



Research Collaboration Program

between

The University of Chicago (UChicago)

and

The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

Research Opportunity

Scientific Areas

The CNRS and the University of Chicago are launching a joint call for proposals between the two institutions in order to develop cooperation in new promising themes. This call is **open in the areas of** 1) Metamaterials design and fabrication, 2) Polymeric systems for applications in energy sustainability, and health 3) Anisotropic and active matter, including liquid crystals and amorphous solids, 4) Astro-particle physics, 5) Artificial intelligence (AI) enabled materials research, 6) Immune system engineering, 7) Mathematics, 8) Biological engineering, Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, 9) Quantum engineering, 10) Social sciences 11) Cognition 12) Digital Humanities.

The joint call is intended to fund up to 3 years of a PhD fellowship and travel starting in the Autumn of 2020.

Eligibility

Primary Investigators:

- Assistant, Associate or Full Professors
- Researchers working in a CNRS unit holding an accreditation to supervise PhD students (HDR)
- A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.

Students:

- France: first-year PhD students
- UChicago: third-year or higher, PhD students (upon special circumstances second-year students will also be considered)

Collaborative Research

There must be at least one PI from University of Chicago and one PI from CNRS. Those who do not already have a collaborator may consult the [CNRS website](#) or the UChicago website ([students research](#), [academic departments](#)) to find information on the research groups and projects being carried out in either institution.

Amount

Students are expected to be financially supported by their home institution, at the equivalent level of a PhD fellowship in the specific program at their host institution. Additional funds will cover mobility costs for visits to France & to UChicago for the PI and the PhD student (up to 5 000 € -or USD equivalent- per institution, per year).

Support period

Up to 3 years

Number of awards

Up to five students are expected to be funded by UChicago Principal Investigators, who will receive additional assistance from the University's RNL office, and up to five students enrolled in a French University are expected to be funded by the CNRS.

Notification date

March 9th, 2020

Close of submission date

January 31st, 2020

Call date

December 9th, 2019

Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a UChicago-CNRS committee comprising 2 to 3 scholars from each country, according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality & originality of the project
- Scientific merit of the teams
- Synergism between the teams

The proposals must also include an outlined plan for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, national research agency grants, etc.).

Mode of application

UChicago applicants should submit in electronic format (Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF) via email to [Fabienne Münch](mailto:Fabienne.Munch@uchicago.edu); CNRS applicants should submit the same file via the dedicated Web site: <https://www.cooperation.cnrs.fr>

The proposal must consist of the following parts, in one single file (up to 6 pages, not including references and the CVs of the CNRS and UChicago participants).

PART A: Title Page

Title of the proposal, names of the principal investigators and their laboratories/name of thesis director in social sciences, their addresses, telephone, and e-mail. The names of the PhD students can be provided if they are already known. Please specify on the Title Page of the application "This application is submitted for consideration within the UChicago - CNRS Collaboration Program".

PART B: Description of the scientific project (2 pages)

State of the art for the research area, description of the scientific project and domains of interest, historical context of application (if applicable), quality and originality of the project, objectives, scientific methodology, expected results and their relevance, future perspectives. Explain how the PhD fellow will be supervised and mentored, and how the collaboration will enable and enhance the project. Explain the relation between the project and the research themes of the laboratory.

PART C: Added-value of the international cooperation

Describe the added-value of the international cooperation in fulfilling the aims of the project (explain why the project cannot be carried out at a national level only). Describe the expected benefits for the French and UChicago teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the French and UChicago teams. If any additional industrial, or governmental collaboration are involved in the project, please describe their role.

PART D: Planned activities

Describe the planned activities in the framework of the project and provide a timetable. Explain how these activities will help achieve the aims of the project.

PART E: Budget

Proposed budget including a breakdown of the division of funds, separated into distinct budgets for UChicago and CNRS. The budget section regarding travel should contain explicit line items for travel of the PhD student.

PART F: Perspectives & external funding

Outline any proposed plans for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, US collaborative grants, national research agency grants, etc.)

PART G: Scientific quality of the teams

Please attach in the Annex a list of up to ten detailed (complete) citations for publications related to the project for each team. This list does not count against the page limit. Authors from the respective laboratories must be clearly indicated in the author lists, with superscript or parenthesized letters corresponding to the respective countries, for example Dupont JP (FR), or Smith FD (US).

PART H: Short (maximum two-page) curriculum vitae of all PIs/faculty

PART I: Ethics

Does the project raise ethical questions? If yes, please describe them and how they will be addressed.

Mode of submission and selection process

PIs/thesis directors from France and University of Chicago are expected to collaborate on a joint proposal for each project. This proposal needs to be submitted by the CNRS applicant in electronic format and **in English** via the dedicated CNRS Website: <https://www.cooperation.cnrs.fr>

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a UChicago-CNRS selection committee based on the scientific quality & originality of the project, scientific merit of the teams, synergy between the teams, and alignment with the strategic areas of mutual interest.

Successful recipients will be formally notified of the award and informed of funding conditions.

Reporting

During or at the conclusion of the project, grant recipients may be asked to report on progress or outcomes achieved to relevant stakeholder groups.

Awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) to their respective PI/thesis director within eighteen months of the award. This report should detail the outcomes of the collaboration and the ways in which the grant has enhanced, or will enhance, their research activities and/or leverage larger opportunities.

Enquiries

UChicago enquiries should be directed to depablo@uchicago.edu

CNRS enquiries should be directed to jean.theves@cnrs-dir.fr



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