



## Paris Seine Excellence Initiative

### Supporting scientific excellence and doctoral education Call for proposals 2017

#### Guidelines

*Submissions open until May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

Scientific contact:

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## 1. Proposal objective

As part of the Paris Seine excellence initiative (I-SITE) , a first call for proposals is launched in order to encourage the development of scientific research.

The Paris Seine excellence initiative is driven by five institutions: the COMUE Paris Seine, the University of Cergy-Pontoise, ESSEC Business School, EISTI and ENSEA. Its budget amounts to 7.4 million euros. One of the excellence initiative's main challenges is the reinforcement of scientific potential, international visibility and excellence in research.

This first call of proposal aims at financing projects from the scientific community that contribute to the development of scientific excellence. It targets in particular projects encouraging the emergence of new research areas, the reinforcement of doctoral and post-doctoral training, an added attractiveness and international visibility to the research as well as the development of partnership-oriented research linked to the socio-economic world.

The proposal concerns both fundamental research and partnership-oriented applied research. It covers all scientific fields. Beyond the high scientific quality of the different proposals, the Paris Seine excellence initiative, through the development of top-level academic research, aims at highlighting the great contemporary societal issues, which question man's relationship with technology (as humans have been augmented and transformed by the emergence of both digital technologies and artificial intelligence and its effects), man's relationship with the planet (it is necessary to understand its fundamental laws, preserve its heritage, and manage its finite resources), and man's relationship with societal life (relationship with oneself and relationship with others, multi-level organizations, education, socialization, collective participation). These great issues will be studied in their global complexity, favoring an interdisciplinary approach, mobilizing different fields and areas of study (Humanities and Social Studies, Hard Sciences), and more broadly combining social sciences or modeling sciences with other fields of study.

The projects in the partnership-oriented applied research field will contribute to the development of "technology and knowledge transfer acceleration centers" (= centres d'accélération du transfert de technologie et de savoirs, CATTs) in three major fields:

- economy, finance and management
- heritage, art and luxury
- risk, society and security

The call for proposals' goal will be to encourage the emergence of proposals that carry a structuring effect on the research strategy of institutions, research teams and researchers as well as allow knocking down any identified development obstacles. The proposals' quality, their contribution to the visibility of our institutions, and drive for excellence will be the determining factors in the selection process. The call for proposals will complete the existing support mechanisms for the scientific environment, such as the labex. It will enable both the expansion of the drive for excellence to other scientific fields and the reinforcement of pre-existing approved centers of excellence.

## 2. General framework

This first call for proposals by Paris Seine Excellence Initiative consists of three main tiers:

- the funding of 20 theses and 20 post-docs
- the funding of visiting professors
- the high-level recruitment environment

The following framework aspects are indicative. Other proposals could be submitted as long as they support significantly the objectives of the excellence initiative, which center on reinforcing scientific potential.

### **a. Theses and post-docs**

The quality of the candidates and their international potential, as well as the quality of the scientific environment (management, laboratories, relationships with the national and international academic world) will be determining factors in the proposal's assessment.

The theses are valued at 40.000 euros per year and the post-docs at 50.000 euros per year.

The financial support of the excellence initiative could complete other available grants and take the form of co-financing. In the case of partnership-oriented applied research projects, a co-financing scheme by external companies will be a positive factor in the submission. As a reminder, for partner companies, this co-financing scheme is eligible for the French Research Tax Credit. The existence of partner companies committed to co-financing a thesis proposal is not necessarily required when the proposal is submitted. The search for external funding can also take place after a favorable endorsement by the Paris Seine Excellence Initiative.

### **b. Visiting Professors**

Visiting professors can be of a junior or senior level. They will be welcomed conjointly into the "Institute of Advanced Studies for Global Complexity » (IAS) and the research team in charge of the project. Their potential interaction with the existing teams as well as their capacity to interact with other research fields will be valued. The main goal in inviting them is the reinforcement of the synergy in research at an international level. The guest professors will also be able to participate in teaching at an advanced level (thesis level).

Long-term stays, between 3 and 9 months, will be favored.

As an indicator, guest professors invited at the IAS usually receive, depending on their academic level, a net monthly salary ranging between 3,000 and 4,500 euros.

### **c. Recruitment**

This part aims at facilitating the recruitment of highly qualified researchers in our research teams. This can concern direct hiring within our institutions but also indirect hiring via research organisms.

Recruitment support can involve a contribution to the research process, a bonus, access to a doctoral or post-doctoral environment.

The person hired with the help of this system must have the potential to quickly apply to an European Research Council grant (**ERC**), eventually through the Institut Universitaire de France (**IUF**) system.

## **3. Practical details of the proposal submission**

The submission form is voluntarily of a limited size. It can be submitted by a research team, a department or an individual researcher. In the last case, the opinion of the manager of the unit the researcher is part of must appear in the submission.

The submission file includes a presentation of the application's scientific project and a description of the scientific development strategy in which it takes place. The proposal's goals in terms of scientific quality, impact and visibility must be precisely described. The application can be completed by annexed additional elements.

The proposals must be addressed at the latest on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, by email, at the following address: **aap-excellence-scientifique@universiteparisseine.fr**.

The main scientific contact for any information is Karine Gambier-Leroy. She can be contacted at the following email address: [aap-excellence-scientifique@universiteparisseine.fr](mailto:aap-excellence-scientifique@universiteparisseine.fr).

Within the different institutions, the correspondents are :

- UCP : Karine Gambier-Leroy ([aap-excellence-scientifique@universiteparisseine.fr](mailto:aap-excellence-scientifique@universiteparisseine.fr))
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The applications will be surveyed by an *ad hoc* committee, and its opinions will be submitted for a final decision to the representatives of the institutions of the Excellence Initiative's consortium, who reserve the right not to allocate the entirety of the reserved funding. Results will be available around the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.