

Call for International Research Projects (IRP) 2026

A CNRS international cooperation tool to strengthen research partnerships.

1. What is an international research project?

International Research Projects (IRPs) are collaborative research initiatives bringing together one or more CNRS laboratories and partner laboratories in one or two foreign countries. They are funded for a maximum period of five years, with the option of a shorter duration (three or five years), depending on the project's needs and in agreement with the relevant institute.

IRPs are designed to initiate or strengthen international collaborations through short- and medium-term scientific exchanges. They support the organization of workshops and seminars, the development of joint research activities—including fieldwork—and the supervision of students.

This call is open to all research disciplines.

As part of the institute's international strategy, IRPs must be developed in close coordination with the management of the affiliated institute. Applicants are therefore encouraged to contact their institute's international team during the pre-call period (January–March).

2. Who can apply for an International Research Project?

International Research Projects are intended for CNRS research teams seeking to initiate or strengthen scientific collaborations with laboratories in one or two foreign countries. Proposals must be submitted to the CNRS by a project leader affiliated with a CNRS research unit.

3. What does an International Research Project fund?

The CNRS grant (state subsidy) awarded under an International Research Project must be used primarily (80%) to support mobility activities (research visits, researcher and student exchanges, summer schools, conferences, scientific meetings, etc.). The remaining 20% may be allocated to the purchase of equipment and consumables, subject to the institute's approval.

Personnel costs, including internships and fixed-term contracts, are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

4. How to submit an International Research Project ?

The IRP call for proposals takes place in two stages:

1. **Pre-campaign phase** (5 January – 31 March 2026): During this phase, project leaders are encouraged to contact their institute's international team. For interdisciplinary projects, the relevant institutes may also be informed.
2. **Project submission phase** (1 April – 15 May 2026): After consultation with their affiliated institute, the CNRS principal investigator is invited to submit the project via the dedicated NOA platform.

Only the French project leader may submit an application, using the NOA platform (<https://noa.cnrs.fr/>), by Friday, 15 May 2026, at 16:00 (Paris time). The project may be submitted in French or English.

[Help site for users of the NOA platform](#)

5. How are International Research Projects assessed?

Proposals for International Research Projects are peer-reviewed within CNRS scientific institutes based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the project
- Value of the international collaboration
- Scientific quality and complementarity of the participating teams
- Balance of scientific activities among partners
- Involvement of early-career researchers
- Ethics and financial justification

As part of the NOA application process, project leaders will also be asked to indicate whether their IRP is intended to pursue long-term European funding opportunities (e.g., ERC grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Global Challenges, EIC, etc.).

6. How are International Research Projects formalized?

Once selected, the CNRS European and International Affairs Department drafts letters of institutional commitment addressed to all French and foreign institutions involved in the project, inviting them to formalize their support in turn. This support may take the form of additional funding, depending on each institution's internal evaluation and selection procedures.

7. How are International Research Projects funded?

In addition to the resources provided by the participating laboratories, International Research Projects receive dedicated CNRS funding, primarily to support mobility between teams and the organization of meetings and field missions, typically ranging from €5,000 to €15,000 per year. Managed by the CNRS laboratory of the project leader, these funds are allocated annually by the institute based on the original project plan and the scientific and financial reports submitted each year by the project leader and their partners.

8. Call schedule:

- Call for proposals published: December 2025
- Pre-campaign: January 5 to March 31, 2026
- Call for proposals opens: April 1, 2026
- Call for proposals closes: Friday, May 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (Paris time)
- Evaluation and ranking: late May to early July
- Project launch and notification of funding: from January 2027
- Annual funding must be spent within the calendar year.

9. Useful contacts

Institutes :

- CNRS Biology : insb.international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Chemistry : cnrs-chimie.international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Ecology & Environment : ecologie-international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Engineering : insis-international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Mathematics : insmi.international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Nuclei & Particles : in2p3-international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Physics : inp.international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Humanities & Social Sciences : inshs.international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Informatics : ins2i-international@cnrs.fr
- CNRS Earth & Space : insu.international@cnrs.fr

European and International Affairs Department

For any questions regarding collaborations with a specific country or partner, or about the NOA platform, you may:

- Contact the department at the following generic address: dei-aap@cnrs.fr
- Engage with the relevant geographic region by consulting the [organizational chart](#) (Intranet access)