



Call for Applications 2019

International mobility of junior researchers in paediatric oncology

Proposal submission deadline: 10 May 2019

Online submission of electronic application:

<https://www.e-cancer.fr/Institut-national-du-cancer/Appels-a-projets/Appels-a-projets-en-cours/Mobilite-pediatrique>

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1.- Context and objectives of the call for applications

Every year approximately 2,500 children and adolescents are affected by cancer, accounting for around 1% of all the cancers diagnosed annually. Today, thanks to the results of fundamental research and the resulting medical advances, 8 children in 10 are cured, 20% more than 15 years ago. However, cancer remains the leading cause of death in children aged over 1 year.

As a declared priority of the French government, the fight against cancers affecting children has been developed in particular through the third national Cancer Plan. Since 2014, new initiatives have emerged aimed at mobilising fundamental research into paediatric cancers and improving children, adolescents and young adults' access to therapeutic innovation. In 2019, an extra €5 million have been set aside for research into paediatric cancers. This new funding reinforces the efforts of the French government, which has made research in paediatric oncology a priority.

The French National Cancer Institute is in charge of the governance and coordination of the action plan intended to ensure optimum distribution of these funds. It works in conjunction with the research organisations (AVIESAN), public and private operators in oncology, healthcare professionals, health service users and voluntary bodies, including parents' associations, which play an essential role in the conception and in the choice of the actions that will be funded.

This call for applications aims to support the international mobility of junior researchers. Its main objectives are:

- To reinforce the attractiveness of research in paediatric oncology to young talents;
- To facilitate the career progression of junior researchers working in paediatric oncology research.

2.- Scope of the call for applications

This call for applications covers all the fields of basic research (biology and basic sciences for cancer research) and translational research in paediatric oncology (solid tumours and onco-haematology). It is intended to be part of a formalised collaboration between a French academic research laboratory and an academic research laboratory abroad and concerns projects that may be open to all disciplines (biology but also physics, mathematics, chemistry, bioinformatics, etc.).

This call for applications is aimed at:

- Junior researchers who have obtained a PhD. degree in France and wish to take up a scientific post-doctoral fellowship abroad (duration 12 months). The funding awarded will concern post-doctoral grants, with an additional operating grant dedicated to the post-doc's research work;
- Junior researchers who have obtained a PhD. degree abroad and wish to take up a scientific post-doctoral fellowship in France (duration 24 months). The funding awarded will concern post-doctoral grants, with an additional operating grant dedicated to the post-doc's research work;

- Junior researchers and students (in sciences, in engineering schools, in medicine or pharmacy) who already have funding in France for a Master 2 Research, a PhD or a post-doc fellowship, who wish to spend a period of 6 to 12 months abroad as part of their training. The international mobility grant awarded is intended to fund travel and living expenses, in addition to an operating grant dedicated to the junior researcher/student's research work during the period spent in the host laboratory abroad.

3.- Participation terms and conditions

3.1 Host organisation and laboratory

Generally:

- The laboratory in France and the laboratory abroad must be clearly identified.
- The collaborative research project in paediatric oncology involving the French laboratory and the laboratory abroad must be described in the application file and based on an established collaboration between the two partners.
- The collaborative research project and the candidate's research project must concern paediatric oncology and qualify as either basic research or translational research.
- Only one application will be eligible for each laboratory participating in the same collaborative project. On the other hand, several candidates may be attached to the same French laboratory for separate collaborative basic and translational research projects with different laboratories abroad.
- The French laboratory must be designated by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (University lab, INSERM, CNRS, CEA, etc.).
- The host laboratory must be able to supervise the candidate during the mobility period.
- To qualify for the mobility funding, the home laboratory in France must continue to supervise the candidate after his/her return.

3.2 Candidate

To be able to judge the eligibility of their application, candidates must provide a copy of their degree certificate or a certificate from the relevant higher education institute stating that they have passed the degree.

French or foreign junior researchers wishing to take up a scientific post-doctoral fellowship after completing their thesis must have held a PhD. degree in science for less than 3 years.

Junior researchers wishing to take up a post-doctoral fellowship in France must have obtained their PhD abroad. Junior researchers wishing to take up a post-doctoral fellowship abroad must have obtained their PhD. degree in France.

To qualify for the mobility funding, candidates must provide a certificate showing any income (PhD.contract, employment contract, grant statement) they are receiving at the time of applying for mobility funding.

Candidates on Master 2 Research course must provide proof of their enrolment or a pre-enrolment certificate on a Master 2 Research course in a French university. The theoretical and practical teaching modules and exams of a Master 2 Research course should allow for an internship of up to 6 months abroad. A letter of agreement from the director of the Master 2 Research course and the head of the laboratory hosting the M2 internship specifying this condition must be included in the application file. A maximum of two return-trips will be funded during the mobility period to attend classes or exams.

3.3 Organisation receiving the grant

The organisation receiving the grant will be a French public research organisation or a French healthcare organisation such as a university hospital (CHU) or a French regional comprehensive cancer centre (CRLCC).

This organisation will be the candidate's employer. It is responsible for the progress of the candidate's project and for submitting all scientific and financial reports to INCa.

4.- Selection conditions and evaluation criteria for applications

In order to conduct its evaluation, the Institute relies on a scientific review committee (RC) whose members are recognised for their scientific and medical expertise in the research field. These reviewers undertake to comply with the requirements of the Institute's code of ethics, which may be consulted at the following address: <http://www.e-cancer.fr/Institut-national-du-cancer/Deontologie-et-transparence-DPI/Acteurs-de-l-evaluation-de-projet>.

Reviewers must declare any direct or indirect links they may have with a candidate, a project described in the application file or a member of the team of a project. They also sign a confidentiality agreement.

The composition of the RC will be published following the completion of the call for projects evaluation process.

Applications meeting all the administrative criteria for admissibility will be considered by the review committee.

4.1 Admissibility

- The complete application file must be submitted by the deadline (cf. section 6) and in the required format (cf. section 7).
- All of the requested documents (including signatures) must be included in the application file.
- The application file will be written in English;
- The application file must meet the conditions set out in section 3 Participation terms and conditions

4.2 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria will cover:

Benefit and scientific quality of the collaborative research project in paediatric oncology conducted jointly by the two laboratories:

- Relevance of the project to the field of paediatric oncology,
- Position of the project in the international scientific context,
- Scientific quality of the research project,
- Relevance and originality of the project,
- Quality of the collaboration between the two laboratories,
- Expertise of the two partner laboratories.

Benefit and scientific quality of the candidate's research project;

- Candidate's role in the collaborative research project,
- Scientific quality and feasibility of the candidate's research project,
- Scientific quality of the host laboratory,
- Quality of the supervisor, assessed mainly on the quality of the work done and the ability to supervise,
- Description of the research approach.

Candidate:

- Scientific background, quality of publications,
- Relevance of the international mobility project to the candidate's career plan,
- Candidate's commitment to a career in research, in particular in the field of paediatric oncology,
- Prospect of the candidate continuing his/her career in connection with the established collaboration between the two laboratories.

To qualify for the mobility funding, the relevance of the mobility project to the candidate's research project will constitute supplementary evaluation criterion.

5.- General provisions and funding

5.1 Support available

Candidates for a post-doctoral fellowship in a host laboratory in France

The funding awarded will concern post-doctoral grants (up to a maximum of €120,000 for 24 months, all expenses included), with an additional operating grant (up to a maximum of €50,000 for 24 months) dedicated exclusively to the post-doc research work and just one flat-rate travel allowance (see appendix for amount).

The funds will be paid directly to a French managing institution, which will act as the employer and provide the beneficiary with an employment contract, under its own responsibility.

The amount of the salary proposed will be determined in the light of the candidate's individual profile and career and in accordance with the pay policies applicable within the managing institution.

The managing institution may not receive any other grants intended to fund the candidate's salary other than that awarded under this CFA.

Candidates for a post-doctoral fellowship in a host laboratory abroad

The funding awarded will concern post-doctoral grants (up to a maximum of €60,000 for 12 months, all expenses included), with an additional operating grant (up to a maximum of €25,000 for 12 months) dedicated exclusively to the post-doc research work and just one flat-rate travel allowance (see appendix for amount).

The funds will be paid directly to a French managing institution, which will act as the employer and provide the beneficiary with an employment contract, under its own responsibility.

The amount of the salary proposed will be determined in the light of the candidate's individual profile and career and in accordance with the pay policies applicable within the managing institution.

The managing institution may not receive any other grants intended to fund the candidate's salary other than that awarded under this CFA.

Candidates for an international mobility grant

It will also be possible to allocate mobility grants to students on Master 2 Research courses, PhD. students and post-docs with the benefit of a salary or training allowance in France wishing to spend 6 or 12 months abroad as part of their training.

This funding will include a grant for living expenses and a travel allowance to cover return fares, including trips to attend mandatory sessions connected to the training (allocated on the basis of a scale included in the application file, and consisting of a maximum amount of €13,500 for 12 months – see appendix). In addition to this grant, an operating grant will also be awarded, dedicated exclusively to the student/post-doc's personal research work during the internship/fellowship in the laboratory abroad (up to a maximum of €25,000 for 12 months and €12,500 for 6 months).

Candidates must give details, where applicable, of any financial contribution of the host institution to the mobility project.

5.2 Funding management

Funding will be assigned according to the provisions of Regulation No. 2018-01 regarding grants allocated by INCa: <https://www.e-cancer.fr/Institut-national-du-cancer/Appels-a-projets/Reglement-des-subventions>

The participants in the project must agree to comply with this regulation by signing the "Undertakings" section of the application file.

These undertakings concern:

- the legal representative of the institution receiving the INCa grant;

- the candidate;
- the director of the origin laboratory.

In accordance with Article 5.4 of Regulation no. 2018-01, the expenditure eligible for the grant constitutes the costs allowable by the Institute.

Accordingly, the INCa grant will cover, in accordance with point 5.1:

- **staff costs:** only the candidate's salary;
- **as an exemption from Regulation 2018-01, certain operating costs:** these costs will be limited to:
 - a. grant to cover living expenses and travel (all trips must be duly justified at the end of the project),
 - b. operating grant: laboratory consumables, publication costs,
 - c. office equipment costs are not covered;
- **management costs,** for a sum not in excess of 4% of INCa-eligible expenditure actually paid (staff, operations);
- **The budget items in the grant allocated are not fungible.**

5.3 Activity report

In application of Regulation no. 2018-01, at the end of the funding period, the following will be required:

- A scientific activity report written by the junior researcher and the two laboratories, in line with the requirements set out in the grant allocation decision. These reports must include details of the work accomplished.
- A list of publications and communications arising out of the project.

5.4 Communication

Any written or oral publication regarding the supported project work must quote the INCa funding support reference. This reference must include a code which will be notified to the coordinator once the project has been selected for funding. The text must be provided to the Institute for information.

6.- Schedule

Date of publication	April 2019	
Deadline for submission of the application file	<p>Online submission of electronic application: https://www.e-cancer.fr/Institut-national-du-cancer/Appels-a-projets/Appels-a-projets-en-cours/Mobilite-pediatrique</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Submission of a hard copy by post (one original copy with signatures) - postmark accepted as evidence of compliance with the deadline - (or delivery in person during office hours) to: Institut national du cancer Institut national du cancer AAC mobilité pédiatrie 52 avenue André Morizet 92513 Boulogne-Billancourt cedex</p>	10 May 2019
Publication of results	June 2019	

7.- Submission procedures

The application file must include all items required and needed for the scientific and technical evaluation of the proposal and must be written in English.

The complete file includes the entitled application form and the financial annexe.

The complete application is submitted in electronic format (online submission) **and** in hard copy format; both formats are strictly identical with the exception of the signatures and supplementary documents, which are only required for the original hard copy version.

➤ Electronic form:

The complete application includes two files:

- ✓ A Word 97-2003 file less than 4 Mo (usual form). PDF not accepted.
- ✓ An Excel 97-2003 file (financial annexe). PDF not accepted.

These elements are to be uploaded online using the address for the call for projects:

<https://www.e-cancer.fr/Institut-national-du-cancer/Appels-a-projets/Appels-a-projets-en-cours/Mobilite-pediatrique>

This **submission procedure**, via the INCa website, includes the following:

- identification of the coordinator (last name, first name, and email address),
- identification of the project (title, duration, amount and key words and summary),
- upload of the candidate's application file.

AND

➤ **Hard copy format:**

Original copy of the complete project file; duly signed by the relevant persons with supplementary documents, to be sent within the specified deadline to:

Institut national du cancer

AAC mobilité pédiatrie

52 avenue André Morizet

92513 Boulogne-Billancourt cedex

8.- Contact

For any further scientific information, please contact:

Biology, Transfer and Innovations department - INCa Research and Innovation Division:

Frédérique NOWAK - fnowak@institutcancer.fr.

For any other information, please contact: pediat2019@institutcancer.fr

Appendix - Scales of living expenses grant and travel allowance

Living expenses grant	Monthly amount
GROUP A COUNTRIES: United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan,	€750
GROUP B COUNTRIES: Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, United Kingdom, Sweden	€750
All countries not listed in groups A and B	€500

Travel allowance (1 return fare)	Distance	Unit amount
Flat rate 1:	Between 100 and 499 km	€350.00
Flat rate 2:	Between 500 and 1,999 km	€500.00
Flat rate 3:	Between 2,000 and 2,999 km	€750.00
Flat rate 4:	Between 3,000 and 3,999 km	€1,000.00
Flat rate 5:	Between 4,000 and 7,999 km	€1,250.00
Flat rate 6:	8,000 km or more	€1,500.00

Distances to be calculated using the European Commission distance calculator:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_fr