



GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

LIGHTinPARIS

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1. The Essentials

1.1 What are the 'LIGHTinPARIS Doctoral Programme' MSCA COFUND actions?

The Doctoral Training in the field of Light Sciences, LIGHTinPARIS, at the University of Paris-Saclay (Université Paris-Saclay), co-funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), offers 30 PhD fellowships **within** the Horizon **Europe framework**.

LIGHTinPARIS COFUND will support 16 PhD theses from autumn 2025 (First Call) **and** 14 theses from **autumn 2026 (Second Call)**.

Each research project will be supervised by two advisors, offering a diverse range of training opportunities: interdisciplinary training with a co-advisor from a different field, or intersectoral training with a co-advisor from an industry partner, or international training with a co-advisor from a foreign laboratory for 12 months.

All projects will **primarily be hosted** in one of Université Paris-Saclay's laboratories, ensuring access to state-of-the-art research facilities.

Successful candidates will be employed by one of the programme's implementing partners, which include Université Paris-Saclay, Thales, Pasqal, Quandela, AbbeLight, and ONERA.

1.2 Who can apply?

To be eligible for the PhD position, candidates must comply with the MSCA mobility rule. This means applicants from any country in the world are welcome, provided they:

- **Have not resided or carried out their main activities** (work, studies, etc.) in the **host country** (France) for **more than 12 months during the 3 years immediately before their starting date of recruitment** (except for those applying for refugee status under the Geneva Convention).
- **Must not have spent more than 12 months within the 36 months immediately preceding their recruitment date at the same appointing organization**. This requirement applies to all international EU research organizations, international organizations, or entities established under Union law.

Additionally, to be eligible, you:

- Should hold a **master's degree** (or equivalent) by the recruitment date **and not already in possession of a doctoral degree** at the calls' deadlines. Candidates who have



successfully defended their master's thesis but have not yet received their formal degree are also eligible to apply.

- Should be available to begin employment in October or November 2025.

Applications from **female** candidates are strongly encouraged. We strive for gender diversity and equality in the profiles of the selected candidates, and we are particularly committed to support women in the sciences of light.

1.3 Which research topics are supported?

All topics related to the sciences of light at the interfaces of fields such as physics, engineering and systems sciences, chemistry, geosciences, biology and life sciences are eligible. With 700 permanent researchers working in 28 laboratories, Paris-Saclay university scientists cover virtually all topics in the sciences of light making it an ideal place for interdisciplinary research.

Research related to light and its applications at Université Paris-Saclay's laboratories cover 11 topics:

- Atomic, molecular and plasma physics.
- Biophotonics.
- Extreme light, optics at the limits.
- Imaging.
- Information and Communication Technologies.
- Instrumentation, sensors, detectors.
- Lasers.
- Materials.
- Nanophotonics.
- Photochemistry.
- Quantum technologies.

1.4 How to apply?

Each candidate can choose one to three projects from the list available on the dedicated LIGHTinPARIS webpage and contact the PhD advisor(s) (also referred to as PI(s)).

Candidates will then prepare and submit one application per selected project through the "[ADUM](#)" Université Paris-Saclay platform (for more details please see section 3. How to apply?).

The following information must be provided in ADUM's PhD application space:

- Civil status.
- Contact information.
- Diploma allowing access to PhD studies (master's degree or equivalent).
- Diploma obtained (bachelor's degree or equivalent).
- Activities and languages.
- Motivation and Additional Information.
- Application file containing the following documents in a single PDF file:



- **Bachelor, M1 and M2 transcripts**, even partial transcripts (if, for example, M2 has not yet been awarded, then provide certificates indicating the course up to the date of application).
- **Ethics self-assessment form** given in Annex 3.
- **Proof of compliance** with MSCA mobility rule (see Annex 4).

Two recommendations forms from two different **internship** advisors are mandatory and should be sent directly to the LIGHTinPARIS Project Manager (see the model provided on the program's webpage). No other recommendation letter is requested.

An automatic confirmation will include a summary of the following steps and appeal possibilities.

Hotline: For urgent matters related to the application process please contact the programme's hotline at lightinparis.isl@universite-paris-saclay.fr

For non-urgent inquiries, you may reach out to the LIGHTinPARIS Project Manager via email at projectmanager@lightinparis.eu

Additionally, the FAQ section on our website is regularly updated to address common questions. For more details and contact options, visit our official website at lightinparis.eu.

Candidates are encouraged to submit one or more applications but **must choose only one to present at the interview.**

The general announcement regarding **doctoral positions LIGHTinPARIS COFUND project** is also available on the [EURAXESS website](#).

If you have LinkedIn, you can also follow the ISL LinkedIn page for public updates on the LIGHTinPARIS programme as they will be posted on the lightinparis.eu webpage.

1.5 What kind of contract will fellows have?

- **Type of contract:** a temporary 3-year (36 months) French employment contract will be drawn up.
- **Job status:** Full-time.
- **Annual leave:** 25 days per year ("congés annuels", it may depend on the implementing partner).
- **Salary:** **2,400 €** as monthly gross salary, which fellows will receive for exactly 36 months. A limited number of extensions may be offered by some implementing partners or by the LIGHTinPARIS programme. This salary includes mobility allowance of 50 € and a travel allowance up to 150 €/month.
- It is possible to teach if the advisor gives permission. An extra monthly gross salary of 340 € per month is provided for a total of 64 hours per year.
- **Additional benefits:**
 - LIGHTinPARIS will cover yearly **enrolment fee** to Université Paris-Saclay Doctoral School. It gives access to all the lectures and trainings.



- LIGHTinPARIS will also cover the **membership fee to French and European Optical Society** for all grantees.
- Health Care and retirement benefits are included.
- Lunches in cafeterias with subsidized prices are available.

1.6 First Call: Timing

In 2025, **33 PhD thesis topics** will be available, and the candidate selection process will follow the timeline:

- Publication of selected topics: January 15, 2025.
- Application deadline: March 26, 2025.
- Evaluation of applications by external experts: March 28, 2025 – April 30, 2025.
- Interviews: May 19, 2025 – May 30, 2025.
- Publication of results: June 4, 2025.

Each candidate **may choose up to three topics** among the list published at the programme's webpage (lightinparis.eu) and must **get in touch with the Paris-Saclay thesis advisor before applying**.

2. About LIGHTinPARIS COFUND Doctoral Programme

The LIGHTinPARIS programme at Université Paris-Saclay offers a unique opportunity to pursue cutting-edge research in the sciences of light. As a PhD candidate, you will gain advanced technical skills and expertise while developing creativity and adaptability to thrive in today's fast-evolving research landscape.

Excellence in Research and Training

The Institute for the Sciences of Light (ISL), launched in 2020, brings together expertise across five graduate schools at Université Paris-Saclay. Through the LIGHTinPARIS programme, you will receive world-class training in a dynamic, interdisciplinary environment. Université Paris-Saclay's contributions to major achievements, such as works on Bell's inequalities (A. Aspect Nobel Prize in Physics 2022) and attosecond pulse generation (A. L'Huillier and P. Agostini, Nobel Prizes in Physics 2023), highlight the university's leadership in the field.

2.1 Training, Mentoring, and Secondment Opportunities

Scientific and Transdisciplinary Training

Scientific trainings: The Université Paris-Saclay environment offers unique opportunities for attending advanced courses (most of them in English) offered by world experts. Courses are taught in English by experts in the field, and you'll work in cutting-edge labs with exclusive access to facilities like free-electron lasers, attosecond platforms, synchrotron, nanofabrication clean rooms.



Cross-Disciplinary Skills: You will receive transdisciplinary training. A large variety of topics are offered by *La Maison du Doctorat*¹ to prepare for careers in academia, industry, and beyond.

Tailored Career Tracks: Choose from six career paths, including R&D, scientific communication, and entrepreneurship, to design a training plan that aligns with your professional goals.

International Opportunities and Secondments

As a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellow, you will have the chance to spend 2 to 12 months on secondments outside your academic environment, whether in industry, non-academic institutions, or international labs. These secondments will:

- Broaden your skills in managing real-world research projects.
- Offer international exposure, building a global network for future collaborations.
- Be financially supported, with up to 5,400 € in travel allowances over 36 months (included in the gross salary).

Career Development, Project Management and Networking

You will benefit from specialized training and career guidance, including:

Career Guidance Days focused on networking and skill development.

Access to Incuballiance², Université Paris-Saclay's tech incubator, where you can connect with start-up leaders and industry experts.

Regular reviews and personalized feedback on your progress through a dedicated follow-up committee.

Residential LIGHTinPARIS workshop

LIGHTinPARIS will organize a residential workshop for each generation of fellows. The goals of this five-day workshop are: i) training in interdisciplinary communication, ii) training in detection of innovation potential, iii) training in inclusive practices and behaviors.

Supervision and Personal Support

Each PhD fellow is guided by experienced researchers with proven expertise, ensuring you receive focused mentorship throughout your doctoral journey. You will sign a Thesis Charter outlining your research goals and responsibilities, ensuring a structured and supportive experience that meets European Union standards.

All in all, by choosing LIGHTinPARIS at Université Paris-Saclay, you will:

- Join a **top-ranked global university** (12th in the 2024 Shanghai University ranking, 3rd in Physics).
- Access **world-class research infrastructure** and collaborate with an international network of top scientists and industry leaders.
- Engage in an **interdisciplinary environment** that fosters innovation and collaboration across fields and countries.
- Be part of a vibrant academic community with 700 permanent researchers across 28 laboratories.

¹ <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/recherche/doctorat-et-hdr/la-maison-du-doctorat>

² <https://www.incuballiance.fr>



2.2 Organisation of selection process

The process is organized to ensure equal, unbiased treatment of all the candidates, transparency of the selection process, and protection of personal data of all participants in conformity to EU regulations.

Selection Committees composition

The Management Team will consist of 3 people: the coordinator, a Project Manager and the ISL Project Manager, will ensure that all participants to the selection process are aware of the general principles.

The Scientific Committee oversees selection of the research projects (twice the number of positions) that will be advertised at each call.

The Selection Committee (2 experts per application) will assess the applications. The Governing Board reviews the quality of the evaluations and publishes the list of candidates called for interviews. A candidate selected multiple times will have to select one application to continue with.

The Interview Committee (composed of 1 LIGHTinPARIS Governing Board (GB) member, 2 external experts, 2 Doctoral Schools and 2 Graduate Schools representatives) interviews the candidates to make the final selection.

The Redress Committee composed of 3 independent experts from the other committees and free of any conflict of interest, will have access to all documents and will decide autonomously in case of appeal.

2.3 Working and Employment conditions

As a PhD fellow, you will be welcomed into a supportive, resource-rich environment. Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Top-Notch Facilities:** Access state-of-the-art labs, mechanical and electrical workshops, personal office space, dedicated equipment, including a personal computer and printing facilities.
- **Cultural Integration:** Get the most out of your time in France with complimentary French lessons to help you settle in quickly and comfortably.
- **Buddy Program:** Take part in our "[Buddy Program](#)" where each international student is paired with a local student who helps with everything from navigating French administrative processes to discovering the best local spots and cultural insights.
- **Comprehensive Benefits:** As a full-time employee under French law, you will receive free healthcare, social security, and social benefits, including maternity/paternity leave, retirement, and occupational accident coverage. In addition, tuition fees and membership to French and European Optical Society are covered by the programme as well as subsidies for public transport and the campus cafeteria will be provided.
- **Online Welcome Desk:** Gives personalized roadmap to help prepare you for arrival in France. It offers tailored guidance on important steps like visa applications, health



insurance, bank accounts, accommodation, and integration programs, all based on specific situation and country of origin.

2.4 Fellow's obligations

- **Open access to scientific publications:** Fellows must ensure free online access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications related to their results. They must deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript in a repository as soon as possible, and no later than the date of publication.
- **Information on EU funding:** All dissemination of results, in any form (including electronic), must display the EU logo and include the following text: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie project LIGHTinPARIS."



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Researchers funded by the LIGHTinPARIS COFUND must adhere to the highest standards of research integrity and comply with the ethical procedures of Horizon Europe as detailed in the ethical Questionnaire.

2.5 Diversity actions and commitments

Gender dimension, other diversity and inclusion aspects

At LIGHTinPARIS, we are dedicated to fostering a fair and inclusive environment for all PhD candidates. Here's how we ensure a supportive and equitable experience:

Transparent & Inclusive Selection

Our selection process is grounded in fairness, adhering to international standards with clear guidelines to reduce unconscious bias, ensuring each candidate is evaluated objectively.

Promoting Gender Balance

We are committed to increasing the representation of women and gender minorities in science. Our recruitment committees will have at least 25% representation from these groups, and we actively encourage applications from underrepresented backgrounds.

Career Breaks & Accessibility

Support is provided for candidates with career breaks, and all interviews are conducted via videoconference to ensure accessibility. Our campus is fully equipped to accommodate individuals with disabilities.



Welcoming Diversity in All Forms

Our commitment to diversity extends to nationality, ethnicity, disability, religion, and more. Feedback is valued, and any reported bias is taken seriously and addressed promptly.

Programs for Refugees & Migrants

Université Paris-Saclay actively supports refugee and migrant students through dedicated training programs and resources.

3. How to apply?

Before submitting, please ensure you meet the **eligibility criteria outlined in Section 1.2.**, and contact the Paris-Saclay thesis advisor(s) for subject(s) you wish to apply for.

Note that LIGHTinPARIS Doctoral programme supports PhD projects co-supervised by two expert advisors (PIs). To ensure top-quality training, at least one advisor holds a *Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (Accreditation to Supervise Research)* and is affiliated with one of the four Université Paris-Saclay Doctoral Schools in the LIGHTinPARIS programme. This advisor is the corresponding advisor that you have to contact to discuss the research topic and get information to help you prepare your application. The second advisor will add a valuable dimension to the project by offering one of the following:

- Interdisciplinary perspective, bringing expertise from a different discipline.
- International experience, hosting and co-supervising abroad for up to 12 months, or
- intersectoral approach, by prioritizing collaboration with non-academic partner.

See Annexes 1 and 2 for more information on Doctoral Schools and non-academic partners.

In case of any additional questions, the applicant has the possibility to contact the management team via [contact form](#) on our website or directly the LIGHTinPARIS Project Manager (projectmanager@lightinparis.eu) or via hotline email address: lightinparis.isl@universite-paris-saclay.fr

3.1 Step 0: Call – List of research topics, opening and diffusion

Twice the number of positions topics will be advertised at each call on a dedicated page of the LIGHTinPARIS website. Each candidate will choose at least one topic among the list (maximum 3), get in touch with the Paris-Saclay thesis advisor(s) proposing the topic and mature together with them the research project.

3.2 Step 1: Call – Written application and pre-selection for interview

The applications should be submitted to the doctoral school via the application platform: [ADUM](#).

For the application to be validated, it must be complete and finalized. This means the candidate needs to fill out the following sections in ADUM's PhD application space:

- Civil status.



- Contact information.
- Diploma allowing access to PhD studies (master's degree or equivalent).
- Detailed information on all your diplomas before Master.
- Activities and languages.
- Motivation and Additional Information.
- Application file containing the following documents in a single PDF file:
 - **Bachelor, M1 and M2 transcripts**, even partial transcripts (if, for example, M2 has not yet been awarded, then provide certificates indicating the course up to the date of application).
 - **Ethics self-assessment form** given in "DOWNLOADS & LINKS".
 - **Proof of compliance** with MSCA mobility rule (see Annex 4 of the full guide for applicants).

Recommendations from two different internship advisors are mandatory and should be sent directly to the LIGHTinPARIS Project Manager. It is mandatory to use the model provided on the program's webpage. No other recommendation letter should be submitted.

Candidates must also declare that they meet the eligibility conditions (see section 1.2). The European Commission requires the submission of proof of residence, such as rent receipts, university registrations, utility bills, and similar documents.

NOTE: These elements are specific to the LIGHTinPARIS programme and may differ from the requirements set by the Doctoral Schools, which have their own PhD opportunities.

Please, be aware that your personal data are collected and processed by the Research Executive Agency and/or the European Commission and the Université Paris-Saclay and the IOTA.

3.3 Step 2: Interview – Invitation and results

The applications will be sent to two external experts. On the basis of their assessment, the governing board will invite candidates to the interviews. The assessment criteria are detailed in section 4.2. All candidates will be informed of the outcome of this selection step.

To ensure a fair treatment of selected for interview candidates, LIGHTinPARIS will organise all interviews through videoconference. This is also to comply with the MSCA Green Charter recommendations.

Interviews are conducted by an Interview Committee (see Table 1 in section below) through videoconference. Each candidate has 12 min of presentation (typically a short CV, presentation of the results obtained during a previous internship, brief introduction to the PhD research project) and 15 min for questions. Questions will be primarily on the previous research of the internship.

The Interview Committee establishes a ranking of the candidates. The Project Manager will communicate the decision to the applicant by mail.

3.4 Step 3: Enrolment – Acceptance of the positions and enrolment



The management team and Implementing partners representatives will contact the recipients of the LIGHTinPARIS funding providing the necessary information and contacts to deal with accommodation and Visa issues.

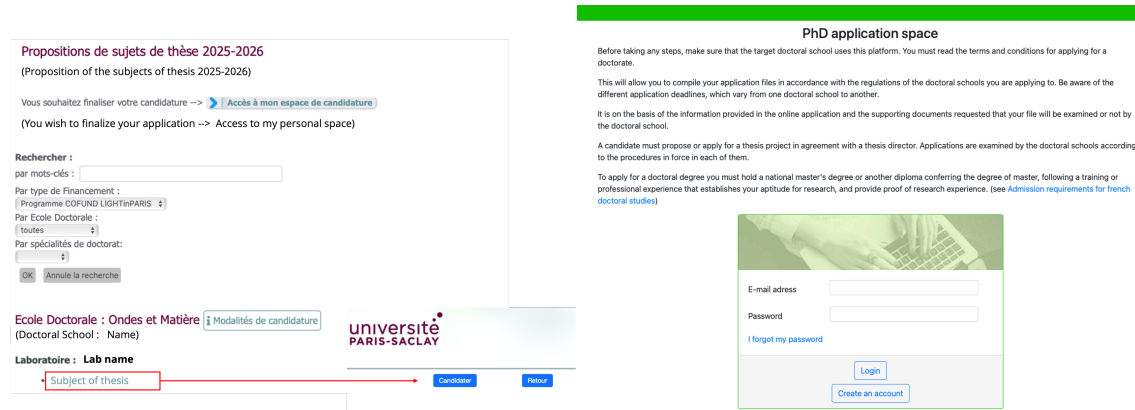
Candidates are asked to accept the fellowship within 1 week after receiving the offer. Once accepted, the enrolment procedure will start and will be conducted by the administrative staff of Université Paris-Saclay.

3.5 Practical information on how to use ADUM and what it is?

Key Steps in the Application Process

3.5.1. Accessing the Application Space

Candidates can access personal application space via a link provided on the LIGHTinPARIS webpage. They will be redirected to the ADUM platform webpage with the list of proposed subjects relative to this programme. Upon clicking on their chosen subject, candidates can review the details and access the [PhD application space](#) by clicking on the 'Candidater' ('Apply') button, where they can either sign in (if they already have an account) or create a new account.



To create a new account, you will be asked to provide your email address, password, and select the Graduate School (GS) and Doctoral School to which you are applying. For example: Université Paris-Saclay “GS Physique”, and “Ondes et Matière” (this information is provided in the description of the each research project). Then, click on the “Create my application space” button.

3.5.2. Verifying Email

After account creation, an automatic email is sent to verify the candidate's email address. This email contains a link that must be activated within 24 hours to confirm the account.



Doctorat
 [ADUM] Creation application space
 To: Your email address
 Reply-To: phd@adum.fr

Inbox - Google Date

Hello,

You have requested the creation of an application space for the doctorate.

By activating the link below, you give your consent for the processing of your datas in the framework of the execution of a public service mission of doctoral management.

The data is collected and processed fairly and lawfully, in a principle of transparency during processing. The data are adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which they are collected and their subsequent processing. Data are adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which they are collected and their subsequent processing.

To activate the opening of your account click here :
<https://adum.fr/candidature/newprofil.pl?tk= specific key>

This link will remain active for 24 hours.

If you have not made a request or if you do not wish to continue your request you can ignore this e-mail.

Sincerely yours ,

This is an automatic e-mail.

Il se peut que vous receviez ce message à des heures matinales, tardives ou le week-end.
 Il ne nécessite, en aucune façon, une réponse de votre part en dehors des heures ouvrées.

3.5.3 Completing Personal Information

Candidates must provide personal details such as: first and last name, nationality, date and place of birth, gender and contact information.

3.5.4. Academic and Professional Details

Candidates should input information about their previously obtained degrees, professional activities, and language skills. Details about internships can also be added, with up to three entries possible.



The image shows four screenshots of the application form. The first two are for 'Diploma allowing access to PhD studies' and 'Diplomas obtained', both featuring dropdown menus for type, name, date, and location, and a 'Save' button. The third is 'Activities and languages', with a 'Placement 1' section for internships and a 'Languages' section with dropdowns for language and level. The fourth is 'Internship / Other professional activity', with a 'Placement 1' section for internships and a 'Languages' section with dropdowns for language and level.

3.5.5. Submitting the Application

Candidates must complete the application form and provide a statement of motivation along with any additional requested information.

The image shows two screenshots of the application form. The first is 'Motivation', with a text area for explaining the candidate's motivation. The second is 'Additional informations', with a text area for providing additional details. To the right, a separate section lists the required documents for the application file, including a CV, transcripts, a letter of motivation, and a detailed description of the thesis subject. A red box highlights the text 'As specified in the Section 3.2'.

The application is finalized after submission.

3.5.6. Finalizing and Tracking the Application

Candidates can view the status of their application, update their details, or withdraw their candidature at any stage before final submission. Application statuses include 'in progress,' 'finalized,' 'accepted,' or 'rejected.'



Once the profile is filled in completed the applicant can choose to apply for another subject.

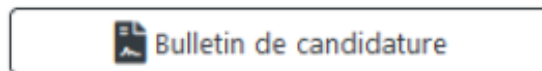
NOTE: “spontaneous” applications are not eligible for LIGHTinPARIS funding.

Useful features of the PhD application space

The different stages of an application:

- The application is being entered.
- The application has been finalised.
- The candidate has withdrawn the application.
- The application has been accepted for review.
- The application has been accepted and transferred to registration.
- The application has been rejected.
- The application was not submitted by the deadline.

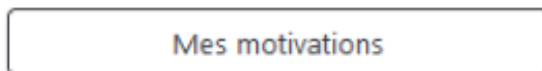
The various action buttons:



Application form → Enables you to view/download the application form (appears depending on the ED settings)



My motivations: to be completed → Allows you to complete the reasons for applying and any additional information required



My motivations → Modify the reasons and additional information, if necessary



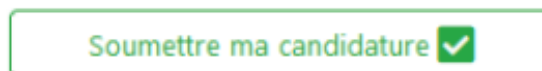
File upload area: to be completed → Enables the pdf application file to be uploaded



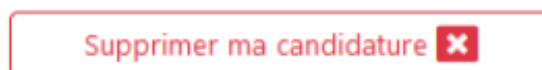
File upload area → Enables you to modify the application submitted



Download the submitted file → Enables you to download the application file submitted



Submit my application → Submit/finalize the application



Delete/suppress my application → Delete the application (button before submitting/finalizing the application)



Withdraw → Withdraw the application (button after submission / finalization of the application)



About ADUM personal space

The ADUM personal space is the unique space dedicated to all the procedures for requesting or validating registration, re-registration and thesis defense. It allows:

- to access the file which includes all the information relating to the doctorate.
- to modify your data.
- to file administrative documents necessary for the organization of the doctorate.
- to access the services of the ADUM network:
 - job offers.
 - news about the doctorate.
- enrich your skills profile.
- register for training courses.
- ensure the online distribution of theses on theses.fr.

The ADUM is a management tool and a database shared between the actors of doctoral studies: doctoral students, doctors, researchers, thesis management, laboratory management, doctoral school management, administrative and pedagogical managers of doctoral studies/schools, library manager, research management, and Doctoral College.

The quality of the data in ADUM is certified by the authorized personnel of the institutions using the tool. The data is managed exclusively by the institution's staff dedicated to this mission.

Cookies: By logging in you transmit one or more cookies to your computer (or other device). These cookies are used only to facilitate your navigation and manage sessions. They are not retained and are destroyed when the browser is restarted.

4. Evaluation criteria and selection procedure of candidates

4.1 General

Evaluation and selection procedure of the PhD candidates is divided into two steps: selection of applications (step 1) and interview (step 2), which will rely on a specific set of criteria as described hereafter. At step 1, the committee will evaluate all complete applications complying with the eligibility criteria received before the deadline. At step 2:

- Each candidate will give a presentation on the CV (2 minutes), a research project conducted during their master's degree (6-8 minutes) and a short presentation (2-4 minutes) on their perspective of the PhD research project and how they could contribute (12 min.),
- The presentation will be followed by a discussion to assess the candidate's scientific maturity (15 min. of questions). After writing a master thesis, the candidate is expected to have a broad vision of the scientific context and a good understanding of the details of their own contribution.

4.2 Composition of committees

**Table 1: Presentation of the different committees involved in the selection of fellows within LIGHTinPARIS.**

Committees	Composition	Specific responsibilities
LIGHTinPARIS Management team (MT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinator - LIGHTinPARIS Project Manager - ISL Project Manager 	Organisation of selection process and support to candidates Eligibility requirements check
LIGHTinPARIS Governing Board (GB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ISL Board - Project Manager 	Monitoring of candidates' selection process, composition of Scientific and Redress committees, ranking publication
Scientific Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ISL Board representatives (4) - Doctoral School representatives (4) - Graduate School representatives (4) - Implementing partners representatives (5) 	Selection of PIs research projects Selection of external experts
Selection Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External experts (2 per application) 	Assessment of submitted applications (around 3-5 applications per expert)
Interview Committees (1 per research subject)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LIGHTinPARIS GB member (1). - External experts (2) among which the chairperson is designated. - Doctoral Schools representatives (2). - Graduate Schools representatives (2). 	Interviews and rating <i>The PI (PhD supervision) will attend as observer.</i>
Redress Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 independent experts, exterior to the other committees and free of conflict of interest <i>One member of GB will support the Committee.</i>	Redress procedure follow-up

4.3 Selection Step 1 and 2

The criteria for the selection of the application are based on the education, background, experience and motivation of the candidate. Each criterion will be graded from 0 to 5 with the following guideline:

0 – The application fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 – Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses

2 – Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 – Good. The application addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.

4 – Very good. The application addresses the criterion well, though a few shortcomings remain.

5 – Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor or none.

Table 2: Application criteria



Application evaluation criteria – by the Selection Committee			
1 - Education Academic background, academic records at master level, honours	2 – Background Adequacy with the selected research project	3 – Experience Work experience, recommendation questionnaires	4 – Motivation Professional project, motivation for the 3-i dimension
0-5 (threshold 3)	0-5	0-5	0-5 (threshold 3)
Relative weight			
40%	20%	20%	20%

A threshold of 3 is requested for both education and motivation criteria to be invited to interview step. Priority in case of ex-aequo will be given to underrepresented gender, disability, then score obtained in 1, 4, 3, 2. The criteria for the selection of the interview are based on candidate’s scientific maturity, quality of presentation, and capacity to think independently.

Table 3: Interview criteria

Interview evaluation criteria – by the Interview Committee		
1 - Scientific maturity Ability to develop a deep understanding of a research topic including both a broad view of the main issues and challenges in a given subfield and a detailed mastery of the key concepts and methodologies involved	2 - Presentation Clarity of the presentation, capacity to share motivation for the 3-i dimension and vision for their professional project.	3 - Independent thinking Potential for creativity and independent thinking.
0-5 (threshold 3)	0-5	0-5
Relative weight		
60%	20%	20%

A threshold of 3 for scientific maturity is requested considering the excellence of the programme.

Members of the Interview Committee will provide their score to the chairperson (external expert), who will establish the final score. **A consensus meeting will be held.** The final ranking will then be prepared by the LIGHTinPARIS GB, using the score obtained when combining application and interview assessments (**50% for the application, 50% for interview**).

Two lists will be established: a main list with 16 (call 1) or 14 (call 2) selected candidates doubled with a reserve list. Selected candidates will be informed and will be asked to notify acceptance within 2 weeks. **To enhance prospects of selected students, the reserve candidates that will not get the position will be issued a certificate.** Priority in case of ex-aequo will be given to underrepresented gender, disability, then score obtained in 1, 3, 2.

4.3 Redress procedure



In case of grievances, candidates can request redress at each step of the selection process if they believe the eligibility check results are incorrect, or their proposal has been improperly evaluated. The request will be reviewed by the LIGHTinPARIS Redress Committee. A written response will be made to all requests for redress (Project Manager on behalf of the GB), within 1 week following the date of reception.

The redress procedure is not intended to challenge the scientific assessments or technical judgment made by the committees but will only consider procedural aspects of the selection process. Any information not included in the initial application package or not given by the candidate during the interview will not be considered when processing the request.

Requests must be:

- Related to the evaluation process or eligibility checks.
- Set out using a dedicated form, available on the web, including a clear description of the grounds for complaints and if possible factual proof(s) of the suspected failure to procedure implementation.
- Submitted no later than 15 days following the decision communicated to the candidate.

5. Other information

5.1 GRPR Compliance of LIGHTinPARIS

The LIGHTinParis programme complies with applicable personal data and privacy laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ensuring all data handling practices meet stringent Data Protection Legislation standards ([GDPR Article 5](#)).

5.2 Career perspectives

The Université Paris-Saclay doctoral schools participating in the LIGHTinPARIS programme provide extensive training, featuring collaborative opportunities with industry partners. This ensures that graduates are thoroughly equipped for diverse career paths in both the public and private sectors.

EDOM (Waves and Matter Doctoral School)

PhD graduates from EDOM often find employment in both academic and industrial sectors. Approximately half secure positions in research within universities or large research organizations such as CNRS, CEA, and ONERA in France or abroad. Others leverage their technical skills in industries, particularly in large companies like Thales and Saint-Gobain, SMEs, and tech startups³.

EOBE (Electrical, Optical, Bio-Physics and Engineering Doctoral School)

EOBE PhD holders have diverse career opportunities. Many pursue careers in academia and research institutions, while others enter the private sector, where they work in various scientific and engineering roles. This doctoral school emphasizes collaborations with industry partners,

³ <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/doctoral-schools/waves-and-matter-doctoral-school#edit-group-soutenance>



providing graduates with skills and experiences valuable in both research and applied technology sectors⁴.

2MIB (Chemical Sciences: Molecules, Materials, Instrumentation, and Bio Systems Doctoral School)

Graduates from the 2MIB doctoral school often find positions in academia, research institutions, and the private sector. Their expertise in chemical sciences makes them suitable for roles in research and development, quality control, and innovative product development across various industries, including pharmaceuticals, materials science, and biotechnology⁵.

BIOSIGNE (Signaling and Integrated Networks Biology Doctoral School)

PhD graduates from BIOSIGNE typically pursue careers in both academic research and the biotechnology industry. They are well-prepared for roles that involve advanced biological research, development of biotechnological applications, and contributions to medical advancements. Graduates are also equipped to engage in interdisciplinary projects that span biology, engineering, and data science⁶.

You can find job offers here:

- Université Paris-Saclay [job offers, recruitment fairs page](#).
- LinkedIn [“Doctorants & Alumni – Université Paris-Saclay” group](#)
- Association Bernard Gregory recruitment page .
- EUROpean Employment Services [page](#).
- PhDTalent [page](#).

Annexes

Annex 1: Université Paris-Saclay Doctoral Schools participating in the programme

The following Doctoral Schools are supporting the LIGHTinPARIS programme:

- **EDOM:** Doctoral School Ondes et Matière n°572 (the Waves and Matter Doctoral School);
- **EOBE:** Doctoral School Electrical, Optical, Bio-physics and Engineering n°575 (the Electrical, Optical, Bio-Physics and Engineering Doctoral School);
- **2MIB:** Doctoral School Sciences Chimiques : Molécules, Matériaux, Instrumentation et Biosystèmes n°571 (the Chemical Sciences: Molecules, Materials, Instrumentation and Bio Systems Doctoral School);
- **Biosigne:** Doctoral School Signalisations et Réseaux Intégratifs en Biologie n°568 (the Signaling and Integrated Networks in Biology Doctoral School).

⁴ <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/doctoral-schools/electrical-optical-bio-physics-and-engineering-eobe#edit-group-soutenance>

⁵ <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/doctoral-schools/chemical-sciences-molecules-materials-instrumentation-and-bio-systems#edit-group-soutenance>

⁶ <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/doctoral-schools/signaling-and-integrated-networks-biology#edit-group-soutenance>



Annex 2: Implementing and associated partners providing funding

- **Université Paris-Saclay:** is an experimental university created in January 2020, merging several academic institutions with different cultures and ways of working including IOTA. It gathers 15% of the French research potential and was ranked 12th in the 2024 Academic Ranking of World University published by Shanghai University, and 3rd in physics (1st in Europe) in the Global Ranking of Academic Subjects.
- **PASQAL:** Start-up founded in 2019 (cofunded by Nobel-prize winner A. Aspect); European leader in quantum processors based on the technology of neutral atoms in large 2D and 3D arrays with the objective of bringing actual quantum advantage to its customers, especially in the field of complex simulations and optimisations. After raising its first round of funding in June 2021 (M€25), PASQAL has completed a second round of funding of M€100 early 2023, confirming its high dynamic.
- **QUANDELA:** Start-up founded in 2017. Based on a unique and disruptive technology of single-photon sources, QUANDELA's approach is to develop a pluri-disciplinary and modular platform to host quantum operations. It has recently secured M€50 complementary funding, including M€9.5 from the France 2030 Plan's "First Factory" scheme. This plan is partly funding the new factory opened in June 2023, from which Europe's very first quantum computer has just been delivered to a private industrial customer.
- **ABBELIGHT:** Start-up founded in 2016. It develops and markets a new generation of optical microscopes - or nanoscopes - that allow observing the molecular structure of cellular organisms to understand their intimate mechanisms and design the therapies of tomorrow.
- **ONERA:** French public aerospace (application-oriented) research centre. It gathers several sites in France and about 2,000 employees, including 1,500 scientists, engineers and technicians. ONERA finances long-term research, which lays the groundwork for future technological developments. Research contracts finance short and medium-term works, closer to applications.
- **Thales:** Thales TRT teams work out of more than 80 locations in the Group's main countries of operation with 6000 persons in the global network of R&D sites.

Associated Partners: Horiba, Imagine Optic, Saint Gobain, Amplitude will mainly be involved in secondments and networking events.

Annex 3: Ethical commitments and ethics self-assessment form

Fellows funded by the LIGHTinPARIS COFUND are engaged to the highest standards of research integrity, this means in particular that researchers will be advised, trained and engaged to:

- Present their research goals and intentions in an honest and transparent manner.
- Design their research carefully and conduct it in a reliable fashion, taking its societal impact into account.
- Develop the skills and competencies they need to practice Open Science.



- Use appropriate techniques and methodologies (including data collection and management).
- Exercise due care for research subjects, may they be human beings, animals, environment or cultural objects.
- Ensure objectivity, accuracy and impartiality when disseminating the results.
- Allow as much as possible and considering the legitimate interest of the student access to research data, in order to enable research to be reproduced.
- Make the necessary references to their work and that of other researchers.
- Refrain from practicing any form of plagiarism, data falsification or fabrication.
- Avoid double funding, conflicts of interest and misrepresentation of credentials or other research misconduct.

Researches funded by LIGHTinPARIS COFUND must fulfil the ethical procedure of Horizon Europe as detailed in the following ethical issues self-assessment questionnaire.



Ethical Issues

Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Your Name:
Email address:

1. HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES	YES	NO
Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your research involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. HUMANS	YES	NO
Does your research involve human participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014) ? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES	YES	NO
Does your research involve human cells or tissues (other than from Human Embryos/ foetuses, i.e. Section 1)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. PERSONAL DATA	YES	NO
Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data ('secondary use')? (including use of pre-existing data sets or sources, merging existing data sets, sharing data with non-EU member states)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. ANIMALS	YES	NO
Does your research involve animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. NON-EU COUNTRIES	YES	NO
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Do you plan to import any material-including personal data- from non-EU countries into the EU?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you plan to export any material -including personal data- from EU to non-EU countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If your research involves low and/or lower middle-income countries , are benefits- sharing measures foreseen?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH and SAFETY	YES	NO
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. DUAL USE	YES	NO
Does your research involve dual-use items in the sense of Regulation 428/2009 , or other items for which an authorization is required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	YES	NO
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence-based systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON CIVIL APPLICATIONS	YES	NO
Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. MISUSE	YES	NO
Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES	YES	NO
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration? Please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

By checking the box, I confirm that I have taken into account all ethics issues described above and that, if any ethics issues apply, I will complete the ethics self-assessment as described in the guidelines [How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment](#) and attach any required documents.

By checking the box, I declare that in my work I will follow the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*: ALLEA (2023) The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity – Revised Edition 2023. Berlin. [DOI 10.26356/ECOC](#)

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

Signature of applicant



Annex 4: Statement of compliance to MSCA eligibility rules

NOTE: This statement **must be provided with a proof of residence**, such as rent receipts, university registrations, utility bills, and similar documents as required by the European Commission.

Statement of the LIGHTinPARIS applicant

To whom it may concern,

I, undersigned [First Name LAST NAME], hereby declare that as an applicant for a PhD project of the LIGHTinPARIS programme, I comply the following MCSA mobility rule:

Researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.

For international European research organizations, international organizations, or entities created under Union law, recruited researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment in the same appointing organization. Note that the mobility rule applies to the (first) beneficiary where the researcher is recruited.

Sincerely,

Date:

Signature

Annex 5: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. How many PhD grant will be awarded in the first and second call?

For **October 2025 (call 1)**, **16 PhD grants will be awarded** among the 33 research projects offered.

Similarly for **October 2026 (call 2)**, **14 PhD grants will be awarded**.

2. Is it possible to apply for more than one thesis project in the LIGHTinPARIS program?



Yes, PhD candidates can only apply to **maximum 3 PhD projects**, among those listed in the “[Thesis subjects](#)” page of the programme’s website. However, **only one** of these applications **has to be presented by the candidate at the interview**.

3. Do I have to speak French to apply?

No, only a good command of English ([B1 CEFR level](#)) is required. Courses in French as a Foreign Language (FLE) will be offered, to help the integration and cross-disciplinary skills of doctoral students. Research activity can be done in English.

4. Where can I find practical information about living and working in France?

To discover the Université Paris-Saclay environment, we invite you to check out the Université Paris-Saclay [Online Welcome Desk](#). To prepare for your arrival, you will be monitored by the Programme’s Project Manager and the services of the Université Paris-Saclay [GATE](#) for your administrative and practical procedures.

5. To whom may I ask questions before applying?

You can direct any questions to the project management team using the [contact form](#) on the LIGHTinPARIS webpage or by reaching out directly to the Project Manager at projectmanager@lightinparis.eu

In addition, you should contact the advisor (thesis director) for your chosen research subject.

For urgent matters please contact directly via Hotline email address: lightinparis.isl@universite-paris-saclay.fr

6. Who will deliver the employment contract of the LIGHTinPARIS PhD students?

Doctoral students admitted on the LIGHTinPARIS programme will have an employment contract from one of the implementing partners (**Université Paris-Saclay**, ONERA, PASQAL, Abbelight, Quandela, Thales).

7. Are there partners in the LIGHTinPARIS programme?

Yes, LIGHTinPARIS has academic and non-academic partners. Some will provide trainings for all the PhD students of the programme; others will participate in events (such as Residential workshop) and/or will co-fund specific PhD projects. All of them will contribute to a LIGHTinPARIS ecosystem capable of boosting the careers of PhD students.

8. Can I apply if I obtain my master’s degree in 2025?



Yes, students who will have their master's degree before October 2025 will be able to apply to call 1 and start their thesis. They will have to provide a certificate of achievement at the time of recruitment.

9. Are there any prerequisites related to age or nationality?

There is no age or nationality requirement for applicants. Nevertheless, the “MSCA-COFUND mobility rule” must be respected as stated below:

“Researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.

For international European research organisations, international organisations, or entities created under Union law, recruited researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment in the same appointing organisation. Note that the mobility rule applies to the (first) beneficiary where the researcher is recruited.”

This rule resolutely reinforces the European dimension of [LIGHTinPARIS](#).

To give a concrete example, an international student who did a M1 (first year of Master) and M2 (second year of Master) in France is not eligible, but a French student who did a M1 and M2 abroad before applying is eligible.

Thus, any candidate who has lived in France for less than 12 months in the three years immediately before the contract starting date, which in case of the Call 1 is October 1, 2025, or November 1, 2025 is eligible.

10. Will there be trainings shared by all the PhD students of the LIGHTinPARIS programme?

Yes, PhD students will be invited to participate in the everyday life of LIGHTinPARIS and to receive shared trainings (for example in Ethics and Integrity, Open science and Sustainable research and development). They will attend a **Residential LIGHTinPARIS five days workshop** on i) interdisciplinary communication, ii) detection of innovation potential, iii) inclusive practices and behaviors.

11. What are the evaluation and selection criteria?

The evaluation and selection criteria for PhD applicants in the LIGHTinPARIS program are divided into two steps.



In step 1, the Selection Committee evaluates applications based on the candidate's education, background, experience, and motivation, using the criteria outlined in Table 2 of the LIGHTinPARIS Guide for Applicants.

In step 2, the Interview Committee assesses candidates through interviews, focusing on their scientific maturity, presentation quality, and independent thinking using the criteria outlined in Table 3. This step determines the recipients of the PhD grants.

Full details are provided in section 4 of the LIGHTinPARIS Guide for Applicants.

12. How does the recruitment process work?

In Call 1, PhD candidates can apply from January 15, 2025. Before submitting the application on ADUM they should contact the advisor for selected thesis subject. After submitting their application, they will receive an automatic acknowledgment email.

Before Step 1 begins, all applications will be examined for eligibility. Candidates will receive confirmation of their eligibility before the evaluation of applications by the external experts.

Step 1, focused on evaluating written applications, will run from March 28 to April 30, 2025 (about 5 weeks).

Step 2, consisting of remote (on-line) interviews (through videoconference), will run from May 19 to May 30, 2025 (about 2 weeks).

Candidates invited for interviews will be notified on May 2, 2025, and have one week to respond (by May 9, 2025, at noon of Paris time). They will also receive feedback based on selection criteria, and unsuccessful candidates will be informed of their ranking on the waiting list.

The final list of successful candidates will be published on the program website on June 4, 2025, and they must accept the position within one week of publication (by June 11, 2025, at noon of Paris time).