

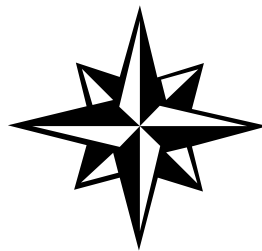


CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

CEXC

**A VEHICLE FOR RECEIVING RESEARCHERS
AND HIGH LEVEL RESEARCH TEACHERS FROM
ABROAD**

2009 Edition



Deadline

12:00PM on March 10th, 2009

Web page dedicated to the call for proposals

<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/AAP-239-CHEX.html>

This call for proposals is implemented by Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) and Paris-Sud 11 (UPS) universities, which has been commissioned by the ANR to carry out the operations of evaluating and managing grant applications.



L'ANR est certifiée ISO 9001
pour son processus de
sélection

IMPORTANT DATES

CALL DEADLINE

Research proposals must be submitted in electronic form (submission forms A and B) before the following deadline:

MARCH 10TH, 2009 AT 12H00 PM (PARIS LOCAL TIME- GMT+1)

Proposals are to be submitted to ADDRESS below
exc2009@uvsq.fr

PAPER SUBMISSION FORM A

A printed version of submission form A signed must be sent by recommended letter (return receipt requested) and postmarked no later than:

midnight on March 24th, 2009

to the following postal address:

UVSQ

DREDVal – Programme « chaires d'excellence »

55, avenue de Paris

78035 VERSAILLES Cedex

CONTACTS

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It is important to read carefully the present document in its entirety as well as the regulations pertaining to the modes of funding allocation followed by the ANR before submitting a research proposal.



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1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1.1. CONTEXT

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.

1.2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

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 2009 program proposes three types of chairs. Following the pattern established previously, it proposes Senior and Junior Chairs and, in addition, Short-term Senior Chairs are inaugurated.

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.

Short-term Senior Chairs of Excellence

The Short-Term Senior Chairs, being inaugurated with the call for proposals for the 2009 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

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).

establishments or organizations. The financial support allocated for the Short-term Senior Chairs include remuneration for the candidate.

1.3. CALL OBJECTIVES

Three types of researchers or research teachers arriving from abroad during 2009 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 2009** 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, 2009, 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.

1.4. 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 2009, 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 2009, 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 2009, 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.

2. THEMES

All

3. EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The main steps in the selection process are as follows:

- The acceptability of submitted proposals is checked by both the ANR and by the support unit according to criteria specified in § 3.1.
- Eligibility of submitted proposals is checked by the evaluation committee in §3.2.
- Peer reviewers are appointed by the evaluation committee.
- Peer reviewers issue their assessments based on the evaluation criteria specified in § 3.1 (evaluation grid for peer reviewers is available on the web page dedicated to the call for proposals – as indicated on p1).
- The evaluation committee reviews research proposals upon reception of the peer reviewers' assessments, and draft a scientific evaluation report (consult the evaluation grid available on the web page dedicated to the call).

- The steering committee examines the submitted proposals and issues a list of proposals to be proposed for funding by the ANR (consult the steering committee grid on the web page dedicated to the call).
- A list of proposals selected by the ANR (comprising a main list and a complementary list) is published on the ANR website, on the page dedicated to the call.
- A consolidated evaluation report is sent to the coordinators of non-selected research proposals.
- The proposals selected are subjected to a negotiation phase for scientific, financial and administrative issues.
- A final list of projects selected for funding by the ANR is published on the ANR website calls page.

The role of each of the principal actors in the selection process is as follows:

- Peer reviewers, appointed by the review committee, issue a written assessment for all proposed projects. Each project is reviewed by at least two experts.
- The review committee is composed of eminent national and international scientists whose fields of expertise correspond to the requirements of the call. Its assignment is to review the proposed projects based on the assessments of the external experts and to assign each proposal to one of three categories: A (recommended); B (acceptable); or C (rejected).
- The steering committee is composed of eminent personalities and/or institutional representatives. Based on the findings of the evaluation committee, the steering committee delivers a list of projects proposed for funding by the ANR.

All persons involved in the selection process must respect and follow the good practices stated within Code of Deontology of the ANR, and in particular the rules pertaining to the confidentiality and conflict of interest. The Code of Deontology can be consulted on the ANR website³.

The operational and organisational procedures that apply to evaluation committees and steering committees are stated in documents available on the ANR website.

Lists of committee members of are available on the ANR website⁴.

3.1. ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA

IMPORTANT

Proposals not meeting the requirements for acceptability will not be submitted to the evaluation committee and will in no case be granted ANR funding.

- 1) The proposal elements that are in electronic form (Submission Forms A and B) must be submitted **within the deadlines, in the required format, duly filled-in.**

³ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/DocumentsAgence>

⁴ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Comites>

- 2) The project **coordinator** should not be a member of the evaluation committee nor of the steering committee of the programme.
- 3) The **duration** of the project must be between 18-24 months for the short term senior chairs, 36-48 months for the long term junior and senior chairs.
- 4) 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
- 5) The candidate in charge scientific work cannot be seconded by a French research body. (French specific status as follows : détachement, de mise en disponibilité ou de mise à disposition)
- 6) The coordinator cannot work in France for more than one year, starting the 10 March 2009.
- 7) The candidate to a Junior chair cannot compete to the programme « Retour post doctorants », edition 2009. The laureates of the Junior chair cannot cumulate the funding of ANR within the Chaires d'excellence Programme and a ERC Starting grant or any other grant of this kind ((ATIP (CNRS), Avenir (INSERM),...)).

3.2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

IMPORTANT

Proposals not meeting the eligibility criteria after examination by the evaluation committee will in no case be granted ANR funding.

- 1) The printed elements of the proposal (Submission Form A only) must be submitted **within the deadlines, in the required format, and signed by all partners.**
- 2) **Type of research:** this call for proposals is open to:
 - Fundamental research projects⁵,
 - Industrial research projects³,
 - Pre-competitive development projects³.

3.3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

IMPORTANT

Research proposals successfully meeting the criteria of acceptability and the criteria of eligibility will be evaluated according to the criteria specified below. (The external review grid and the evaluation committee grid may be consulted on the web site announcing the call, see address p1.)

- 1) The proposal's relevance to the objectives stated in the call
 - degree of fit with the objectives of the call (*cf.* § 2),
 - degree of fit with the recommendations provided in the call (*cf.* § 3.4).

⁵ See definition of categories of research projects annexed to this document

- 2) Scientific and technical quality
 - scientific excellence relative to state-of-the-art in the project's field,
 - innovative character of the proposal, in terms of both technological innovation and opening new perspectives compared to the status quo,
 - solutions to technical obstacles,
 - degree of integration of various scientific sub-fields or fields.
- 3) Methodology, and quality of project conception and coordination
 - the positioning of the proposal relative to state-of-the-art and technological innovation,
 - the project's scientific and technical feasibility, and the methods chosen,
 - the way the project is structured, the rigor with which deliverables have been defined, the identification of milestones,
 - the quality of the project coordination plan (the financial and legal management of the project) including the experience and level of involvement of the principal coordinator,
 - strategies for applying and transferring the final results of the project.
- 4) Overall impact of the project
 - Potential for use or integration of project findings by the scientific or industrial communities or society, the impact of the project in terms of new knowledge production,
 - the outlook for industrial or technological application or a demonstration of economic and commercial potential, possible business plans resulting from findings, integration into industrial activity, the credibility of the declared transferability,
 - value of the project for society, e.g. public health, etc.
 - when appropriate, the response to questions of environmental impact.
- 5) Adequate project funding / project feasibility
 - realistic schedule
 - means well-adapted to project implementation,
 - justification of amount of funding requested in light of the project,
 - costs of coordination in proportion to the project,
 - justification of personnel needs,
 - justification of temporary personnel needs (interns, Ph.D students, post-docs),
 - proper estimate of the amount of needed equipment purchase and investment,
 - proper estimate of other budget items (researcher mobility, sub-contracting, supplies...).

3.4. PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING DURATION

- The duration of the proposal must be 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.

4. GENERAL FUNDING MECHANISMS

4.1. ANR FUNDING

TYPE OF FUNDING

Funds allocated by the ANR to each candidate will take the form of a non-reimbursable grant, according to the methods stipulated in "Regulations relative to the means of allocation of ANR funds", which may be consulted on the ANR website⁶.

ANR funding is limited to projects led by researchers residing in France, and to laboratories affiliated with French public research organisations or institutions of higher education or French institutions located abroad, including any international associated laboratories. The participation of international partners is nevertheless possible as long as each international partner funds its own participation in a project.

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.

CONDITIONS FOR FUNDING TEMPORARY PERSONNEL

For the present programme, temporary personnel (interns, post-docs, short-term contracts, temporary workers, etc.) may be used for the project. The grant obtained does not presume the doctoral school agreement. Except in particular cases, the overall temporary personnel contribution as measured in person-months should not exceed 50% of the total work force effort represented by the project.

SALARY FOR SHORT TERM SENIOR CHAIRS

For this type of chair, the salary of the candidate can be included in the ANR grant.

4.2. OTHER FUNDING STIPULATIONS

Partners of projects funded by the ANR are still under the same obligation to respect all the regulations, ethical codes and standards of good practice that apply to their field, regardless of the source of funding.

The principal coordinator, acting on behalf of all project partners, is bound to inform ANR in a timely manner of any change likely to affect the project's content, partnership structure or schedule and that occurs between proposal filing and the publication of the final list of selected projects.

⁶ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/DocumentsAgence>

5. RULES FOR APPLYING

5.1. CONTENTS OF THE APPLICATION FILE

The funding application file must include all elements needed for the scientific and technical assessment of the project. It must be duly filled-in by the closing date for applications, which is indicated on p2 of the present call for proposals.

IMPORTANT

No additional element to an application will be accepted after the deadline indicated on p2 of the present call for proposals.

A complete research proposal comprises two completed forms:

- **The document "Submission Form A" – a description of administrative and budgetary structure**
- **The document "Submission Form B" – a description of scientific and technical content**

The document "Submission Form B", which contains the scientific and technical description, is available on the web site for calls for proposals.

It is recommended to generate a scientific and technical description of the project in English, except for projects for which the use of the French language is essential. The latter might include social science and humanity projects where French could be used in an international review process. This could also include projects with important industrial application potential where in light of the economic stakes involved it would not be recommended to involve international personalities in the review process. In cases where the scientific and technical description are generated in French, an English translation may be requested in time for use in later stages of proposal evaluation.

5.2. TRANSMITTAL OF THE APPLICATION FILE

ALL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION FILE MUST BE TRANSMITTED BY THE COORDINATOR

First

By email to excel2009@uvsq.fr before March 10th 2009

The only version of the documents to be taken into account for the evaluation at the colusre of the call will be the digital version.

Second

By hard copy with acknowledge receipt (only **The document "Submission Form A signed**) before March 24th 2009 midnight to the postal address

DREDVal – Programme « chaires d'excellence »

55, avenue de Paris

78035 VERSAILLES Cedex

NB : The paper version is used to certify that the host body and the laboratory agree to mobilise all resources needed to carry out the work within the frame of the project with regard to all the requirements related to the funding. Therefore they agree to all needs including subsequent hiring of the candidate and adequate premises.

An official receipt will be sent by email to the coordinator by the university of Versailles Saint Quentin within 24 hours after the closing of the call for proposals.

5.3. TIPS FOR SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Anyone planning on submitting a proposal is strongly advised to:

- avoid waiting until the deadline for proposal submission to submit the electronic portion of the application (NB: the time as well as the date of the deadline will be strictly enforced.)
- consult regularly the Internet site devoted to the programme in question, at the address given on p2, where updated information is displayed concerning the implementation of the call (glossaries, FAQ, etc.)
- contact if necessary the correspondents, by electronic mail sent to the addresses shown on p2.

It is to be kept in mind that the scientific and technical head of each research organisation or research foundation partner to the proposal as well as the director of every laboratory implicated in the project **must sign** the document "Submission Form A".

ANNEXE

I. GLOSSARY

I.1 – TYPES OF RESEARCH

- **“Fundamental research”** shall mean an activity designed to broaden scientific and technical knowledge not linked to industrial or commercial objectives (JOCE 28/02/2004 L 63/23).
- **“Industrial research”** shall mean planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge, the objective being that such knowledge may be useful in developing new products, processes or services or in bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services (JOCE 28/02/2004 L 63/23).
- **“Pre-competitive development”** shall mean the shaping of the results of industrial research into a plan, arrangement or design for new, altered or improved products, processes or services, whether they are intended to be sold or used, including the creation of an initial prototype which could not be used commercially. This may also include the conceptual formulation and design of other products, processes or services and initial demonstration projects or pilot projects, provided that such projects cannot be converted or used for industrial applications or commercial exploitation. It does not include the routine or periodic changes made to products, production lines, manufacturing processes, existing services and other operations in progress, even if such changes may represent improvements (JOCE 28/02/2004 L 63/23).

I.2. PROJECT ORGANISATION

For each project a coordinator will be nominated for each country, in case of multi-national projects, only one of them will be the principal coordinator of the whole project. Each partner should nominate a scientific and technological responsible.

Coordinating partner: the parent research organization or company of the coordinator.

Principal coordinator: the person responsible of the scientific, technical and financial coordination of the project, establishing and formalizing the collaboration between the

partners, the production of project deliverables, the meetings progress and the communication of the results.

National coordinator: the person responsible of the scientific, technical and financial coordination of the project at national level.

Partner: research unit or enterprise.

Scientific and technological responsible: he will be the principal contact with the principal and national coordinators and will be in charge of the partner's work packages deliverable.

Partnership

I.3. DEFINITIONS FOR ORGANISATIONS

Research organisation, an entity, such as an university or a research institute, whatever is its legal status (public or private) or its mode of financing, the first purpose of which is to carry on basic or industrial research activities or experimental development and to disseminate their results by publication, training or transfer technology; their profits are entirely reinvested in these activities, results disseminations and/or in teaching; enterprises or private companies which can exercise an influence on such an entity, for example in their quality of shareholder or member, will not benefit from any privileged access to its research capacities or to the results that have been produced.

Technical centers, except if duly motivated, are considered as research organisations.

Enterprise, is defined as an organisation having an economic activity.

Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), is defined according to European Commission. A small enterprise fewer than 50 and a medium-sized enterprise fewer than 250, and with an annual turnover lower than 50 M€ or an annual balance sheet lower than 43 M€.

Micro-enterprise, is defined as an SME with fewer than 10 employees, and with an annual turnover or an overall annual balance sheet of no more than 2 M€.

I.4. OTHER DEFINITIONS

Effect of incentive: to have an effect of incentive means, at the end of the common contract, that the grant has to activate for the recipient, a change in behaving bringing into an intensification its activities of Research and Development: the grant must have as a consequence to increase the size, the reach, the budget or the rhythm of Research and

development activities. The effect of incentive analysis will be based on the comparison of the situation with and without granting, starting from a questionnaire that the company will be obliged to fill up. In this respect, several indicators will be used: total cost of the project, the workforce of Research and Development allocated to the project, the project scale, the risk degree, increase of work risks, the increase of Research and development expenses in the private company, ...

Working time of the researchers employed by University (or enseignants-chercheurs, specific for France): the percentage of working time of this type of researchers is based on the time spent for research (considered as 100 %). Hence, a researcher who dedicates his(hers) whole research time to a project during one year will participate to this project for 12 man.month (no matter what is the time spending in teaching). However, for calculating the total cost of the project, his(hers) salary will be added for 50 %.