

SMART LOIRE VALLEY (SLV) Programme

Call for applications and guidelines: campaign 2023

Wednesday 17th November 2022 to Wednesday 16th February 2023 (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,

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

PREAMBLE

Founded 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 region (France) covering all research disciplines and involving public and private research institutions.

We **welcome experienced international researchers** to the laboratories and enterprises of Centre-Val de Loire region and offer them an inspiring multidisciplinary environment to conduct their research work and open up to a variety of scientific projects. To date, LE STUDIUM has attracted more than 270 experienced researchers to the region, coming from 48 countries.

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

The institute 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 based in the region: BRGM, CEA Le Ripault, CNRS Centre Limousin Poitou-Charente, Centre INRAE Val-de-Loire and Inserm. It also maintains special links with the regional hospitals of Tours and Orléans, the MSH Val de Loire and poles of competitiveness. In total, more than eighty laboratories belonging to these various member structures work with LE STUDIUM.

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

1 - 1 Context and objectives

For the 2023 campaign, the Smart Loire Valley (SLV) Programme offers **four types of awards** with mutual obligations between the awardee, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. Beyond supporting the international mobility of applicants, the SLV programme aims to create sustainable collaborative projects and links between researchers and regional laboratories, enterprises and their counterparts all over the world. The proposed call for applications concerns:

- **Visiting Researcher Award**
- **Visiting Artist Award**
- **Junior Fellowship Award**
- **Consortium Award**

1 - 2 Presentation of the programme

This call for applications does not target any specific research themes. **It is open to international experienced 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).

The programme targets **international experienced researchers** who have to embody, through their profile, the key words that capture the research values of LE STUDIUM: **Curiosity, Imagination and Intuition**. These values help to create an 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 with LE STUDIUM members' research structures and enterprises in the Centre-Val de Loire region, and the development of a wider Loire Valley research community. This programme benefits the visiting scientists or artists, regional host laboratories and researchers, and supports the regional research innovation ecosystem.

Award	Duration	Candidate	Award's Benefits	Competitivity level
Visiting Researcher	3 to 12 consecutive months	Experienced international researcher	- Furnished accommodation - Administrative support - International scientific events - Integration in the Le Studium scientific community	**
Junior Fellowship	12 consecutive months	International researcher	- Salary - Furnished accommodation - Administrative support - International scientific events - Integration into the Le Studium scientific community	***
Visiting Artist	3 to 12 consecutive months	Experienced international artist / researcher	- Furnished accommodation - Administrative support - International scientific events - Integration into the Le Studium scientific community	*
Consortium	One-week meeting every 6 months over 2 years (4 meetings)	Researcher based in the Centre-Val de Loire region	- Logistical and organisation support - Travel of the partners - Meals & accommodation for the participants	**

Nota bene: For the Visiting researcher, Visiting Artist and Junior Fellowship awards, applicants must identify a host laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region and travel costs are not covered by LE STUDIUM. For all awards, research costs have to be covered by the host laboratory.

- **Visiting Researcher Award**

OBJECTIVES

- 3 to 12 consecutive months residency in a regional laboratory to lead a **collaborative scientific research project**;
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting researcher and the host laboratory.

BENEFITS

- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist
- Relocation administrative support
- Full integration into the international research faculty in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- French class and training opportunities
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges;
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM;
- Opportunity and funding to organise an international scientific conference

LE STUDIUM VISITING RESEARCHER award is an opportunity for experienced scientists on leave from their institution with salary maintenance to integrate a high-level laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region and the LE STUDIUM international faculty for periods of between 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 supports the installation of the visiting researcher and her/his family in the region (accommodation, logistics, administrative support) and offers opportunities to organise an international scientific conference or workshop.

This programme is also well suited to researchers holding an Individual Fellowship (such as Full Bright, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, ERC, etc...) willing to complete their fellowship in the region.

This award allows a starting date of the residency from September 2023 to May 2024.

- **Visiting Artist Award**

OBJECTIVES

- 3 to 12 consecutive months residency in a regional laboratory to lead a **collaborative research project at the interface of art and science**;
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting artist/researcher and the host laboratory.

BENEFITS

- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting artist/scientist
- Relocation administrative support
- Full integration into the international research faculty in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- French class and training opportunities
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges;
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM
- Opportunity and funding to organise an exhibition around the art project.

LE STUDIUM VISITING ARTIST award is an opportunity for or an artist with her/his own resources and/or a researcher (willing to lead an artistic project) on leave from her/his institution with salary maintenance to integrate, for periods of between 3 to 12 months, a high-level laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region and the LE STUDIUM international faculty. Artists/international experienced researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire.

This programme supports the installation of the visiting artist/researcher and her/his family in the region (accommodation, logistics, administrative support) and offer the opportunity to attend international events and to organise an art exhibition/conference.

This award allows a starting date of the residency from September 2023 to May 2024.

- **Junior Fellowship Award**

OBJECTIVES

- 12 consecutive months residency in a regional laboratory to lead a **collaborative research project and prepare an application for a permanent position in a regional research centre.**
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting researcher and the host laboratory.

BENEFITS

- French contract and salary (2300 EUR/net)
- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist
- Relocation administrative support
- Full integration into the international research faculty in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- French class and training opportunities
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges;
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM;
- Opportunity and funding to organise an international scientific conference.

LE STUDIUM JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP award is open to international scientists who submit an application during the 2022-2023 academic year for a permanent position in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

This programme is an opportunity for an experienced junior scientist to integrate a high-level laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region for a one-year fellowship and prepare her/his resubmission for a permanent position application if not successful the first time.

This programme offers a French work contract with salary, supports the installation of the visiting researcher and her/his family in the region (accommodation, logistics, administrative support) and provides opportunities to attend international events and to organise an international scientific conference.

This award allows a starting date of the residence from September 2023 to May 2024.

- **Consortium Award**

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 Horizon Europe or an international 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.

BENEFITS

- Logistical and organisation support for each meeting
- Travels of the partners
- Meals and accommodation for the participants
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges.

LE STUDIUM RESEARCH CONSORTIUM award enables the formation of a team of five experienced researchers (one researcher from region Centre-Val de Loire and four international researchers) and supports their interactions. This team is invited to meet for a full week twice a year over a period of 2 years (4 meetings in total). The consortium has to present a well-defined research work plan to implement and outcomes to achieve through milestone goals linked to the meetings.

This award allows a starting date of the first Consortium members meeting from January to May 2024.

2 - CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS

The applicants are advised to answer all questions listed in 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, possible interdisciplinary dimension, significance and innovation of the project, background and record of accomplishments** 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**.

One of the objectives of the SLV Programme is the development of an enduring scientific relationship between the visiting 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 - REVIEW OF THE APPLICATIONS

3 - 1 Eligibility criteria

This programme aims to attract **experienced international researchers or artists willing to conduct a high quality and innovative project in collaboration with one of the research laboratories of the Centre-Val de Loire region.**

Eligible candidates, junior or senior, are eligible if they meet the following conditions:

- Be national or **long-term resident of a country other than France** that is not to have resided in France for more than 12 months in the three years preceding the closing date of the call for applications. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.
- Have negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire.

- **For the Visiting Researcher**

- To be in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least five years of full-time equivalent research experience after their doctorate.
- Hold a work contract (permanent or not) in a foreign university or research institution during the residency

- **For the Junior Fellowship Award**

- To be in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least three years of full-time equivalent research experience after their doctorate.
- To have submitted an application for a permanent position in the Centre-Val de Loire region during the academic year 2022-2023 and willing to submit again during the following academic year if not successful before.

- **For the Visiting Artist Award**

- No condition of work contract or diploma - experience and achievements to date are an important criterion in the assessment but a quantified minimum experience is not required.

3 - 2 Evaluation criteria

➤ **For the Visiting Researcher and Junior Fellowship award**

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

- **Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the quality of the methodology, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility, and risk management.
- **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. In addition, it includes 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.

- **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 private partners. Experience of inter-sectorial and/or transnational mobility, as well as experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, management and team building experience, experience in transfer of technology and training competences will also be considered. An interruption to the applicant’s career path should be documented. Interruptions may include pregnancy and childcare, escaping regions of conflict, unexpected illness etc. The relevance of the choice of the host laboratory to perform the proposed research project is also taken into consideration

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 will cover:

- 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.

➤ **For the Visiting Artist award**

External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications of researchers or artists: the quality of the scientific/artistic interface, the impact of the proposed research and records of accomplishment of the applicant as well as the career development plan or main expected project outcome through the LE STUDIUM award:

- **Artistic/Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated artistic research project objectives, the quality of the methodology, its originality and rigour, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed project, the risk-taking and potential for experimentation and innovation, the place given to collaboration, taking maximum advantage of opportunities within the host laboratory and regional scientific and cultural environment.

- **Impact of the proposed research (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed artistic research project, the demonstrated skill and ability of the researcher or artist and her/his proposal to increase knowledge and contribute to a substantial innovation. In addition, it includes the application of new ideas, procedures, technologies, to important topics that will impact the proposed field of study and contribute to a reflection on the relationship between artistic practices and clinical and/or scientific practices.

- **Career and Track Record of the Applicant (25%)** – The track record evaluates whether the applicant’s previous artistic and research activities demonstrate her/his capacity to achieve the proposed objectives. This includes the applicant’s ability to contribute to the research, especially in terms of having the appropriate mix of artistic and/or research skills and experience, to work with research teams, public and private partners. Experience of inter-sectorial and/or transnational mobility, as well as experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, management and team building experience will be considered.

➤ **For the Consortium award**

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:

- **Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility and risk management.

- **Significance and/or Innovation (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.

- **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 and to federate research work among the consortium members. 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 different research teams and enterprise partners. Experience of working in multidisciplinary teams as well as management and team building experience, experience of transfer of technology and training will also be considered.

3 - 3 Evaluation process

After the campaign closing date, the LE STUDIUM team will perform 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 process, the following occurs:

- **LE STUDIUM** ensures that the global administration and management of the evaluation process respects set criteria for the scientific review, including rules related to non-discrimination and conflict of interest
- **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.
- **The Scientific Council** is composed of twenty-five eminent scientists from both the public and private sectors. This committee, with the assistance of external peer-reviewers, provides an independent, impartial and fair scientific assessment of applications. Observers from the LE STUDIUM member structures, without any voting rights, are invited to attend the annual June meeting of the Scientific Committee.
- **Notification of results:** the cumulative scores and comments of external peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members will allow the LE STUDIUM team to build the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each application and to establish the final ranking list. Notification letters and ESR will be sent to candidates by end of June 2023.

3 - 4 Appeal - Redress procedure

- 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 filed 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 the President of LE STUDIUM and Chairman of the Scientific Committee for review. Corrective actions will be undertaken if necessary.
- In the ten days following the redress request message, the candidate will receive a feedback giving conclusion to the redress request.

4 - NOTIFICATION - DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The Scientific Committee meeting will take place in early June 2023.

Final results will be communicated in the four weeks following the meeting of the Scientific Committee: a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify all applicants.

All applicants, awarded or not, 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 following campaign. After notification, the awarded applicants will have two weeks to confirm their acceptance of the award. If an applicant does not accept the award, it will be given to the following candidate placed in the final ranking list, on a reserve list.

5 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF VISITING & FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

5 - 1 Preparing the fellows' arrival

After an applicant has accepted an award, the host scientist and LE STUDIUM awardee/fellow are invited for a videoconference meeting with LE STUDIUM to review the award details, clear up administrative questions and to precisely define the time window for the residency. Following this meeting, a formal letter of offer is then sent to the fellow summarizing the residency and contract conditions. Awarded candidates will have to submit copies of their diplomas.

Following acceptance of the offer by the candidate, the LE STUDIUM staff process administrative duties to prepare the awardee's arrival (visa, residence permit, travel and/or private medical coverage, professional liability insurance, children's schooling, French class, other activities...). The accommodation is prepared to welcome the awarded fellow and her/his family in the best conditions.

The awarded applicant has to start his residency between September 2023 and May 2024.

5 - 2 Welcoming the fellow

Upon her/his arrival, a member of the LE STUDIUM team welcomes the awardee and her/his family, introduces them to their apartment and answers any practical questions s/he may have. The next day the fellow is invited to attend a meeting to review and finalise all contractual documents.

In the couple of weeks following the arrival, the fellow and host scientist are invited to a scientific discussion with the General Secretary and the Scientific Manager of LE STUDIUM to review the research project and discuss opportunities linked to the award.

5 - 3 Contractual obligations during residency

The Smart Loire Valley Programme's awards are partnership awards with mutual obligations between the researcher/artist in residence, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. The awarded researcher/artist, the host scientist and her/his research team are invited to participate in the scientific life of the LE STUDIUM international research faculty across a variety of scientific events. The attendance to the LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS monthly seminars is mandatory for the awarded researcher. S/he will be asked to present her/his work during one of these seminars.

At the end of their residency, the LE STUDIUM researcher/artist is asked to produce a final report explaining the outcomes of her/his project in the context of the original proposal. This report is due at the scheduled exit meeting with the General Secretary and the Scientific Manager of LE STUDIUM. The report will be made publicly available with a DOI # on the LE STUDIUM website on the dedicated LE STUDIUM Journal section.

Host laboratories in the Centre-Val de Loire region who welcome a LE STUDIUM fellow or Visiting Reseachner/Artist 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. They commit to welcome the researcher and to offer excellent working conditions including work office space and research resources. LE STUDIUM does not acquire any intellectual property rights.

Other contractual obligations, such as open access publications, credits, or mention of LE STUDIUM affiliation in the communication are mentioned in the work contract.

6 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF CONSORTIUM AWARDS

6 - 1 Preparation of the first meeting

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.

LE STUDIUM and the host laboratory will sign a collaborative agreement detailing obligations of parties.

The first meeting of the Consortium members has to be held between January and May 2024.

6 - 2 Logistics & budget for each meeting

LE STUDIUM team manages the budget and the logistics related to the meeting venue, meals, and accommodation and travel arrangements of the consortium partners invited to in the Centre-Val de Loire region (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.

Following visits have to be planned after each meeting and organised to fit in the two-year timeframe of the award.

6 - 3 Contractual obligations during the Consortium period

- After first and third Consortium meeting, the Consortium coordinator must provide a **brief report** (2-3 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 may be made publicly available on LE STUDIUM website, printed publications and circulated to interested parties.

7 - SCIENTIFIC EVENTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH FELLOWS, REGIONAL RESEARCHERS & LABORATORIES

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, the members of the host laboratories present in the Centre-Val de Loire regional universities and research structures – public and private –, members of LE STUDIUM Consortium groups are invited to attend these events. They are also designed to attract national and international participants to widen the exchange arena.

7 - 1 LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

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 researcher in residence, and with her/his host laboratories with the logistical and partial financial support of LE STUDIUM.

To be eligible to the funding of these international LE STUDIUM Conferences, researchers will be asked to prove the singularity and the interdisciplinarity of the proposed event: originality in the design, complementary approaches, topics generally not covered in standard conferences, adoption of a differentiated position of communication, list of potential guests of high level and 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 a few members of the LE STUDIUM Scientific Council who will recommend or not the organisation of the event.

7- 2 LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS

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 deepen their scientific knowledge and communication skills within their discipline and with other researchers while contributing to strengthening the LE STUDIUM faculty of international research scholars. LE STUDIUM encourages its faculty of fellows to look at the "universal" scientific man, as spoken of during the Renaissance period. This concept was especially present in the Loire Valley, where attracting international "talents" was highlighted and typified by Leonardo da Vinci.

The attendance to this monthly seminar is mandatory for the awarded researchers/artists. They will be asked to present their research work during one of these seminars as well as Consortium coordinators.

Attendance to THURSDAYS is open to doctoral students and all regional partners.

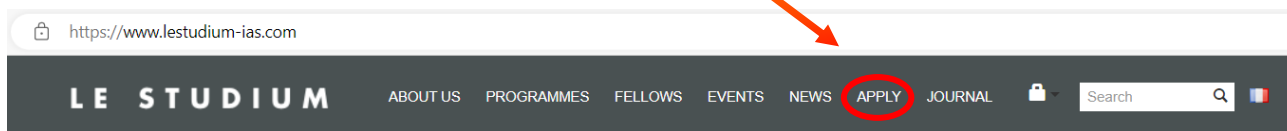
8 - APPLICATION FORMAT AND ONLINE SUBMISSION

8 - 1 Process

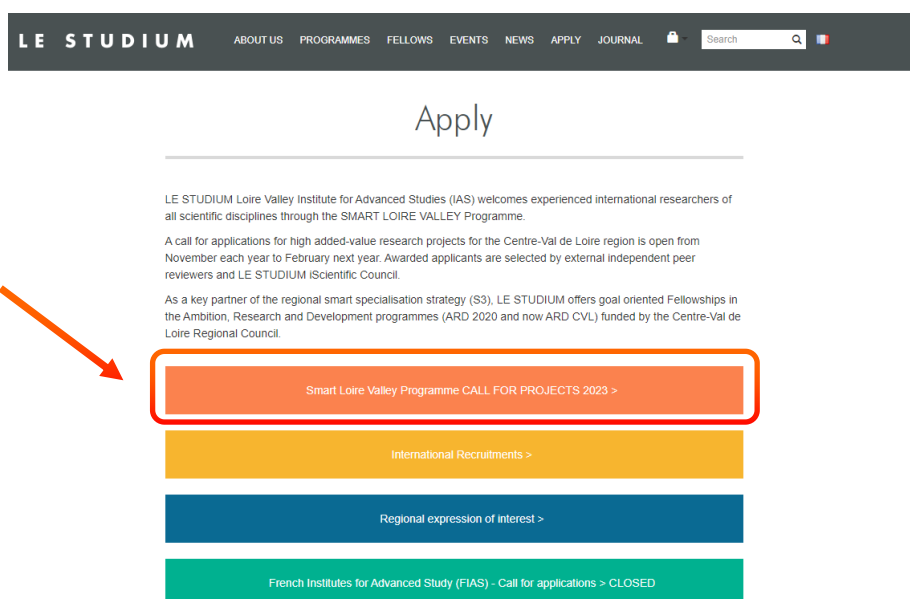
Proposals must be submitted online through the LE STUDIUM website by Thursday 16th February 2023 (17:00 – CET Paris time)

- Go to www.lestudium-ias.fr

From the top menu, click on Apply



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



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

Smart Loire Valley Programme - Call for projects 2023



Information	
Title *	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>
Name *	<input type="text"/>
Firstname *	<input type="text"/>
Birthdate *	<input type="text" value="Day"/> <input type="text" value="Month"/> <input type="text" value="Year"/>
Nationality *	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>
Institution *	<input type="text"/>
Country *	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>

- **A candidate account will be created for you.** This website will be replaced by a new one in the second half of January 2023. You will receive by email the new link to the submission platform with necessary instructions in January 2023.

8 - 2 Application form – Content and Rules

The online application form is divided into 3 parts:

- **Part A: General information (online form), CV and support letters (documents to upload on the platform)**
- **Part B: Scientific proposal (document to upload on the platform)**
- **Part C: Engagement from the host laboratory (document to upload on the platform)**

Part A – Check the indicative form to see the different fields to be completed online.

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 the 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.

The Part B 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

Within the maximum pages quota applying to the whole document, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between 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 number limit.

Nota bene:

- You have the option to save the form **as draft** and complete it later.
- Applicants are invited to **upload their documents**: CV, potential support letters, proposed research project (Part B) and laboratory commitment letter (Part C)
- You will get a **confirmation email** once you have completed the online Part A, uploaded Parts B & C and submitted the application.

Part C consists in a 2-page (maximum) letter from the host scientist supporting the application.

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

8 - 3 Advices for the submission

It is strongly recommended to:

- Register on the LE STUDIUM website soon after the opening of the call for applications;
- Refer to the FAQ document posted on the LE STUDIUM website when available.
- Not wait until the deadline for submission to upload the documents;
- If necessary, to contact by e-mail one of the persons listed on page 1 of this document.