

# Doctoral programme of international cotutelle of theses of the Université Paris-Saclay

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## Preamble

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

To this end, the Université Paris-Saclay is funding a programme to support international cotutelles for theses, with a forecast amount of approximately 10 million euros for the period 2020-2024. The funds provided by IDEX Paris-Saclay are mainly intended for the remuneration of the selected doctoral students, but may in some cases include certain costs related to their international mobility or their supervisors' or jury members' mobility in the context of the doctoral project.

The programme has two main objectives:

- initiate ambitious doctoral projects, as part of international cotutelles, and encourage the internationalisation of doctoral students,
- contribute to the internationalisation of doctoral schools and research laboratories, to the development of partnerships and to the visibility and international attractiveness of the Université Paris-Saclay.

## Nature of the support

IDEX Paris-Saclay can provide support in the form of one month of funding. The selected PhD students will be recruited on a fixed-term contract by the Université Paris-Saclay. The duration of the contract will be equal to the number of months of support granted as part of this call for projects. The **gross monthly salary is aligned with the one of the doctoral contracts.**

Substantial co-funding 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 **contribute to the doctoral student's salary.**

Support for international exchanges within the framework of the doctoral project, up to a maximum of **5000€**, may also be provided. This support will be given as a priority to cotutelle projects where the doctoral student is financed by another way or where the number of months requested is low.

## Eligibility criteria

- The project must be part of **an international thesis cotutelle**, with dual registration for a doctorate in France and in another country, at the Université Paris-Saclay and in a partner university in a foreign country;
- **The foreign partner institution** must be **accredited to award the PhD** and have given explicit principle agreement, if successful, for **an international thesis cotutelle** (i.e. a double PhD or joint degree).
- The doctoral student's **host research unit** in France must be part of the Université Paris-Saclay ([consult 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 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 eligibility for both institutions in order to be able to receive the funding. For the Université Paris-Saclay, the candidate must have been **auditioned by one of the doctoral schools of the Université Paris-Saclay**. The report of the audition and the opinion of the doctoral school on the application must be attached to the application file.
- **At the time of the doctoral programme's project selection committee**, the cotutelle agreement request must have been formulated on the online interface of the Université Paris-Saclay (we are in the process of connecting it to Adum, the connection links will be provided later). As a reminder, the international cotutelle thesis agreement will have to be signed by all involved parties before the end of the 1st year of the PhD.

→ **The foreseen conditions** must be compatible with the Université paris-saclay **doctoral charter**, the national regulatory framework and the internal regulations of the doctoral college and the doctoral school, and must comply with the regulations of the equivalent structures in the partner institution of the cotutelle, in accordance with the regulatory framework of the country of this foreign institution.

Eligible applications will be judged by the Programme Selection Committee on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out below.

## Project evaluation criteria

All the criteria listed below will be used by the programme's project selection committee to choose between the various applications.

**Projects do not have to fulfil each of the criteria listed below**, but project applicants are advised to highlight the elements that support the application in the most readable and explicit way for the committee members. The following paragraphs are intended to help you prepare your application.

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

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

For this first criterion, the **programme's project selection committee** will rely on the **motivated opinion of the Université paris-saclay's** doctoral school. The doctoral school is expected to give a motivated opinion on the excellence of the application as a whole (the candidate, the doctoral project, the international partnership project, both laboratories, the conditions of supervision in both institutions) and to provide elements allowing to put this application in perspective compared to the other candidates auditioned by the doctoral school.

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

Letters of support from the laboratory and/or from recognised personalities in the field are welcome to complement the opinion of the doctoral school.

## Criterion 2 - Favourable conditions to the successful completion of the international cotutelle doctoral project:

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

- **The candidate's motivations:** apart from the opportunity of funding, what are his or her expectations and motivations for preparing a doctoral thesis under international cotutelle? *To gain access to other views on the subject, to complementary skills, to an international field of study, to live an intercultural experience, to develop language skills, to enhance the value of an international experience through a double degree, to improve professional perspectives, etc. ?*
- **The experience of collaboration between the partners:** what is the level of mutual knowledge of the research teams in France and abroad? Have both thesis directors already cooperated or published together? Have they planned mobility to meet during the thesis? *If the collaboration is already significant, 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 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 thesis directors? *Are they complementary from a scientific point of view? Is mobility of the thesis directors or co-supervisors planned to accompany the project? Has the reception in both 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 planned duration of the PhD student's stay in both countries balanced?*

## Criterion 3 - The institutional relevance of this international partnership

On this third criterion, applicants and their prospective thesis supervisors are expected to provide the programme's project selection committee with an argumentation answering the questions below:

- **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 funding of the project is planned, in particular to the remuneration of the doctoral student? Contribution to the financing of various expenses incurred by the cotutelle, such as travel expenses for the thesis defence, for example? What kind of accommodation and financial support for the mobility of the doctoral student can be offered?

- **Is there any other support for this project?** Co-funding or support from 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 doctoral degree or a joint degree, a cooperation agreement between the Université Paris-Saclay and/or one of its components, component institutions, associate member universities or member research organisations (UMI, LIA, IRN (ex-GDRI), or an international research programme or in a formalised scientific cooperation between research units?
  - Does the project make it possible to **maintain or intensify** this existing cooperation? Does the project allow the extension or transformation of an existing cooperation?
- **If it is not part** of an existing institutional partnership,
  - Does the agreement allow for the development of relations with a major higher education and research institution of interest to the **development of international cooperation** of the Université Paris-Saclay?
  - Is the agreement likely to contribute to the development of a **recruitment stream** of excellent candidates, to help the development of inward and outward mobility of students, doctoral candidates, researchers and teacher-researchers?
  - Is the partnership likely to improve the **reputation or attractiveness** of the Université Paris-Saclay's doctoral education or its international recognition? Promote the exchange of good practices?

In the case where **two international cotutelle thesis projects** are submitted in the framework of this call for applications, in a coordinated manner, with an arrangement whereby one of the cotutelle doctoral students is financed 100% by IDEX Paris-Saclay and the other 100% by the foreign partner institution, it will be necessary to submit **two separate applications** in the framework of this call for proposals. In this case, it will be necessary to specify, in a very explicit way, in **each of the two applications submitted**, the link between the two applications. This type of arrangement is recommended.

## 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 the **middle of June** of the academic year.

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

✓ **The application summary form (max 2 pages) - See template below**

Including,

- the country and the partner institution of the international cotutelle of the thesis abroad,
  - the surname, first name and contact details of the thesis director at the Université Paris-Saclay, the doctoral school to which he/she belongs and the host research unit,
  - the candidate's personal details (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 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
  - the provisional calendar of stays in France and abroad
  - the desired funding arrangements for the doctoral student (commitments and possibilities of co-financing),
  - the desired amount of IDEX funding for the cotutelle (max 5000€), and the precise activities and corresponding planned expenses in this framework. This funding will go in priority to applications with a low number of requested months.

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

The following pieces of information are essential:

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

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

The purpose of this letter is to attest and present an argumentation for the elements of the project meeting the various project selection criteria, as presented earlier in this document.

✓ **A motivation letter from the candidate**

A letter is expected to explain what the candidate expects from the course of the thesis in the framework of an international cotutelle. It is not necessary to go back over the motivations for the doctoral project, as these have already been evaluated by the doctoral school, the purpose of the letter is to explain the candidate's motivations for carrying out the 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 signed by different persons or in one letter signed by a Dean of University or a Rector of a University. In all cases, the person(s) who is or are **qualified to make the corresponding commitment** must unambiguously attest:

- 1** - that the foreign partner institution, if applicable, subject to success in this call for applications or other conditions to be specified, commits to establish an international thesis cotutelle agreement (double degree or joint degree) with the Université Paris-Saclay for this thesis. **Co-direction or co-supervision is not enough.** This letter will have to be signed by the president of the foreign partner institution or one of its representatives authorised to commit the institution to the setting up 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 in principle or in law to the establishment of an international cotutelle thesis.
- 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 joint degree with the Université Paris-Saclay, and that the project is supported by the equivalent entity of the doctoral school in the foreign partner institution.
- 3** – that the thesis supervisor in the foreign partner institution commits to co-supervising the thesis and supports the application and the project.

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

A letter of commitment from the head of the organisation which commits to co-financing the thesis and which 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 which 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.).

✓ **If applicable**

Other letters of recommendation or support for the project, if possible, making explicit mention of the expected impact of the international framework of the doctoral project.

## **Composition of the committee and timeline**

### **COMPOSITION**

The doctoral programme selection committee includes the coordinator of international affairs of the doctoral college, the vice-president for doctoral studies, a member of the vice-presidency in charge of international relations of the Université Paris-Saclay, members of the doctoral policy council, directors and deputy directors of doctoral schools, doctoral students acting as observers.

### **TIMELINE**

- The doctoral schools must send their applications to the programme selection committee before midnight on the Monday of the third week of June, **via the Adum system and in PDF format.**
- The programme selection committee will meet on the Friday of the fourth week of June from 9am to 12pm.
- The results will be transmitted, at the end of the commission, to the project leaders (supervisors and doctoral students) and the doctoral schools which are involved.

### **INFORMATION**

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

**[adi.upsaclay@universite-paris-saclay.fr](mailto:adi.upsaclay@universite-paris-saclay.fr)**

## **Publications**

IDEX Paris-Saclay is financed by the Investissements d'Avenir programme, managed by the ANR. The government requires that any scientific production resulting from research financed by IDEX Paris-Saclay, as is the case for the cotutelles theses of this programme, mention the IDEX as ANR-11-IDEX-0003.

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

**Acknowledgments: This work was supported by the Joint PhD Programme of Université Paris-Saclay as part of the « Investissements d'Avenir » program [grant number ANR-11-IDEX-003];**



## Communication

In addition, visual aids (powerpoint or other presentations, posters) must include the logos of the 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: *"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"*.

## Summary sheet to be attached to the file in PDF format in Adum

### The candidate

<b>Name and surname</b> : .....	
<b>Birth date</b> : DD/MM/YYYY	
<b>City of birth</b> : ..... <b>Contacts</b> :	
<b>email</b> : .....	<b>Phone number</b> : .....

### Doctoral project subject

<b>Title of the doctoral project</b> : .....
<b>Summary (Maximum 10 lines)</b> : .....

### The partnership

<b>Partner country</b> : France et .....
<b>Partner university</b> : Université Paris-Saclay and .....
<b>Doctoral school of l'UPSaclay</b> : .....
<b>Equivalent of the doctoral school in the partner university</b> : .....
<b>Research laboratory of UPSaclay</b> : .....
<b>Equivalent of the laboratory in the partner university</b> : .....

### Doctoral supervision

<b>Thesis director at the Université Paris-Saclay</b>	
<b>Name and surname</b> : .....	
<b>email</b> : .....	<b>Phone number</b> : .....
<b>Thesis director at the partner university</b>	
<b>Name and surname</b> : .....	
<b>email</b> : .....	<b>Phone number</b> : .....

### IDEX funding

**Number of months of funding requested from UPSaclay (max. 24 months)**

\_\_\_\_\_ mois

**Minimum number of months below which the project is not viable**

\_\_\_\_\_ mois

**Financial support requested (max. 5000€)**

\_\_\_\_\_ €

**For information: Number of months of funding requested from the partner**

\_\_\_\_\_ mois

### Summary of points supporting the project

#### Criterion 1

*Summary of letters of support and opinions attached to the file*

#### Criterion 2

*Provide the provisional calendar of the doctoral student's stays in France and abroad  
If applicable, the list of joint productions of the two thesis directors or the two teams.*

#### Criterion 3

*Funding of the doctoral student*

- *Number of months that can be provided by the foreign partner :*
- *Number of months requested in the framework of this programme :*
- *Other type of request (e.g. mobility credits)*

*Formalised scientific cooperation between the teams : ..... ?*

**Documents of the file to be submitted in PDF in Adum**

- This summary sheet
- The detailed doctoral project
- The opinion of the doctoral school on this project and on the application
- A letter of support from the thesis director at the Université Paris-Saclay
- A motivation letter from the candidate
- One or more letters of support and commitment from the foreign institution for registration as a doctoral student under cotutelle
- At least one letter of support and commitment from a co-financer
- If applicable, other letters of recommendation or support for the project.