prizes, publications, international network, and experience as invited speaker, etc.

➤ Expected benefits for the host institution:

- Scientific excellence and relevance of the research project for host institution (comues, university, laboratory) : scientific teams' development potential in regards to strategic priorities (international attractiveness, establishment of European and international partnerships, international visibility of hosting establishments);
- Quality of the teaching program for Master and PhD students: its richness and innovative character;
- Relevance of dissemination activities related to the results of the research.

➤ Expected impact for the Paris Region:

- Socio-economic opportunities of the project, potential for valorization through publications, exhibitions etc.; contribution to the priorities of public politics; contribution to the international visibility of the Paris Region.

Special consideration will be given to applications in human and social sciences.

Given the low number of female applications in previous years, the Paris Region strongly encourages women scientists to apply.

INTERNSHIP (for host institution)

In order to facilitate young people's access to the labor market, the Paris Region adopted in 2016 its "100 000 internships for young people" measure. As a result of this measure, a host institution receiving regional funding under "Blaise Pascal International Chairs of Excellence" program will have to recruit two interns for a minimum period of two months.

HOSTING CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATION (for host institution)

In order to facilitate entry and residence in France for the chair-holders and their families, the host institutions are invited to give them personal assistance and support, through existing hospitality services and partnerships. A part of the award package can be used to provide necessary hosting conditions.

The Paris Region contributes to better hosting conditions through its support program Acc&ss designed to improve hosting and assistance to foreign researchers.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be drawn up jointly by applicants and their host institutions in the Paris Region. All the applications must be preselected by Comues (associations of universities and higher education institutions) or other “regroupements des universités” and submitted by hosting institutions after the preselection phase. Each Comue association/regroupement (or hosting institution which doesn’t belong to any Comue) may present up to five applications, or seven applications if each additional application comes from a female candidate.

Applications must be submitted by a host institution through the regional online platform: mesdemarches.iledefrance.fr/

Applications must include the following completed documents:

- Project proposal (maximum 6 pages, in English or French, according to the form attached),
- The candidate’s Curriculum Vitae (in English or French),
- List of publications covering the past 5 years (in English or French)
- Reasoned opinion from the head of the host laboratory,
- Letter of support from the president of Comue association/ other “regroupement” or from the president of host institution,
- Commitment letter from a private partner (if the project is co-financed),
- Commitment letter to recruit interns (according to the form attached),
- INSEE sheet for the host institution issued within the past 3 months,
- VAT certificate (according to the form attached).

The fields to be filled online by a host institution during application submission:

- administrative information : Comue/”regroupement” to which the host institution is attached, host institution and laboratory contact information, host institution legal status, bank account identification, scientific director and administrative officers’ contacts.
- candidate information : first name and surname, citizenship, current position occupied in higher education/ research institution abroad, field of research, professional and personal address, email,
- research project information: theme and project proposal (1000 signs), main stages, description and dates, scientific equipment “SESAME” involved,
- financing plan.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated and then selected by a multi-disciplinary jury chaired by a member of the Regional Scientific Council and constituted of experts chosen because of their scientific skills.

To become final, a list of the applicants selected for funding will be submitted to the Permanent Commission of the Paris Region for approval.

After the approval of the Permanent Commission, an agreement establishing the exact funding conditions will be signed between the beneficiary institution and the Paris Region.

Results will be announced to host institutions and applicants, along with their publication on the Paris Region’s website: iledefrance.fr.

Only complete applications that meet the admissibility criteria will be examined and presented to the jury.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Deadline for application: April 29, 2020, 00h00

Selection procedure: May- June 2020

Deliberation of the Permanent Commission: September 2020

CONTACTS

For any questions concerning this call for applications, please contact:

chairesblaisepascal@iledefrance.fr