

CAMPAIGN 2015/2016: GUIDELINES & FAQ

LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Deadline: Monday 16th February 2015 (17:00 – CET Paris time)

Preamble

Created in 1996, inspired by the Loire Valley historical, geographical and human cultures, the objective of LE STUDIUM® is **to create a dynamic *outwards-looking* international scientific community** in region Centre connecting its public and private research institutions.

One of its principal missions is **welcoming experienced foreign researchers** to the laboratories and industries of region Centre. To date, LE STUDIUM® has welcomed more than 130 experienced researchers to the region.

LE STUDIUM® leads **scientific animation** in order to favor cross-disciplinary exchanges with regional and international scientific communities to **build human capital for research, development and innovation**.

Since 2010, LE STUDIUM® is internationally presented as « Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies ». **LE STUDIUM® IAS is a unique structure in France** and its activities are evolving in resonance with European and international events.

LE STUDIUM® Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies, operating in region Centre of France, has as its members the University of Orleans, University François-Rabelais Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, national research institutions including BRGM, CEA, CNRS, INRA, INSERM and Poles of competitiveness. In total, more than forty laboratories in member structures work with LE STUDIUM®.

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

1-1 Context and objectives

LE STUDIUM® Smart Loire Valley Programme offers various partnership awards with mutual obligations between the host laboratory, the researcher in residence and LE STUDIUM®. This initiative aims to strengthen the international visibility of laboratories and enterprises in the region Centre and to create sustainable links between the regional laboratories, researchers, organizations and their counterparts all over the world.

This programme targets experienced foreign researchers who have to embody, in their profile, the key words that capture the research values of LE STUDIUM®: Curiosity, Imagination and Intuition. These values help to create, in the region Centre, a dynamic outwards-looking international scientific community that recognises the value of multi- or interdisciplinary research approaches. The different fellowships and partnerships create conditions that catalyse the development of scientific and human interactions between members of the various research Institutions and centres of *Centre region* in order to strengthen research and development in the extended Loire Valley community.

LE STUDIUM® supports an ambitious scientific animation strategy, which benefits the regional host laboratories, researchers and, the development and innovation ecosystem in region Centre. This is in parallel to funding the salary and accommodation of senior foreign researchers in residence.

1-2 Brief presentation of the programmes

This call for applications does not target specific research thematics. It is open to each research centre in region Centre (from universities, public research institutions and enterprises). A dedicated programme is open to external applications.

The present call for applications is divided into 4 programmes:

- **LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CHAIR** enables a high level foreign researcher to create an interdisciplinary dynamic between at least three laboratories in the region Centre. The award is for six months.
- **LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP** enables a foreign Professor to participate in postgraduate teaching, research and research team building. The Professorship residence is a period of three months in region Centre for 4 consecutive years (12 months in total). For this programme two laboratories in region Centre or three teams from the same laboratory need to be involved.
- **LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**, enables a foreign researcher to lead a research project for a one-year residency in region Centre. For this programme, two possibilities are offered: (1) *laboratories applications* from a team or teams in region Centre who want to welcome a foreign

researcher (for this application it is essential that NO researcher is named), (2) *external applications* from foreign researchers who want to join a team in region Centre for a one-year residency;

- **LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CONSORTIUM** award enables the creation of a virtual team of five researchers (one researcher from region Centre). This team meets for a full week twice a year over 2 years (4 meetings in total). The consortium should have a well-defined objective, a research work plan to implement and to achieve milestone goals between meetings.

2- CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS

The applicants are advised to answer all questions on 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 host scientist and where appropriate of the foreign researcher.

2-1 Scientific quality of the project

Based on the proposal, the host laboratories should increase the quality and productivity of their scientific research. Interdisciplinary approaches and research on topics at the boundaries between disciplines will be important assets. Thus, scientific quality of the project is one of the selection criteria.

2-2 Track record of the foreign researcher and the host laboratory

The aim of LE STUDIUM® programme is to attract, into region Centre, high-level senior researcher. Thus, track record of both the host scientist and foreign researcher, including experience, awards and achievements, is evaluated for the selection of funded projects.

2-3 Lasting relationships between fellows and their host laboratory

An objective of LE STUDIUM® programme is the development of a lasting scientific relationship between the research fellow and the host laboratory. The researcher's period of residency should enable the development of a sustainable international collaboration between the research fellow and host laboratory.

3- THE PROGRAMMES

3-1 LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CHAIR

LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CHAIR is intended to attract an outstanding foreign researcher, with the aim of strengthening and developing a scientific sector in region Centre. One Chair can be awarded each year. The Chair is a six months position open during the academic year 2016-2017 between 1st September 2016 and 30th June 2017.

Although based in the laboratory of the host scientist, they are expected to interact during their residency with several laboratories, including private laboratories, of region Centre (at least three laboratories should be involved). The duties of the STUDIUM® RESEARCH CHAIR holder therefore will be equally split between two components: a mission of general interest for which the three (or more) laboratories have invited the Chair and an active research partnership with region Centre researcher(s) or enterprise(s).

The host scientist must belong to one of the laboratories in region Centre.

OBJECTIVES

- a critical analysis of the operation and organization of a scientific sector with recommendations for its development;
- contribution to consolidating an emerging domain of research and teaching;
- organisation of a set of conferences, workshops or summer schools with an unifying goal;
- contribution to the evolution of a master programme.

3-2 LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP is intended to attract an outstanding foreign researcher for a cumulative 12-month period with residence in region Centre for three months each year for four consecutive years. One Professorship can be awarded each year. This Professorship is open during the academic years 2016-2019 between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2019.

The explicit objective of the Professorship is that after 4 years the output should consist of visible outcomes for the host laboratory research teams or a number of laboratories. The outcomes should be related to research and teaching activities at a high level. Therefore, the proposal involving several laboratories, including private laboratories, and/or several teams within one laboratory (eg at least three teams belonging to the same laboratory or at least two different laboratories), should define a unique mission. The duties of the Professorship holder should be of common interest for the development of the laboratories, teams or enterprise(s) involved and should have an international dimension. Achievements at the end of the Professorship should consist of a significant, measurable and sustainable evolution of the research activity of the laboratories, the teams or enterprise(s) involved.

The host scientist must belong to one of the laboratories in region Centre.

OBJECTIVES

- introduction of a new research activity complementary to those of the teams/laboratories involved in the project,
- contribution to consolidating an emerging domain of research and teaching,

LE STUDIUM® organisation of a set of conferences, workshops or summer schools with a unifying goal.

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3-3 LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (Laboratory or External applications)

LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP is designed to attract internationally competitive researchers for at least one year. Eight to ten positions are available each year. All laboratories of the region Centre and enterprises are eligible to submit a *laboratory* scientific proposal that must NOT identify a candidate. Alternatively, *external* applicants that have negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise can submit an application.

OBJECTIVES

- 12 months residency to lead a collaborative research project,
- integration in the international research community in region Centre,
- involvement in the scientific animation led by LE STUDIUM® to favor transdisciplinary exchanges,
- creation a long lasting link between the foreign researcher and the host laboratory.

3-4 LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CONSORTIUM is a proposal that includes one researcher or research team from a laboratory in the region Centre and four foreign researchers. Two consortia can be awarded each year. A consortium proposal can be submitted by a research scientist, an SME enterprise or a former LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOW with active collaboration with a laboratory, in region Centre.

LE STUDIUM® provides the financial and logistic support to allow this team of 5 researchers to meet for one week, twice a year, in region Centre. Additional partners are permitted if they are supported by other financial sources, which should be mentioned in the application. In order to facilitate the relations of the consortium with LE STUDIUM®, its Scientific Director or an appointed delegate participates in the opening and concluding sessions of each one-week meeting.

LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CONSORTIUM programme offers the opportunity to create a team of up to five internationally competitive senior researchers, public or private, sharing a common and clearly identified research objective. The consortium must provide an interim report at the end of the first year explaining the outcomes, to date, of the project in the context of the original proposal and outline the plan of the second year.

OBJECTIVES

- Creation of a team of up to five internationally competitive senior researchers, public or private, sharing a clearly identified research objective,
- opportunity to achieve a common goal such as, but not exclusively, organize an international conference, build a H2020 application, write a book chapter, build a market strategy, etc...
- better understanding of the expertise of each partner and his research team in order to build future collaborative research projects.

4- REVIEW OF THE APPLICATIONS

4-1 Eligibility criteria

These programmes are intended to attract senior foreign researchers that are in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least five but preferably 10 years of full time equivalent research experience.

These programmes are open to attract non-French and non-resident researchers with the ability to accept a fellowship award for the time specified for each award programme.

The awarded researchers must be:

- Non-French citizens and non-French residents;
- Senior researchers with a post-doctoral experience of at least 5 years but preferably 10 years;
- Researchers who will add value to research, development and innovation to the region Centre.

4-2 Evaluation criteria

The Scientific Committee follows three criteria to evaluate applications, the scientific quality, significance and/or innovation of the proposed research and also takes into consideration the presented experience, including achievements and awards within a diversified career path, of the host scientist/partners and where appropriate named candidates:

- 1. Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility and compliance with the ethical principles of H2020.
- 2. Significance and/or Innovation (25%)** – This includes the demonstrated skill and ability of the researcher to increase with her/his proposal; knowledge, 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. Track Record (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 applicants' 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 enterprise partners. Experience of inter-sectorial and/or transnational mobility, as well as experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, management experience and team building experience, experience of transfer of technology and training will also be considered.

The private sector is 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 may include:

- Industrial experience of the candidate;
- A candidates capacity for innovation;

- Scientific quality of the research proposal;
- Potential market impact of the proposal;
- Opportunity for the enterprise to achieve a technological advantage.

4-3 Evaluation process

The policies and procedures of LE STUDIUM® comply with to the “European Charter for Researchers” and to the “Code of Recruitment for Researcher”.

After the campaign closing date, LE STUDIUM® team performs an administrative check to ensure each application conforms to the submission format guidelines and that all necessary documents are complete and signed. Then a list of eligible applications is sent to the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and two spokespersons are assigned to each application.

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

- **LE STUDIUM®** ensures that the global administration and management of the evaluation process is respecting set criteria for the scientific review, including non-discrimination and conflict of interest rules.
- **External reviewers** are invited to provide an independent, expert assessment of the scientific content of the application based on the selection criteria. Three reviewers, screened for conflict of interest, are invited to evaluate each submitted application.
- **Scientific Committee** is composed of at least ten members from both public and private sectors, including researchers from the Americas and Europe. Membership is based on scientific credentials and track record and approved by the president of LE STUDIUM®. It is a committee of eminent scientists, displaying the appropriate mix of scientific and personal experience in evaluating applications. Gradually and on a regular basis the Scientific Committee membership is renewed in order to maintain continuity and guarantee independence. This committee, with the assistance of external expert reviewers, provides an independent, impartial and fair scientific assessment of applications.

The external evaluations are made available to the assigned spokespersons among the Scientific Committee members. During the Scientific Committee meeting, the spokesperson summarizes the applicant’s case, for which she/he is responsible, including issues raised by the external reviewers. The spokespersons for each application lead discussion to allow the Scientific Committee to arrive at a recommendation on whether to fund a proposal.

The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee does not review proposals. The Chairperson ensures that fair and equitable consideration is given to every application during the deliberations of the scientific committees.

5- GENERAL PROVISIONS AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF THE AWARD (EXCEPT LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CONSORTIUM)

5-1 Notification

After the meeting of the Scientific Council, a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify the awarded applicants. After notification, applicants have one month to confirm their acceptance of the award.

After all awards have been accepted, applicants not awarded will receive a report providing feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their proposal.

5-2 Recruitment of the fellow (only for LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOW Laboratory applications)

For the laboratory applications, applicants propose projects without a nominated foreign researcher.

After the host scientist accepts the fellowship award, a recruitment phase will be initiated in collaboration with the host scientist and the Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM®.

First, a description of the mission and researcher profile for the fellowship and the position entitlements are written in order to launch an international call for applicants. This call is disseminated *via* the various international networks of LE STUDIUM® and advertised on a series of dedicated research websites.

The call for applications is closed after a period agreed between the host scientist and LE STUDIUM®. If necessary, the host scientist and the Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM® examine the candidatures to select a shortlist of candidates for further consideration. An evaluation is made by 2 members of the Scientific Council of LE STUDIUM® and two reviewers selected by the host scientist and Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM®. The host scientist and the Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM® make the final choice of the selected candidate(s). Following a meeting to discuss the candidacies and the evaluations one or more candidates are invited for a videoconference audition and research presentation. If the invitation is declined without adequate explanation then the candidate is eliminated.

5-3 Preparation for the fellows' reception

After recruitment of a candidate or an award to an application type with a named researcher has been accepted, the host scientist is invited for a meeting with the Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM® to discuss the modalities of the fellow's arrival and more particularly to precisely define the time window for the arrival. Then a letter of offer is sent to the fellow with the conditions of the future work contract.

Following acceptance of the offer by the candidate, LE STUDIUM® team takes in charge all the administrative tasks for the fellow's arrival (visa, residence permit, registration to social agencies, medical coverage, school for children, diverse activities,...). Likewise accommodation is prepared to welcome the fellow and her/his family.

5-4 Welcome of the fellow

Upon her/his arrival, the fellow and her/his family are welcomed by a member of LE STUDIUM® team, who introduces them to their apartment and answers any practical question.

In addition, the fellow and host scientist will be invited for a scientific discussion with the Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM®.

5-5 Contractual Obligations during residency

LE STUDIUM® programme awards are partnerships awards with mutual obligations between the host laboratory, researcher in residence and LE STUDIUM®. LE STUDIUM® researcher, the host scientist and his research team are invited to participate in the scientific life of LE STUDIUM® international research community, in particular by attending the monthly LE STUDIUM® THURSDAY interdisciplinary meetings and by organizing a two-day LE STUDIUM® CONFERENCE, with the logistic support and partial financial support of LE STUDIUM®, during the time of the residency in region Centre. The host laboratory commits to concretely participate to the fundraising and funding of the conference.

At the end of the project, LE STUDIUM® researcher is asked to produce a final report explaining the outcomes of the project in the context of the original proposal. This report is made publicly available on LE STUDIUM® website and printed publications and circulated to interested parties.

6- GENERAL PROVISIONS AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF THE AWARD (FOR LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH CONSORTIUM)

6-1 Notification

After the meeting of the Scientific Council, a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify the awarded applicants. After notification, applicants have one month to confirm their acceptance of the award.

Applicants not awarded will receive a report providing feedback on the strengths and weakness of their proposal.

6-2 Preparation of the first meeting

After acceptance, the coordinator of the Consortium will be invited for a scientific meeting with the Scientific Director of LE STUDIUM®. The objectives are:

- To discuss the scientific mission of the consortium;
- To define the scientific programme of the first meeting and agree on timing.

6-3 Logistics for each meeting

LE STUDIUM® team manages the logistics related to the meeting venue, meals, accommodation and travel arrangements for their visit in region Centre (travel bookings, visas...).

The week event is fully funded by LE STUDIUM within a capped budget envelop.

The venue and materials necessary for the best outcome for the Consortium's week of activities is the goal of LE STUDIUM®.

6-4 Contractual obligations during the Consortium period

After first and third Consortium meeting, the regional host scientist must provide a brief report (3 pages maximum) to summarize the meeting.

After the second meeting, an interim report must be provided and at the end of the consortium the partners are asked to produce a final report explaining the outcomes of the project in the context of the

original proposal. This report will be publicly available on LE STUDIUM® website and printed publications and circulated to interested parties.

7- SCIENTIFIC ANIMATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REGIONAL RESEARCHERS AND LABORATORIES, AND FOR LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOWS

All awards include scientific animation led by LE STUDIUM® to provide interdisciplinary exchanges and establishment of new collaborations.

This scientific animation declines in different formats described hereafter. Fellows, their host scientist and the members of the host laboratories and foreign researchers present in the region Centre universities and research structures, public and private, are invited to attend these events.

7-1 LE STUDIUM® CONFERENCE

Each research fellow has the opportunity to organise one international conference called **LE STUDIUM® CONFERENCE**. These two-day international conferences are co-organised by the resident researchers, their host laboratories and LE STUDIUM®, which is providing scientific and logistic support as well as partial financing.

The theme of these two-day conferences is directly related to a fellow's research topic. Fellows are asked to demonstrate their originality in design, bringing together complementary approaches generally not covered in conventional conferences, in order to develop new skills, adopt a differentiated position while communicating. They involve up to 16 invited guest speakers with at least half being foreign delegates and about 40 additional attendees. Several hundred foreign researchers are welcomed each year in region Centre (mainly in Orleans and Tours), to enrich the complementarities and interactions within LE STUDIUM® network of fellows, creating international links, leading to career opportunities, for research fellows and research areas.

7-2 LE STUDIUM® THURSDAY

LE STUDIUM® animates the international community of researchers through regular monthly meetings called **LE STUDIUM® THURSDAYS**. Each THURSDAY addresses a scientific topic of LE STUDIUM fellow's 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 the field of the topic, should understand them. These meetings encourage interdisciplinary exchanges, with the goal of germinating original scientific projects among researchers. They help the fellows to deepen their communication skills within their discipline with other researchers and contribute to strengthen LE STUDIUM® community of international research scholars. LE STUDIUM® encourages its community of researchers to return to the "universal" scientific man, as spoken of during the Renaissance period, especially in the Loire Valley where attracting international "talent" prevailed and was typified by Leonardo de Vinci.

Regional political or scientific personalities, on occasion, are invited to exchange with the LE STUDIUM® RESEARCHERS to bring a better understanding of the region Centre.

7-3 LE STUDIUM® WORKSHOPS

This format involves one to four days of exchange and reflection with a common objective such as structuring research projects, discussing a line of research or transferring knowledge and technology.

7-4 RENCONTRE LEONARDO Meetings

These are general public conferences targeting audiences with mixed interests and expertise, which highlight and discuss the challenges of research in region Centre, including those challenges linked to the socio-economic world.

8- PROCESS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

8-1 Content of the application

The application form consists of four specific sections linked to the research proposal: 1) background, 2) scientific objectives, 3) research plan and 4) outcomes and significance. The combined maximum of these four sections is 10 pages.

1. Background: describe the importance of the scientific matter and any other relevant material.
2. Scientific objectives: describe the specific aims and objectives of the project, including a clear statement of the hypotheses to be tested.
3. Research Plan: describe methods and techniques to be used and the research plan, including as appropriate:
 - Description of the experiment design
 - Techniques to be used
 - Methods including statistical analysis
 - Project risk management.
4. Outcomes and Significance: the planned outcome and potential significance of the research. This includes the potential to increase knowledge, or the application of new ideas, procedures, technologies, programmes or policy settings that will impact the proposed area of research, as well as potentially impact on enterprises or government decision-making and have positive socio-economic impact.

The submitted application must include all the necessary documents for the scientific and technical evaluation of the proposal. It must be submitted before the closing date and time, of the call for proposals, stated on page 1 of the application.

For each proposal the form for signatures has to be complete and joined to the submission.

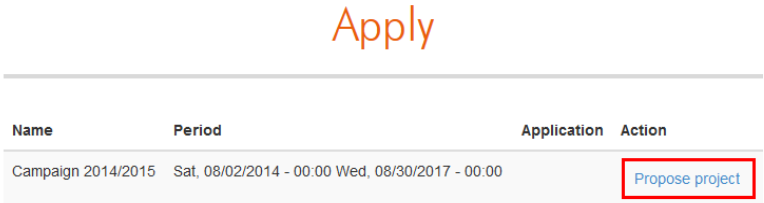
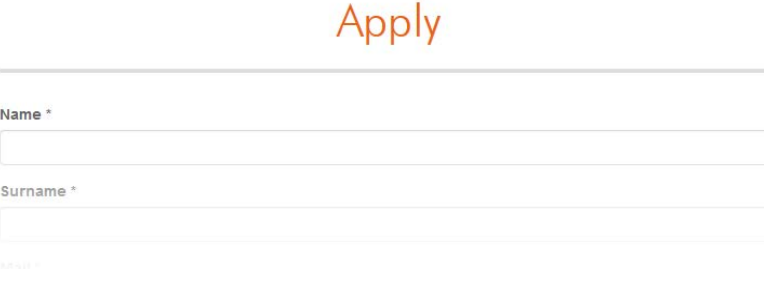

For the external application, a resume of the candidate has to be attached to the proposal.

It is necessary to provide scientific and technical documents in English for the external reviewers and the international Scientific Committee.

8-2 Submission

Proposals must be submitted online on the website of LE STUDIUM®. Hereafter, are described the main steps for the online submission.

Go to the website at this address www.lestudium-ias.fr and in the menu **PROGRAMS** select the one you'd like then click on **APPLY** and follow these steps:

<p>1) Click on the “Apply” tab and click on “Propose a project” under the current campaign www.lestudium-ias.fr/apply</p>	
<p>2) Fill out the registration form. After you've submitted this form, LE STUDIUM® needs to validate your account. You will receive an email with instructions on how to proceed.</p>	
<p>3) Follow the emailed instructions then click and complete My Profile (1) and Projects (2) application form (this can be time consuming but you will be able to save your document and return later) www.lestudium-ias.fr/user</p>	

8-3 Advices for the submission

It is strongly recommended to:

- Register on the LE STUDIUM® website at the earliest after the call for projects;
- Not wait until the deadline for submission of your application;
- Contact, if necessary, by e-mail one of the correspondents listed on page 1 of this document.

9- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why a foreign researcher would apply to this call for applications?

- Foreign researchers who want to come to a laboratory for a long stay residency in region Centre;

Who can submit an application to this call for applications?

- Researchers in region Centre from public (Universities, BRGM, CEA, CNRS, INRA, Inserm) or private laboratories (particularly SMEs) who want to attract foreign researchers;
- Any Foreign Researcher (non-French and non-France resident) who wants to come for a scientific residency in region Centre having identified a host laboratory in region Centre agreeing to welcome her/him.

Can an applicant or an awarded fellow negotiate a shorter duration of stay in region Centre?

- Shorter time duration of the programme awards is not negotiable.

Are there specific beginning and end dates for the awards or are any dates suitable as long as they occur during a specified time period?

- The Scientific Council meets in June of each year to recommend awards. LE STUDIUM® must receive a signed letter of offer of an award to a foreign researcher within 12 months of the meeting of the Scientific Council. The foreign researcher, laboratory host scientist and LE STUDIUM® must negotiate a starting date for the researcher within two years of the Scientific Council recommending the award been made.

Would the foreign researcher have teaching responsibilities?

- Teaching responsibilities are negotiated with the host laboratory.

Does the award include research expenses for the laboratory and awardee to conduct collaborative research?

- None of the LE STUDIUM® awards cover the laboratory operating costs of the host laboratory for the incoming researcher.

How does the award benefit the host laboratory and host laboratory scientist?

- All LE STUDIUM® awards are considered partnering awards with the incoming researcher, the host laboratory scientist and their team. LE STUDIUM® scientific animation is an integral part of the award to the host laboratory scientist and their team.

Should I submit a laboratory or external fellowship application?

- The decision, which application pathway to select, is totally the applicants' decision. A careful reading of the application guidelines may help you make the most appropriate choice.

Do the signature pages for each application need to have all the signatures or can separate pages have individual's signatures.

- Separate signature pages can be signed by the respective signatories and sent as a pdf to the registered online applicant to upload the pages.

Can a LE STUDIUM Fellowship be extended beyond 12 months?

- To extend a fellowship beyond one year duration, the host laboratory scientist must request an "Exceptional request to extend" form from LE STUDIUM®. With funding contribution by the host laboratory the fellowship may be extended for a maximum of 6 months.