

## Imperial College London – CNRS PhD joint programme

Imperial and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) recognise that collaborative international activities enable cross-border pooling of research capabilities and sharing of expertise and facilities, the opportunity to appreciate different perspectives, outputs that are typically more highly cited, as well as access to new environments for impact and exploitation of research outcomes.

**CNRS and Imperial are launching a joint call for collaborative PhD proposals between the two institutions across all areas of science, technology, engineering and medicine.** The aim is to develop collaborative PhD projects that can train and network the next generation of researchers and innovators, offering them expertise not available at just one institution, and to also seed Imperial-CNRS collaborations that can lead to EU and other funding opportunities.

This call invites Principal Investigators at CNRS and Imperial to jointly put forward a research project to be underpinned by x1 PhD at CNRS and x1 PhD at Imperial, which includes joint supervision plans and a built-in mobility programme.

### Strategic rationale

Imperial College London and CNRS researchers have co-authored almost 2,800 publications in the past 5 years (2015-2019) and worked together on 43 joint Horizon 2020 research consortia.

In addition, Imperial and CNRS have a joint Mathematics Laboratory, IRL *Abraham De Moivre*, and Imperial is the UK lead for the CNRS International Research Network in Quantum Fields and Strings.

The €95.5 billion Horizon Europe budget, which runs from 2021-2027, provides continued impetus for joint scientific discovery and innovation.

### Focus areas

The programme is open to all areas of science, technology, engineering and medicine. Applications are however encouraged which build on the CNRS-Imperial International Mathematics Research Laboratory, IRL *Abraham De Moivre*, or the International Research Network (IRN) in Quantum Fields and Strings.

## Call guidelines

### Eligibility

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- Scientists from Imperial who can supervise PhD students; 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.

There must be one PI from Imperial and one PI from a CNRS laboratory. Those who do not already have a collaborator may consult Imperial's website or the CNRS website to find information on the research groups and projects being carried out in either institution.

### Funding

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The model is for each collaborative project to have two PhD students and two supervisors, one of each at both Imperial and CNRS.

At CNRS the funding will be for a three year studentship. Funds will include mobility costs for visits to London for the project over three years.

At Imperial, the funding for the three year studentship should be allocated by departments, faculties, CDTs, DTPs, or other research groups. Hence Imperial applicants must have approval to commit a studentship from their Head of Department, director of the CDT, director of the DTP, or director of the research group in question to apply. Mobility and networking funds will be allocated centrally to successful projects from the International Relations Office (IRO) - £2500 per year of a three year studentship.

### Number of awards

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Up to five projects are expected to be funded jointly by Imperial & CNRS.

### Support period

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3 years

### Deadline and start dates

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Open date: February 1st, 2021  
Closing date: March 12th, 2021  
Notification date: April 15th 2021  
Beginning of the projects: October 2021

### Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by an Imperial-CNRS committee according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality & originality of the project
- Scientific merit of the teams
- Synergy between the teams, added value of international cooperation

The proposals should also include an outlined plan for raising external competitive funding.

### **How to apply**

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Imperial applicants should submit in electronic format (Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF) to [globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk);  
CNRS applicants should submit the same file via the dedicated Website: <https://www.cooperation.cnrs.fr>

The joint proposal must consist of the following parts, in one single file (up to 5 pages, not including references – parts F & G):

## APPLICATION FORM

*This form must be completed using 10pt Arial font. Margins must not be adjusted. Where the form has been adjusted or incorrect font used, the proposal will be returned to the applicant without further assessment.*

The joint proposal must consist of the following parts, in one single file (up to 5 pages, not including references – parts G & H):

**A. Title Page**

<b>Name of Imperial Principal Investigator</b>	<b>Department</b>
<b>Current position</b> <i>(Note that applicants must be permanent members of academic staff)</i>	<b>If you are a member of a College Centre or Network, please provide Centre/Network name here</b>

<b>Name of Imperial Co-investigator (if relevant)</b>	<b>Department</b>
<b>Current position</b>	<b>Institution</b>
<i>(duplicate co-investigator section as necessary)</i>	

**Partner details**

<b>Name of CNRS partner</b>	<b>Laboratory</b>
<b>Current position</b>	<b>Email address</b>
<i>(duplicate CNRS partner section as necessary)</i>	

**B. Lay description of the scientific project**

<b>Title</b>
<b>Guidance: lay (accessible to the public) description of the scientific project and its contribution to a research area, historical context of application (if applicable), quality and originality of the project, objectives, scientific methodology, expected results and their meaning, future perspectives. Explain the added value of the PhD fellowships in the project. Explain the relation between the project and the research themes of the laboratory.</b>

**C. Added-value of the international cooperation**

<b>Guidance: Describe the added-value of the international cooperation to fulfil the aims of the project (explain why the project cannot be carried out at a national level only). Describe the expected benefits for the UK and French teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the UK and French teams.</b>
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**D. Planned activities**

<b>Guidance: 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. This part should include explicit lines regarding the planned travel of the PIs &amp; the PhD students to the other country.</b>
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**E. Sustainability & External Funding**

**Guidance:** Outline the proposed plan for raising external competitive funding.

**F. Ethics**

**Guidance:** Does the project raise ethical questions? If yes, please describe them and how they are dealt with.

**G. Scientific quality of the teams**

**Guidance:** Please attach in annex a list of complete citations of no more than 10 publications related to the project for each team. (This list is not taken into account for the page limit.)

**H. Short curriculum vitae of Principal Investigators**

**Guidance:** not taken into account for the page limit)

**I. Approval from Head of Department, Director of Programme, or other relevant authorised person**

**Guidance:** PIs must provide an email approval from their director, head of department or other relevant authorised person to show support for their application to this programme. At Imperial, as scholarships are usually allocated by departments or other research groups, the PI would need the approval of the HoD, Director of the CDT, or DTP, or relevant research group that has the studentship to confirm that they have approval to utilise one studentship for the Imperial portion of the project.