

Chairs of Excellence Program

**A vehicle for receiving researchers and
high-level research teachers from abroad**

2008 Call for Proposals

Deadline for sending research proposals:
12:00 on 28/03/2008

The implementation of the call to proposals is carried out by the Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) and Paris-Sud 11 (UPS) universities, which were selected by the ANR to oversee the evaluation and administration of the files of application for support.

CLOSURE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINE FOR SENDING PROPOSALS ELECTRONICALLY

(SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS A AND B) :

SOUS FORME ELECTRONIQUE (DOCUMENTS DE SOUMISSION A ET B)

12 :00 noon (Paris time) on **28/03/08 to the adress :**

Exc2008.admin@admin.uvsq.fr

AND

DEADLINE FOR SENDING SUBMISSION DOCUMENT A IN HARD COPY, DUPLY SIGNED

09/04/08 postmark to the adress :

SOUS FORME PAPIER DUMENT SIGNE

UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES (UVSQ)

SDRV - "Chairs of Excellence 2008" Program

To the attention of Mme. Monique COHEN

55, avenue de Paris

78035 VERSAILLES Cedex

CONTACTS

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ANR PROGRAM MANAGER

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Read the whole of this document attentively, and in particular the section §3.1 relating to the eligibility criteria, as well as the rules for obtaining support from the ANR, before submitting a research proposal;
- Do not wait for the deadline for submitting proposals electronically (Attention: it is essential to respect the time limit for submission);
- Consult regularly the heading relating to this call for proposals on the ANR Internet site: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/>
- Contact, if necessary, the UVSQ or UPS ANR supporting organizations by electronic mail at the addresses mentioned above.

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ANNEXE

SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The reception of researchers and high-level research teachers from abroad in the laboratories of our nation provides evidence of its attractiveness at an international level. From this point of view, the working conditions and the timely provision of support to carry out their research projects are deciding factors for the best candidates.

For our nation, besides the favorable image resulting from the temporary or permanent reception of the best international scientists, we reinforce our potential for innovative research and restructuring in new research directions while profiting from the contribution of especially productive experts.

The Chairs of Excellence Program aims to attract to France the best researchers and research teachers, foreign or French, by offering, with the assistance of the host establishments and organizations, substantial resources to build up a team and to start an ambitious project with clear anticipated impact. The program functions by means of a call for proposals, open to all research disciplines. The 2008 program proposes three types of chairs. Following the pattern established previously, it proposes Senior and Junior Chairs and, in addition, new Short-term Senior Chairs are inaugurated.

1.1 Long-term Junior and Senior Chairs of Excellence

The candidates are hired on temporary or permanent appointments during the project lifetime (36 to 48 months) by a research organization (EPST, EPIC, University...).¹ A part of the financial support allocated by the Chairs of Excellence program can be used to provide equipment and laboratory facilities for the successful candidate.

1.2 Short-term Senior Chairs of Excellence

The Short-Term Senior Chairs, being inaugurated with the call for proposals for the 2008 program, aim to attract researchers of very high level – foreign or expatriate French – to join French teams striving towards excellence in order to enable the latter to acquire as quickly as possible an international stature in new and highly competitive scientific fields, to the mutual benefit of both parties. The candidates are hired on single-duration finite-term contracts (CDDs) from 18 to 24 months in French host establishments or organizations. The financial support allocated for the Short-term Senior Chairs include remuneration for the candidate.

¹ By “research organization” is meant an entity such as a university or research institute, irrespective of legal status (public or private organization by law) or mode of financing, whose primary aims are to carry out fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development and to disseminate the results by teaching, publication or technology transfer; the profits are fully reinvested in these activities, in the dissemination of the results or in teaching; companies which can exert an influence on such an entity, for example as a shareholder or member, do not benefit from any privileged access to its research capabilities or the results that it produces (Document adopted on 22/11/2006 by the European Commission).

The financial support allocated by the "Chairs of Excellence" Program are additional to those that may be placed at the disposal of the candidates to carry out their projects by the host establishment in France.

2. SCOPE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROGRAM

Three types of researchers or research teachers arriving from abroad during 2008 are targeted, irrespective of nationality or discipline:

- Experienced scientists whose work testifies to a level of excellence already recognized internationally, who are received into an establishment on the basis of a high-quality scientific project. These candidates are likely to benefit from a Chair of Excellence at the Junior level.
- Scientists at a more advanced stage of their career, unquestionably standing at the highest international level in their scientific community, who are received into an establishment in order to develop with it a proposal encompassing a set of new research directions for the future, by constituting a team intended to pursue a long-term scientific activity associated with the project. These candidates are likely to benefit from a Long-Term Chair of Excellence at the Senior level.
- Scientists at a very high level in new and highly competitive scientific fields received into a French team striving towards excellence in order to enable it to quickly acquire an international stature, to the mutual benefit of both parties. These candidates are likely to benefit from a Short-term Senior Chair of Excellence.

Candidates can be of either French or foreign nationality but must be in position to settle temporarily or permanently in France **during 2008** after a period of scientific work abroad.

For the Long-term Junior and Senior Chairs of Excellence the host organization must commit to receive the candidate and specify the statutory type of appointment² it is providing for this purpose. In the case of a temporary appointment, this must at least cover the duration of the project.

For the Short-term Senior Chairs of excellence, the host establishment or organization must commit to hiring the successful candidate on a contract with a duration of at least that of the proposal.

If a candidate is not installed in France by December 31, 2008, at the latest, the ANR reserves the right to withdraw the allocated support.

² Beneficiaries of the junior or senior Chairs of Excellence are expected to be predominantly recruited, temporarily or permanently, into statutory positions of the following types: Scientist, Associate Professor, Senior Scientist or Professor.

2.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED

The award of Chairs will be made according to the number and quality of the candidates.

- Long-term Junior Chairs of Excellence: For the year 2008, each successful candidate will be allocated a maximum financing of 500,000 €, of which half will be available the first year. These funds can be used over the duration of the proposal (36 or 48 months) for capital expenditures, operation and personnel recruited on CDDs.
- Long-term Senior Chairs of Excellence: For the year 2008, the successful candidate will be allocated a maximum financing of 1,000,000 €, of which half will be available the first year. These funds can be used over the duration of the proposal (36 or 48 months) for capital expenditures, operation and personnel recruited on CDDs.
- Short-term Senior Chairs of Excellence: For the year 2008, the successful candidate will be allocated a maximum financing of 1,000,000 € (salary of the candidate included), of which 75% will be available the first year. These funds can be used over the duration of the proposal (18 or 24 months) for capital expenditures, operation and personnel recruited on CDDs.

Part of the funding can be assigned to accompanying measures for the successful candidate (installation and stay in France). The projects funded can profit from complementary resources provided by research organizations and/or regional communities.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

The eligibility and evaluation criteria of used during the selection procedure described in the Appendix are described below.

3.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, the project must satisfy the following conditions:

- The electronic (Submission Documents A and B) and hard-copy (Submission Document A only) proposals must be submitted within the deadlines, in the requested format, and be complete. The contents of the electronic and hard-copy versions of the Submission Document A must be identical. All requisite signatures must appear in the hard-copy form of Document A.
- The duration of the proposal must fall between 36 and 48 months for the Long-term Junior and Senior Chairs of Excellence, and between 18 and 24 months for the Short-term Senior Chairs.
- The host organization must be located in France. The place in which the work is carried out (*cf.* Submission Document A) must also be located in France.

IMPORTANT

- Proposals not satisfying the eligibility criteria will not be submitted for review by external experts and will not in any event be subject to financing by the ANR.
- Proposals transmitted after the deadlines indicated will be declared non-admissible

3.2. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposals will be judged according to following criteria:

- Excellence and international recognition of the quality of the candidate by his/her scientific community, attested by bibliometric indicators.
- Scientific excellence, originality and future prospects of the project.
- Interest of the project for the research strategy of the host facilities (laboratory, organization and/or establishment).
- Methodology and quality of the development of the project.
- Adequacy of the resources and feasibility of the project:
 - Schedule
 - Justification of the support requested.

4. FINANCIAL ARRANGMENTS

The funding allocated by the ANR for each successful candidate will be provided to the host organization in the form of non-reimbursable support, according to the provisions of the "Rules for Financial Support from the ANR", stipulated on the ANR Internet site.

Only the host organizations located in France will be able to receive support from the ANR, which excludes associated international laboratories of French research organizations and French institutions established abroad.

For the Long-term Junior and Senior Chairs of Excellence, the remuneration of the successful candidates is not provided by the ANR. For the Short-Term Senior Chairs of Excellence the remuneration of the successful candidates is included in the financial support from the ANR.

5. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

The proposal must include all the elements necessary for the scientific and technical assessment of the proposal.

The required formats (Word, pdf, xls) will be announced on the [ANR](#) web site by 15/02/2008 at the latest.

It is recommended that the scientific and technical description of the proposal be written in English, except for proposals in which the use of French is essential. This relates in particular to proposals in the social sciences where French can be used within the framework of an international evaluation. If the scientific and technical description is written in French, a translation in English may be requested within a time compatible with the evaluation process.

THE SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS MUST BE TRANSMITTED BY THE COODINATING PARTNER

IN ELECTRONIC FORM

**(submission documents A and B) by 28/03/08 at the latest
Absolutely before 12:00 noon (Paris time) to the adress
Exc2008.admin@admin.uvsq.fr**

AND

IN HARD COPY

**(Submission Document A only, duly signed)
In three copies by the post by 09/04/08 at the latest,
As evinced by the postmark, to the adress**

**UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES (UVSQ)
SDRV - "Chairs of Excellence 2008" Program
To the attention of Mme. Monique COHEN
55, avenue de Paris
78035 VERSAILLES Cedex**

AN ELECTRONIC RECEIPT WILL BE SENT TO THE COORDINATOR

By the support organization

The contents of the electronic and hard-copy forms of Submission Document A must be identical.

For all information, the persons to contact, preferably by electronic mail, are:

Technical and scientific
Gérard CHARBONNEAU
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01 69 15 75 34

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01 39 25 79 70

ANNEXE

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The principal stages of the selection procedure are as follows:

- Examination of the **eligibility of the proposals** by the Evaluation Committee and designation of external experts.
- **Evaluation of the proposals** by the Evaluation Committee after receipt of the opinions of the external experts.
- **Examination of the proposals** by the Steering Committee and a **proposed list of the projects to be financed** by the ANR (principal list and possibly a complementary list).
- Establishment of the **list of the projects selected** by the ANR (principal list and possibly complementary list) and publication of the list.
- Sending to the coordinators of the projects not selected of a synthesized opinion of the committees.
- Finalization of the administrative and financial files for the projects selected and publication of the **list of the proposals designated** for financing.

The respective roles of the principal entities in the selection procedure are:

- The **Evaluation Committee**, composed of members of the research communities concerned, French or foreign, either from the public or private sectors, has the role of evaluating the proposals and of distributing them in three categories: A (recommended), B (acceptable), and C (rejected).
- The **external experts** appointed by the Evaluation Committee deliver a written opinion on the proposals. At least two experts are appointed for each proposal.
- The **Steering Committee**, composed of qualified persons and institutional representatives, has the role of proposing, based on the work of the Evaluation Committee, a list of proposals to be financed by the ANR.

The provisions of the of the ANR must be respected by the people involved in the selection of the proposals, in particular the provisions related to confidentiality and conflicts of interest. The Code of Ethics of the ANR is available on its Internet site (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/DocumentsAgence>).

The operational procedures and organization of the Evaluation and Steering Committees is described in the ANR Internet site (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/DocumentsAgence>)

The composition of the committees of the program is posted on the ANR Internet site (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Comites>)