

PASTEUR JOINT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT (PIU)

BACKGROUND

One of the purposes of the Institut Pasteur is to tackle major scientific and health challenges of today's world by implementing and leading ambitious research programs. To implement its scientific strategy and strengthen rewarding partnerships with leading scientific institutions, including institutes from the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN), the Institut Pasteur (IP) will support the creation of Pasteur Joint International Research Units (PIU).

A PIU is scheduled over 5 years and aims at strengthening the relations between the Institut Pasteur and other international research institution(s) on innovative research topics. The support of these partnerships, between research entities, should improve their visibility and, consequently, the possibilities to apply for substantial grants.

This PIU 2021 international call for applications will support the creation of **new PIUs**. Co-applicants, should be supported by their host institution or university. If the partners are IPIN members, the project should be preferably in line with the scientific strategy of the Network (attached document).

WHAT IS A PIU?

A Pasteur International Joint Research Unit (PIU) is a "Virtual Unit" created for 5 years and brings together up to three research teams whereof at least one belongs to the Institut Pasteur or their affiliated institutes (IP Guyane, IP Guadeloupe, IP Nouvelle-Calédonie) and an international research institute or University. A PIU is co-hosted by all its partners Institutions.

Each partner team remains fully affiliated to their mother-institution and will jointly assume the scientific responsibility of the PIU through a group leader identified in the team, named coordinator. Each PIU partner is financed by its own institution with an equal annual funding of 15K€.

The PIU candidates should pool their complementary skills and expertise to develop an innovative research programme, enabling them to work together to raise additional funds in order to strengthen the links between partner institutions and offer new opportunities of collaborations.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligibility

Any team/unit/laboratory from universities and research institutes (outside of France), as well as those within the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN) included.

It is expected that the mandate of the coordinators will cover the entire lifespan of the projected PIU.

Each application must be supported by the director or scientific director of each partner institution, including the Institut Pasteur, who will engage their institute/university to co-fund the PIU, in the event of selection. For the three IP affiliated institutes (IP Guyane, IP Guadeloupe and IP Nouvelle-Calédonie), additional support from their director will also be needed, in addition to the support of the director or scientific director of the Institut Pasteur.

Eligible costs:

The PIU budget can be used to cover mobilities between the partners, scientific communications, consumables, technical services and small equipment (max. 2000 €). Management costs are not eligible

Selection criteria

The applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Quality and scientific impact of the project
 - *relevance for the partner institutions*
 - *scientific impact of the general objective and relevance to the regional and global health priorities*
 - *Quality of the scientific plan*
 - *Clear and reachable outcomes*
 - *Technology transfer, exchange between partners*
- Sustainability
 - Is the proposed project sustainable to attract new funds ?*
 - Will the PIU promote cooperation with local, regional and international teaching and research institutions?*
- Support of the directors of the partner institutes (IP included);
 - Is the project considered as a priority for each partner institution?*
- Adequacy/Complementarity of the teams

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS – APPLICATION FORM

Applications must be written in English, using the attached forms, and submitted no later than June 18th, 2021.

The document must be sent as an attached pdf. file to the following email address: marianne.lucas-hourani@pasteur.fr. The file should be named as follows: “Name of the Institute-Name of the PIU_2021”.

Incomplete or paper-based applications will not be considered.

When deemed necessary, the Institut Pasteur reserves the right to ask candidates for additional information in order to evaluate their application.

Candidates must not submit information within their application that is confidential and/or protected by the intellectual property rights of third parties, and may contravene any rights of third parties.

SELECTION PROCESS

The department of International Affairs of the Institut Pasteur (DI) is in charge of the PIU selection process.

Each application will be reviewed by two (2) scientists from a dedicated expert panel. The final decision on selection (and financing of the IP parties) will be made by ranking of the received applications during the panel meeting and confirmed by the executive management. Candidates will be notified in due course.

FOLLOW UP PROCESS

The Department of International Affairs - Institut Pasteur (DI) is responsible of the PIU follow-up process.

Progress of the research activities conducted by the PIU-partners as well as their capacity to drain funds will be evaluated by the DI and the expert panel at regular intervals:

- A short update at year 1, 2 and 4
- A detailed full report (scientific and financial) at year 3.
- A final full report at year 5.

At year 3 and 5 the expert panel will conduct a thorough review on the activity of the PIU. The expert panel will give feedback to the coordinators of the PIU and the corresponding directors of the partner institutes, on the progress. These reviews will enable recommendations on further continuation of the PIU.