

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2019

« UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE »

The creation of the Université de Paris aims to build a world-class research-intensive university through the merging of the Université Paris Descartes and the Université Paris Diderot and incorporation of the Institut de physique du globe de Paris (IPGP). This institutional evolution has received the label IdEx (Initiatives of Excellence) in March 2018 and the associated funding (approximately 51.2 M€ over 4 years) granted by the French government.

As part of this IdEx grant, the Université de Paris launches a call for proposals *Chairs of Excellence*. This call aims to enhance the prominent international scientific outreach and the attractiveness of the Université de Paris. The chairs are designed to host candidates from outside the Université de Paris perimeter. The chair holder is expected to obtain a permanent position as an assistant Professor or full Professor at Université de Paris or researcher in one of the partner organisms¹. The candidates² could be either junior scientists with outstanding scientific potential or senior scientists with established worldwide renown.

The main evaluation criteria are the quality of the applicant's track-record, his/her ability to quickly take scientific responsibilities, and the strategic interest of the proposal for the Université de Paris.

The budget allocated for this call is around 1.8 M€ per year. Each chair will enable the hosting of the laureate and the funding of his/her research activities for **a maximum of 3 years**³ (within the eligibility period of the IdEx funding). All fields of scientific and technological research are eligible without any exception.

Two types of chairs are open:

- **Junior chairs, with funding up to 300 k€,** for scientists **up to 10 years of experience** since completion of PhD,
- **Senior chairs, with funding up to 500 k€,** for scientists **with 11 years of experience or more** since completion of PhD.

The recruitment of the chair holder can suit either one of the following situations:

1. The chair provides a starting package for a scientist having obtained, in 2019 and through competitive selection, a permanent position in the Université de Paris or one of its partner research organisms¹. In this case, the application for the chair of excellence must have been discussed with the hosting research unit prior to the recruitment selection process, as it must comply with the strategy of Université de Paris.
2. The chair allows the recruitment of the laureate through a *tenure track* position, with an initial period of 3 years. In case of a positive evaluation at the end of this 3-year period, the Université de Paris or one of its partner research organisms² endorses the chair holder for his/her application for a permanent position in the scientific subject of the chair.
3. The chair provides a starting package for a scientist already holding a permanent position in a French research organism and wanting to transfer within a research unit into the Université de Paris.

¹ CNRS, Ined, Inria, Inserm, and IRD.

² Through its policy, USPC fully endorses and promotes gender equality and strongly encourages female applications.

³ Provided the IdEx is renewed at the end of the probationary period.

NOTA BENE

1. Like all IdEx actions, the chairs of Excellence involve IdEx funding and financial support from the Université de Paris and its partner research organisms². In addition, and particularly in the case of a tenure track position, the Université de Paris should contribute to the chair's environment in terms of facilities, equipment, running costs or salaries (doctoral students, post-doctorate fellows, engineers, etc.) and/or to help making the chair holder's installation and work easier (partial release from teaching obligations, office space, etc.).
2. The Université de Paris, or if applicable its partner research organisms³, remains the legal employer of the chair holder and must notably take care of all administrative steps towards his/her hosting and installation (legal documents, travel, housing, etc.).

TIMELINE

The selection process runs from March 2019 to September 2019:

- **June 28th, 2019 at noon (Paris time):** deadline for the submission of applications, via email, to the Vice-President in charge of the IdEx project (email address: AO-IdEx-UnivParis@uspc.fr). All required items, except the annexes (see *Application documents below*), must be merged in one PDF document and sent by the French referent for the proposal.
- July-September 2019: evaluation of the applications.
- End of September 2019: publication of the results and notification to the referents.

ELIGIBILITY

Junior or senior scientists holding a position outside Université de Paris up to June 28th, 2019 and having a project to move into a research unit at Université de Paris may apply.

Applicants to a Junior chair must have obtained their PhDs between 2 to 10 years before the present call (PhD degree obtained between January 1st, 2009 and January 1st, 2017). Derogations may apply (maternity/paternity leave, career hiatus and other specific situations) for up to a 2-year period, following a documented request and upon validation prior to the application submission.

Eligible costs⁴ include:

- The salary cost of the chair holder for the duration of the initial fixed-term period (up to 3 years) in case of a tenure track ;
- The salary costs of doctoral students, post-doctorates fellows, engineers or technicians on fixed-term contracts;
- Compensation for teaching hours;
- Scientific equipment ;
- Research running costs (including travel costs).

Some expenses linked to the chair holder's installation in Paris may be eligible during the first year.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

⁴ The eligible costs must comply with the financial rules applying to the IdEx (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/fileadmin/documents/ia-rf-idex.pdf>)

The main application file is a template-free, **20-page maximum** document, which should include the following items:

- The applicant's detailed CV ;
- The research program and, if applicable, the teaching program (especially regarding undergraduate and graduate students);
- A detailed argumentation of the strategic interest of the recruitment with respect to the scientific objectives of Université de Paris ;
- An incorporation project at mid- and long-term for the chair holder within the hosting research unit, written and signed by the person who will serve as referent for the chair of excellence (a priori the research unit's director) ;
- The contact details of the referent ;
- A detailed budget, identifying the total funding asked and the related expenses, but also the other expenses needing external funding. Expected co-funding should also be detailed (resources outside IdEx grant, such as funding from Université de Paris, research organisms, other institutions, or other funding).

In addition, applicants should provide the following documents (in annex):

- Letters of recommendation (maximum 3) from renown scientists of their field(s) of research, not previously involved in a research project or in publication(s) with the applicant;
- Full list of publications and works (only for the last 10 years for senior applicants).

The submission documents can be written in French or English. An English version may be asked to ensure fair evaluation.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection criteria are the quality of the applicant's track-record, his/her ability to quickly take scientific responsibilities, and the strategic interest of the proposal for the Université de Paris.

The proposals are evaluated by experts external to the Université de Paris. These experts may be suggested by the deans in charge of forerunning the university's Faculties.

A selection panel gathering the Vice-Presidents in charge of Research at the Université de Paris, representatives from the partner research organisms and the Vice-President in charge of the IdEx project will rank the proposals. The IdEx Governing Board will then establish the list of funded proposals.

FOLLOW-UP OBLIGATIONS

The institution hosting the chair holder must make sure that an activity report is produced each year, covering:

- A financial reporting and a narrative part explaining the effective spending of the grant to the implementation of the project (hosting of the chair holder and implementation of his/her research);
- The research and teaching actions undertaken by the chair holder;
- The contribution of the chair to the scientific outreach, achievements and ambitions of the Université de Paris;
- A scientific report focusing on the first achievements of the chair holder and the implementation of his/her integration into the hosting lab (this item should be prepared with the chair referent).

A template will be provided to each chair holder and referent. In addition to this mandatory yearly reporting, a final scientific and financial report will be expected at the end of the 3 years.