

**Collaboration Program
The University of Witwatersrand (Wits)
and
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)**

Background

CNRS and Wits are launching a joint call for proposals between the two institutes to provide matching strategic investment for developing and strengthening Wits-CNRS significant partnership in areas of mutual interest and cooperation in new promising themes.

In order to be successful, proposals will be required to demonstrate either that their partnership is already significant **or** how they will upscale the partnership, increasing scale and excellence consistent with our commitment to research.

Scientific areas

This call is **open to all research areas**.

Conditions of eligibility

- There must be one PI from Wits and one PI from CNRS on the application.
- CNRS PIs must hold an accreditation to supervise PhD students.
- Applications must be submitted by researchers working in a CNRS unit.
- **Only staff** will be eligible to prepare a joint project with their French counterparts.
- A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.
- All applications must be completed and submitted in English.

Funding

Funding will be awarded up to ZAR 100,000 per successful project per year by both CNRS and Wits for the duration of three years to cover mobility costs for visits to France and South Africa for the PhD student and occasionally the PI. In addition, CNRS will fund the amount of a PhD fellowship for the CNRS unit. The PI must undertake to supervise the student who will be selected.

The grant is awarded to the PI, who is responsible for recruiting and training the PhD student over the three-year period.

The selection of the successful candidate remains at the sole discretion of each PI. The proposal must build scale, excellence and critical mass. Applications should include the expertise and facilities provided by both sides, the reasons they are choosing to work together and the benefits of the co-operation.

Examples of proposed projects could include:

- development of substantial joint PhD training schemes, including, for example, workshops to identify supervisory capacity and alignment that demonstrate the value of an International Joint PhD Program
- organisation of joint research workshops in South Africa, France or internationally, or travel for several key collaborators or a delegation
- facilitation of long term, significant international collaborations, including access to research infrastructure
- research-industry pilot programs

Support period

3 years

Number of awards

Up to five Wits students (one student per project) are expected to be funded by Wits, and five CNRS students (one student per project) are expected to be funded by the Program.

Criteria

The joint proposal must consist of the following parts, in one single file (up to 6 pages, not including references):

PART A: Title Page

Title of the proposal, names of the principal investigators and their laboratories, their addresses, telephone, and e-mail. The names of the PhD students can be given if they are already known. Please specify on the Title Page of the application "*This application is submitted for consideration within Wits - CNRS Collaboration Program*".

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

State of the art of the research area, description of the scientific project and its interest, 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.

PART C: Added-value of the international cooperation

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 French and South African teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the French and South African teams.

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 Wits and CNRS. The budget section regarding travel should contain explicit line items for travel of the PhD student.

PART F: Perspective & external funding

Outline the proposed plan for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, national research agency grants, industry funding, etc.)

PART G: Scientific quality of the teams

List of publications related to the project. No more than five publications related for each team. Authors from the respective laboratories must be clearly indicated on the author lists with superscript or parenthesized letters corresponding to the respective countries, for example Dupont JP FR ...

PART H: Short curriculum vitae of both Wits and the CNRS PI

Mode of submission and selection process

PIs from France and South Africa are expected to collaborate on a joint proposal for each project. This 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 Wits-CNRS selection committee based on scientific quality & originality of the project, scientific merit of the teams, synergism between the teams and alignment to 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, including to relevant stakeholder groups.

Awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) to Lucille.mooragan@wits.ac.za (Wits) and Camille.FLAMANT@cnrs.fr (CNRS) within sixteen 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 leveraged larger opportunities.

Timing

Opening Date: February 1st, 2021

Deadline for submission: March 31st, 2021

Notification Date: by end of April 2021

Enquiries

Wits enquiries should be directed to Lucille.mooragan@wits.ac.za.

CNRS enquiries should be directed to Camille.FLAMANT@cnrs.fr