

Call for projects GATES@UGA PhD Year 2027

Project submission deadline: December 8, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Application submission website: [DEPOSIBUS](#)

Context and objectives

The purpose of the University Grenoble Alpes (UGA) GATES@UGA PhD 2027 call for projects is to strengthen links between UGA and the European research infrastructures based in Grenoble through the co-funding of doctoral projects and the funding of paired (“mirror”) PhD projects. This call for projects was prepared by UGA’s Vice-President for Research and Innovation.

The European research infrastructures covered by this call are:

- European Molecular Biology Laboratory, EMBL,
- European Magnetic Field Laboratory, EMFL,
- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, ESRF,
- Institut Laue Langevin, ILL,
- Institut de Radio-Astronomie Millimétrique, IRAM.

Involving an international partner other than the European research infrastructures listed above in the projects is encouraged.

Progress of the collaboration:

European research infrastructure	Target: number of PhD projects funded through collaboration between UGA and the European research infrastructure, 2022–2032	Achieved: number of funded PhD projects involving collaboration between UGA and the European research infrastructure, 2022 to date
ESRF	25	13
EMBL	9	4
ILL	25	14
IRAM	5	2
EMFL	7	4

Timeline of the call

- Call published: 21 October 2026
- Submission website opens: 21 October 2026
- Submission deadline: 8 December 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
- Results announced: April 2027

Eligibility

This call for projects is open to the entire scientific and academic community (researchers, teacher-researchers, and equivalents), without any restriction on discipline or methodology. The project leadership must necessarily be composed of:

- A permanent active member (researcher, teacher-researcher, or research engineer holding a PhD) of a UGA research unit. Members of the research poles' boards, the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation, and emeritus researchers or teacher-researchers cannot be co-applicants for a project. Structures such as federations or platforms are also ineligible to submit a project
- A member of the partner European research infrastructure (any personnel employed by the European research infrastructure).

A co-applicant may submit only one project as part of this call

Coordination with the other funding schemes

A co-applicant cannot simultaneously submit an identical project to other UGA doctoral contract funding schemes (Doctoral contracts for exploratory and emerging projects, LabEx, EUR). **All the site's calls for projects are now visible on a single web page, which you can find [HERE](#).**

Contacts

General inquiries: dgdriv-aap-recherche@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Regarding the scientific design of projects, please contact:

Research divisions:

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

Instituts de recherche technologique du CEA : pascal.mailley@cea.fr

Partner European research infrastructures:

EMBL: kristina.djinovic@embl.org

EMFL: anne-laure.barra@lncmi.cnrs.fr ; rolf.lortz@lncmi.cnrs.fr

ESRF: paolasini@esrf.fr ; gema.martinez@esrf.fr ; krisch@esrf.fr

ILL: fouquet@ill.fr ; jestin@ill.fr

IRAM: schuster@iram.fr

Objectives and procedures of the call

Objective	To strengthen links between UGA and the European research infrastructures based in Grenoble through the funding of PhD projects.
Funding	- Co-funded PhD: the doctoral contract is funded 50% by UGA and 50% by the partner European research infrastructure. - Mirror PhDs: two PhD projects, one PhD is funded by UGA and the other by the partner European research infrastructure.
Specific Conditions	Co-funded PhDs: the PhD projects will be co-supervised by a member of a UGA research unit and a member of the European research infrastructure, with equal involvement (50/50). <i>Member of the European research infrastructure</i> means any staff member employed by that infrastructure. Mirror PhDs: one PhD project will be supervised by a member of a UGA research unit, paired with a PhD project supervised by a member of the partner European research infrastructure. One doctoral contract will be funded by UGA and the other by the partner European research infrastructure. Joint supervision of the paired PhD project by the UGA supervisor(s) and the partner's supervisor(s) is recommended but not mandatory. The two paired PhD projects must contribute in a coordinated manner to the same scientific project. Applicants wishing to submit a project for funding paired ("mirror") PhD projects should contact the management of the relevant European research infrastructure when preparing the proposal.
Evaluation criteria	- <u>Project strength:</u> originality beyond the national and international state of the art; scientific and/or technological ambition of the objectives; relevance and added value of the collaboration for UGA and the partner European research infrastructure. - <u>Feasibility:</u> suitability of human and methodological resources for the project objectives; risk analysis and mitigation; complementarity of the consortium; consistency between the doctoral research project and the overall project. - <u>Impact:</u> significance of the expected results in relation to the state of the art; dissemination strategy; contribution to the development of scientific knowledge and technological innovation within UGA and the partner European research infrastructure; strengthening the potential for joint national or European project submissions. The intended doctoral school will be asked to provide an opinion on the quality of doctoral supervision and the suitability of the PhD topic for the school's research areas.

General procedures

➤ Project affiliation

- A project must be submitted to the research pole corresponding to its main theme, regardless of the laboratory's primary pole affiliation.
- If applicable, a secondary pole may be indicated. Please note that affiliation with two poles must involve a genuine added value in terms of advancing knowledge for both poles involved, beyond mere methodological or technical involvement.
- The endorsement (visa) of the project's laboratory director is mandatory. No quota per laboratory is imposed.

➤ PhD supervision

- The recruitment of doctoral students and, more generally, all procedures necessary for the progress of the collaboration will be carried out according to the rules and modalities defined in the existing agreements between UGA and the partners.
- The PhD supervisor, or one of the two co-supervisors for the thesis funded under this call, must hold an accreditation to supervise research (HDR) and must be affiliated with a UGA Doctoral School.
- The PhD must start before December 31, 2027.
- The recruitment of doctoral students must be carried out in coordination with the relevant Doctoral School. The recruitment procedure (drafting and dissemination of the job description, description of working conditions, pre-selection, and then interviews) will be defined by the future supervisors and then validated by the Doctoral School. The process must involve, across its various phases, individuals experienced in PhD supervision and in the international recruitment of doctoral students. Therefore, it is not necessary to identify a candidate at the time of project submission.
- The target Doctoral School will be consulted regarding (1) the number of ongoing PhDs supervised by the prospective supervisor(s); (2) the number of funded PhDs supervised by the prospective supervisor(s) that started more than 4 years ago and have not yet been defended. This inventory will cover a period of 10 years or, failing that, since the recruitment of the prospective supervisor(s).
- Before submitting the project, each potential PhD supervisor will ensure with their affiliated Doctoral School that they comply with the current rules regarding supervision rates within the internal regulations of the Doctoral College.

➤ Additional criteria

- In the event of a second submission of the same project, the evaluations from the previous year will be taken into account, in addition to those of the current year and the description of the modifications made to the submitted project.
- As part of UGA's environmental policy, each project leader will explain how the potential impacts of their project on the environment will be limited.
- The strategy for the dissemination and valorization of results will be taken into account, particularly regarding the choice of national or international conferences, and national and international peer-reviewed journals indexed in international databases. Furthermore, the deposition of articles and written manuscripts in an open database (such as HAL or arXiv) will be mandatory.
- In order to ensure the equitable treatment of applications, the project description must be strictly limited to the recommended number of pages. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the ineligibility of the proposal.
- Regarding EMBL, projects will aim to strengthen UGA-EMBL collaborations in the fields of epigenetics, infectiology, and the research of new drugs.

➤ Evaluation and selection procedure

- The selection procedure follows [UGA's ethical guidelines for project calls](#), particularly regarding conflicts of interest.
- A declaration of interest from the members of the selection committees will be requested. All committee and board members are required to comply with the rules regarding confidentiality and ethics.
- The various bodies in charge of evaluation and selection are indicated below:

Committee	Consultative body	Decision-making body
Ad-hoc committees by partner	Extended Vice Presidency for Research & Innovation	Expanded Board (Directoire UGA élargi) and the Management of the European Research Infrastructure

- Committee: ad-hoc committees (by partner):

Scientific projects will be reviewed by the research poles and the involved European research infrastructure. These evaluations will be forwarded to a specific ad-hoc committee, composed equally of representatives from UGA and the partner. Co-applicants of projects submitted with the ESRF will be interviewed by the ad-hoc selection committee. Each committee will develop a project selection proposal. The composition of these various committees will be communicated before January 25, 2027.

- Consultative body: the expanded Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation

The expanded Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation of UGA ensures the proper conduct of the committee's work and takes into account the institution's policy and strategy elements. It provides an opinion on the proposals for projects selected for funding.

- Decision-making body: the expanded UGA Board and the Management of the European research infrastructure

The Management of the European research infrastructure validates the project selection proposal. The expanded UGA Board labels the projects and validates the allocation of resources. It is the guarantor of compliance with the institution's policy and strategy. If necessary, it issues recommendations on certain projects.

➤ Feedback to applicants

- For each project, each committee will appoint a rapporteur from among its members to draft a summary of the evaluations, which will be sent to the applicant. Each applicant may request a meeting with a member of the pole's board to discuss their file.
- A report on the work across all mechanisms of the call for projects is sent to the applicants. This note is made public. It notably includes the conduct of the committees' work: selected projects, the deliberation process, and the arbitration method.

Submission of proposals

Applications must be submitted electronically, on time, complete, and in the required format through the [DEPOSIBUS](#) platform. Proposals must be written in English.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Mandatory documents to be attached to the file (Calibri 11 pt font or equivalent, single spacing):

As a reminder, the list of references is not included in the page count indicated for each document.

- Project summary,
- Project description,

- List of personnel involved in the project,
- Project submission certificate signed by the UGA Laboratory Director,
- Commitment certificate from the partner European research infrastructure,
- List of active funding for co-applicants,
- CVs of co-applicants and PhD supervisors/co-supervisors if they differ from the co-applicants (1 single document – maximum 2 pages per co-applicant/supervisor/co-supervisor).