

LIGHTinPARIS

université
PARIS-SACLAY

Institute for the
Sciences of Light

University Paris-Saclay Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Sciences of Light

Third Call for LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowships

Guide for Applicants - version 15 July 2026



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Calendar

Call Open Week 29	Publication of Call: 15 July 2026 (On website and Euraxess) Application portal open: 21 July 2026
Call close Week 39	Registration deadline: 15 September 2026 12:00 Paris time (UTC +2) No new applications can be registered after this date Selected PhD project cannot be modified after this date Submission deadline: 21 September 2026 12:00 Paris time (UTC +2)
External Evaluation	Week 39 - Week 42 (16/09/2026 - 13/10/2026)
Online Interviews	Week 44 - 45 (27 October - 6 November 2026)
Results	Week 46 (9 - 14 November 2026)

Links to Documents

- Guide: <https://owncloud.institutoptique.fr/s/XAW28HngPK2Xoyd>
- Prepare you application: <https://owncloud.institutoptique.fr/s/XAW28HngPK2Xoyd>
- Recommendation facsimile:
<https://owncloud.institutoptique.fr/s/R3AHESwMEfadWoQ>
- Eligibility check facsimile: <https://owncloud.institutoptique.fr/s/prk7qzt28JPjZ2k>

1. The LIGHTinPARIS programme

The LIGHTinPARIS programme is based on the existing activities of the Institute for the Sciences of Light (ISL) at University Paris-Saclay (UPSaclay) and aims to strengthen and amplify the “3i” aspects of interdisciplinarity, international collaboration and intersectoral collaboration in the “sciences of light”. The LIGHTinPARIS project was selected by the European Commission under the HORIZON TMA MSCA COFUND Doctoral programme action to co-finance **30 PhD fellowships of 36 months each**.

The programme is co-financed by seven implementing partners: Université Paris-Saclay (UPSaclay) and six non-academic / industrial partners – Abbelight, Imagine Optic, ONERA, Pasqal, Quandela, and Thales – all of whom maintain strong R&D collaborations with UPSaclay. The programme is coordinated by a seventh implementing partner, Institut d’Optique Graduate School (IOGS), which is also a partner institution of UPSaclay. (See Annex 1 on the implementing partners.). In addition, the programme has three associated partners, Horiba, Saint Gobain, and Amplitude who will be involved in secondments and networking events.

The first call for LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowships was launched in January 2025 with a first cohort of 11 PhD fellows employed by Université Paris-Saclay. The second call, launched in December 2025, had 13 laureates, of whom 12 will be employed by Université Paris-Saclay and 1 by the Implementing partner Imagine Optic (see Section 1.1).

The third call, effectively a follow-up to the second call, will attribute up to 6 PhD fellowships, with the fellowships distributed between the academic partners and non-academic partners as employers. All PhD projects will be carried out in an academic research laboratory or the research department of ONERA.

1.1 Institute of the Sciences of Light and LIGHTinPARIS

The PhD thesis projects topics for LIGHTinPARIS are all related to ISL’s research domains in the sciences of light, at the interface of physics, engineering and systems sciences, chemistry, geosciences, biology and life sciences. All LIGHTinPARIS PhD projects include a 3i dimension – a key feature of the MSCA action – as an intrinsic part of the research plan. Namely,

Interdisciplinary research projects: the 3i co-supervisor will be affiliated to a doctoral school different from that of the thesis director. Fellows are strongly encouraged to complete a 2 to 4-month intersectoral or international **secondment**.

International research projects will be implemented in collaboration with an international (academic) partner. Fellows are required to undertake a **mandatory 12-month secondment abroad**, if possible, with a non-academic component.

Inter-sectoral research projects: will be led by a non-academic / industrial partner, co-funding the project, and an academic supervisor. The non-academic / industrial supervisor will hold a PhD with a well-established research track. Fellows are required to undertake a **mandatory 2 to 4-month secondment**.

Each LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellow will thus benefit from the guidance and expertise of two experienced advisors. The primary thesis supervisor is the thesis director who has proposed the research project to be carried out in her/his group at the site of one of the implementing

partners. The thesis supervisor ("Directeur/Directrice de thèse" in France) holds an Accreditation to Supervise Research ("Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches - HDR") and is affiliated with one of the Doctoral Schools (of Université Paris-Saclay) implicated in LIGHTinPARIS.

The 3i dimension of the PhD project provides a "3i co-supervisor" and allows the fellow to benefit from the expertise and experience in an interdisciplinary setting with a co-supervisor from a different field, or an intersectoral setting with a co-supervisor from a non-academic / industry partner, or in an international setting with a co-supervisor in non-French laboratory.

1.2 Distribution of fellowships

A maximum of 6 PhD fellowships is foreseen to be attributed by selection domains linked to the Doctoral Schools / Employers implicated in the LIGHTinPARIS programme as follows:

- 1 Chemical Sciences: Molecules, Materials, Instrumentation and Bio Systems (**2MIB**)
- 4 Waves and Matter (**EDOM**)
 - Employer UPSaclay (2)
 - Employer ONERA (2)
- 1 Electrical, Optical, Biophysics and Engineering (**ED EOB**)

Every PhD fellow is required to be registered at a Doctoral School affiliated with Université Paris-Saclay, and all PhD diplomas, including those of fellows employed by ONERA will be delivered by University Paris-Saclay.

1.3 PhD contract and remuneration

Every PhD fellow in the LIGHTinPARIS programme will be employed by one of the implementing partners (section 1.2) on doctoral work contract with as follows

- **Contract type:** 3-year (36 months) French employment contract ("contrat doctoral").
- **Job status:** Full-time
- **Minimum gross monthly salary¹:** by employer - see Table 1
- **Monthly MSCA Travel and Mobility allowance:** 200 € (Travel = 150 €; Mobility = 50 €)

As per the co-financing terms with the European Commission there is a minimum allowance allocated for the monthly salary and the incurred employer costs (over and above the gross salary) and 200 € as a travel and mobility allowance. After accounting for employer costs, the gross salary by employer is listed in Table 1 below,

Employer	Gross monthly salary	Annual Leave	Start date
Université Paris-Saclay	minimum 2400 €	25 days	01/01/2027
ONERA	minimum 2500 €	25 days	01/01/2027

Table 1. Conditions of PhD fellowships by employer.

The monthly 200 € travel and mobility allowance will be paid in addition to the salary of the fellow. For a given employer, all LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellows will receive the same gross salary over the 36-month period of their contract.

Personal income tax is paid annually, on the total remuneration of the fellow, which includes both the salary and the travel and mobility allowance.

Additional remuneration

Fellows have the opportunity for additional remuneration if there is an opportunity to teach, which needs the formal permission of the thesis director. Teaching assignments are remunerated on the order of 340 € per month, for a maximum total of 64 hours per year. **Note that teaching opportunities are primarily in French.**

Additional benefits for all fellows

- LIGHTinPARIS covers the annual enrolment fee (395 €) at the Doctoral School of affiliation of the fellow, which provides access to the lectures and training offered by the Doctoral School.
- LIGHTinPARIS covers membership fee for the French and European Optical Societies.
- Implementing partners offer either, meals at a subsidised rate at the partner cafeteria (Université Paris-Saclay), or non-academic partners may offer meal tickets instead of a cafeteria plan.

¹ Health Care and retirement costs are deducted from the gross salary

1.4 Timeline of Call

- Publication of Call: Week 29 (2026) to Week 39 (2026)
 - Call Open: 15 July 2026 (On website)
 - Application portal open: 21 July 2026
 - **Registration** deadline: 15 September 2026 12:00 Paris time (UTC +2)
 - It will not be possible to start a new application after this date
 - It will not be possible to change the PhD project selected after this date
 - **Submission** deadline: 21 September 2026 12:00 Paris time (UTC +2)
- Validation of applications and external evaluations: Week 39 - Week 42 (16/09/2026 - 13/10/2026)
- Online interviews: Week 44 - 45 (27 October - 6 November 2026)
- Publication of results: Week 46 (9 - 14 November 2026)

Expected notification of laureates: 10 November
Laureates will have 72 hours to respond to offer
Recruitment date: AT LATEST 01 JANUARY 2027

2. Eligibility criteria

Candidates of any nationality may apply for a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship. The candidate needs to fulfil the eligibility criteria for an MSCA-COFUND fellowship (see 2.1 and 2.2) and obtain the necessary security clearance to work in the French host lab (see 2.3). We strive for gender diversity and equality in the profiles of the selected candidates, and we particularly encourage applications from women in the sciences of light.

2.1 Qualification for a PhD – European Commission

To be eligible to apply for an MSCA-COFUND PhD fellowship, and as per the Work Programme, at the call deadline, all candidates need to:

“be doctoral candidates (i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree)”

To be a doctoral candidate by the deadline of the call, the candidate must have a Master's degree or equivalent by the call deadline OR have completed their academic cursus* for a Master's degree or equivalent by the call deadline and receive their diploma by 31/12/2026.

* This means that all requirements, such as the internship, master's research / thesis (defense) etc., if required for your degree, need to be **completed by 21 SEPTEMBER 2026**.

The equivalent of a Master's degree, to be admissible for a PhD programme at Universit  Paris-Saclay, is e.g. a 5-year Engineering degree.

2.2 Transnational mobility – European Commission

To be eligible to apply for an MSCA-COFUND PhD fellowship, and as per the Work Programme, at the call deadline, all candidates need to:

“show transnational mobility by carrying out the research training activities in a country (or – in case of international European research organisations or international organisations – with this organisation) where they have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline of the co-funded programme

– unless this time was part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention¹¹”

The deadline date of 21/09/2026, requires that the candidate should not have been a resident in France for more than 12 months between 22/09/2023 and 21/09/2026. Periods of stay in France as a tourist, refugee, or time spent in national service, are not considered as residency.

2.3 Security Clearance – French regulation

Recruitments in French Science and Technology research laboratories are subject to security clearance by a security officer as required by the Department of Strategy, Security and Defence. Depending on the nature of the laboratory, of the project, and other national security aspects, the candidate may not obtain clearance after evaluation of their dossier by the security authorities. In this case, the candidate is not eligible to work in the French host lab and thus their candidature will not be pursued further.

3. Application procedure

Candidates should submit their applications via the online platform specifically developed for the 2nd call for LIGHTinPARIS PhD applications. The application platform is hosted on the Université Paris-Saclay server, which 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](#)).

Link to the application portal will be published on the website with [Submission information](#)

Once you register you will be asked to agree to your personal data being collected and processed by Institut d'Optique Graduate School (IOGS), and shared with its implementing partners and subsequently the Research Executive Agency and/or the European Commission, for the purposes of the call and in line with the obligations of IOGS as the coordinator of the LIGHTinPARIS project

3.1 Second Call for LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowships

The call will open in week 29 (mid-July 2026) with the publication of:

- List of projects selected for the 3rd call
 - Summary of the project; information about the project, supervisors, employer, domain of attribution etc.
 - Link to a PDF file with detailed information about the project
- You will be able to search for projects using keywords of the project

If you find a project of interest,

 - ✓ please contact the thesis supervisor as soon as possible,
 - ✓ with a copy of your CV (a [Europass CV](#) is required for your application) - neither a photo nor a date of birth need to be included in the CV for your application dossier
- Word version of the form to be completed online: [Link](#)

It includes all the questions in the online form, and you may use it to prepare your responses and copy paste them in the online form. See section 3.2.
- this Guide: [Link](#)

Candidates may apply for a maximum of three (3) distinct projects.

You need to submit a separate application for each project, and recommendations submitted independently. Ensure that referents are willing to submit a recommendation more than once.

After the end of the call - 21 September 2026 - candidates will receive a link to confirm, and rank, a maximum of three applications to be considered for evaluation, else the LIGHTinPARIS Governing Board will select up to a maximum of three applications for external evaluation.

The Governing Board will decide if a candidate may be interviewed for up to 2 projects in case of multiple applications.

Candidates who submitted an application in call 1 or call 2, may submit an application to any PhD project but can re-apply to the same project only if they were waitlisted for an interview or waitlisted for a fellowship for the project to which they previously applied.

3.2 Application Portal

Open: week 30 (2026). Link to [Application Portal](#) welcome page

You may prepare your application using the [linked Word file](#)

3.2.1 Registration

The first step is to register and receive your password to access the forms to complete the eligibility verification and submit your application.

- The link to the application portal will be accessible from the homepage of [LIGHTinPARIS](#)
- Login information will be sent to the email address provided during registration. It will include: 1) the URL to the eligibility check to be completed, and 2) the password (key) to access the form

Important: if you don't receive an email within 15 minutes **check your spam folder**.

3.2.2 Eligibility Check

The eligibility verification requires you to confirm that you,

- ✓ hold a Master's degree or equivalent by the call deadline OR have completed the academic cursus (including internship) by **21 September 2026**.
- ✓ not have been a resident in France for more than 12 months between **22/09/2023 and 21/09/2026**.
- ✓ confirm that you understand and accept that the LIGHTinPARIS PhD offer is contingent on obtaining a security clearance to work in the lab

At the end of the submission process, you need to download and sign the Eligibility statement, incorporating the information you submitted, and re-upload it.

3.2.3 Completing the application form

Once the eligibility check is completed and verified you will receive an email notification with the link to the application form.

On login, you will find the form contains pre-filled responses (e.g. email addresses such as test@test.com) or "...", which need to be replaced with your answer.

You may save your answers using the buttons on top of each page of the form

- ✓ **save and exit:** saves your answers but does not send you a notification email (you need the URL sent following your eligibility verification to access the application form)
- ✓ **save and exit with an email notification:** saves your answers and sends you an email confirmation with the link to your application in progress and a link to download a PDF file of your application in its current status

The instructions in Sections 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 below may differ slightly from the forms to complete on the application portal (number of characters, sequence of events, bug fixes ...)

The application is separated into the 7 sections

Section. Personal information for administration

- Name, Date of birth, Gender, email address etc.

Section. Information required for PhD project

- English Language level (see [section 3.2.6](#)), CV in Europass format, Choose the project
- Scientific profile characteristics for PhD thesis project: Choose at least 3

Section 1. Education (40% of the evaluation score – threshold of 3/5)

- Master's or equivalent degree (by the deadline of the call) and Bachelor's degree
 - Title of degree, date of award, name and country of institution conferring degree
 - optional: ranking in Times Higher Education and Shanghai Ranking
 - Transcripts in English and original language if original transcripts were translated
 - Master's: List three classes (and marks/grades) pertinent to the thesis project
- Optional: 2nd master's or equivalent degree; Additional diplomas / degrees
- If your equivalent to a master's degree is a 5-year engineering degree and/or combined Bachelor's and Master's programme: enter the same information in both the Master's and Bachelor's sections and add an explanation in the box at the end of the section.

Section 2. Background (20% of the evaluation score)

- Experimental skills and competencies*
- Computational, theoretical, modelling skills and competencies*
- Other skills and competences*
- Description of how your background (profile) is a good fit to the PhD project chosen**
- Optional: publications co-authored

*500-character limit including spaces; **750-character limit including spaces

Section 3. Experience - Work / Internship (20 % of the evaluation score)

- Internship / work experience n° 1
 - Type of position, details of employer / internship host, dates
 - Main activities and tasks (600-character limit including spaces)
- Optional: Internship / work experience n° 2; Additional experience

At the end of this section, you need to provide the names and email addresses of two referents from the listed internship / work experience (see [section 3.2.5](#) and [Annex II](#) for more details)

Section 4. Motivation (20 % of the evaluation score – threshold 3/5)

- Describe your motivation and your professional objectives, related to a) your decision to pursue a PhD, b) the thesis project selected. 1250-character limit including spaces
- Describe your motivation to apply for a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship with respect to the 3i dimension of the project. 750-character limit including spaces

Section Ethics

All MSCA projects (co)funded by the European Union are required to complete the [Horizon Europe ethics self-assessment](#). The candidate will need to sign a statement confirming that

they have considered the ethics issues indicated for the PhD thesis project and will comply with all requirements as per European Union, national, or institutional / company regulations.

3.2.4 Submitting the application form

At the end of the form,

- Upload a signed statement of compliance with the eligibility criteria and acceptance of the security clearance requirement
- Upload a signed statement of the ethics self-assessment for the selected project
- Inform the two referents listed to submit their recommendations (see 3.2.5 below)

Once you confirm having,

- ✓ respond to the question about contacting/receiving feedback from the thesis supervisor. *It is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory, to get feedback.*
- ✓ completed all mandatory information required for the application (all information not indicated as optional is mandatory)
- ✓ uploaded Master's transcripts and degree (if available)
- ✓ uploaded Bachelor's transcripts and degree certificate
- ✓ signed and uploaded Eligibility form
- ✓ signed and uploaded Ethics self-assessment form
- ✓ sent out recommendation requests

⇒ **A "SUBMIT" button will appear and you may submit your application**

When you submit your application, an email notification will be sent to both you and the thesis supervisor (listed contacts as on website) confirming the submission.

YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WISH

Send a copy of the PDF file of your submission (linked in notifications and at the end of the form), with a copy of your Europass CV, to the future thesis supervisor

You may continue to update your answers and re-submit the form until the deadline set for **21 September 2026 at 23:59 Paris time (UTC +1)**.

3.2.5 Recommendation requests

At the end of Section 3 (Experience), you need to list the names and email addresses of two referents who can submit recommendations regarding your experience and potential to apply for a PhD fellowship. Inform your referents rapidly and inform them that their recommendations need to be submitted by **21 September 2026**. Please follow the below sequence of steps on the application portal.

1. Fill the name and email addresses of one, or both, of referents (end of Section 3)
2. Choose the referent(s) to notify when you next exit the form (save or submit)
3. As soon as you exit the form, email notification(s) are sent to both referent and applicant
4. Important: Login again as soon as you receive the notification sent to your referent.
5. RESET notification(s), by clicking the button that appears when you login, to prevent your referent(s) from receiving notifications each time you modify your application. See [Annex II](#). (If your referent has already clicked reset, the button will not be presented.)

6. Let your referent know that they may now proceed to submit the recommendation.

You cannot modify the email address of the referent once the notification has been sent.

Contact your referent in advance and ensure that she/he is prepared to complete the online recommendation form (see website for an example that you could send him). Verify her/his email address to be used to send the recommendation notification from the platform.

In total, three notifications will be sent out:

1. Notification with the recommendation request - sent to both referent and candidate
2. Notification with additional information - sent only to referent
3. Notification on submission of the recommendation - sent to both referent and candidate

Recommendations from non-institutional 'free' email addresses (e.g. gmail, yahoo, hotmail etc.), may need to be verified before the recommendation is taken into consideration. The programme may independently contact the referent to confirm their identity.

At least one recommendation is needed to ensure that your application is valid.

Two recommendations from two different internship / work advisors will be positively considered, particularly in the evaluation of the Work Experience section.

3.2.6 English-language proficiency

All PhD applicants need to have a B2 (<https://www.britishcouncil.fr/en/english/levels/b2>) or equivalent level of English to pursue a LIGHTinPARIS PhD project.

If both your bachelor's and master's degree courses were in an English-speaking (national language) country you do not need to provide any certification. If you pursued your Master and/or Bachelors in a non-English speaking country, but the University uses English as the medium of education, upload a file with screenshots of this information from your transcripts or a certification from your university.

Else, upload any certified courses and / or exams of the English language that you have completed. Typically, this is TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS. But you may provide other certificates that correspond to the B2 level required.

Please contact LIGHTinPARIS (application-lightinparis.isl@institutoptique.fr) in case you have any questions regarding the certification and the level of English.

4. 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.

4.1 Committees

Committees	Composition	Specific responsibilities
LIGHTinPARIS Management team (MT)	- Coordinator - LIGHTinPARIS Project Manager - ISL Project Manager	Organisation of selection process and support to candidates Eligibility requirements check
LIGHTinPARIS Governing Board (GB)	- ISL Board - Project Manager	Monitoring of candidates' selection process, composition of Scientific and Redress committees, ranking publication
Scientific Committee	- 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	- External experts (2 per application)	Assessment of submitted applications (around 3-5 applications per expert)
Interview Committees (1 per research subject)	- 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	- 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

Table 2. LIGHTinPARIS decision-making bodies / committees and management team

All the external reviewers of the application dossiers, and the members of the interview committees sign a non-conflict of interest and confidentiality statement.

4.2 Evaluation by external experts

Each application will be evaluated by two external experts based on four individually weighted criteria: education, background, experience and motivation.

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%

Table 3. Evaluation criteria used by external evaluators to assess candidate applications

A threshold of 3 is required for criterion 1. Education and criterion 3. Motivation to qualify for the interview step. Priority in case of ex-aequo will be given to underrepresented gender, disability, then score obtained in 1, 4, 3, 2.

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. Top 10%.
5	Excellent	The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor or none. Top 1%.

Table 4. Evaluation criteria and grading scale - from 0 to 5 - used by external evaluators

Based on the evaluations of the external expert candidates, the Governing Board will convene to determine and validate the final list of candidates to be invited for interviews.

The Governing Board reserves the right to re-evaluate an application if it deems that a particular reviewer did not follow / made a mistake regarding the rules and instructions to be applied when evaluating the application.

If a candidate applies to more than one project and is found to qualify for more than one interview, the Governing Board will use the ranking provided by the candidate (see page 9) to select the project for which she/he will be invited for an interview. *The Governing Board will decide if a candidate may be interviewed for up to 2 projects in case of multiple applications.*

4.3 Evaluation by the interview committee

All interviews will be organized via videoconference, in compliance with the MSCA Green Charter recommendations, and to ensure an equitable treatment of all candidates.

There will be one or more interview committees per Doctoral School, with each committee composed of two external experts, two Doctoral School representatives, 2 Graduate School representatives and one member of the LIGHTinPARIS Governing Board. There are three key evaluation criteria for the interviews are shown in Table 5.

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%

Table 5. Evaluation criteria used by interview committee to evaluate the candidate

The interviews are foreseen to be between 25 - 30 minutes for each candidate, with 12 minutes reserved for a presentation by the candidate followed by 15 minutes reserved for questions by the committee.

The candidate is expected to present the research project conducted during their master's degree (internship / work experience) and a short presentation on their perspective of the PhD research project and how they could contribute. The presentation will be followed by a discussion to assess the candidate's scientific maturity. 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.

The criteria for the selection of the interview are based on candidate's scientific maturity, quality of presentation, and capacity to think independently (see Table 4.). **A threshold of 3 for scientific maturity is required.** Members of the Interview Committee will provide their score to the chairperson (external expert), who will establish the final score.

A meeting of the Governing Board and implementing partner representative(s) will be held² to reach a consensus before the final ranking is established by the LIGHTinPARIS Governing Board, based on the score obtained when combining application and interview assessments (50% for the application, 50% for interview).

4.4 Attribution of fellowships and waiting lists

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY:

The interview committees foreseen for each domain / Doctoral School are as follows:

1. Chemical Sciences: Molecules, Materials, Instrumentation and Bio Systems (2MIB-UPSaclay) - 1 doctoral contract maximum

One ranked list will be established based on the average score of the external evaluation and the interview. The LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship will be offered to the top ranked candidate if the interview committee deems that she/he has the necessary experience and excellence for a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship.

2. Electrical, Optical, Biophysics and Engineering (ED EOBÉ) - 1 doctoral contract maximum

One ranked list will be established based on the average score of the external evaluation and the interview. The LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship will be offered to the top ranked candidate if the interview committee deems that she/he has the necessary experience and excellence for a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship.

3. Waves and Matter (EDOM- UPSaclay) - 2 doctoral contract maximum

One ranked list will be established based on the average score of the external evaluation and the interview. The LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship will be offered to the top ranked candidate if the interview committee deems that she/he has the necessary experience and excellence for a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship. A second candidate from the waiting list will be selected based on the available funding.

² There may be multiple consensus meetings between the Coordinator, the Governing Board representative(s), and the representatives of each domain regarding the PhD fellowships to be attributed in that domain.

4. Waves and Matter (EDOM-ONERA) - 2 doctoral contracts maximum

One ranked list will be established based on the average score of the external evaluation and the interview. The LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship will be offered to the top ranked candidate if the interview committee deems that she/he has the necessary experience and excellence for a LIGHTinPARIS PhD fellowship. A second candidate from the waiting list will be selected based on the evaluation of the interview committee.

Selected laureates will have **72 hours** (3 working days) to respond to the offer.

Waiting Lists

Independent waiting list will be established for each selection domain.

The candidate at the top of the waiting list of the next distinct PhD project will be selected (there cannot be more than one fellow per subject). Priority in case of ex-aequo will be given to underrepresented gender, disability, followed by the score obtained for criterion 1 (Education), then criterion 3 (Experience), and then criterion 2 (Background).

4.4.1 Reference Charters

- European Charter for Researchers:
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter/european-charter>
- EU Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers:
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter/code>

4.5 Redress

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 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.

In case of appeal, the request will be reviewed by the LIGHTinPARIS Redress Committee whose members will have access to all documents and will make an independent decision free of any conflict of interest. A written response, via email, will be made to all requests for redress, within 1 week following the date of reception.

5. Contact

For all questions related to the call / application please send a message to

- ⇒ application-lightinparis.isl@institutoptique.fr
- ⇒ If you don't receive a response within 48h (barring weekends and national / institutional holidays), please send an email to lightinparis.isl@institutoptique.fr.

The subject heading should begin with, "LIP CALL3 question".

The FAQ section on our website is regularly updated to address common questions – please visit our website at lightinparis.eu. If you have LinkedIn, you can also follow the LIGHTinPARIS LinkedIn page for public updates on the LIGHTinPARIS programme

Annex I. Implementing Partners of the LIGHTinPARIS programme

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.

IMAGINE OPTIC: Imagine Optic was founded in 1996 by two graduates from the Institut d'Optique targeting the emerging laser rangefinders market. They pivoted to Shack Hartmann-based wavefront sensing driven by cutting-edge research in optics, photonics and optics-hungry research fields such as astronomy or ophthalmology. Imagine Optic was able to grow their core technological base into a full range of wavefront sensors that are now considered a benchmark across many scientific communities.

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.

Annex II. Application portal: resetting recommendation request

Step 1. Input the name and email address of each referent (example below for Referent 1)

- If you are ready to send the request to your referent - choose "Yes". A notification email will be sent, with the candidate in copy, requesting the recommendation request (see instructions below)
- You may choose "No" until your referent agrees to provide a recommendation.

VERIFY THE EMAIL ADDRESS WITH YOUR REFERENCE BEFOREHAND
You will not be able to change the email of the referee once the notification has been sent out.

Title and Name of Referent 1
Enter your text here

Email of Referent 1
Enter your text here

Referent 1: ... has been notified at ...

Title and Name of Referent 2
Enter your text here

Email of Referent 2
Enter your text here

Referent 2: ... has been notified at ...

Do you want to notify your referent 1? ...
We strongly recommend that you do not re-notify your referent via the platform unless absolutely necessary.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ No - already notified

Do you want to notify referent 2? ...
We strongly recommend that you do not re-notify your referent via the platform unless absolutely necessary.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ No - already notified

Instructions

The referent(s), and you, will receive an automatic email notification once you exit the form (save or submit).

Once the email notification is received,

1. Log in again
2. Click on the "Reset notification..." button(s) presented to you
3. To verify reset, a) navigate to next page and come back, OR b) exit and login again

Both you and the referent concerned have the option to reset notifications - the first one to click it, resets it for both

Step 2. When a reference request is sent out and you next login, you will see
e.g. For reference 1 after a recommendation request has been sent

CLICK RESET: stop email notification for recommendation request - Ref 1

After you click "Save and exit" and login again, the yellow box(es) will no longer be there

Referent 1 - ... has been notified.

Step 3. When a recommendation has been submitted and you next login, you will see
e.g. For reference 1 after a recommendation has been submitted

CLICK RESET: stop email notification for recommendation request - Ref 1

After you click "Save and exit" and login again, the yellow box(es) will no longer be there

Referent 1 - ... has submitted a recommendation