

IDEX Paris-Saclay

Action for international doctorates (ADI)

2020

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL THESIS CO-SUPERVISION.

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Preamble

The Université Paris-Saclay doctoral charter states that Université Paris-Saclay "encourages originality and scientific risk-taking, and the international and interdisciplinary openness of the doctoral projects undertaken".

To this end, IDEX Paris-Saclay finances a programme to support international thesis co-supervision. **In 2020**, this "**ADI**" programme will be endowed with a provisional amount of **1 929 k€** (*arbitrations are still to come*). The funding may be used to pay the remuneration of the doctoral candidates selected, their international mobility or that of their supervisors, or to cover the international travel expenses of the members of the defence panels. The programme has two main objectives:

- to engage in ambitious doctoral projects, in the framework of international thesis co-supervision, to encourage the internationalisation of doctoral students,
- to contribute to the internationalisation of doctoral schools and research laboratories, to the development of partnerships and to the international visibility and attractiveness of Université Paris-Saclay.

Nature of support

The selected doctoral students will be recruited on fixed-term contracts by the Université Paris-Saclay. The duration of the contract will be at least equal to the number of months of support granted within the framework of this call for projects. Depending on the co-

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financing arrangements, a longer duration may also be envisaged. The **gross monthly salary is in line with that of doctoral contracts**.

Substantial co-financing is expected from the foreign partner institution, a foreign government or a foreign or French company, organisation or institution (such as the MAEE), in particular to **participate in the doctoral student's remuneration**.

The selected projects will also be able to benefit from a **maximum** amount of **5000€** to finance the costs related to the international co-supervision doctoral defense, to participate in the financing of the mobility of the doctoral student between the two partner countries and, if necessary, to finance the mobility of the supervisors or other eligible expenses useful for the smooth running of the international co-supervision of the thesis. The support will be paid to the doctoral student's host research unit at UPSaclay.

Eligibility Criteria

- The project must be registered in an **international thesis co-supervision**, with a double registration for a doctorate in France and in another country, at the University of Paris-Saclay and in a partner university in a foreign country ;
- **The foreign partner institution** must be **accredited to award the doctorate** and have given explicit agreement in principle, in the event of success, for an **international co-supervision of the thesis** (i.e. a double doctorate or joint degree).
- **The research unit hosting** the PhD student in France must be part of the current IDEX Paris-Saclay ([see the list of units: https://bibliolabs.universite-paris-saclay.fr/Labs/Definition](https://bibliolabs.universite-paris-saclay.fr/Labs/Definition));
- **The duration of the stay** at Université Paris-Saclay is at least **12 months**, the duration of the stay in the foreign partner institution is also at least **12 months**.
- The application must include a certificate of admission for each of the two institutions, if necessary subject to obtaining the grant. To that end, at Université Paris-Saclay, the applicant must have been **interviewed by one of the doctoral schools of Université Paris-Saclay**. The report of the interview and the opinion of the doctoral school on the application must be attached to the application file.
- **By the time the selection committee for the ADI programme projects is held**, the request for co-tutorship agreement must have been submitted on the online interface of the University of Paris-Saclay ([More...](#)). As a reminder, the international thesis co-supervision agreement must be signed by all parties concerned before the end of the first year of the doctorate.
- **The conditions envisaged** must be compatible with the **doctoral charter** of Université Paris-Saclay, the national regulatory framework and the internal regulations of the doctoral college and the doctoral school, and comply with the regulations of equivalent structures in the cotutelle partner institution, in compliance with the regulatory framework of the country of this foreign institution.



Eligible applications will be assessed by the ADI Committee on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out below.

Project evaluation criteria

All the criteria listed below will be used by the ADI project selection committee to arbitrate between the different applications.

Projects do not have to meet each of the criteria listed below, but project leaders are advised to put forward the elements that allow them to support the application in the most legible and explicit way for the members of the committee. The following paragraphs are an aid to the preparation of the application.

Criterion 1 - Excellence of the application and the doctoral project

Only applicants who have already been auditioned by the doctoral school and admitted to register for a doctorate are eligible.

For this first criterion, the **selection committee for ADI projects** will rely on the **reasoned opinion of** Université Paris-Saclay **doctoral school**. The doctoral school is expected to issue a reasoned opinion on the excellence of the application as a whole (the candidate, the doctoral project, the international partnership project, the two laboratories, the conditions of supervision in the two institutions) and to provide information that will enable the application to be put into perspective with regard to the other candidates auditioned by the doctoral school, in particular during the "MESRI doctoral contracts" competition.

The ADI selection committee may take into consideration other elements attesting to the recognised quality of the two host and support teams, the level of the candidate, the originality and scientific risk-taking, and the international and interdisciplinary openness of the doctoral project. Letters of support from the laboratory and/or recognised personalities in the field are welcome to complete the opinion of the doctoral school.

Criterion 2 - Favourable conditions for the smooth running of the doctoral project in international thesis co-supervision:

On this second criterion, it is expected that candidates and their prospective supervisors provide the ADI programme project selection committee with an argument answering the questions below:

- **The candidate's motivations:** apart from the opportunity for funding, what are his or her expectations and motivations for preparing a PhD as part as an international cotutella agreement? *To gain access to other visions of the subject, to complementary skills, to an international field of study, to live an intercultural experience, to develop one's linguistic skills, to enhance an international experience through a double degree, to improve one's professional prospects? ?*

- **The experience of collaboration between the partners:** what is the level of mutual knowledge of the research teams in France and abroad? Have the two supervisors ever cooperated or published together? Have they planned mobility to meet during the thesis? *If the collaboration is long-standing detail the level of knowledge of the teams and their main achievements. If the collaboration is emergent, specify the scientific stakes and the modalities to meet and get to know each other better.*
- **The cooperation project around the doctoral project:** How will the scientific direction of the doctoral project and the follow-up of the doctoral student be shared between the two supervisors? *Are they complementary from a scientific point of view? Is a mobility of the co-supervisors envisaged to accompany the project? Has the reception in the two laboratories been well prepared, do the heads of the host research groups support the project? Does the research subject require this cooperation (e.g. research activity associated with a geographical site, access to an experimental platform, complementary skills)? Is the planned duration of the PhD student's stay in both countries balanced?*

Criterion 3 - The institutional interest of this international partnership

With regard to this third criterion, it is expected that applicants and their prospective thesis supervisors provide the ADI programme project selection committee with an argument answering the questions below:

- **What will be the foreign partner's contribution?** Whether it is the partner higher education institution or another entity in the partner country (e.g. a dedicated programme of a foreign government), what participation in the financing of the project is envisaged, in particular in the remuneration of the doctoral student? Participation in the financing of various expenses incurred by the co-supervision, such as travel expenses for the defence, for example? What accommodation and financial assistance for the mobility of the doctoral student may be offered to him/her?
- **Is there other support for this project?** Co-financing or support provided by a foreign government, a foundation, a company, a foreign or French institution, a research laboratory?
- Is the agreement part of an **already structured institutional partnership**?
 - **If it is part of** an already structured institutional partnership,
 - What is the **nature of this partnership**, its start and end dates? Is it a framework agreement for a double or joint doctoral degree, a cooperation agreement between Université Paris-Saclay and/or one of its faculties or member research organisation (UMI, LIA, IRN (ex-GDRI)), or an international research programme or in a formalised scientific cooperation between research units?
 - Does the project **maintain or intensify** this already existing cooperation? Does the project make it possible to extend or transform an existing cooperation?
 - **If it is not part of** an existing institutional partnership,

- Does the agreement make it possible to develop links with a leading higher education and research institution of interest to the **development of international cooperation of** Université of Paris-Saclay?
- Is the agreement likely to contribute to the development of a **channel for the recruitment of excellent candidates**, to help develop the incoming and outgoing mobility of students, doctoral students, researchers and teacher-researchers?
- Is the partnership likely to improve the **reputation or attractiveness** of the doctoral training of Université Paris-Saclay or its international recognition? Promote exchanges of best practices?

In the event that **two** international thesis co-supervision **projects** are submitted within the framework of this call for applications, in a coordinated manner, with an arrangement whereby one of the co-supervised doctoral students is financed 100% by IDEX Paris-Saclay and the other 100% by the foreign partner institution, then **two separate applications will** have to be **submitted** within the framework of this call for projects, each of them specifying very explicitly the planned co-financing arrangements and the links between the two applications **in both files**. This type of arrangement is encouraged.

Submission of projects

Submission of application: The application must be submitted before **midnight on 16 June 2020** on the [ADI 2020 application portal](#):

Content of the file: Each candidate **will** have to submit via this interface a file including the following documents:

- ✓ **The summary sheet of the application (max 2 pages), providing the following information**
 - the country and the partner institution of the international cotutella agreement,
 - the surname, first name and contacts of the supervisor at Université Paris-Saclay, his or her doctoral school of attachment, his or her host research unit,
 - the applicant's personal information (surname, first name, date of birth, address, e-mail and telephone number),
 - the title of the doctoral project,
 - the project summary (about 15 lines),
 - the surname, first name and contacts of the supervisor of the foreign partner university, its doctoral school or equivalent, and its host research unit
 - the provisional schedule of stays in France and abroad

- the desired funding arrangements for the doctoral student (commitments and possibilities for co-funding)
- the desired amount of funding to be provided by IDEX to support the cotutella (max €5000), and the precise activities and corresponding expenses envisaged in this framework

✓ **The doctoral project and the opinion of the doctoral school on this project**

The following information is required:

- The complete application file as submitted to the doctoral school,
- a **letter from the doctoral school** indicating that the candidate has already been auditioned and admitted to register for a doctorate and providing all the useful elements so that the commission can judge the excellence of the application (opinion on the candidate, the research subject, the management team and the two research units, at UPSaclay and abroad)

✓ **A letter of support from the thesis director at Université Paris-Saclay**

The purpose of this letter is to present an argumentation providing the elements of the project that meet the various project selection criteria, as previously presented in this document.

✓ **A letter of motivation from the candidate**

A letter is expected to explain what the candidate expects from the course of the thesis within the framework of an international cotutella. It is not necessary to go back over his motivations for the doctoral project, as these have already been evaluated by the doctoral school. The purpose of the letter is to present his motivations for the development of his thesis in the context of an international partnership.

✓ **One or more letters of support and commitment from the foreign partner institution**

The commitments below may be made in several letters and signed by several different people or in a single letter, signed by a dean of faculty or a university rector. In all cases, the person(s) **competent to make the corresponding commitment** must certify unambiguously :

1 - that the foreign partner institution, where applicable, subject to success in this call for applications or other conditions to be explained, undertakes to establish an international co-supervision agreement with the University of Paris-Saclay (double or joint degree) for this thesis. **Co-direction or co-supervision is not sufficient.** This letter will have to be signed by the president of the foreign partner institution or one of its delegates authorized to commit the institution to the establishment of double or joint degrees. The award of international double or joint degrees is not possible in



all countries or with all universities. The purpose of this letter is to ensure that there are no obstacles of principle or legal impediments to the establishment of an international co-supervision of theses.

2 - that the candidate has been admitted or eligible (if applicable, under conditions to be specified) to register for a doctorate in the partner institution, as part of a double degree or a joint degree with the Université Paris-Saclay, and that the project is supported by the counterpart entity of the doctoral school in the foreign partner institution.

3 - that the thesis director in the foreign partner institution undertakes to co-direct the thesis and supports the application and the project.

✓ **At least one letter of support and commitment from a co-financer**

A letter of commitment from the head of the organisation who undertakes to co-finance the thesis and who details the possibilities of co-financing the thesis (for the remuneration of the doctoral student and/or the support of the project) as well as, if applicable, the conditions that will have to be met for this financing to be acquired (for example: subject to success in the IDEX call for applications or in another competition etc.).

✓ **Where applicable**

Other letters of recommendation or support for the project, if possible explicitly mentioning the expected impact of the international framework of the doctoral project.

Composition of the committee and timetable

COMPOSITION

The commission may include heads of the doctoral college and international relations of the Université Paris Saclay, directors and deputy directors of doctoral schools, heads of international relations of the member institutions of the Université Paris Saclay, doctoral representatives of the member institutions of the Université Paris Saclay, doctoral students acting as observers.

Members of the ADI 2020 Committee (provisional list to be completed) :

Rachid Bennacer	Resp. of the international axis of the CD	UPSaclay
Sylvie Pommier	Director of the doctoral college	UPSaclay
Olivier Gicquel	Director of Research	CentraleSupélec/UPSaclay
Eric Charron	Director of the EDOM doctoral school	UPSaclay

Alexandre Pery	Director of the ABIES Doctoral School	AgroParisTech / UPSaclay
Eric Cassan	Director of the EOBE Doctoral School	UPSaclay
Mathilde Fagard	Doctoral School SDV, DR	INRAE
Mathieu Vincendon	IAS, Senior Lecturer HDR	UPSaclay
Sébastien PILUSO	PhD student observer	UPSaclay
Guillaume Garetta	Director of International Relations	UPSaclay
Hamida Muller	Director of the Maison du Doctorat	UPSaclay

CALENDAR

- Submission of applications, before **midnight on 16 June 2020, on the [application portal](#)**
- The selection committee for the ADI2019 will meet on **23 June 2020** from **14:00 to 16:00**,
- At the end of the commission, the results will be communicated to the project leaders, the doctoral schools, the doctoral college council and the group of international relations managers of the member institutions of the University of Paris Saclay.
- The statistical review of the ADI2020 and the lessons learned from it will be incorporated into the annual review of recruitment operations and thus communicated to all UPSaclay central bodies.

INFORMATION

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask on the following email address :

ADI@universite-paris-saclay.fr

Publications

IDEX Paris-Saclay, on which the ADI programme is based, is financed by the investment programme for the future managed by the ANR. The ANR requests that any scientific production resulting from research funded by IDEX Paris-Saclay should mention IDEX as ANR-11-IDEX-0003-02.

Publications, communications and other scientific productions should therefore include one of the following phrases:

"This work is supported by a public grant overseen by the French National research Agency (ANR) as part of the « Investissements d'Avenir » program, through the "ADI" project funded by the IDEX Paris-Saclay, ANR-11-IDEX-0003-02"

or

"This work is supported by the "ADI" project funded by the IDEX Paris-Saclay, ANR-11-

IDEX-0003-02"

L'ANR peut mener des études pour évaluer l'impact des financements accordés. Le cadrage général de l'ANR est le suivant : *"Please note that all research output (publications, working papers etc.) related to and financed by the IDEX must acknowledge that the project is supported by the French State Program Investissements d'Avenir, managed by ANR. Any advertisements related to the IDEX funding (flyers, posters and internet site, for workshops/conferences etc.) must also include the Investissements d'Avenir and Université Paris-Saclay logos".*

Communication

The visual supports (powerpoint or other presentations, posters and posters) must imperatively include the logos of the Université Paris-Saclay and the Investissements d'Avenir program.

