CNRS – University of Tokyo "Excellence Science" Joint Research Program

The CNRS and the University of Tokyo (UTokyo) are launching a joint call for proposals between the two institutions in order to develop new promising cooperation.

The joint call is intended to fund joint research projects for 3 years, including funding for Ph.D. students so that they may work towards obtaining their doctorate degrees. The selected joint research project will have two Ph.D. students (one CNRS, one UTokyo) associated with it. The ultimate aim for these students is for them to obtain a doctorate degree based on the work they do on the joint research over the three years.

Scientific Areas

This call is open to, but not limited to, research projects in the following focus areas:

Artificial intelligence
Quantum science
Humanities and social sciences
Climate change
Molecular & cell biology

Eligibility

Professors, Associate Professors or higher rank who are supervising Ph.D. students (UTokyo);
Researchers working in a CNRS unit holding an accreditation to supervise Ph.D. students (HDR)
A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.

Collaborative research

There must be at least one PI from UTokyo and one PI from CNRS.

Funding

The joint call intends to fund joint research projects for 3 years, including a Ph.D. fellowship on the CNRS side, and funding provided to the PI which will cover costs of a Ph.D. student on the UTokyo side per project. The aim for these students is for them to obtain a doctorate degree based on the work they do on the joint research over the three years.
Thus, the total funding will include on the CNRS side:
- the Ph.D. fellowship for the CNRS side for 3 years
- travel and living expenses for the Ph.D. student in the partner country
- seed funding for travel expenses for the PI on each side

and on the UTokyo side:
- funding provided to the PI for 3 years which will cover the cost of a Ph.D. student
- travel and living expenses for the Ph.D. student in the partner country within the restrictions of the rules and regulations of UTokyo
- seed funding for travel expenses for the PI on each side

Support period
3 years

Student status and fees
The PIs on both sides are to discuss and agree on the status of the Ph.D. student when in the partner country. Any fees that may arise from sending/receiving in the Ph.D. student shall be the responsibility of the PIs and the travelling Ph.D. students.

Students will be enrolled in their home institution and will not be charged tuition fees at the host institution.

Number of awards
Five projects are expected to be jointly funded by UTokyo and CNRS through this call.

Submission date(s)
Call open from 22 February 2021 to 22 April 2021

Notification date
End of May 2021

Evaluation
Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a CNRS/UTokyo committee 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
The PDF file submitted by both applicants should be identical. The UTokyo applicants should submit in electronic format (Adobe PDF) via email to sp.uni.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp
CNRS applicants should submit the same file via the dedicated Web site: https://www.cooperation.cnrs.fr

Content

The proposal must consist of the following parts, in one single file (up to 5 pages, not counting Parts F and G in the page count)

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 Ph.D. 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 the University of Tokyo - CNRS Collaboration Program".

PART B: Description of the scientific project
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 Ph.D. 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 fulfill 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 Japanese teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the French and Japanese 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: Perspectives & external funding
Outline the proposed plan for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, national research agency grants, etc.)

PART F: Scientific quality of the teams
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.

PART G: Short curriculum vitae
Not taken into account for the page limit

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

Enquiries

Enquiries from CNRS PIs should be directed to: caroline.danilovic@cnrs-dir.fr
Enquiries from UTokyo PIs should be directed to the International Strategy Group, Management Planning Department using sp.uni.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp for attention of Tamaki Kanematsu or James Fegan.