

SMART LOIRE VALLEY (SLV) Programme

Call for applications and guidelines: campaign 2022

Wednesday 17th November 2021 to Wednesday 16th February 2022 (17:00 – CET Paris time)



“After all, science is essentially international, and it is only through lack of the historical sense that national qualities have been attributed to it.”

Marie Skłodowska-Curie,

Polish-French scientist, Double Nobel Prize laureate famed for her work on radioactivity

PREAMBLE

Created in 1996, inspired by the Loire Valley historical, geographical and human cultures, the objective of LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies is **to create a dynamic *outwards-looking* international scientific community** in the Centre-Val de Loire region (France) covering all research disciplines and involving public and private research institutions.

One of its main missions is **to attract and welcome experienced international researchers** to the laboratories and enterprises of Centre-Val de Loire. To date, LE STUDIUM has attracted more than 237 experienced researchers to the region, coming from 55 countries.

LE STUDIUM offers innovative **scientific exchange initiatives, network activities and animation** of the international faculty of LE STUDIUM fellows, in order to favour cross-disciplinary exchanges with regional and international scientific communities to **build human capacity for research, development and innovation**.

LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies, operates in the Centre-Val de Loire region of France with a network of partners including the University of Orleans, University of Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, ESAD Orléans, and national research institutions: BRGM, CEA Le Ripault, CNRS Centre Limousin Poitou-Charente, Centre INRAE Val-de-Loire, Inserm; and clusters of competitiveness. In total, more than eighty laboratories belonging to these various member structures work with LE STUDIUM.

CONTACTS

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1 - CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS & PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

1 - 1 Context and objectives

For the 2022 campaign, the Smart Loire Valley (SLV) Call for Projects offers a Visiting Researcher Programme, an award with mutual obligations between the research fellow in residence, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. Beyond supporting the international mobility of researchers, this programme aims to strengthen the international visibility of laboratories and enterprises in Centre-Val de Loire and to create sustainable links between the researchers, regional laboratories, enterprises and their counterparts all over the world.

This programme targets experienced international researchers who have to embody, through their profile, the key words that capture the research values of LE STUDIUM: Curiosity, Imagination and Intuition. These values help to create an outwards-looking international scientific community that recognises the benefits of international, multi- or interdisciplinary and intersectoral research approaches. The awards' package creates conditions that catalyse the development of scientific and human interactions between LE STUDIUM members' research structures and enterprises in the Centre-Val de Loire region, in order to strengthen research and development in the wider Loire Valley community. This programme benefits the visiting scientists, regional host laboratories and researchers and the development and innovation ecosystem in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

1 - 2 Presentation of the programme

This call for applications does not target any specific research themes. **It is open to experienced international researchers in all disciplines** (except research directly linked to military applications) wishing to join a research laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region (including universities, public research institutions and enterprises). A host laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region must be identified¹ by the applicant.

OBJECTIVES

- 3 to 12 consecutive months residency in a regional laboratory to lead a collaborative research project;
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting researcher and the host laboratory.

BENEFITS

- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist
- Relocation administrative support
- Full integration into the international research faculty in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, network activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges;
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM;

LE STUDIUM VISITING RESEARCHER award is an opportunity for senior scientists on leave from their institution with salary maintenance to integrate a high-level laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region and the LE STUDIUM international faculty for periods of between 3 to 12 months. Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise in Centre-Val de Loire. This award allows a starting date for the residence from September 2022 to June 2023.

This programme supports the installation of the visiting researcher and his/her family in the region (accommodation, logistics, administrative support).

This programme is also well suited to researchers holding an Individual Fellowship (like Full Bright, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, etc...) willing to complete their fellowship in the region.

Nota bene: Travel costs are not covered by LE STUDIUM. Research costs have to be covered by the host laboratory.

¹ In order to identify a host laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire region, experienced international researchers interested in LE STUDIUM opportunities are invited to contact LE STUDIUM (see page 2).

2 - CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS

The applicants are advised to answer all questions of the application form, in a manner that substantiates any claims made by the applicant. Particular attention, but not exclusively, is advised to the following dimensions: proposal background, research plan, data analysis and risk management, significance and innovation of the project, track record of the applicant researcher and of the host scientist.

The applications have to be written in English in order to allow evaluations by international experts. A resume in French is required.

One of the objectives of the SLV Programme is the development of an enduring scientific relationship between the research fellow and the host laboratory.

Importantly, in order to support the application, the host scientist has to describe in the application form how the applying experienced researcher is essential to the envisaged research project. The host laboratory has to write a support letter arguing the importance of the application in line with its strategy.

3 - REVIEW OF THE APPLICATIONS

3 - 1 Eligibility criteria

This programme is intended to attract senior international researchers that are in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least five years of full-time equivalent research experience after their doctorate.

To be eligible, applicant researchers must be national or long-term resident of a country other than France. Long-term residents are researchers who have spent a period of full-time research activity of at least 5 consecutive (without breaks in research) years in a country other than France.

In addition, applicant researchers² must also comply with the following mobility rule: applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, etc.) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

3 - 2 Evaluation criteria

External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications: the scientific quality, the impact of the proposed research and the track record of the applicant as well as the career development through the LE STUDIUM award:

- 1. Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility, risk management and compliance with the ethical principles of H2020.
- 2. Impact of the proposed research (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed research, the demonstrated skill and ability of the researcher and his/her proposal to increase knowledge. In addition, it includes the application of new ideas, procedures, technologies, programmes or policy settings to important topics that will impact the proposed field of study and contribute to the regional Research and Technological Development (RTD) and European Research Area (ERA) strategies.
- 3. Career and Track Record of the Applicant (25%)** – The track record evaluates whether the applicant's previous research activities demonstrate her/his capacity to achieve the proposed scientific objectives. This includes the applicant's ability to contribute to the research, especially in terms of having the appropriate mix of research skills and experience, to work with research teams and private partners. Experience of inter-sectorial

² This mobility rule does not apply to former LE STUDIUM Fellows

and/or transnational mobility, as well as experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, management and team building experience. Experience in transfer of technology and training competences will also be considered. An interruption to the applicant's career path should be documented. Interruptions may include pregnancy and childcare, escaping regions of conflict, unexpected illness etc. The relevance of the choice of the host laboratory to perform the proposed research project is also taken into consideration

Private sector researchers are also eligible to submit proposals. For enterprise applications, other than academic achievement in research (number of publications, impact factor of the publications, etc.), the evaluation criteria will cover:

- Industrial experience of the candidate;
- Candidate's capacity for innovation;
- Scientific quality of the research proposal;
- Potential market impact of the proposal;
- Opportunity for the enterprise to achieve a technological advantage;
- Potential financial contribution of the enterprise.

3 - 3 Evaluation process

After the campaign closing date, the LE STUDIUM team will perform an administrative check to ensure each application conforms to the submission format guidelines and that all necessary documents are complete and signed. Only eligible applications will be considered for review and selection.

To ensure a fair transparent evaluation and selection process, the following occurs:

- **LE STUDIUM** ensures that the global administration and management of the evaluation process respects set criteria for the scientific review, including rules related to non-discrimination and conflict of interest
- **External peer-reviewers** are invited to provide an independent, expert assessment of the scientific content of each eligible application based on the selection criteria. A minimum of three reviewers, screened for conflict of interest, are invited to evaluate each submitted application.
- **The Scientific Council** is composed of twenty-five eminent scientists from both the public and private sectors, including researchers from the Americas and Europe. This committee, with the assistance of external peer-reviewers, provides an independent, impartial and fair scientific assessment of applications. Observers from the LE STUDIUM member structures, without any voting rights, are invited to attend the annual June meeting of the Scientific Committee.
- **Notification of results:** the cumulative scores and comments of external peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members will allow the LE STUDIUM team to build the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each application and to establish the final ranking list. Notification letters and ESR will be sent to candidates by end of June 2022.

3 - 4 Appeal - Redress procedure

- Should an applicant feel that there has been a shortcoming in the process for the evaluation of her/his proposal, s/he may call upon this procedure. The appeal can be filed after each step of the evaluation process.
- A candidate willing to appeal is invited to send an email to the General Secretary of LE STUDIUM. The message should mention: the title of the application, the elements in the evaluation procedure perceived as unfair or inappropriate by the applicant and the correction measures that the candidate deems necessary.
- The General Secretary will share these elements with the President of LE STUDIUM and Chairman of the Scientific Committee for review. Corrective actions will be undertaken if necessary.
- In the ten days following the redress request message, the candidate will receive a feedback giving final conclusion to the redress request.

4 - NOTIFICATION - DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The Scientific Committee meeting will take place in early June 2022.

The final results will be communicated in the four weeks following the meeting of the Scientific Committee: a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify all applicants.

After notification, the awarded applicants will have two weeks to confirm their acceptance of the award.

If an applicant does not accept the award, it will be given to the following candidate placed in the final ranking list, on a reserve list.

All applicants, awarded or not, will receive an official notification and an evaluation summary report (ESR) listing the strengths and weaknesses of their proposal. For non-award applicants, the evaluation summary report may be helpful to improve the application and apply again for the following campaign.

5 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF VISITING RESEARCHERS AWARDS

5 - 1 Preparation for the fellows' arrival

After an applicant has accepted an award, the host scientist is invited for a meeting with LE STUDIUM to discuss the fellow's arrival and to precisely define the time window for their arrival. In parallel, the awarded applicant is invited for a videoconference meeting with the LE STUDIUM team to review the award details and clear up administrative questions. A formal letter of offer is then sent to the fellow summarizing the work contract conditions.

Following acceptance of the offer by the candidate, the LE STUDIUM team takes charge of all the administrative tasks for the fellow's arrival (visa, residence permit, travel and/or private medical coverage, professional liability insurance, children's schooling, French class, other activities...). The accommodation is prepared to welcome the fellow and her/his family.

5 - 2 Welcoming the fellow

Upon her/his arrival, a member of the LE STUDIUM team will welcome the fellow and her/his family, will introduce them to their apartment and answer any practical questions s/he may have. The next day the fellow will attend a meeting with the administrative team of LE STUDIUM to review and finalise all contractual documents.

In the following days, the fellow and host scientist will be invited to a scientific discussion with the General Secretary and the Scientific Relations Manager of LE STUDIUM to review the research project and discuss opportunities linked to the award.

5 - 3 Contractual obligations during residency

The LE STUDIUM programme awards are partnership awards with mutual obligations between the researcher in residence, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. The awarded researcher, the host scientist and his/her research team are invited to participate in the scientific life of the LE STUDIUM international research faculty across a variety of scientific events. The attendance to the LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS monthly seminars is mandatory for the awarded researcher. S/he will be asked to present her/his work during one of these seminars.

At the end of their residency, the LE STUDIUM Visiting Researcher is asked to produce a final report explaining the outcomes of her/his project in the context of the original proposal. This report is due at the scheduled exit meeting with the General Secretary and the Scientific Relations Manager of LE STUDIUM. The report will be made publicly available on the LE STUDIUM website on a dedicated LE STUDIUM Journal section.

Host laboratories in the Centre-Val de Loire region who welcome a LE STUDIUM fellow will sign a collaborative agreement "convention de mise à disposition", through which mutual rights and obligations are detailed. Hosting laboratories commit to respect EU procedures regarding ethics procedures, researchers' rights and researchers' involvement in research projects. LE STUDIUM does not acquire any intellectual property rights. They commit to welcome the researcher and to offer excellent working conditions including work office space and research resources.

Other contractual obligations, such as open access publications, credits, or mention of LE STUDIUM affiliation in the communication will be mentioned in the work contract.

6 - SCIENTIFIC EVENTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH FELLOWS, REGIONAL RESEARCHERS AND LABORATORIES

Awards include scientific animation led by LE STUDIUM, to provide interdisciplinary exchanges and establishment of new international collaborations.

This scientific animation offers different formats described hereafter. LE STUDIUM fellows, their host scientists and the members of the host laboratories present in the Centre-Val de Loire regional universities and research structures – public and private – are invited to attend these events. They are also designed to attract national and international participants.

6 - 1 LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

Awardees have the opportunity to convene one international conference called **LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP**. These one or two-day international events are co-organised by the researcher in residence, and with her/his host laboratories with the logistical and partial financial support of LE STUDIUM.

To be eligible to the funding of these international LE STUDIUM Conferences, fellows will be asked to prove the singularity and the interdisciplinarity of the proposed event: originality in the design, complementary approaches, topics generally not covered in standard conferences, adoption of a differentiated position of communication, list of potential guests of high level and dissemination of the conference outcomes. The conference has to pursue a specific mission with clear interdisciplinary scientific objectives. The conference project will be submitted to the members of the LE STUDIUM Scientific Council who will recommend or not the organisation of the event.

6 - 2 LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS

LE STUDIUM animates its international community of researchers through regular monthly interdisciplinary seminars called **LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS**. Each THURSDAY addresses a scientific topic of one or two LE STUDIUM fellows' research field. The challenge is that the speakers have to express themselves in such a way that the other fellows, whose specialties may be completely out of their own field of research, should understand them. These meetings encourage interdisciplinary exchanges, with the goal of germinating original scientific projects among researchers. They help the fellows deepen their communication skills within their discipline and with other researchers while contributing to strengthening the LE STUDIUM faculty of international research scholars. LE STUDIUM encourages its community of researchers to look to the "universal" scientific man, as spoken of during the Renaissance period. This concept was especially present in the Loire Valley, where attracting international "talents" was highlighted and typified by Leonardo da Vinci.

The attendance to this monthly seminar is mandatory for the awarded researcher. S/he will be asked to present her/his work during one of these seminars.

Attendance to THURSDAYS is open to doctoral students.

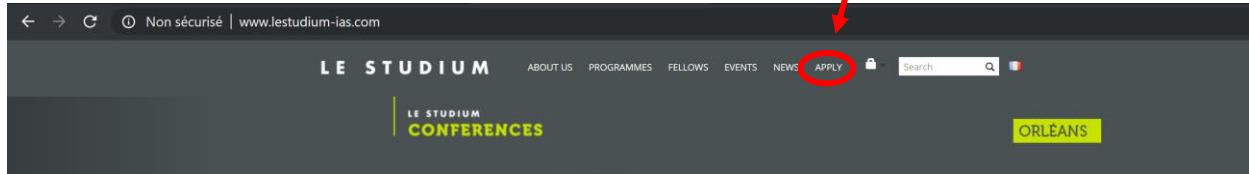
7 - Application FORMAT and ONLINE SUBMISSION

7 - 1 Process

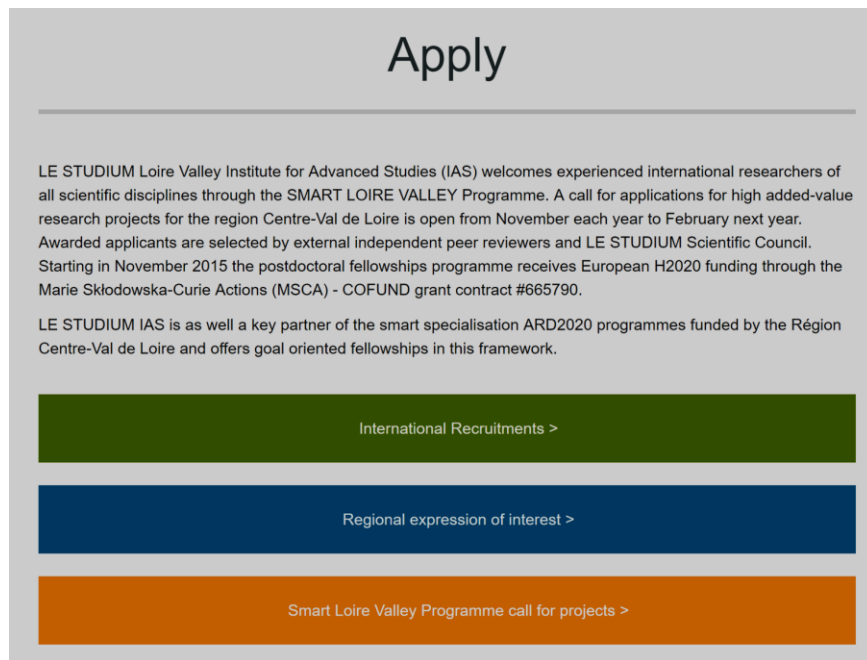
Proposals must be submitted online through the LE STUDIUM website by Wednesday 16th February 2022 (17:00 – CET Paris time)

- Go to www.lestudium-ias.fr

From the top menu, select **APPLY**.



- Select the recruitment type: Click on International Interdisciplinary Intersectoral Smart Loire Valley Programme.



- Fill the registration form. You will receive a confirmation email.

Smart Loire Valley Programme - Call for projects 2022



Information	
Title *	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>
Name *	<input type="text"/>
Firstname *	<input type="text"/>
Birthdate	Day <input type="text"/> Month <input type="text"/> Year <input type="text"/>
Nationality	<input type="text" value="- None -"/>
Institution	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="- None -"/>
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Scientific field *	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>

- LE STUDIUM will create an account for you and send you an email with a link to the application form.
- Log into your account with the details provided in the email, in order to access the form.
- You have the option to save the form as draft and complete it later.
- You will get a confirmation email once you have completed the online Part A, uploaded Parts B & C and submitted the application.

7 - 2 Application form – Content and Rules

The online application form is divided into 3 parts:

- Part A: General information (online form)
- Part B: Scientific proposal (document to upload on the platform)
- Part C: Engagement from the host laboratory (document to upload on the platform)

Parts B and C must respect the following minimum standards:

- ✓ A minimum font size of 11 points, except for Gantt chart and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- ✓ Single line spacing
- ✓ A4 page size
- ✓ Margins (top, bottom, left, right) of 25 mm
- ✓ A clearly readable font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman) on a printed copy

Tables are only for illustrating the core text of the proposal. As such, they cannot be used to contain the core text itself. The page formatting will be systematically checked by the LE STUDIUM operational team. For non-compliant proposals, applicants will be asked to reformat their proposal without the possibility of modifying the content. Excess pages will subsequently be disregarded by evaluators.

Footnotes are to be used exclusively for literature references. Their minimum font size is 8. They will count towards the page limit.

The Part B should be composed as follows (detailed description below):

- ✓ Section 1: Scientific project
- ✓ Section 2: Impact of the proposed research
- ✓ Section 3: Career and Track record of the Applicant

Within the maximum pages quota applying to the whole document, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between sections 1, 2 and 3.

If some of the proposed sub-sections are not relevant to their proposal, applicants are invited to ignore them.

After the call deadline, excess pages will automatically be made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted PDF documents are readable and are within the page number limit.

Part C consists in a 2-page (maximum) letter from the host scientist supporting the application.

Part C has to be signed by the host scientist, the director of the host laboratory and a representative of one of the host institution (“tutelle”).

Applicants are invited to upload the documents entitled “Template Part B”, in order to prepare their proposal following the required rules.

7 - 3 Advices for the submission

It is strongly recommended to:

- Register on the LE STUDIUM website soon after the opening of the call for applications;
- Refer to the FAQ document posted on the LE STUDIUM website;
- Not wait until the deadline for submission of your application;
- If necessary, contact by e-mail one of the correspondents listed on page 2 of this document.