

The Blaise Pascal International Chairs of Excellence
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 2019

Preamble

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). In particular, the Region aims at developing top-ranked universities and campuses and enhancing international attractiveness of its higher education and research institutions.

The International Chairs of Excellence enable world renowned foreign and expatriate researchers from all scientific fields to be hosted by higher education and research institutions of the Paris Region and provide necessary funding for their research project. Founded in 1996, the program has enjoyed an undisputable international reputation as there are 5 Nobel Prize winners among its 98 award-holders.

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

- Improve international scientific visibility of the Paris Region and its higher education and research institutions;
- Enhance regional scientific potential by creating conditions for international collaborations that will enrich research programs of its institutions;
- Encourage transmission and dissemination of knowledge within regional scientific community, in particular between award holders and the Paris Region students/PhD students.

1- The objectives of the 2019 Program

The 2019 Program is open to all disciplines and all topics regarding both basic and applied research. This Program aims to:

- Attract world-renowned foreign researchers (or expatriate researchers in position abroad) by offering them, with the contribution of host institutions, necessary resources to carry out an ambitious scientific project,
- Encourage research in human and social sciences and promote social innovation,
- Raise awareness of scientific issues and disseminate the results of scientific work within general public.

2- Eligibility

Each Chair allows to host a researcher in a higher education and research institution of the Paris Region for the minimum hosting period of **12 months (full-time) that can be spread over 2 years.**

2-1. Funding beneficiaries:

Researchers are to be hosted by a scientific laboratory attached to a public or private non-profit higher education or research institution of the Paris Region (the funding beneficiaries).

2-2. Eligible projects:

All scientific fields (regarding both basic and applied research) are eligible.

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

Activities supported under the International Chairs of Excellence Program:

- Scientific Activities: research project, regardless of its topic.
- Teaching Activities: the chairs-holders must ensure, as part of their teaching program, at least ten lectures, one seminar for students and young researchers of the Paris Region, as well as one public talk to present the research carried out during their stay.

The chairs - holders must 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 (PhD) students meetings organized by the Paris Region.

2-3. Eligible expenses:

Only the following operating expenses can be covered by the award package:

- 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.

2-4. Financing and co-financing:

The maximum funding amount will be €170,000 per chair, attributed directly to a host institution.

In addition to regional funding, host institutions are to provide additional resources that will reinforce the candidate's research activities. This co-financing may also come from different sources, like COMUES, enterprises, foundations, etc.

Preference will be given to applications with co-funding.

3- Selection criteria

The selection process is based on the following criteria:

3-1. Candidate's profile criteria:

Scientific excellence of the foreign researcher concerned: international scientific responsibilities, prizes, publications, international network, and experience as invited speaker);

This call for application is open to candidates without any age limit, but host institutions are to take into account the age limit applicable under the French Labor Law to relevant positions in order to avoid difficulties in recruiting the candidate.

3-2. Criteria related to the research project:

Scientific quality of the project:

- Interdisciplinary character of the proposed project,
- Quality of the proposed teaching program and dissemination activities related to the results of the research,
- Expectations for the host laboratory of collaboration in terms of scientific resourcing, joint research and international visibility,
- Coherency of the project with the host institution's scientific strategy and its contribution towards the goal of international attractiveness of this institution;
- Strength of the partnership with the foreign researcher's home : collaboration history and/or prospects for development of common topics,

Global impact of the project:

- 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 applications from women scientists.

4- Beneficiaries' Obligations:

Internship program:

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:

In order to facilitate entry and residence in France, the chair-holders and their families will be given personal assistance. This assistance and support are to be provided by a Comue association or a host institution, through their 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, as well as by making available its rental housing stock at the Maison de l'Île-de-France and at Victor Lyon Foundation, both situated at Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris.

5- Selection process:

1. 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).
2. Each Comue association (or hosting institution which doesn't belong to any Comue) may submit up to five applications, or seven applications if at least two applicants are women.
3. Applications must be submitted by hosting institutions after the preselection through the regional online platform: mesdemarches.iledefrance.fr.
4. Applications will be evaluated and then selected by a multi-disciplinary selection committee chaired by a member of the Regional Scientific Council and constituted of experts chosen because of their scientific skills.
5. To become final, a list of the applicants selected for funding will be submitted to the Permanent Commission of the Paris Region for approval.
6. 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.
7. Results will be announced to host institutions, Comues and chairs-holders and published on the following websites: iledefrance.fr and parisregion.eu.

6- Applications:

Applications must be submitted through the regional online platform: mesdemarches.iledefrance.fr.

Applications must include the following completed documents:

- Application form (in English or French)
- 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,
- Commitment letter from a private partner (if the project is co-financed).

Any incomplete application will be considered ineligible. Only complete applications that meet the admissibility criteria will be examined and presented to the selection committee.

7- Provisional timetable:

Launch of the call for applications – February 15, 2019

Deadline for the submission of applications - May 1, 2019, 10h00am

Selection procedure – July 2019

Deliberation of the Permanent Commission – September 2019

CONTACT

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

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