

## **Call for Proposals - UChicago-CNRS Research Collaboration Program**

### **Call Release Date**

23 September 2025

### **Close of Submissions Date**

2 November 2025

### **Notification Date**

16 February 2026

### **Purpose of this Call for Proposals**

The CNRS-University of Chicago International Research Center for Fundamental Scientific Discovery (IRC Discovery) is a joint research center between the University of Chicago and the [French National Center for Scientific Research](#) (CNRS). IRC Discovery strengthens partnership between scholars at two of the world's leading research institutions and leverages both institutions' robust networks and large-scale investments in scientific infrastructure to address some of the world's biggest questions.

IRC Discovery provides dedicated support and resources for expanded collaboration between UChicago and CNRS and it is within the context of this initiative that we announce this Call for Proposals for the 2026-2029 cohort of the UChicago-CNRS Research Collaboration Program.

This call is intended to identify and support collaborations between teams at UChicago and CNRS-affiliated labs, via the creation of pairs of Principal Investigators and their PhD students.

### **Funding**

- Fund up to 3 years of a PhD fellowship on the CNRS side, starting in autumn 2026.
- Fund mobility expenses for each team over a period of three years (\$5,000/year starting July 1, 2026 for UChicago PIs and €5,000/year starting January 2027 for CNRS-affiliate PIs).

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Academic Areas**

**The call is open to all disciplines and research fields.** This year, applications on the following three topics are particularly welcome: change, life and instrumentation.



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### **Applicant Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply to this program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Proposed projects should include a UChicago PI and graduate student and a CNRS PI and graduate student. Graduate students may be identified after the proposal is submitted.
  - UChicago PIs must be:
    - Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors.
    - Must be eligible to supervise or currently be supervising a PhD student.
    - Must only submit one proposal to this round of the program.
  - UChicago Graduate Students must be:
    - Second- or third-year PhD students with an interest in international collaboration with France.
  - CNRS PIs must be:
    - Researchers or Professors (PU, MCF) working in a CNRS-affiliated lab.
    - Must only submit one proposal to this round of the program.
  - CNRS Graduate Students must be:
    - Candidates to a PhD program.

### **Collaborative Research**

There must be at least one PI from UChicago and one PI from a CNRS-affiliated lab. Those who do not already have a collaborator may consult the [CNRS directory](#) or the UChicago website ([academic departments](#) directory) to find information on the research groups and projects being carried out in either institution.

### **Funding Details**

#### **Grant Period/Period of Support**

Grants through the Research Collaboration Program can last up to 3 years.

#### **Number of awards**

Up to five proposals will be selected for awards.

## Application Instructions and Evaluation Criteria

### Mode of application

PIs from France and UChicago are expected to collaborate on a joint proposal for each project. The proposal must then be submitted to the following websites, **in English, and in PDF form**:

- UChicago applicants should submit their proposal via InfoReady
- CNRS applicants should submit the same content via the dedicated platform

NOA: <https://noa.cnrs.fr/#/accueil-connexion/appels/97/consultation>

### Application Requirements

The proposal must consist of the following parts in **one single file** (up to 5 pages, not including Parts A, H, and I).

#### PART A: Title Page

Title of the proposal, names of the principal investigators and their affiliations, their addresses, telephone, and e-mail. The names of the PhD students can be provided if they are already known. Please specify on the Title Page of the application "This application is submitted for consideration within the UChicago - CNRS Research Collaboration Program." The title page does not count against the page limit of the application.

#### PART B: Description of the project (2 pages or 1000 words maximum)

State of the art for the research area, description of the project and domains of interest, historical context of application (if applicable), quality and originality of the project, objectives, methodology, expected results and their relevance, future perspectives. Explain how the PhD fellow will be supervised and mentored, and how the collaboration will enable and enhance the project. Explain the relation between the project and the overall research goals of the project participants.

#### PART C: Added value of UChicago-CNRS Collaboration

Describe the added value of cooperation in fulfilling the aims of the project (explain why the project cannot be carried out at a national level only). Describe the expected benefits for the CNRS and UChicago teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the CNRS and UChicago teams. If any additional public or private sector collaborations are involved in the project, please describe their role.

#### PART D: Planned activities

Describe the planned activities in the framework of the project and provide a timetable. Explain how these activities will help achieve the aims of the project.

#### PART E: Budget

Proposed budget, including a breakdown of the division of funds, separated into distinct budgets for UChicago and CNRS. The budget section regarding travel should contain explicit line items for travel of the PhD student.

#### **PART F: Opportunities for Further Funding**

Outline any proposed plans for raising external competitive funding (e.g., EU collaborative grants, US collaborative grants, national research agency grants, etc.).

#### **PART G: Ethics**

Does the project raise ethical questions? If yes, please describe them and how they will be addressed.

#### **PART H: Academic quality of the teams**

Please list up to ten detailed (complete) citations for publications related to the project for each team. PI applicants must be clearly indicated in the author lists, with superscript or parenthesized letters corresponding to the respective countries, for example Dupont JP (FR), or Smith FD (US). This part does not count against the page limit of the application.

#### **PART I: Short (maximum two-page) curriculum vitae of all PIs/faculty.**

This part does not count against the page limit of the application.

#### **Evaluation**

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a UChicago-CNRS selection committee, according to the following criteria:

- Academic quality and originality of the project
- Academic merit of the teams
- Synergism between teams
- Potential for external funding support beyond the project period

#### **Reporting**

During or at the conclusion of the project, grant recipients may be asked to report on progress or outcomes achieved to relevant stakeholder groups.

Awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) within one month of the conclusion of the award cycle. This report should detail the outcomes of the collaboration and the ways in which the grant has enhanced, or will enhance, their research activities and/or leverage larger opportunities.

#### **Inquiries**

- For all UChicago inquiries, please contact Steve Yandell ([syandell1@uchicago.edu](mailto:syandell1@uchicago.edu)).



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- For all CNRS inquiries (including about the submission platform NOAfunctioning), please contact Yvana Minault ([yvana.minault@cnrs.fr](mailto:yvana.minault@cnrs.fr)).

#### **Additional Support through IRC Discovery**

In addition to this funding mechanism, IRC Discovery supports student and scholar mobility (including access to research facilities, tech transfer resources, etc.); academic workshops and public events; network-building activities; and pursuit of large-scale external grant support. The administration of IRC Discovery is co-located between UChicago and CNRS headquarters in Paris, with dedicated staff support in Chicago along with office and meeting space in Hyde Park and at UChicago's Center in Paris. Grantees through this program will be connected to that additional suite of support.