

**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**.

The scholarship is open to PhD candidates from Wits University and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). Up to 10 PhD candidates (5 Wits, 5 CNRS) will receive a 3-year scholarship to conduct their research project in any discipline, with additional support to travel between the two countries. The scholarships will be shared equally between the two institutions and every selected student will be expected to spend time in each other's organisation over the course of their PhD. Applications open from 01 February to 31 March 2021.

The PhD candidates will be selected from qualifying projects at the two institutions in line with the strategic investment for developing and strengthening Wits-CNRS partnership. This exchange programme will enhance knowledge development and intellectual global cooperation.

This joint call reinforces the long-standing partnership between the two research organisations. The CNRS is Wits' third international partner. The CNRS and Wits lead numerous joint research projects, notably in Physics, Astronomy-Astrophysics, Anthropology, Paleo sciences, Environment and Ecology. Some of these partnerships are already supported international cooperation tools such as International Research Networks and International Research Projects, funded by CNRS and NRF.

### **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 maximum per successful project per year by both CNRS and Wits for the duration of three years which has to include 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 publication 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 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>

**OR**

For more information on the call, please visit

[https://international.cnrs.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Joint-PhD-Wits-CNRS\\_call-2021\\_guidelines.pdf](https://international.cnrs.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Joint-PhD-Wits-CNRS_call-2021_guidelines.pdf)

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Deadline for submission: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Notification Date: by end of April 2021

### **Enquiries**

Wits enquiries should be directed to [Lucille.mooragan@wits.ac.za](mailto:Lucille.mooragan@wits.ac.za) (Postgraduate Affairs)

CNRS enquiries should be directed to [Camille.FLAMANT@cnrs.fr](mailto:Camille.FLAMANT@cnrs.fr)