2021 Call for Applications

EuReCa
International PhD Program

Europe, Research & Care

Applicant’s Guide

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 847718

TOGETHER, LET’S BEAT CANCER
EuReCa International PhD Program

Overview

Created in 1909 by Nobel Laureate Marie Curie, Institut Curie brings together a world-class multidisciplinary cancer research center and a model hospital group in Paris and its surroundings.

Institut Curie’s EuReCa international PhD Program provides PhD students with high level interdisciplinary, inter-sectorial, and international training & coaching with dedicated career development plans, secondments and mentoring.

EuReCa PhD fellows will carry out research in a vibrant environment based on the pluri-disciplinary approaches and excellence offered by over 85 research groups comprising Institut Curie’s 13 research departments grouped into 4 domains and a translational department:

- Biology & Chemistry of Radiations, Cell Signaling & Cancer
- Development, Biology, Cancer, Genetics & Epigenetics
- Integrative Tumour Biology, Immunology & Environment
- Multiscale Physics-Biology-Chemistry
- Translational Research

Benefits of completing a EuReCa PhD

- A Personalized Career Development Plan
- Access to technology platforms and equipment for scientific imaging, genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics
- Presentation of their research work in the annual scientific meeting for young researchers
- Travel grants to attend meetings, summer schools, conferences or courses abroad
- Opportunity to attend every year 300 conferences & seminars in English
- Support and networking with the students and postdocs’ association (Adic)
- Registration at PSL University and affiliation to a Doctoral school
- Housing at the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (CIUP)
- French courses for free on campus
- A vibrant campus life in Paris & Orsay (catering facilities, sports equipment, a Student Help Desk, social events, ...)
- A PhD fellowship of 2100€/month (monthly growth salary)
List of PhD positions available in 2021

- Acentrosomal microtubule organization in neural stem cells
  - Thesis director(s): Alexandre Baffet
  - Research team: Cell Biology of Mammalian Neurogenesis
  - Research dept.: UMR 144 - Cell Biology and Cancer

- Deciphering the role of transcription-replication conflict and R-loop in causing genome instability in breast cancer
  - Thesis director(s): Chunlong Chen
  - Research team: Replication Program and Genome Instability
  - Research dept.: UMR3244 - Dynamics of Genetic Information

- Extracellular Vesicles in invasion, metastasis and ferroptosis resistance: a specific role for CD133/Prominin in aggressive gastrointestinal carcinoma
  - Thesis director(s): Gisela D'Angelo & Sarah Watson
  - Research team: Structure and Membrane Compartments
  - Research dept.: UMR 144 - Cell Biology and Cancer

- A multidisciplinary approach to determine the 3-dimensional organization of centromeres in mitosis
  - Thesis director(s): Ines Drinnenberg
  - Research team: Evolution of Centromeres and Chromosome Segregation
  - Research dept.: UMR3664 – Nuclear Dynamics

- Characterization of the functions of protein arginine methyltransferase 4 (PRMT4/CARM1) in triple-negative breast cancers
  - Thesis director(s): Thierry Dubois
  - Research team: Breast Cancer Biology
  - Research dept.: Translational Research

- Novel chemical tools to study base-excision DNA repair
  - Thesis director(s): Anton Granzhan & Sophie Bombard
  - Research team: Chemistry for Nucleic Acid Recognition
  - Research dept.: UMR9187 / U1196 - Chemistry and Modelling for the Biology of Cancer (CMBC)

- Control of gut development and physiology by cytokine signaling
  - Thesis director(s): Pedro Hernandez
  - Research team: Development and Homeostasis of Mucosal Tissues
  - Research dept.: U934/UMR3215 - Genetics and Developmental Biology

- Immune and epigenetic biomarkers assessments based on a basket prospective trial with Pembrolizumab and Vorinostat in patients with late stage squamous cell carcinoma
  - Thesis director(s): Christophe Le Tourneau & Nicolas Servant
  - Research team: Bioinformatics and Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
  - Research dept.: U900 - Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Computational Systems. Biology of Cancer

- Mechanotransduction at the Golgi apparatus
  - Thesis director(s): Jean-Baptiste Manneville & Stéphanie Miserey-Lenkei
  - Research team: Molecular Mechanisms of Intracellular Transport
  - Research dept.: UMR144 – Cell Biology and Cancer

- Identification and targeting of IncRNA sequence motifs regulating melanoma oncogenesis
  - Thesis director(s): Alena Shkumatava
  - Research team: LncRNAs in Vertebrate Development
  - Research dept.: U934/UMR3215 – Genetics and Developmental Biology

- Genetic determinants of tumor microenvironment in high grade serous ovarian carcinomas
  - Thesis director(s): Marc-Henri Stern & Manuel Rodrigues
  - Research team: DNA Repair and Uveal Melanoma
  - Research dept.: U830 Cancer, Heterogeneity, Instability and Plasticity (CHIP)

- Comparative mechanisms of spindle assembly dynamics and scaling
  - Thesis director(s): Phong Tran & François Nedelec
  - Research team: Cytoskeletal Architecture and Cell Morphogenesis
  - Research dept.: UMR 144 – Cell Biology and Cancer
Application

Applicants have to complete an online application form in English when the call is open. Incomplete applications will not be eligible. No application will be accepted after the deadline January 14th, 2021 at 4:00pm CET (GMT +1). Applicants may apply for 1 or 2 thesis project(s) via the online application system. The following documents are required:

- a CV,
- a motivation letter,
- a copy of the high school degree,
- a copy of the university degrees including the Master’s degree or equivalent university degree (translated by the applicant in English) if available,
- a copy of the university grade transcript from the Master’s degree or equivalent university degree (translated by the applicant in English) if available,
- 2 recommendation letters. Referees must have submitted their recommendation letters by the end of the call. We strongly advise applicants to contact their referees as soon as possible so that referees have enough time to upload the recommendation letter online. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the 2 recommendation letters are uploaded by the referee before the call ends.

Eligibility criteria

- Early-stage researchers (ESR) shall at the call deadline be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited or seconded, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged.

- Applicants from all countries are eligible. The applicants may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline. Time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

- Applicants must be in possession of (or be about to obtain) a European master degree or equivalent master’s degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate.

Apply now at training.institut-curie.org/eureca until January 14th, 2021
Recruitment process

Due to the sanitary situation in December 2020, Institut Curie is organizing all recruitment steps remotely. Selected PhD students will be contacted by the Human Resources Department to help organize their arrival according to national sanitary requirements in 2021.

- Eligibility check
At the end of the call, applicants will be informed of their eligibility by email. Eligible applicants will go through the 1st selection round.

- 1st selection round
Selection of 3 to 4 candidates per project by the Review Board.
A committee composed of scientists from Institut Curie and experts from partner universities and organizations will rank the applications. For each PhD thesis project, applicants will be ranked and either shortlisted, on waiting list, or not selected.
Shortlisted candidates (3 to 4 per project) will be invited for the 2nd selection round.

- 2nd selection round
Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview as well as meetings, presentations & live sessions during the 3-days interview session in May 19-21, 2021.
All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Selection Committee. They will remotely discover the host laboratory, Institut Curie’s campus, the Curie museum and Institut Curie’s technology platforms.

- Feedback & redress process
Within a week after disclosure of the results (eligibility, first & second selection rounds), applicants can appeal the decision by contacting phd.eureca@curie.fr.

Evaluation criteria
Online applications will be evaluated on 3 main criteria. Board members will evaluate to which extent the application meets the criteria, by using a scale from 0: Fail to 10: Outstanding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>50 %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Academic education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Academic excellence (incl. prizes, participation in international programmes such as Erasmus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dual degree/diploma</td>
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<tr>
<th>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE</th>
<th>30 %</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Work/training experience in academia/hospital/the private sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cross domain incl. translational/clinical experience</td>
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<td>• International experience</td>
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<th>MOTIVATION/COMMUNICATION</th>
<th>20 %</th>
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<td>• Motivation regarding the selected project(s)</td>
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<td>• Ability to work in English at an academic level</td>
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<td>• Openness and creativity</td>
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According to European policy, there is no disadvantage due to career breaks (for example, for family reasons).

- Contact
We encourage you to contact the future supervisor of the project you are applying for.
For questions regarding application, please read the FAQ.
Are you ready to apply?
Check the list!

Eligibility criteria

Candidates must:

- be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree at the call deadline.

- not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline.

- have (or be about to obtain) a European master degree or equivalent master’s degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate.

Required documents for online application

- Your CV
- A motivation letter
- A copy of your high school degree
- A copy of your master’s degree or equivalent master’s degree (translated by the applicant into English) if available
- A copy of the university grade transcript from the master’s degree or equivalent master’s degree (translated by the applicant into English) if available
- Two recommendation letters. Referees need to have submitted their recommendation letters by the end of the call for applications. We strongly advise applicants to contact their referees as soon as possible so that the referees have enough time to upload the recommendation letter online. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the two recommendation letters are uploaded by the referee before the end of the call for applications.

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