

Call for proposals 2020

Fellows-in-Residence Program - Institute for Advanced Studies

Program description

Aim and scope of the program

The Paris-Seine Initiative for Excellence invites applications from high-level international scholars and scientists in all fields, for up to 10 research fellowships. The call is open to promising young scholars as well as leading senior researchers, wishing to carry out original individual research projects. The program is hosted by the Paris Seine Initiative-Institute for Advanced Studies (PSI-IAS). Fellows from all disciplines will take part in the Institute's interdisciplinary exchange program.

The fellows-in-residence program offers a multidisciplinary research environment and creates an opportunity for researchers to develop original research ideas, to apply their knowledge and skills to new domains and to develop cross-disciplinary initiatives. For the development of their research projects, fellows-in-residence will be jointly affiliated with one of the research centers of the Paris-Seine Initiative where they will be able to create contacts, exchange knowledge and collaborate with researchers from various fields.

Academic environment

The Paris-Seine Initiative

The Paris-Seine Initiative is an academic consortium made by the University of Cergy-Pontoise (UCP), the EISTI engineering school (being merged into CY Cergy Paris Université) and the ESSEC Business School. It is funded by the French *Investissements d'avenir* program as one of the 19 French Universities of Excellence.

- The University of Cergy-Pontoise is a multidisciplinary, mid-sized university created in 1991. Though recently created, it has already gained significant recognition for the quality of its research and innovation. It is ranked in the top 250 of the Times Higher Education Young Universities ranking, in the world top 200 in Mathematics and top 300 in Economics (ARWU). It also runs two national centers of excellence in the fields of Modelling in sciences (economics and finance, mathematics, physics, computer science) and heritage restoration and conservation (experimental sciences and humanities).
- ESSEC Business School is one of the world's leading Business Schools ranked in the world top 200 in Management and top 150 in Finance (ARWU).
- EISTI is an engineering school specialized in data science, computer science, and electronics.

The consortium's goal is to support the partners' research potential and international attractiveness with the ambition to become one of the top world research universities within ten years.

The Institute for Advanced Studies

Member of the UBIAS (University-Based Institutes for Advanced Studies) network, the Institute for Advanced Studies supports ambitious research projects in all fields (formal sciences and modelling, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities). Through the organization of international scientific events and its international visitors program, the IAS encourages the emergence of innovative and interdisciplinary projects at the crossroads of major disciplines. To carry out its missions the IAS develops, in collaboration with the Paris-Seine research centers and laboratories (listed below, in the 'Contacts' section):

- a program of scientific events including conferences, seminars, international congresses, thematic semesters, guest lectures delivered by IAS visitors intended for a wide academic audience;

- a program of short or long-period visiting scholars from all disciplines.

Each year, ca. 70 scholars are invited and approximately 10 major scientific events are organized.

Paris Seine research areas and research centers

Research at Paris Seine covers all academic disciplines except medicine and can be grouped into four main scientific areas:

- Formal Sciences and Modelling;
- Natural Sciences and Engineering;
- Economics, Business, Law, and Politics;
- Humanities, Arts, and Education.

The academic community of the Paris-Seine Initiative is structured in 25 research centers or laboratories. Nine of them are cooperated with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS).

Addressing cross-cutting topics, interdisciplinary and intersectoral research is also stimulated through the following three transversal structures:

- The MME-DII *Laboratoire d'excellence* gathers researchers in Mathematics, Economics, Physics and Computer Science and develops innovative models of uncertainty, interactions and dynamics. Some of the targeted application areas include economics, finance and social sciences.
- The *Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine* (Foundation for Heritage Science) gathers researchers from humanities, arts and sciences for the study, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage, in partnership with leading national and international cultural institutions.
- A third transversal research group focuses on risk and security issues and gathers researchers in data and computer science, experimental sciences, social sciences and external experts in forensics, criminology and security.

The Paris Seine research community offers high-quality research facilities and cutting-edge equipment including technological platforms for materials analysis, molecular diagnosis and characterization, digital technologies, operated by the UCP.

Eligibility conditions

The PSI-IAS Fellowship Program supports researchers from all countries and all disciplinary backgrounds. While there is no restriction on nationality, appropriate permission to work in France is required before taking up the Fellowship.

Types of fellowships, duration, and compensation

Two types of fellowships are proposed:

- *Junior fellowships*: for researchers with more than 2 and less than 10 years of experience after their Doctorate, with or without a permanent position at a university or research institute. These fellowships are awarded for a duration of one year and may be renewed for one additional year.
- *Senior fellowships*: for researchers with more than 10 years of experience after their Doctorate. These fellowships are awarded for a duration of 4 to 10 months.

PSI-IAS fellows who maintain their status in their home institution might benefit from a stipend. Fellows will otherwise be offered a fixed duration research contract with salary.

In all cases, the remuneration depends on the fellow's personal and professional situation and on whether they continue to receive pay from their home institution. The benchmark pay scale corresponds to prevailing standards in French academia.

The minimum compensation paid to fellows is equal to 2500€ net per month. The maximum compensation is equal to 4500€ net per month.

PSI-IAS Fellows will also receive:

- Travel costs of up to 1000€ (including visa fees)
- Research, support, and training costs of up to 3000€.

Affiliation

Fellows-in-residence will be jointly affiliated with the IAS and the research centers relevant to their research project. At the IAS, they will be offered office space and access to conference facilities. They may also take advantage of the housing facilities of the institute.

Fellows-in-residence commit to a regular participation in the scientific activities of the IAS, including the IAS seminars and guest lectures.

They are expected to develop collaboration with the research groups of the Paris Seine Initiative, in relationship with their research activities. Before the submission of their application, they are strongly encouraged to establish contacts with the research groups in line with their research proposal. A detailed presentation of the research environment offered at Paris Seine can be found on the 'research' pages of each institution's website:

- For UCP : <https://www.u-cergy.fr/en/research.html>
- For ESSEC Business School : <http://www.essec.edu/en/pages/faculty-and-research/3/>
- For EISTI : <https://eisti.fr/fr/la-recherche>

Selection

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of external evaluators and representatives of the IAS and the University Paris Seine. The selection criteria include:

- The scientific quality and innovative character of the project.
- The potential for collaboration with researchers of the Paris Seine Initiative.
- The expertise of the applicant.

Timeline

Call opening: October 2019.

Deadline for submitting research summary: 17 January 2020.

Deadline for applications: 14 February 2020.

Evaluation: March-April 2020.

Notification: April 2020.

Start of the fellowships: September 2020.

Application process

All applications must be submitted online through a dedicated web application portal. The details of the application procedure and online submission will be available from 04/11/2019 at: <https://apply.theparisseineinitiative.org>

The application includes the following documents:

1. A completed application form (available on the above webpage).
2. A CV (maximum 4 pages, in English) highlighting publications, activities or achievements that are especially relevant to this application.
3. A detailed research project proposal (25 000 characters maximum, spaces included but not counting the bibliography). The proposal should include: research objectives, state-of-the-art, innovative character of the project, methodology, expected outcomes, work plan, existing or planned scientific cooperation and contacts in France, bibliography (books and articles cited).
4. A statement of cooperation signed by a member of University Paris-Seine. The planned collaborations may include the organization of conferences and series of lectures or the preparation of a research project to be submitted to an international funding agency (e.g. ERC, H2020);

In the case of Junior Fellows, two letters of recommendation from French or international researchers are requested.

Contacts

Applicants are strongly advised to contact prospective host research centers using contact details

provided on each research center's web page, which can be accessed through the links in the following table:

Formal sciences and modelling		Economics, business, law, and politics	
Mathematics	AGM	Economics	THEMA, ESSEC
Theoretical physics	LPTM	Business and management	ESSEC
Computer science	ETIS	Law and political science	CESDIP, CPJP, LEJEP
Natural sciences and engineering		Humanities, art, education	
Experimental physics and astrophysics	LPMS, LERMA	Education and didactics	BONHEURS, EMA, LDAR
Chemistry	LPPI, LCB	Geography	MRTE
Biology	ERMECCE, LAMBIE	History, cultural and area studies	AGORA
Earth sciences	GEC	Languages and literature	AGORA, LT2D
Electronics and electrical engineering	SATIE	Linguistics	LT2D
Mechanics and civil engineering	L2MGC		

General enquiries can be addressed at: fir-inq@ml.u-cergy.fr