

## SMART LOIRE VALLEY (SLV) Programme

### Call for applications and guidelines: campaign 2021

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (17:00 – CET Paris time)



*“After all, science is essentially international, and it is only through lack of the historical sense that national qualities have been attributed to it.”*

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie,**

Double Nobel Prize winning Polish-French scientist famed for her work on radioactivity

### PREAMBLE

Created in 1996, inspired by the Loire Valley historical, geographical and human cultures, the objective of LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies is **to create a dynamic *outwards-looking* international scientific community** in the Centre-Val de Loire (France) region covering all research disciplines and involving public and private research institutions.

One of its principal missions is **to attract and welcome experienced international researchers** to the laboratories and enterprises of Centre-Val de Loire. To date, LE STUDIUM has attracted more than 224 experienced researchers to the region coming from 47 countries.

LE STUDIUM leads the **scientific exchange, network activities and animation** of LE STUDIUM international faculty of fellows, in order to favour cross-disciplinary exchanges with regional and international scientific communities to **build human capacity for research, development and innovation**.

LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies, operates in the Centre-Val de Loire region of France with a network of partners including the University of Orleans, University of Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, ESAD Orléans, and national research institutions: BRGM, CEA Le Ripault, CNRS Centre Limousin Poitou-Charente, Centre INRAE Val-de-Loire, Inserm; and clusters of competitiveness. In total, more than eighty laboratories of the different member structures work with LE STUDIUM.

### CONTACTS

For scientific and technical questions:

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- Dr Aurélien Montagu - Scientific Relations Manager  
[aurelien.montagu@lestudium-ias.fr](mailto:aurelien.montagu@lestudium-ias.fr)  
+33 238 211 486

## For administrative and financial questions:

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- Sophie Gabillet - General Secretary  
[sophie.gabillet@lestudium-ias.fr](mailto:sophie.gabillet@lestudium-ias.fr)  
+33 238 211 481

## For technical questions related to the online submission platform:

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- Webmaster  
[webmaster@lestudium-ias.fr](mailto:webmaster@lestudium-ias.fr)  
+33 238 211 482

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

## 1 - 1 Context and objectives

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For the campaign 2021, the Smart Loire Valley (SLV) Programme offers four different partnering awards (fellowships, professorships, visiting researchers and consortia) with mutual obligations between the research fellow in residence, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. Beyond supporting the international mobility of researchers, the programme aims to strengthen the international visibility of laboratories and enterprises of Centre-Val de Loire and to create sustainable links between the researchers, regional laboratories, enterprises and their counterparts all over the world.

This programme targets experienced international 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 a dynamic outwards-looking international scientific community that recognises the benefits of international, multi- or interdisciplinary and intersectoral research approaches. The awards' package creates conditions that catalyse the development of scientific and human interactions between LE STUDIUM members' research structures and enterprises in the Centre-Val de Loire region in order to strengthen research and development in the wider Loire Valley community. This is in parallel to funding the salary and/or accommodation of senior international researchers in residence.

LE STUDIUM develops an ambitious programme with innovative awards formats programme which benefits the researchers, regional host laboratories and the development and innovation ecosystem in Centre-Val de Loire region.

## 1 - 2 Brief presentation of the programme

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This call for applications does not target any specific research themes. **It is open to experienced international researchers in all disciplines** (except research directly linked to military applications) wishing to join a research laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region (including universities, public research institutions and enterprises). A host laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region must have been identified<sup>1</sup>.

The call for applications offers 4 categories:

**LE STUDIUM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**, one-year (12 consecutive months) full-time labour contract and residency, enables an experienced international researcher to lead a research project in a LE STUDIUM member's laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

**LE STUDIUM RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP** enables an experienced international Professor to participate in research, research team building and postgraduate supervision. The Professorship residence is a period of three months in Centre-Val de Loire region for 4 consecutive years (12 months in total).

**LE STUDIUM VISTING RESEARCHER** award targets experienced international researchers having and keeping a salary in their home institution and willing to join a laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire region for a scientific residency for a period of 3 to 12 months. This programme supports the welcoming and residence in the region and the integration into the LE STUDIUM scientific community.

**LE STUDIUM RESEARCH CONSORTIUM** award enables the formation of a team of five experienced researchers (one researcher from Centre-Val de Loire and four international researchers) and supports their interactions. This team

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<sup>1</sup> In order to identify a host laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire region, experienced international researchers interested in LE STUDIUM opportunities are invited to contact LE STUDIUM (see page 2).

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 outcomes achieve through milestone goals linked to the meetings.

Programme	Duration	Candidate	Award's Benefits	Competitivity level
<b>Fellowship</b>	12 consecutive months	Experienced international researcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salary</li> <li>- Furnished accommodation</li> <li>- Administrative support</li> <li>- International scientific events</li> <li>- Integration in the Le Studium scientific community</li> </ul>	***
<b>Professorship</b>	4 periods of 3 months (12 months in total) over 4 consecutive years	International Professor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salary</li> <li>- Furnished accommodation</li> <li>- Administrative support</li> <li>- International scientific events</li> <li>- Integration into the Le Studium scientific community</li> </ul>	****
<b>Visiting Researcher</b>	3 to 12 consecutive months	Experienced international researcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Furnished accommodation</li> <li>- Administrative support</li> <li>- International scientific events</li> <li>- Integration into the Le Studium scientific community</li> </ul>	*
<b>Consortium</b>	One-week meeting every 6 months over 2 years (4 meetings)	Researcher based in the Centre-Val de Loire region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administrative support</li> <li>- Travels of the partners</li> <li>- Meals and accommodation for the participants</li> </ul>	**

Nota bene: For Fellowship, Professorship and Visiting Researcher awards travel costs are not covered by LE STUDIUM. For all awards research costs have to be covered by the host laboratory.

## 2 - CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS

The applicants are advised to answer all questions of 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 applicant researcher and of the host scientist.

The applications have to be written in English in order to allow evaluations by international experts. A resume in French is required.

See Evaluation criteria in Section 5-3.

One of the objectives of the SLV Programme is the development of an enduring scientific relationship between the research fellow and the host laboratory.

Importantly, in order to support the application, the host scientist has to describe in the application form how the applying experienced researcher is essential to the envisaged research project. The host laboratory has to write a support letter arguing the importance of the application in line with its strategy.

## 3 – SCIENTIFIC RESIDENCIES – DIFFERENT FORMATS

### 3 - 1 LE STUDIUM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

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LE STUDIUM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP is designed to attract internationally competitive researchers for a one-year full-time labour contract and residency.

Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise in Centre-Val de Loire region. This award is open from September 2021 to June 2022 for the starting date.

#### OBJECTIVES

- 12 consecutive months residency to lead a collaborative research project,
- integration into the international research faculty in Centre-Val de Loire region,
- involvement in the scientific exchanges, network activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour interdisciplinary and intersectoral exchanges,
- opportunity to organise a set of scientific events (conference/workshop, seminar, talks....)
- creation of a long-lasting link between the foreign researcher and the host laboratory.

### 3 - 2 LE STUDIUM RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

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LE STUDIUM RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP is intended to attract an outstanding international researcher for a cumulative 12-month period with residence in Centre-Val de Loire region for three consecutive months each year and for four consecutive years. Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise Centre-Val de Loire region. This award is open from September 2021 to June 2022 for the starting date of the first period of residence.

After 4 years the Professorship output should consist of visible outcomes for the Professor, the host laboratory research teams and associated stakeholders. The outcomes should be related to research and possibly students 'supervision activities at a high level. Achievements at the end of the Professorship should result in significant internationalisation of research through measurable and sustainable evolution of the research activity of the host laboratory.

#### OBJECTIVES

- 12-month residency (3 consecutive months each year for 4 consecutive years) to lead a collaborative project,
- introduction of a new research activity complementary to those of the research teams of the host laboratory,
- possible contribution to consolidating an emerging domain of research
- PhD students mentoring and teaching,
- organisation of a set of scientific events (talks, seminar, one workshop or summer school) with a unifying goal.

### 3 - 3 LE STUDIUM VISITING RESEARCHER

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LE STUDIUM VISITING RESEARCHER award is an opportunity for senior scientists on leave from their institution with salary maintenance to integrate into a high-level laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire region and the LE STUDIUM international faculty for 3 to 12 months. Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise in Centre-Val de Loire. This award

is open from September 2021 to June 2022 for the starting date of the residence.

This programme supports the installation of the visiting researcher and his/her family in the region (accommodation, logistics, administrative support). This programme is also very suitable for researchers holding an Individual Fellowship (like Full Bright, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, etc...) willing to perform their fellowship in the region.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 3 to 12 consecutive months residency to lead a collaborative research project,
- integration into the international research faculty in Centre-Val de Loire region,
- involvement in the scientific exchange, network activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges,
- invitation to scientific events (conference/workshop, seminar....) organised by LE STUDIUM
- creation of a long-lasting link between the international researcher and the host laboratory.

## **4 - LE STUDIUM RESEARCH CONSORTIUM**

LE STUDIUM RESEARCH CONSORTIUM is a format that includes one researcher or research team from Centre-Val de Loire and four experienced international researchers. 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 Centre-Val de Loire host laboratory.

LE STUDIUM provides the financial and logistic support to allow this team of 5 researchers to meet for one full week, twice a year, for 2 consecutive years, in Centre-Val de Loire. Additional partners are permitted if they are supported by other financial sources, which should be mentioned in the application (in the section dedicated to the collaborators of the project). In order to facilitate the scientific activities and relations of the consortium with LE STUDIUM, its Scientific Relations Manager 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 a programme and workplan prior each meeting, a report after each meeting explaining the outcomes, to date, and outline the plan the next meeting and expected results of the project in the context of the original proposal. The four meetings have to take place within the time limit of 2 years starting from the first meeting date.

This award is open from September 2021 to June 2022 for the starting date of the first meeting.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Formation 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, address or workshop a multidisciplinary problem, organise an international workshop/conference, build a H2020 application, write a book chapter, build a market strategy, etc...
- Better understanding of the expertise of each partner and his/her research team in order to build future collaborative research projects.

## 5 - REVIEW OF THE APPLICATIONS

### 5 - 1 Eligibility criteria

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This programme is intended to attract senior international researchers that are in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least five years of full-time equivalent research experience after their doctorate.

For Fellowship, Professorship and Visiting Researcher programmes, to be eligible, applicant researchers must be national or long-term resident of a country other than France. Long-term residents are researchers who spent a period of full-time research activity of at least 5 consecutive (without breaks in research) years in a country other than France.

In addition, applicant researchers must also comply with the following mobility rule: applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, etc.) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

### 5 - 2 Ethics

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All research activities should respect fundamental ethics principles, including those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These principles include the need to ensure the freedom of research and the need to protect the physical and moral integrity of individuals and the welfare of animals.

It is strongly recommended that all applicants refer to the following document:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/ethics/h2020\\_hi\\_ethics-self-assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf)

#### 5 - 2 - 1 Ethics procedure

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Research organisations that house the host laboratories (Universities, CNRS, INRAE, INSERM, etc.) have ethics committee protocols with rules and codes of practice that are adhered to when reviewing studies involving ethics issues. Ethics committees include a cross disciplinary membership of scientists including anthropologists, philosophers ensuring the committee membership is able to consider research proposals in the appropriate context of the applicable ethics regulation. In addition, the expertise of the ethics committee members is consistent with the thematic of research under consideration.

The contractual agreements with Centre-Val de Loire research organisations hosting LE STUDIUM fellows state that *“professional activity is under the responsibility of the host laboratory/host scientist”*. Consequently, LE STUDIUM requires that laboratories obtain and provide documentary evidence, of all necessary ethics approval for research projects.

Thus, if an application involves research on humans or animals, LE STUDIUM requires that the host laboratory provides a letter from the appropriate institutional ethics committee stating that ethics approval has been granted for the proposed research project before the expiry of the fellowship probationary period (one month) or before starting an experiment not explicitly proposed in the application.

A copy of the ethics application and ethics approval is then sent to LE STUDIUM and filed with the research fellows' personal documents.

For its own activities, LE STUDIUM Loire Valley IAS operates under its own Code of conduct and Ethics to which all employees and research fellows must abide

### 5 - 2 - 3 Human research

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For proposals involving human subjects, the host scientist/host laboratory submits the research proposal to the Clinical Studies Ethics Committee, which approves clinical studies. This committee reviews the ethical issues in the research proposals.

LE STUDIUM applies the national French privacy regulations of “Centre National Informatique et Libertés” ([www.CNIL.fr](http://www.CNIL.fr)) regarding all personal data collections, utilisation and secure storage for research on humans.

### 5 - 2 - 4 Animal research

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For proposals involving research on animals, the host scientist/host laboratory submits the research proposal to the region Centre-Val de Loire Animal Ethics Committee, which approves animal studies. This committee reviews the ethical issues in the research proposals.

### 5 - 2 - 5 Monitoring ethical issues for the individual research projects

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For studies involving human subjects and animals, the researcher must report any adverse events according to the host laboratory standard operating procedures and to LE STUDIUM. Any adverse events and action taken must be reported to LE STUDIUM as soon as possible. If necessary, the researcher must provide LE STUDIUM with the amended ethics approval document if adverse events require approved remedial action for the study to continue.

### 5 - 2 - 6 Data privacy

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LE STUDIUM pays particular attention to the use of personal data collection and always requires a written authorisation before publishing information about a fellow or a research project. LE STUDIUM has endorsed the new RGPD rules for all its activities.

## 5 - 3 Evaluation criteria

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### 5 - 3 - 1 Fellowship, Professorship and Visiting Researcher programmes

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External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications: the scientific quality, the impact of the proposed research and the track record of the applicant and the career development through the LE STUDIUM award:

- 1. Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility, risk management and compliance with the ethical principles of H2020.
- 2. Impact of the proposed research (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed research, the demonstrated skill and ability of the researcher and his/her proposal to increase 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. Career and Track Record of the Applicant (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 applicant’s 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. An interruption to the applicants’ career path should be documented. Interruptions may include pregnancy and child care, escaping regions of conflict, unexpected illness etc. These criteria evaluate as well the relevance of the choice of the host laboratory to perform the proposed research project.

Private sector researchers are 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;
- Candidate's capacity for innovation;
- Scientific quality of the research proposal;
- Potential market impact of the proposal;
- Opportunity for the enterprise to achieve a technological advantage;
- Potential financial contribution of the enterprise.

### 5 - 3 - 2 Consortium programme

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External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications: the scientific quality, impact of the proposed research and the track record of the applicant and coherence of the Consortium:

- 4. Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility, risk management and compliance with the ethical principles of H2020.
- 5. Significance and/or Innovation (25%) – Impact of the proposed research (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed research, the demonstrated skill and ability of the Consortium and their proposal to increase 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.
- 6. Track Record of the Applicant and Coherence of the Consortium (25%)** – One major point is the relevance and the scientific coherence of the proposed group of researchers. The track record evaluates whether the applicant's previous research activities demonstrate her/his capacity to achieve the proposed scientific objectives. This includes the applicant's 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.

### 5 - 4 Evaluation process

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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. Only eligible applications will be considered for review and selection.

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 peer-reviewers** are invited to provide an independent, expert assessment of the scientific content of each eligible application based on the selection criteria. A minimum of three reviewers, screened for conflict of interest, are invited to evaluate each submitted application.
- **Scientific Council** is composed of twenty-five eminent scientists from both public and private sectors, including researchers from the Americas and Europe. This committee, with the assistance of external peer-reviewers, provides an independent, impartial and fair scientific assessment of applications. Observers, without any voting rights, from LE STUDIUM member structures are invited to attend the meeting of the Scientific Committee in June each year.
- **Notification of results:** the cumulative scores and comments of external peer-reviewers, Scientific Committee members and Interview Panel allow LE STUDIUM team to build the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each

application and to establish the final ranking list. Notification letters and ESR are sent to candidates by end of June 2021.

## 5 - 4 Appeal - Redress procedure

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- Should an applicant feel that there has been a shortcoming in the process for the evaluation of her/his proposal, s/he may call upon this procedure. The appeal can be done after each step of the evaluation process.
- A candidate willing to appeal is invited to send an email to the General Secretary of LE STUDIUM. The message should mention: the title of the application, the elements in the evaluation procedure perceived as unfair or inappropriate by the applicant and the correction measures that the candidate deems necessary.
- The General Secretary will share these elements with LE STUDIUM President (and Chairman of the Scientific Committee) who will review them with the concerned stakeholders involved in the evaluation process and corrective actions will be undertaken if necessary.
- Within 10 days after the redress request message, the candidate receives a feedback informing about the decision of LE STUDIUM President about her/his redress.

## 6 - NOTIFICATION - DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The Scientific Committee meeting will take place in early June 2021.

Final results will be communicated within 4 weeks after the meeting of the Scientific Committee: a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify all applicants.

After notification, the awarded applicants will have two weeks to confirm their acceptance of the award.

If an applicant does not accept the award the award is given to the following candidate placed in the final ranking list, on a reserve list.

All applicants awarded or not awarded will receive an official notification and an evaluation summary report (ESR) listing the strengths and weaknesses of their proposal. For non-award applicants, the evaluation summary report may be helpful to improve the application and apply again for the next campaign.

## 7 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP, PROFESSORSHIPS AND VISITING RESEARCHERS AWARDS

### 7 - 1 Preparation for the fellows' arrival

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After an award to an applicant has been accepted, the host scientist is invited for a meeting with LE STUDIUM to discuss the fellow's arrival and more particularly to precisely define the time window for the arrival. In parallel, the awarded applicant is invited for a videoconference meeting with LE STUDIUM team to review the awards details and clear up administrative questions. Then a formal letter of offer is sent to the fellow summarizing the work contract conditions.

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 the French social security scheme, private medical coverage, school for children, French class, other activities...). Likewise, accommodation is prepared to welcome the fellow and her/his family.

### 7 - 2 Welcoming the fellow

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Upon her/his arrival, a member of LE STUDIUM team, welcomes the fellow and her/his family, introduces them to their apartment and answers any practical question. The next day the fellow attends a meeting with the administrative team of LE STUDIUM to review and finalise all contractual documents.

In the following days, the fellow and host scientist are invited to a scientific discussion with LE STUDIUM General Secretary and LE STUDIUM Scientific Relations Manager.

## 7 - 3 Contractual obligations during residency

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LE STUDIUM programme awards are partnership awards with mutual obligations between the researcher in residence, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. The awarded researcher, the host scientist and his/her research team are invited to participate in the scientific life of LE STUDIUM international research faculty, in particular by attending the monthly LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS interdisciplinary meetings.

They will have the opportunity to organise a one or two-day LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP residency in the Centre-Val de Loire region, with the logistical and partial financial support of LE STUDIUM, during their residency. The host laboratory commits to concretely participate in the fundraising and funding of the conference. See eligibility conditions in section 9-1.

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 due at the scheduled exit meeting with LE STUDIUM General Secretary and Scientific Relations Manager. The report will be made publicly available on LE STUDIUM website on a dedicated LE STUDIUM Journal section.

Host laboratories in Centre-Val de Loire region who accept LE STUDIUM professorships will sign a collaborative agreement “convention de mise à disposition” through which mutual rights and obligations are detailed. Hosting laboratories commit to respect EU procedures regarding ethics procedures, researchers’ rights and researchers’ involvement in research projects. LE STUDIUM does not acquire any intellectual property rights.

Other contractual obligations like open access publications, credits, or mention of LE STUDIUM affiliation in the communication will be mentioned in the work contract.

## 8 - GENERAL PROVISIONS AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF A LE STUDIUM RESEARCH CONSORTIUM AWARD

### 8 - 1 Preparation of the first meeting

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After acceptance, the coordinator of the Consortium will be invited for a scientific meeting with the 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.

### 8 - 2 Logistics for each meeting

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

The week-long meeting is fully funded by LE STUDIUM within a capped budget envelope. The venue and materials necessary for the best outcome for the Consortium’s week of scientific activities are coordinated by LE STUDIUM.

The first meeting of the CONSORTIUM has to be hold between September 2021 and July 2022.

Following meetings have to be planned and organised to fit in the two-year timeframe of the award.

### 8 - 3 Contractual obligations during the Consortium period

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After first and third Consortium meeting, the coordinating 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 maybe made publicly available on LE STUDIUM website, printed publications and circulated to interested parties.

## 9 - SCIENTIFIC EVENTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH FELLOWS, REGIONAL RESEARCHERS AND LABORATORIES

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

This scientific animation offers different formats described hereafter. LE STUDIUM fellows, their host scientists and the members of the host laboratories present in the Centre-Val de Loire regional universities and research structures, public and private, are invited to attend these events. They are also designed to attract national and international participants.

### 9 - 1 LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE

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Awardees have the opportunity to convene one international conference called **LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP**. These one or two-day international events are co-organised by the resident researchers, and their host laboratories with the logistical and partial financial support of LE STUDIUM.

To be eligible to the funding of these international LE STUDIUM Conferences, fellows will be asked to prove the singularity and the interdisciplinarity of the proposed event: originality design, complementary approaches, topics generally not covered in standard conferences, adopt a differentiated position of communication, list of potential guests of high level, dissemination of the conference outcomes. The conference has to pursue a specific mission with clear interdisciplinary scientific objectives. The conference project will be submitted to the members of the LE STUDIUM Scientific Council members who will recommend or not the organisation of the event.

### 9 - 2 LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS

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LE STUDIUM animates its international community of researchers through regular monthly interdisciplinary seminars called **LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS**. Each THURSDAY addresses a scientific topic of one or two LE STUDIUM fellows' 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 their own field of research, 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 and with other researchers and contribute to strengthen LE STUDIUM faculty of international research scholars. LE STUDIUM encourages its community of researchers to look to the "universal" scientific man, as spoken of during the Renaissance period, especially in the Loire Valley where attracting international "talents" prevailed and was typified by Leonardo de Vinci.

Regional political and/or scientific personalities are often invited to exchange with the LE STUDIUM RESEARCHERS to bring a better understanding of the attractiveness of the region Centre-Val de Loire.

THURSDAYS are open to attendance of doctoral students.

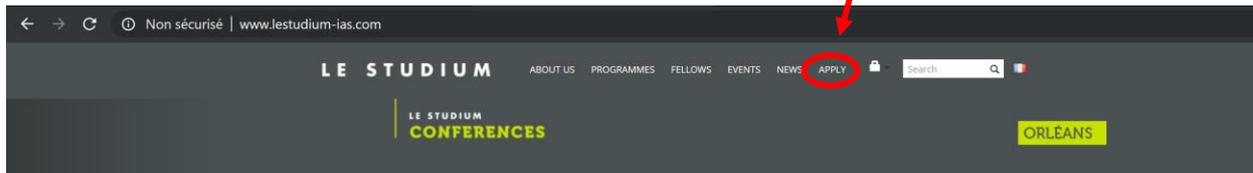
## 10 - Application FORMAT and ONLINE SUBMISSION

### 10 - 1 Process

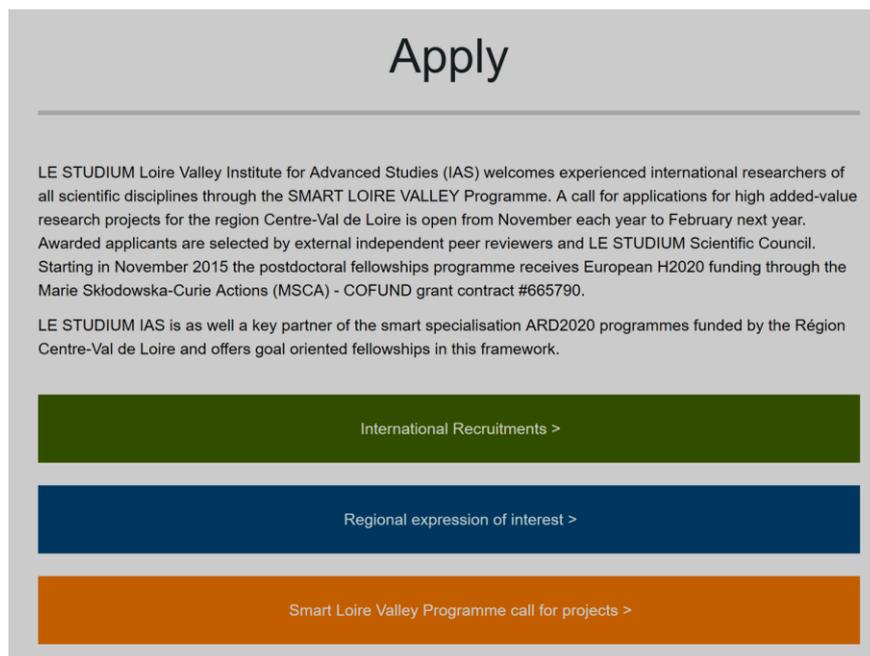
Proposals must be submitted online through the LESTUDIUM website by Thursday 11th February 2021 (17:00 – CET Paris time)

- Go to [www.lestudium-ias.fr](http://www.lestudium-ias.fr)

From the top menu, select **APPLY**.



- Select the recruitment type : Click on International Interdisciplinary Intersectoral Smart Loire Valley Programme.



- Fill the registration form. You will receive a confirmation email.

## Smart Loire Valley Programme - Call for projects 2021

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**Information**

**Title \***

**Name \***

**Firstname \***

**Birthdate**

**Nationality**

**Institution**

**Country**

**Email \***

**Scientific field \***

- LE STUDIUM will create an account for you and send you an email with a link to application form.
- Login to your account with the details provided in the email to access the form.
- Information regarding the content of the application is given below (section 10-2).
- You have the option to save the form as draft and complete it later.
- You will get a confirmation email on form submission.

### 10 - 2 Application form – Content and Rules

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The online application form is divided into 3 parts:

- Part A: General information (online form)
- Part B: Scientific proposal (document to upload on the platform)
- Part C: Engagement from the host laboratory (document to upload on the platform)

The parts B and C must respect the following minimum standards:

- ✓ A minimum font size of 11 points, except for Gantt chart and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- ✓ Single line spacing
- ✓ A4 page size
- ✓ Margins (top, bottom, left, right) of 25 mm
- ✓ A clearly readable font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman) on a printed copy

Tables are only for illustrating the core text of the proposal. As such, they cannot be used to contain the core text itself. The page formatting will be systematically checked by LE STUDIUM operational team. For non-compliant proposals, applicants will be asked to reformat their proposal without the possibility of modifying the content. Excess pages will subsequently be disregarded by evaluators.

Footnotes are to be used exclusively for literature references. Their minimum font size is 8. They will count towards the page limit.

For the Part B, the maximum total length for the document depends on the programme. It should be composed as follows (detailed description below):

- ✓ Section 1: Scientific project
- ✓ Section 2: Impact of the proposed research
- ✓ Section 3: Career and Track record of the Applicant

Of the maximum pages quota applying to the whole document, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between the sections 1, 2 and 3.

If some of the proposed sub-sections are not relevant to their proposal, applicants are invited to ignore them.

After the call deadline, excess pages will automatically be made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted PDF documents are readable and are within the page limit.

The part C consists in a 2-page (maximum) letter from the host scientist (or local researcher for the programme LE STUDIUM Research Consortium) supporting the application.

The part C has to be signed by the host scientist, the director of the host laboratory and a representative of one of the host institution (“tutelle”).

**Applicant are invited to upload the documents entitled: (1) Indicative Format, (2) Template Part B in order to prepare their proposal with the required rules.**

## 10 - 3 Advices for the submission

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It is strongly recommended to:

- Register on LE STUDIUM website soon after the opening of the call for applications;
- Refer to the FAQ document posted on LE STUDIUM website;
- Not wait until the deadline for submission of your application;
- Contact, if necessary, by e-mail one of the correspondents listed on page 2 of this document.