

Research Initiatives in Grenoble Alpes (IRGA)

2022

Closing date for submission of projects: December 10, 2021

The Université Grenoble Alpes' 2022 IRGA call for projects aims to encourage the development of research and innovation projects initiated at UGA laboratories in order to support the site's scientists with their research work and contribute to the site's scientific policy, international policy, and socio-economic and cultural impact. This call for projects was prepared within the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation and the Vice-Presidency for International Relations. It is issued following consultations led by the Research Commission of the Academic Council of the UGA, and more particularly with the working group on support for research projects.

The call is funded by contributions from the UGA, Grenoble INP - UGA, Sciences Po Grenoble - UGA, ENSAG – UGA and Inria. The AI pack in the exploratory/emerging projects component is funded by the MIAI Grenoble Alpes institute. LabEx Persyval is contributing to the funding of exploratory/emerging projects at the MSTIC research department (*pôle de recherche*).

The IRGA call for projects is intended for the entire scientific and academic community (researchers, professors-researchers and equivalent positions), with no restrictions in terms of discipline or methodology. Funds are allocated on a project basis, and the need for the requested resources must be justified.

Three categories are open in the context of this call for projects:

1. Exploratory and emerging projects,
2. Prematuration innovation projects,
3. Projects in collaboration with an international partner.

A given principal investigator may only submit one project in one of the three categories. All the components are open to the laboratories of UGA research departments, including the mixed research units (*Unité Mixte de Recherche* UMR) of the Université Savoie Mont-Blanc (USMB). Components 2 and 3 are open to the institutes (Leti, Liten, List) of the Technological Research Division (DRT) of the CEA Grenoble. The objectives and procedures, as well as the funding possibilities for each category, are described below.

- Contact address: rv-idex@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- Contact details of the research departments and of CEA-DRT:

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|---------|--|
| CBS | directoire-cbs@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| MSTIC | directoire-mstic@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| PAGE | directoire-page@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| PEM | directoire-pem@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| PSS | directoire-pss@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| SHS | directoire-shs@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| CEA-DRT | direction-scientifique-drt@cea.fr |

■ Exploratory and emerging projects

| Criteria | Conditions |
|------------------------------|---|
| Objectives | <p>Support and assistance to foster emerging and exploratory scientific themes.</p> <p>Projects may be of two types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proposing new discipline-specific or interdisciplinary approaches, methods or developments, - taking the form of a pilot or preliminary study that aims to expand a research topic, and then act as a springboard for submitting a more ambitious project (ANR, ERC, etc.). |
| Conditions | <p>Cross-cutting or cross-disciplinary approaches are encouraged but are not mandatory. A project can involve two research departments. In this case, the expected advances in knowledge for each of the communities involved must be made explicit.</p> <p>Projects may not be a mere extension of a thesis or a previous project.</p> <p>Projects involving at least two research department teams or laboratories are encouraged. This point is compulsory for the SHS and PEM research departments, with the exception of new or recent staff members (no more than 3 years of service in September 2021; any parental leave, maternity leave, sick leave, etc. lasting more than three months pushes this deadline back by a year).</p> <p>If a principal investigator benefited from IRS-ISP 2020 or IRGA 2021 funding, participation in a new project must remain on an exceptional basis and focus on a different research area.</p> |
| Funding: | <p>Pack 1: Operation/investment (<i>fonctionnement/investissement</i>) up to €30k.</p> <p>Pack 2: Doctoral Research Grant (ADR) + support up to a maximum of €25k.</p> <p>Pack 3 (for the MSTIC, SHS and PSS research departments): 24-month post-doctoral contract + support budget up to a maximum of €25k.</p> <p>AI Pack (all research departments): 12-month post-doctoral contract in artificial intelligence (AI) + support budget of €2.5k. A mixed research unit member without UGA supervision cannot be a principal investigator in this pack.</p> |
| Assessment criteria | <p><i>Quality of project:</i> originality beyond the national and international state of the art, emerging and exploratory aspects, renewed methodology, ambition of the scientific and/or technological goals.</p> <p><i>Feasibility:</i> adequate human and methodological resources for the project goals, risks analysis and management; if Pack 2: doctoral research project in line with the overall project.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> emergence of the research theme, importance of the expected outcomes for the state of the art, dissemination strategy, contribution to driving scientific excellence and technological or social innovation within the UGA, enhanced potential for submitting national or European projects.</p> <p>AI Pack projects must also tie in with one of the focus areas of MIAI Grenoble Alpes (see miai.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/recherche). Projects that cut across these focus areas or concern other topics but are strongly embedded in AI may nevertheless be submitted.</p> |
| Selection of projects | <p>The department council (<i>conseil de pôle</i>) will form an <i>ad hoc</i> committee charged with drawing up a proposed selection of projects and the associated funding. An initial pre-selection phase will identify projects to be assessed by external experts. If necessary, this pre-selection process will be backed up by internal assessments in order to benefit from differing points of view.</p> <p>Pack 1 projects will be assessed by two experts who may be from within the UGA.</p> <p>Pack 2 and 3 projects and AI Pack projects will be assessed by two experts, at least one of whom from outside the UGA.</p> |

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| | <p>If a project must be kept confidential the principal investigator may ask that there be no external assessors, providing reasons to substantiate this request, or, conversely, ask for an entirely external assessment (in the event of on-site internal competition, for instance).</p> <p>AI Pack projects will be selected by the scientific board of MIAI Grenoble Alpes (<i>bureau scientifique de l'Institut MIAI Grenoble Alpes</i>), which will work in collaboration with the research departments.</p> <p>The board will ensure that the funds granted contribute to upholding scientific diversity at the Grenoble site.</p> |
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■ Prematuration innovation projects

| Criteria | Conditions |
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| Objectives | Initiate the transformation of research outcomes into products, methodologies and services for transfer to the socio-economic or cultural world. |
| Conditions | <p>This category targets the prematuration phase, in other words the very first stages of the valorization projects, ahead of the maturation phase, incubation and transfer. The grant allocated must be used to develop a prototype demonstrator, produce a proof-of-concept, or test a methodology in order to direct the project toward a maturation phase.</p> <p>If the socio-economic or cultural player targeted for the transfer has already been identified, they can be included in the project. In this case, this non-academic partner must also contribute resources to complete the prematuration program.</p> <p>A maturation or co-maturation project with a non-academic partner is expected at the end of the project, therefore including signature of a contract, for instance with the Linksium Grenoble Alpes SATT (technology transfer accelerator), or with a socio-economic or cultural partner. The lever effect may include the creation of joint laboratories.</p> <p>Submission of projects in human and social science fields or stemming from ongoing Cross Disciplinary Program (CDP) projects is strongly encouraged.</p> |
| Funding | <p>Operation/investment (<i>fonctionnement/investissement</i>): €40k to €80k, including HR costs.</p> <p>Possibility to fund months of post-doc, engineer or technician salaries.</p> <p>Duration of projects: between 1 and 2 years</p> |
| Assessment criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for valorization and for transfer, - Credibility of the proposed approach, coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, - Lever effect of the funding, - In event of co-funding by a partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevance of the partnership, - Project governance. - In case of technological innovation: level of maturity at project start (TRL* ≤ 3). <p>*Technology Readiness Level, https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl_en.pdf</p> |
| Selection of projects | Scientific projects will be assessed by the research departments, and by the DRT in the case of projects stemming from its institutes. |

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| | The valorization criteria will be examined by the innovation committee, which will propose a list of selected and funded projects. This committee will be composed of players from the socio-economic and cultural world, representatives of the research departments and representatives of UGA partners, all chosen for their expertise in the area of valorization. |
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■ International projects

| Criteria | Conditions |
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| Objectives | <p>This call for projects has a two-fold objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthening the UGA's comprehensive strategic partnerships, particularly in disciplines that are less well represented in existing cooperations; - fostering the development of new collaborations with international partners who will help to build the UGA's influence; - starting research cooperations with the partners of the European University Unite! and those of the AURORA network. <p>The UGA is setting up and developing a limited number of comprehensive strategic partnerships covering all the university's missions. These partnerships are formative and transformative, and concern at least two academic departments of the UGA. They are characterized by a multi-faceted commitment from the two partner establishments and involve the joint implementation of an action plan, the deployment of resources, and an undertaking to maintain reciprocity of resources over a period of several years.</p> <p>Special attention will be paid to projects bolstering the emergence of international mixed structures such as International Research Laboratories (formerly called International Joint Units - UMI), International Research Projects (formerly called <i>Laboratoires internationaux associés</i> - LIA), or French Research Institutes Abroad (<i>Unités mixtes des instituts français de recherche à l'étranger</i> - Umifre), as well as to projects proposed by the scientific communities in humanities and social sciences.</p> <p>The strategic partners targeted by this call are outlined on the UGA website https://www.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/rayonnement/l-uga-et-l-international/partenariats-strategiques/partenariats-strategiques-706637.kjsp?RH=1594805970504:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University of Tsukuba - Swansea University - National Taiwan University - University of Oxford - McMaster University - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) <p>A project may be funded with a partner of the Unite! European university, i.e.: Aalto University, Technical University of Darmstadt, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Universidade de Lisboa, Politecnico di Torino.</p> <p>A project may be funded with a partner of the AURORA network, i.e.: Universitat Innsbruck, University of Iceland, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, University Federico II of Naples, University of Aberdeen, Universitat Duisburg Essen, University of East Anglia, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.</p> |
| Conditions | <p>Projects will be funded on the express condition that joint funding is obtained from the partner to the tune of 50% of the total amount to be funded. A letter of commitment signed by an authorized representative is a mandatory document to be enclosed with the application file. Principal investigators of an accredited project will be required to produce a letter giving firm confirmation of the partner's commitment within two months of the results of the call for projects being</p> |

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| | <p>published. In the absence of this document, the commission reserves the right to cancel the funding awarded and allocate it to another project on a waiting list. In the event that the partner withdraws, the UGA grant will not be maintained.</p> <p>For requests for fully-funded PhDs, both theses will have to begin in the same academic year and special attention will be paid to the planned collaboration between the two teams or the two doctoral students.</p> <p>Principal investigators who benefited from ISP 2020 (International strategic partnership 2020) or IRGA 2021 funding are not entitled to submit a project. If the joint directors proposed in the project are already jointly supervising a thesis, the project is rendered ineligible.</p> |
| Funding | <p>In the case of a project with a strategic partner (see list above), a member of Unite! or Aurora, several funding options are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Doctoral Research Grant (ADR) co-funded by the UGA and the partner, - 1 ADR funded by the UGA plus 1 ADR funded by the partner (only possible for the following partners: University of Tsukuba and National Taiwan University), - 1 post-doc co-funded by the UGA and the partner, lasting between 12 and 36 months. <p>In other cases, funding will be limited to missions, the organization of workshops, and the funding of research internships, up to a maximum of €15k. A detailed budget will be required in order to examine the complementarity between the resources requested from the UGA and those contributed by the partner university. Exact reciprocity of resources is not mandatory, but preference will be given to a balanced contributions from the partners.</p> |
| Partners | Any international academic partner is eligible subject to the conditions set out above. |
| Assessment criteria | <p>Scientific quality, potential impact and feasibility of the project.</p> <p>Lever effect of the project as regards the obtaining of other funds, the creation of a new structure involving the UGA, and/or expansion to other communities (inter-disciplinarity).</p> <p>Extent of partner's involvement beyond supervising the doctoral/post-doc student: quality and complementarity of the teams involved.</p> <p>Project integration in the current areas of cooperation within the partnership: see UGA website > Collaborations > Strategic Partnerships</p> |
| Selection of projects | <p>Scientific projects will be assessed by the research departments, and by the DRT in the case of projects stemming from its institutes.</p> <p>These assessments will be sent on to the Vice-Presidency for International Relations extended to include national research organizations. It will also assess the project's pertinence in regard to the UGA's international strategy, the extent to which the partner is involved, and integration into current actions, and then draw up the list of projects proposed for accreditation.</p> |

■ General conditions

■ Affiliation of projects, inter-department projects

- A project must primarily be submitted within the research department corresponding to its main theme, irrespective of the main research department with which the principal investigator laboratory is affiliated.
- The approval of the principal investigator's laboratory management board must be obtained. All projects are eligible, with no quotas per laboratory.
- A secondary research department may be stated if applicable. In the case of an inter-department project of this type, the conditions of the main department apply. Attention is drawn to the fact that an affiliation

with two departments must bring real added value in terms of advancing knowledge for both departments involved, and go beyond a purely methodological or technical involvement.

- The selection of inter-department exploratory/emerging projects will be coordinated by the Vice Presidency for Research and Innovation in its extended configuration. Representatives of the Research Commission will attend meetings as observers.

Project funding

- Projects including national or international academic partners outside the scope of the UGA research departments or players from the socio-economic world are eligible, but only the activities of UGA research department laboratories will be funded.
- The amount allocated may be adjusted with respect to the amount requested, especially if resources are already available within the consortium to implement the project. The utmost transparency is expected of proposers, and an insincere statement will constitute grounds for rejection of the project.
- For Pack 1 of component 1, the operation/investment credits will have to be spent before the end of 2024. The credits for other projects will have to be spent before the end of 2025.

Project coordination

- The project principal investigator must be an active permanent member (researcher, professors-researchers or equivalent) of a research unit within a research department of the UGA or a research unit of Grenoble CEA-DRT in the case of the international and innovation components. Other structures (federations, platforms, etc.) are not entitled to submit projects.
- The project's scientific and technical manager must not be a member of a research department board (*membre du directoire d'un pôle de recherche*), of the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation, of the Vice-Presidency for International Relations, or of the UGA Council of Deans.
- An emeritus researcher or lecturer/researcher is not entitled to act as a project principal investigator.

Regarding Doctoral Research Grants (ADR) and funding of post-docs

- ADRs are allocated within a research unit supervised by the UGA or, in the case of international projects, by a DRT institute.
- The thesis supervisor must be affiliated with a UGA Doctoral School.
- The thesis must begin before October 1st, 2022 in the case of the exploratory/emerging component, and before December 31, 2022 in the case of international projects.
- Doctoral students must be recruited in conjunction with the Doctoral School concerned. The recruitment procedure (drafting and publication of the job description, definition of the working conditions, pre-selection and then interviews) will be defined by the future supervisors and then validated by the Doctoral School. People with experience in thesis supervision and the international recruitment of doctoral students must be involved in each phase of the process. It is hence not necessary to identify a candidate when submitting the project.
- Doctoral contracts for positions that have not been filled by October 1st, 2022, will be transformed into ordinary contracts allocated to the Doctoral Schools concerned.
- In the event of an ADR request, the target Doctoral School will be questioned regarding the number of theses in progress and the number of theses funded but not defended after 4 years and supervised by the proposed thesis supervisor(s) over the past 10 years or, failing this, since they were hired by the UGA.
- Each potential thesis supervisor must confirm with the Doctoral School with which they are affiliated that the applicable rules relating to student/teacher ratio are complied with in the context of roll-out of the new Doctoral School regulations and the transitional phase thereof.
- The post-doc students will be required to prove that they have experience of research outside the laboratories of UGA research departments, during either their thesis or post-doctoral work.

Shared and complementary criteria

- Projects with a principal investigator in a position of back to research will be examined taking their specific situation into consideration.

- In the event that a given project is submitted for a second time, the rapporteur will have to consider the assessments from the previous year in addition to those from the current year, and describe the changes made to the project submitted.
- In the context of the UGA's environmental policy, each principal investigator will explain how the potential environmental impacts of their project will be limited.
- The dissemination and exploitation of results strategies will be taken into consideration, especially as regards the choice of national or international conferences, national or international journals including peer review, and referencing in the target international databases. Moreover, it will be mandatory to file the articles and manuscripts written in an open database (such as HAL or arxiv).

■ Selection procedure

- The selection procedure will comply with the UGA code of ethics for calls for projects, including in particular the treatment of potential conflicts of interest.
- The various supervisory bodies for each component are given below:

| | Component | Supervision | Committee | Consultative body | Decision-making body |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Exploratory - emerging | Extended VP Research and Innovation | Formed by the department board | | UGA Council of Deans |
| 2 | Innovation | | Innovation Committee | Research Commission of the Academic Council | |
| 3 | International | VP International Relations | Extended VP International Relations | Research Commission of the Academic Council | |

■ Feedback for principal investigators and reporting to the department community

- Each committee will appoint a rapporteur from among its members, who will write a summary of the assessments to be sent to the principal investigator. Each principal investigator will be entitled to request a meeting with a member of the research department board to discuss his or her application.
- A summary of each component of the IRGA call for projects (projects selected, the deliberation process, method of decision-making) will be drawn up by each committee and submitted to the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation and the Research Commission of the Academic Council. The research departments will distribute this summary in an accessible form (webinar, study day, etc.) to all the researchers and professors-researchers defined by that department.
- For the exploratory and emerging projects in the AI pack, feedback will be provided by the scientific board of MIAI Grenoble Alpes (*bureau scientifique de l'Institut MIAI Grenoble Alpes*). Once the results are known, each project principal investigators - whether selected or not - will be entitled to request a meeting with a member of the research department board and/or of the scientific board of MIAI Grenoble Alpes.

■ Submission of projects

Applications must be submitted in electronic form, in the required format and complete, within the deadline and according to the procedure specified on the submission platform <http://projects-call.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr>. They may be written in English or French.

- Call published on: October 7, 2021
- Submission site opened: beginning of November 2021
- Closing date for submission: December 10, 2021 at 13:00
- Results published: March-April 2022