

IDEX Paris-Saclay

International Doctoral Action 2019

ADI 2019

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL PHDS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL COTUTELLA AGREEMENT.

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Preamble

The Doctoral Charter of Université Paris-Saclay states that "the member institutions of Université Paris-Saclay seek excellence and encourage originality and scientific risk-taking, as well as the international and interdisciplinary openness of the doctoral projects involved".

From 2012 to 2017, IDEX Paris-Saclay funded 30 new interdisciplinary doctoral projects each year through the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Initiative (IDI) program.

In 2018, IDEX Paris-Saclay supported an experimental International Doctoral Action (ADI) program that enabled 12 doctoral projects, all co-financed, to be launched as part of international cotutella agreements. This programme had been endowed with funding dedicated to mobility and support for doctoral projects for a total amount of €60k and funding of €630k dedicated to the remuneration of doctoral candidates' equivalent to 216 months' salary (i.e. equivalent to 6 full-time equivalents of a doctoral contract).

Given the positive outcome of this first call for projects, IDEX Paris-Saclay is financing the ADI2019 programme in 2019 from €1,900k up to €2500k (*arbitrations to come*). The funding may be used for the remuneration of the winning doctoral candidates, their international mobility or that of their supervisors, or for the payment of international travel expenses for members of the defence juries. The program has two main objectives:

- To engage ambitious doctoral projects, within the framework of international cotutella agreement, to promote the internationalization of doctoral students,
- To contribute to the internationalization of doctoral schools and research laboratories, the development of partnerships and the visibility and international attractiveness of Université Paris-Saclay.



Nature of the support

The selected doctoral candidates will be recruited on a fixed-term contract by one of IDEX's member institutions. The **gross monthly salary is approximately 2000€**, to be adjusted according to the rules of the institution managing the contract within the University Paris-Saclay and to which the corresponding IDEX funds will be transferred. The duration of the contract will be at least equal to the number of months of support granted under this call for projects. Depending on the co-financing arrangements, a longer period may also be considered.

Substantial co-financing is expected by the foreign partner institution, a foreign government or a French or foreign company, organization or institution, in particular to participate in the doctoral student's remuneration.

The selected projects may also benefit from support of a **maximum** amount of **€5,000** to finance the costs of the doctoral defence in an international joint supervision, to participate in the financing of the doctoral student's mobility between the two partner countries and, where applicable, to finance the mobility of supervisors or other eligible expenses useful for the smooth running of the international joint supervision of the thesis. The support will be paid to the doctoral student's host research unit at UPSaclay.

Eligibility criteria

- **Doctoral enrolment at the University of Paris-Saclay** will be carried out by one of the following institutions: UPSud, UVSQ, UEVE, CentraleSupélec, ENS Paris-Saclay, AgroParisTech, IOGS ;
- The doctoral student's **host research unit in France** must be part of the current IDEX Paris-Saclay perimeter ([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 the University of Paris-Saclay** is at least **12 months**, the duration of the stay in the foreign partner institution is also at least **12 months**.
- **The foreign partner institution** must be **accredited to award the doctorate** and have clarified its agreement in principle, in the event of success, for an **international joint thesis** (i.e. a double doctoral degree or a joint degree).
- **By the time the ADI2019 selection committee is held**, the candidate must have successfully completed the doctoral admission stages at the University of Paris-Saclay and at the foreign partner institution. The application must include an eligibility certificate, if applicable, subject to the success of this call for projects, for each of the two institutions.
- **By the time the ADI2019 selection committee is held**, the application for a cotutella agreement must have been submitted on the online interface of the University of Paris-Saclay ([Read more...](#)). For the record, the international thesis co-supervisory agreement must have been signed by all parties concerned before the end of the first year of the doctorate.
- **The conditions that are being considered** must be compatible with the **doctoral charter** of Université Paris-Saclay, the national regulatory framework and the internal regulations of the doctoral college and doctoral school, and must comply with the regulations of the equivalent structures in the cotutelle's partner institution, while respecting the regulatory framework of the country of this foreign institution.

Eligible applications will be examined by the ADI 2019 Selection Committee.



Evaluation criteria

All the criteria listed below will be used by the ADI 2019 Selection Committee to arbitrate between the different applications.

Projects obviously do not have to meet each of the criteria listed below, but project leaders are advised to highlight the elements that would support the application in a way that is as clear and explicit as possible for the members of the commission. The following paragraphs are intended to assist the applicants in the preparation of the application.

1 - Excellence of the application and doctoral project:

Only candidates who have already been auditioned by the doctoral school and admitted to enroll in a doctoral program are eligible.

For this first criterion, the selection committee of the ADI 2019 will rely on the **reasoned opinion of the doctoral school of** Université Paris-Saclay on the doctoral project. 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 elements to put this application in perspective with other candidates interviewed by the doctoral school, particularly during the "MESRI doctoral contracts" competition.

2 - Conditions for a successful completion of the doctoral project in an international partnership:

On this second criterion, candidates and their prospective thesis directors are expected to provide the ADI 2019 Selection Committee with arguments answering the following questions:

- **The candidate's motivation:** what are his or her expectations and motivations for preparing a doctoral thesis in international cotutelle? *Seize an opportunity? Access other visions of the subject, complementary skills, an international field of study ? Live an intercultural experience, develop your language skills, enhance your international experience through a double degree, improve your professional prospects... ?*
- **The experience of collaboration between partners:** what is the level of mutual knowledge of research teams in France and abroad? Have the two thesis supervisors already cooperated / published together? Have they planned any mobility to meet during the thesis? *If collaboration is already important, detail the level of team knowledge and achievements. If collaboration is emerging, specify the scientific issues and how to meet and get to know each other better.*
- **The international collaboration project around the doctoral project:** How will the scientific direction of the doctoral project be shared and the doctoral student's follow-up between the two thesis directors? *Are they scientifically complementary? Is a mobility of thesis directors or co-supervisors envisaged to 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 expected duration of the doctoral student's stays in the two countries balanced?*



3 - The institutional interest of this international partnership, its possible strategic nature:

On this third criterion, candidates and their prospective thesis supervisors are expected to provide the ADI 2019 Selection Committee with arguments answering the following questions:

- **What will be the foreign partner 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 contribution to the financing of the doctoral student's remuneration is envisaged? Contribution to the financing of various expenses incurred by the cotutella, such as travel expenses for the defence, for example? What accommodation and financial support for the doctoral student's mobility may be offered?
- **Are there any other supports for this project?** Co-financing or support provided by a research laboratory, foundation, company, French or foreign establishment
- 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, an MOU between Université Paris-Saclay and/or one of its member institutions and the partner institution (UMI, LIA, IRN (ex-GDRI), or an international research programme or in a formal scientific cooperation between the research units?
 - Does the project make it possible to **maintain or intensify** existing cooperation? Does the project 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 relevant to the **development of international cooperation at** Université Paris-Saclay?
 - Is the agreement likely to contribute to the development of a **recruitment channel for** excellent candidates, to help develop incoming and outgoing mobility of students, doctoral candidates, researchers and teacher-researchers?
 - Is the partnership likely to improve the **reputation or attractiveness** Université Paris-Saclay's doctoral training or its international recognition? Encourage exchanges of good practices?

In the event that **two** international PhD **projects** are submitted under this call for applications, in a coordinated manner, with an arrangement whereby one of the doctoral candidates is 100% funded by IDEX Paris-Saclay and the other one 100% by the foreign partner institution, then **two separate applications** must be **submitted under** this call for proposals, specifying very explicitly the planned set-up of the co-funding and the links between the two applications in **both files**.



Submission of the applications

Submission of the application: The application must be submitted, before **June 18, 2019 at midnight**, on the [application portal for the ADI 2019](https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/fr/ADI_2019):

https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/fr/ADI_2019



Contents of the file: Each candidate **must** submit via this interface a file containing the following documents:

✓ **The summary sheet of the request (max 2 pages)**

Understanding,

- The reference number of the application for an international thesis co-supervision agreement, submitted by the proposed thesis supervisor at UPSaclay, and which can be found in the acknowledgement email of receipt of the [application submitted on the dedicated interface](https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/fr/comment-etablir-un-accord-de-cotutelle-internationale-de-these): <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/fr/comment-etablir-un-accord-de-cotutelle-internationale-de-these>
- the candidate's personal information (surname, first name, date of birth, address, e-mail and telephone number)
- the title of the project,
- the project summary (about 15 lines)
- the research units supporting the project, at the University of Paris-Saclay and in the partner institution abroad,
- thesis directors, at the University of Paris-Saclay and in the partner institution abroad,
- the Doctoral School and the UPSaclay enrolment operator,
- the partner institution of the international thesis co-supervisor abroad, the structure of the counterpart foreign institution of the UPSaclay doctoral school,
- the provisional schedule of stays in France and abroad
- the desired methods of financing the doctoral student (commitments and possibilities of co-financing)
- the desired amount of IDEX support funding for the cotutella (max 5000€), and the specific activities and corresponding expenses envisaged in this context

✓ **The doctoral project and the doctoral school's opinion on this project**

The following information is essential:

- The complete application form as presented to the doctoral school,
- a **letter from the doctoral school** stating that the candidate has already been auditioned and admitted to enrollment in a doctoral program and providing all the information necessary for the commission to 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 the University of Paris-Saclay**

The purpose of this letter is to present a rationale for the project elements that meet the various project selection criteria as presented earlier in this document.

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

A short letter is expected to explain what the candidate expects from the thesis process in an international co-supervisor. It is not necessary to go back over your motivations for the doctoral project, as they have already been evaluated by the doctoral school.

✓ **Letters of support and commitment from the foreign partner institution**

These letters must be signed by the persons of the **competent** partner institution **to make the corresponding commitment** and must certify unambiguously:

1 - that the foreign partner institution (where appropriate subject to success in this call for applications or other conditions), undertakes to establish with Université Paris-Saclay an international cotutella agreement (double diploma or joint degree) for this thesis. This letter must be signed by the rector / president of the foreign partner institution or by one of its delegates authorized to commit the institution to the implementation of double degrees. The award of double international diplomas 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 policy or legal obstacles to the establishment of an international cotutella agreement.

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

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

✓ **At least one letter of support and commitment from a co-financing institution or programme**

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 candidates and/or the support of the project) as well as, where appropriate, the conditions that must be met for this funding to be granted (for example: subject to success in the IDEX call for applications or in another competition, etc.)

✓ **If 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 can include the dean of doctoral research and that of international relations of Université Paris-Saclay, directors and deputy directors of doctoral schools, heads of international relations of member institutions of Université Paris Saclay, doctoral representatives of member institutions of Université Paris Saclay, doctoral students acting as observers.

The members of the ADI 2019 Commission (list to be completed):

Alexandre Pery	Director of the ABIES doctoral school	AgroParisTech
Didier Clouteau	Head of the international axis of the doctoral college	UPSaclay
Eric Cassan	Director of ED EOBE	UPSud
Etienne Augé	Vice President for Research	UPSud
Guillaume Garreta	Director of International Relations	UPSaclay
Martine Husson	Deputy Director of International Relations	UPSaclay
Matthieu Roy-Barman	Deputy Director of ED SEIF	UVSQ
Pierre Capy	Director of the SDSV doctoral school	UPSud
<i>Sandrine Lacombe</i>	<i>Vice-President of International Relations</i>	<i>UPSud</i>
Sylvie Pommier	Dean of doctoral research	UPSaclay

AGENDA

→ Transmission of applications, before **18 June 2019 at midnight**, on the [application portal](#):

https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/fr/ADI_2019

- The ADI2019 selection committee will meet on **26 June 2019** from 9am to 12pm,
- The results will be communicated, at the end of the commission, to the project leaders, doctoral schools, the council of the doctoral and the group of international relations officers of the member institutions of Paris Saclay University.
- The statistical review of the ADI2019 and the lessons learned from it will be included in the annual review of recruitment operations and thus communicated to all UPSaclay central authorities.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

ADI2019@universite-paris-saclay.fr



Publications

IDEX Paris-Saclay, on which the ADI 2019 programme is financed, is financed by the French State Program "Investissements d'Avenir" managed by the French National Research Agency (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.

One of the following sentences should be added to the publications:

"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 2019" project funded by the IDEX Paris-Saclay, ANR-11-IDEX-0003-02"

or

"This work is supported by the "ADI 2019" project funded by the IDEX Paris-Saclay, ANR-11-IDEX-0003-02"

The ANR may conduct studies to assess the impact of the funding granted. The general framework of the ANR is as follows: *"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

Visual supports (powerpoint or other presentations, posters and posters) must include the logos of Université Paris-Saclay and of the Program "Investissements d'Avenir".

