



**Paris//Seine Initiative of Excellence
Scientific Excellence and Doctoral Training Support**

Call for proposals 2018

**Objectives of the call
and
submission procedure**

Deadline for submission of papers: 9th April 2018, 1pm
Deadline for submission of final proposals: 20th April 2018, 1pm

The Easychair platform will be accessible at the end of March for the submission of
abstracts and final proposals

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1. Objectives of the call for proposals

Institutional framework

A second call for proposals has been launched to support research excellence in the framework of the Paris//Seine initiative of excellence.

The Paris//Seine initiative of excellence is carried by five institutions: the COMUE Paris//Seine, the University of Cergy-Pontoise, ESSEC Business School, EISTI and ENSEA. Funding for the project amounts to 7,4M€ per year. One of the central challenges of the Excellence Initiative is the reinforcement of scientific potential, international visibility and research excellence in partner institutions.

Ambition

This call for proposals aims to financially support projects from the scientific community of member institutions of the Paris Seine Initiative and UMRs associating the CNRS with one of its institutions (UCP, ESSEC, ENSEA, EISTI). Project quality and impact the international visibility and excellence dynamics will be key factors in project selection.

Targeted projects include the emergence of new research themes, the strengthening of doctoral and post-doctoral training, increased attractiveness and international visibility, the emergence of cross-disciplinary projects involving several research entities of University Paris Seine and the development of partnership research related to the socio-economic world.

The present call for proposals aims to encourage the emergence of projects offering a structuring effect on research strategy in establishments, research teams and researchers themselves and allow them to lift barriers in identified development areas.

The supported projects will, in particular, contribute to the development of international scientific collaborations with certain privileged partners of the Excellence Initiative Paris//Seine (especially in Europe, Warwick University and in Asia, Nanyang Technological University). They will also be able to provide support for the development of transversal and innovative research projects which will fuel the set up of renovated graduate schools, in coherence with the next EUR national call.

The call for proposals complements the existing initiatives in support for scientific development, notably the Centres of Excellence (LabeX). This will allow to expand the development of research excellence dynamics to other scientific areas and, simultaneously, will reinforce certified excellence poles. Proposals falling directly under the scope of the LabeX should be submitted to them in priority. In the case where they are also submitted to the present call for proposals, LabeX submission status should be specified.

Research areas

The call for proposals concerns fundamental research and applied partner-oriented research alike. It covers all scientific disciplines. Beyond the scientific disciplinary quality of the projects supported, the Paris//Seine Initiative of Excellence aspires to enlighten, via the development of high level academic research, major contemporary social issues which question the relationship between man and technology; the planet; and life in society.

These major issues will be apprehended in their global complexity, by favoring an interdisciplinary approach, mobilizing different disciplines within the major disciplinary fields (SHS, Hard Sciences), and crossing, more broadly, the social sciences and/or the modelling sciences with other disciplinary fields.

In the area of applied research, in the same way as last year, three main application areas have been identified: Economy, Finance and Management; Heritage, Art and Luxury; Risks, Society and Security. Beyond these three

areas, all research projects set to fuel the development of knowledge and technology transfer in relation to socio-economic partners of the territory are encouraged. As for applied research projects, portage and joint financing with an outside partner must be provided for.

This call for proposals may be more widely solicited to obtain the co-financing of the various actions mentioned below, in addition to the funding obtained under other external calls. In particular, co-financing requirements for projects submitted under the “Make our planet great again” program will be submitted to this call.

2. Guidance: Framework

This first call for proposals for the Excellence Initiative Paris//Seine includes three main sections:

- Doctoral and post-doctoral contract financing
- Financing of guest professors
- Support for emerging research projects
- Recruitment aid

The guidance elements in this document are on an indicative basis. Other projects can be supported if they coincide significantly with the objectives relating to the reinforcement of scientific potential in the Initiative of Excellence.

a. Doctoral theses and post-docs

The pertinence and quality of the scientific project, its strategic character and its contribution to scientific development, the quality of the candidates and their international potential, as well as the quality of the scientific environment (management, laboratory, interactions with the national and international academic world) are all important factors in the assessment of the proposal.

Doctoral contracts offer a remuneration of up to 40k€/year for a duration of three years.

Post-doctoral contracts offer a remuneration of up to 50k€/year for a duration of two years.

These amounts may vary depending on the existence of cofinancing and/or depending on the disciplinary context, subject justifications.

Other means of financial support which will render our doctoral training more attractive, notably for international students, can be implemented and submitted in response to this call.

Financial support for the Excellence Initiative can be complemented by other financial sources already available and will therefore be classed as a co-financing. In the case of applied partner-oriented research, a co-financing by an outside company will constitute a positive element in the proposal. It is reminded that research project co-financing partner companies can claim tax credit. When a project is first submitted, it is not necessarily required to include details about co-financing partner companies willing to support a thesis project. Prospection for outside financing can be carried out once a first favourable outcome from the Excellence Initiative Paris//Seine has been notified.

b. Visiting professors

Visiting professors can have a junior or senior level. They are hosted jointly by the « Institute of Advanced Studies » (IAS) and the research team of the project concerned.

The potential interaction of the guest professors and the teams in place, their implication in the major research areas of the initiative, as well as their capacity to interact with other disciplinary areas are enhanced. The main

objective of these invitations is the reinforcement of research synergies at an international level. Guest professors will also be able to participate in doctoral training by contributing advanced courses.

Long term stays, between 3 and 9 months, will be favoured. For information, professors invited to the IAS generally receive a net monthly salary of between 3000 and 4500 euros, according to their level.

c. Support for emerging research projects

Emerging research projects which have strong potential can be supported for a duration of two years, for a total amount of 50k€ (excluding doctoral, post-doctoral or guest researchers contract recruitments).

The purpose of this financial support is to ensure the progress of research work and the setting up of projects in view of submitting external grant proposals at the national level (notably ANR), European level (ESF, ERC, PCRD) or international levels. Candidates for this financial support undertake to submit a request for external funding within two-years of the start of the project.

The submitted project must imply team work (at least two researchers), allow the exploration of new research topics and be coherent with the scientific development strategy of the entities concerned in the Excellence Initiative Paris//Seine.

d. Recruitment

The aim is to reinforce the international attractiveness of the University Paris Seine and facilitate the recruitment of high-level researchers for our research teams. This can concern direct recruitment carried out in our institutions or indirect recruitment via a research organisation (e.g. CNRS). For direct recruitment, the main focus is on the (transitory) provisions making the hosting of newly recruited teachers-researchers simpler (establishment in France, simplification of temporary services, operating costs input).

3. Guidance: Response to the proposal and assessment

Date and submission terms

- Submission dates are as follows:
 - Submission of the project abstract by 9th April 2018, 1pm
 - Final proposals must be submitted by 20th April 2018, 1pm
- All submissions must be made via the electronic platform Easy Chair: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=aap2018>
- The final submission templates are available in [english](#) and in [french](#).

Composition of the proposal

- The proposal must include a presentation of the scientific project and a description of the scientific development strategy concerned by the project. The objectives targeted by the project, in terms of scientific quality, relating to impact and visibility should be described in precise detail. Supporting documents can be attached as part of a single appendix file.
- The application file is restricted in size but should be compiled with care.
- The file must be comprised of a main document, limited to nine pages and of a supporting appendix which shall be deposited on the online platform.

- The file can be written in French but documents in English (if possible) will be particularly appreciated.
- A research team, a department, individual researcher or researcher working at the CNRS in one of the UMR members of the Paris Seine Initiative of Excellence can submit the file. In the latter case, the researcher must occupy a position in one of the Excellence Initiative Paris//Seine partner establishments at the time of submission of the file.
- In all cases, the recommendation of the director of the relevant school, department or research center will be provided.

Recruitment – Incomplete files at the time of submission

- For proposals including recruitment (doctoral, post-doctoral or guest researcher contracts) it is advisable to predetermine the identity of the recruitment candidate and to include any supporting documents which can determine the quality of the recruitment application. If, at the time of submission of the project, the candidate has not been identified, the Excellence Initiative Paris//Seine committee may give prior consent and validate a final decision subsequently. However, duly completed files will be favoured.
- In the same way, if potential outside partners have not been identified at the time of submission of the project (in the case of co-financing for an applied research project, for example), a pre-agreement could be given prior to a subsequent final validation.
- In the case of the recruitment of a guest researcher, the project leader must check the initial agreement of the prospective guest.

Contacts

- Correspondents in the relating establishments :
 - UCP : Alexis François
 - ESSEC : Celine Alves-Pinto
 - EISTI : Rachid Chelouah
 - ENSEA : Aymeric Histace
- Contact for coordination aspects of the call for proposals:
aap-excellence-scientifique@universiteparisseine.fr.

Assessment and results

- Proposals are assessed by the scientific committee whose evaluation will be transmitted, for decision, to the executive board of the Paris//Seine Initiative of Excellence
- The results will be available on 15th June 2018 (estimated date)
- The criteria taken into account in the assessment are:
 - The scientific quality and innovative character of the project
 - The strategic character of the project and its contribution to the scientific development of the Excellence Initiative
 - The expertise of the project leader and the quality of the scientific environment
 - The quality of the recruitment candidate
 - The impact of the project