

PROGRAMME DE FINANCEMENT DES COTUTELLES INTERNATIONALES DE DOCTORAT (ADI) 2023

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Preamble

The Doctoral Charter specifies that Université Paris-Saclay “encourages originality and scientific risk-taking, the international and interdisciplinary openness of doctoral projects”.

Université Paris-Saclay is pursuing a policy of promoting doctoral studies internationally by financing a programme of support for international cotutelle, with a projected budget of approximately 10 million euros for the period 2020-2024.

The International Doctoral Actions provided by IDEX Paris-Saclay are essentially intended to provide funding to successful doctoral students,

The main objectives of the programme are :

To initiate ambitious doctoral projects, within the framework of international cotutelle and to encourage the international mobility of doctoral students.

To contribute to the internationalization of Graduate Schools, doctoral schools and research laboratories

To develop partnerships and increase the visibility and international attractiveness of Université Paris-Saclay.

Nature of the funding

IDEX Paris-Saclay provides financial support to the laureates who will be:

- Either recruited on a fixed-term contract by Université Paris-Saclay. The duration of the contract will be equal to the number of months of support granted, according to the periods of the research stay in France within the framework of this call for proposals.
- Or, they will receive a complementary grant to a foreign funding which already covers the whole duration of the thesis in order to reach the minimum required threshold. This grant will be awarded as a complement to other funding provided by another foreign organization and whose amount initially planned is below the required threshold (see below). The grant is awarded over the period of the doctoral student's research stay in France. This support is exclusively intended for the doctoral student in the context of an international cotutelle. The cost of taking out work accident insurance during their stay in France will also be covered by the grant supplement.

In accordance with the decree of **26 December 2022**, modifying the decree of **29 August 2016**, fixing the amount of the remuneration of the contractual doctoral student, the co-financing provided for in the ADI framework will be up to the amount of the remuneration of the contractual doctoral student.

Substantial co-financing is essential for a minimum duration of 12 months by the foreign partner institution, a foreign government or by a foreign company, organization or institution, in particular **to participate in the remuneration of the doctoral student**.

NB: The funding granted under this call does not provide for the possibility of obtaining an extension of the funding beyond the number of months granted.

Eligibility criteria



1. The project must be part of an **international PhD cotutelle** with a double enrolment in a PhD programme, at Université Paris-Saclay and in a partner institution in a foreign country.

The request for cotutelle must be made before applying. The candidate must not have been enrolled in a thesis for more than 8 months at the date of receipt of the application. (see the conditions of the international PhD cotutelle before applying: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/recherche/doctorat-et-hdr/cotutelle-internationale-de-these/quelles-sont-les-conditions>)

2. The foreign partner institution must be **accredited to award the double doctoral degree** and have given an explicit agreement in principle to the establishment of an **international doctoral cotutelle**
3. The thesis supervisor at the foreign partner institution undertakes to co-supervise the thesis and supports the application and the project.
4. The PhD student's **host research unit** in France must be part of Université Paris-Saclay (see the list of units: <https://bibliolabs.universite-paris-saclay.fr/Labs/Definition>). The PhD student **must be declared eligible by one of the doctoral schools** of Université Paris-Saclay, subject to obtaining funding from both institutions.
5. The partner institution/country **certifies its commitment to finance the thesis in cotutelle**, for a minimum duration of 12 months and in all cases, for the duration complementary to the number of months requested in the framework of this call.
6. The duration of the stay at Université Paris-Saclay and at the partner institution is at **least 12 months**.

Submission of projects

Submission of the application: The application must be submitted via the ADUM application portal and the candidate must have been auditioned by the doctoral school before May 15 of the academic year.

Content of the file: Each candidate must submit a specific file via this application portal, which **must include** the following documents:

1. The application summary form (max 2 pages) - model to be downloaded from the ADUM application space,

Including,

- i. the country and the partner institution of the international PhD cotutelle abroad,
- ii. the name, first name and contacts of the thesis director at Université Paris-Saclay, his or her doctoral school and host research unit
- iii. the candidate's personal information (surname, first name, date of birth, address, e-mail and telephone numbers),
- iv. the title of the doctoral project,
- v. the summary of the project (about 10 lines),
- vi. the name, first name and contact details of the thesis director of the foreign partner university, its affiliated doctoral school or equivalent, its host research unit and the administrative contact of the partner
- vii. the provisional schedule of stays in France and abroad
- viii. information on the doctoral student's funding abroad (type of funding, net amount per month, duration of funding)

2. A letter of motivation from the applicant

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

3. 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 the Dean of Faculty, a University Rector or **by any person competent to make the corresponding commitment** and must unambiguously attest to the following

- i. that the foreign partner institution, if applicable, subject to success in this call for applications or other conditions to be explained, undertakes to establish an international doctoral cotutelle agreement (double degree) with the Université Paris-Saclay for this thesis. **Co-supervision is not sufficient.** This letter must be signed by the president of the foreign partner institution or one of its delegates authorised to commit the institution to the establishment of double degrees.
- ii. that the thesis director abroad undertakes to direct the thesis of the co-supervised doctoral student.
- iii. At least one letter of support and commitment from a co-financier in the partner country covering the number of months not requested under IDEX, specifying the type of funding and the net amount.

A letter of commitment from the head of the organization that undertakes to co-finance the thesis and that 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 must be met for this financing to be acquired (for example: subject to success in the IDEX call for applications or in another competition etc.) It is the responsibility of the thesis director and the director of the research unit to ensure that this commitment is serious, under the threat of having the funding that could be granted in the framework of this call withdrawn.

The co-financier will make sure that it is possible to finance the doctoral student, through a contract or a grant directly or in agreement with the doctoral student's institution in the partner country

At the end of the audition by the doctoral school before 15 May of the academic year, a reasoned opinion from the doctoral school will complete the file. It must indicate that the audition went well and that the applicant is admitted to the doctoral programme subject to obtaining the necessary funding.

4. Receipt of the cotutelle application submission

Once your application for an international doctoral cotutelle has been submitted, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt. You must attach this acknowledgement of receipt to your application file.

Eligible applications will be examined by the programme's selection committee.

Composition of the Committee and timetable

Composition

The doctoral programme selection committee is composed of the vice-president in charge of doctoral studies, a member of the vice-president in charge of international relations of Université Paris-Saclay, members of the doctoral policy council, directors or deputy directors of doctoral schools, a member of the administrative team of Maison du Doctorat, and doctoral students acting as observers.

The committee will study each application on the basis of the project evaluation criteria; any incomplete application will not be considered.

Project leaders are advised to put forward the elements that support the application in the most readable and explicit way for the committee members.

Criteria for the evaluation of projects by the Commission

The following paragraphs are intended to assist in the preparation of the application and the criteria required.

Criterion 1 - Excellence of the application and the doctoral project:

The doctoral school is expected to give a reasoned opinion on the excellence of the application as a whole (the applicant, the doctoral project, the international partnership project, the two laboratories, the conditions of supervision in the two institutions) and to provide elements that will enable the application to be put into perspective with respect to the other applicants auditioned by the doctoral school.

The programme selection committee may take into consideration other elements attesting to the recognised quality of the two host and supervisory teams, the level of the candidate, the originality and scientific risk-taking, and the interdisciplinary and international scope of the doctoral project.

Criterion 2 - Conditions favourable to the successful completion of the international cotutelle doctoral project:

On this second criterion, candidates and their prospective thesis supervisors are expected to provide the project selection committee with an argument answering the questions below:

- The motivations of the candidate: what are his or her expectations and motivations for preparing an international co-supervised PhD thesis? Access to other visions of the subject, to complementary skills, to an international field of study, to an intercultural experience, to develop language skills, to enhance the value of 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 thesis supervisors already cooperated or co-published? Have they planned mobility to meet during the thesis? If the collaboration is already important, detail the level of knowledge of the teams and the achievements. If the collaboration is emerging, specify the scientific issues and the modalities to meet and better collaborate.
- 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 thesis directors? Are they complementary from a scientific point of view? Is mobility of the thesis directors or co-supervisors envisaged to accompany the project? Has the reception in the two laboratories been well prepared, do the directors of the research units support the project? Does the research topic require this cooperation (e.g. research activity associated with a geographical site, access to an experimental platform, complementary skills)? Is the expected duration of the PhD student's stay in the two countries balanced?

Criterion 3 - The institutional interest of this international partnership

- For this third criterion, applicants and their prospective thesis supervisors are expected to provide the programme's project selection committee with arguments answering the questions below:
 - 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 doctoral degree or a joint degree, a Cooperation Agreement between Université Paris-Saclay and/or one of its components, component institutions, associate member university 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 allow to maintain or intensify this already existing cooperation? Does the project enable the extension or transformation of an existing cooperation?
- If it is not part of an already existing institutional partnership,
 - Does the agreement allow for the development of links with a leading higher education and research institution of interest for the development of the international cooperation of the Université Paris-Saclay?
 - Is the agreement likely to contribute to the development of a recruitment pipeline of excellent candidates, to help the development of incoming and outgoing mobility of students, PhD students, researchers and teacher-researchers?
 - Is the partnership likely to increase the attractiveness of doctoral training at Université Paris-Saclay or its international recognition? Promote exchanges of good practices?

What will be the contribution of the foreign partner? 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 contribution to the financing of the project is envisaged, in particular to the remuneration of the doctoral student (minimum required 12 months)? Participation in the financing of various expenses incurred by the cotutelle, such as travel expenses for the defence, for example? What possibilities for accommodation and financial support for the mobility of the doctoral student can be offered?

We would like to point out the possibility of submitting, in a coordinated manner, **a couple of international doctoral co-tutelle projects** within the framework of this call for applications, with a process whereby one of the co-tutelle doctoral students is financed 100% by IDEX Paris-Saclay and the other 100% by the foreign partner institution. In this case, it will be necessary **to submit two separate applications** within the framework of this call for proposals and to specify, in a very explicit manner, **in each of the two applications**, the link between the two applications. This type of arrangement is encouraged.

Publications

The IDEX Paris-Saclay is financed by the future investment programme, managed by the ANR. The State requires that any scientific production resulting from research financed by IDEX Paris-Saclay, as is the case for theses under cotutelle of this programme, mention IDEX as ANR-11-IDEX-0003.

The following sentence should therefore be added to publications, communications and other scientific productions:

Communication

In addition, visual aids (PowerPoint or other presentations, posters) must imperatively include the logos of Université Paris-Saclay and the Investissements d'Avenir programme.



The ANR carries out studies to evaluate the impact of the funding granted. The general framework of the ANR is as follows: "This work has benefited from State aid under France 2030 with the reference "ANR-11-IDEX-003".

Calendar

- Opening of the portal for the submission of subjects: 06 February 2023
- Closing of the portal for the submission of subjects: 06 March 2023
- Opening of applications: 06 March 2023
- Closing of applications: 31 March 2023
- Deadline for selection of candidates by the doctoral schools: 15 May 2023
- The programme selection committee will meet: 20 June 2023 at 10 a.m.

Contacts

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask them on the following e-mail address:

adi.upsaclay@universite-paris-saclay.fr