

To strengthen the visibility and impact of research at the European level, the Universities of Orléans and Tours, together with CNRS and INSA Centre-Val de Loire, created the **CMER** with the financial support of the Centre-Val de Loire Regional Council.

Support for Researchers – Partnership Opportunities

CMER assists researchers from CNRS, the Universities of Orléans and Tours, and INSA Centre-Val de Loire by providing:

- Guidance on joining European research networks and consortia;
- Identification of suitable Horizon Europe and other EU funding opportunities;
- Partner search and consortium-building support;
- Advice throughout the proposal preparation process;
- Administrative and budgetary assistance;
- Support with drafting governance and implementation sections;
- Assistance with impact strategy development through specialised consultancy support.

CMER also supports incoming researchers and facilitates collaborations between external institutions and the Centre-Val de Loire research community.

Project Support Across 8 Key Stages

1. Individual consultation meetings
2. Identification of funding opportunities
3. Partner search and consortium liaison
4. Administrative and budgetary management
5. Project structuring
6. Proposal proofreading and editing

7. Proposal submission
8. Contract preparation and project handover

Objective

Our goal is to maximise researchers' chances of success in European funding programmes by providing personalised guidance and comprehensive project support at every stage of the application process, while facilitating the integration of incoming researchers and strengthening collaborative projects within the Centre-Val de Loire research ecosystem.

<https://cellule-europe-recherche-centre.fr/>

LE STUDIUM

Loire Valley
Institute for Advanced Studies

The LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies is a multidisciplinary institute whose mission is to promote the internationalisation of research in the Centre-Val de Loire region. The institute proposes and implements innovative programmes to foster scientific exchange and stimulate fundamental research on an international scale. In collaboration with all regional academic partners and research organisations, LE STUDIUM welcomes high-level international talents for long-term stays in a multidisciplinary environment of excellence.

As part of its flagship mobility programme, the Smart Loire Valley Programme, the regional Ambition Research and Development programmes, and its partnerships with the European universities ATHENA and NEOLAIA and the MSH Val de Loire, LE STUDIUM organises scientific events (conferences, workshops, consortia, expert days, etc.) to strengthen collaborations, extend networks, and share scientific knowledge. LE STUDIUM also explores research

ecosystems of interest abroad with a view to networking and developing new projects.

Its diversified portfolio of themes and actions offers an open vision of the world and science, and international exchange, creating opportunities for long-term stays in the Centre-Val de Loire region and fostering lasting scientific collaborations and partnerships.

<https://www.lestudium-ias.com/fr>



Ambition Centre-Loire Valley

Winter School



The CNRS, the University of Orléans, the INSA Centre Val de Loire and the University of Tours, through their joint project « Ambition Centre Val-de-Loire » (ACVL), are offering fellowships for promising young researchers - of any nationality - who are applying to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA PF) 2025 Call, for a research postdoctoral project hosted by this establishment (France).

This fellowship consists of a 1 week visit of our institution fully covering transport, accommodation, meals.

This week will be divided between presentations on European funding opportunities, working sessions, and tourist visits to the Loire Valley castles.



Centre-Val de Loire Regional Council

Programme PAAC

Projects submitted to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA PF) programme that were not funded due to budget constraints despite obtaining an

evaluation score above 85/100 and being awarded the “Seal of Excellence”, may be eligible for regional funding opportunities. The Centre-Val de Loire Regional Council will provide funding, up to €80,000, to support Marie MSCA PF Seal of Excellence proposals, provided that applicants have submitted a research project developed in collaboration with a supervisor affiliated with a regional host institution.

<https://www.centre-valdeloire.fr/>



Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

AMORCE Program, incoming researchers and collaboration tools

The AMORCE programme supports researchers and faculty members affiliated with CNRS research units who plan to coordinate collaborative Horizon Europe projects. Eligible schemes include ERC Synergy Grants, MSCA Doctoral Networks and Staff Exchanges, Infrastructure projects, Pillar II collaborations, EIC projects, and Widening or COST initiatives. Funding ranges from €5,000 to €10,000 depending on the project type, with priority given to proposals involving international partners. Eligible expenses include consortium-building activities (travel, networking, proposal meetings) as well as professional support for proposal formatting, translation, and proofreading.

https://international.cnrs.fr/actualite/appel_projets_amorce_2026/

CNRS also provides tailored support for incoming scientists through scientific proposal reviews, ERC interview training, and mentoring by successful applicants. Researchers can

also benefit from CNRS international collaboration frameworks such as **IRN (International Research Networks)** to build scientific communities, **IRP (International Research Projects)** to support structured bilateral collaborations, and **IRL (International Research Laboratories)** for long-term joint research structures abroad, fostering durable partnerships and international mobility opportunities linked to the Centre-Val de Loire research ecosystem.

<https://international.cnrs.fr/en/cooperer-a-l-international/>



European university NEOLAIA

Research Collaboration Support Fund/ Visiting Researchers Program

In May 2026, the University of Tours launched two new calls for proposals focused on European mobility and research collaboration within the framework of the NEOLAIA alliance, supported by the France 2030 investment plan.

The first call, the NEOLAIA Research Collaboration Support Fund, targets researchers affiliated with Université de Tours, including early-career researchers, doctoral candidates, and academic staff. It aims to support incoming and outgoing mobility opportunities (up to €20,000), including within the context of joint or co-supervised doctoral theses.

<https://www.univ-tours.fr/neolaia/opportunites-pour-les-personnels/neolaia-fonds-de-soutien-aux-collaborations-de-recherche>

The second call, the Visiting Researchers Program, implemented in partnership with Le Studium, is aimed at

established researchers (PhD > 3 years), providing funding for research stays of 3 to 9 months within a research unit at Université de Tours. Both calls will support projects carried out between 1 August 2026 and 31 October 2027 and are open to all academic disciplines.

<https://www.lestudium-ias.com/recruitment/neolaia-visiting-researchers-programme-2026>



The Insect Biology Research Institute

Incoming Researchers and Research Collaborations Support

IRBI actively supports potential incoming researchers and international collaborators through dedicated networking, visibility, and mentoring opportunities. Our seminar programme, Kikikose, is designed to help future CNRS applicants, post-doctoral fellows, and international partners discover our research environment, meet IRBI members, visit our infrastructures, present their work, and explore future collaborations.

To strengthen applications and facilitate integration into the French research ecosystem, IRBI also offers a personalised and tailored support process for candidates applying to CNRS researcher positions, as well as for prospective PhD students and post-doctoral fellows, helping them identify funding opportunities, prepare competitive applications, and build strong scientific connections within our laboratory and the wider Centre-Val de Loire research community

<https://irbi.univ-tours.fr/>