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**Call for Proposals**

**Scientific programs 2024/2025**

**Objective**

Institut Pascal (IPa) facilitates thematic programs to have scientific communities meet, explore pioneering ideas and establish new collaborations. The spirit of the IPa initiative is to host programs of long durations (typically from 3 weeks to a trimester), allowing researchers to devote the necessary time and energy to particularly important challenges. These programs should favor brainstorming that leads to innovative advancements. Hence, Institut Pascal encourages programs that dedicate large slots of time to interactions of small to medium-size groups of researchers.

IPa provides this facilitation, welcoming all of Université Paris-Saclay’s laboratories and their partners. The institute supports programs attracting scientists and students from all over the world and can host up to 60 (inter)national visitors in excellent conditions, having 26 offices dedicated to this end and multiple lecture rooms for plenary meetings.

**Scientific Themes**

The thematic programs may fall within any of the scientific fields covered by the Université Paris-Saclay, be they theoretical or experimental. They include among others: Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Climate Science, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics. Proposals with a component in the humanities or social sciences are also welcome.

**Organization**

Taking into account the pandemic and the requirements of research decarbonation, IPa has acquired an up-to-date equipment for distant communication, including videoconferencing with two amphitheaters and formal and informal virtual meeting rooms. Program organizers are requested to consider this equipment in their proposal, consequently avoiding inviting on site participants for less than 2 weeks[[1]](#footnote-1).

Once a program has been accepted, the IPa board discusses with the scientific organizers how the institute can best provide its support.

IPa will take care of accommodation bookings nearby, in consultation with the individual participants. The scientific organizers of programs are in charge of scheduling seminars, lectures, tutorials and brainstorming sessions. Coordinators are also encouraged to take advantage of their thematic program to organize general-public conferences, for which IPa can provide organizational and advertising support.

**Budget**

The basic financial support that IPa provides to the programs selected by its Scientific Council is the following :

* Accomodation costs
* Coffee breaks
* Weekdays lunches, including one buffet per week
* 1 Social dinner per week
* 1 Happy hour per week
* Up to 4000€ in travel expenses if needed, and within the 2-week stay rule.

**To be eligible for this support, each participant is expected to stay for a minimum of 2 weeks.** There can be some flexibility to this rule, but the scope and rational for waiving this requirement should be clearly explained in the proposal.

Institut Pascal highly encourages scientific organizers to explore additional sources of funding as well. The amount of the expected additional source of funding, and its usage, should be included in the proposal.

**Self-funded programs can also be proposed** in this call. In this case, a weekly contribution of 1500€ to 2500€ will be requested, the amount of which depends on the degree of logistical and organizational support requested from the IPa.

**Application Details**

Each program proposal should provide the following information:

* Title of the program
* List of the scientific organizers, co-organizers and scientific committee. **Please note that the breadth of the topic or/and its inter-disciplinary aspect should be reflected in the choice of the scientific organizers coming from different sub-fields/fields**. To optimize the interaction with Institut Pascal staff, we encourage a local organizing committee to be composed of 2 to 4 persons that cut across the different disciplines of the program.
* Full description of the program (5 pages max), including a brief description of the field for non-experts, and a list of important questions to be addressed.
* List of the envisaged key speakers.
* Structure of the schedule, on a week-by-week basis.
* The expected participation *per week* including the organizers and the estimated ratio of participants requesting accommodation. For any program, the typical number of participant is about 30 participants, but this number could range between a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 60. Specify if the program is expected to be held fully on-site or in an on-site/remote hybrid mode and how flexible is the proposed organization in case of reinstatement of travel restrictions.
* Initiatives with regards to students (workshops, schools, seminars) and the broader public.
* Additional funding opportunities (requested or obtained), and how they will be spent.
* Exceptions to the “2-week minimal stay” rule, and rational.
* A mention of how the equipment for distant communication will be used during the program.
* Desired start and end date (**within 2024 or 2025**).
* Suggestions for referees

**Selection**

The IPa Scientific Council, consisting of internationally recognized scientists, will evaluate the program proposals based on:

* Scientific importance of the topic, timeliness, intellectual challenges
* Recognized leadership of the program organizers and participants
* Overlap with the research activities carried out in the Paris-Saclay region
* Size of the community in Ile-de-France area that the program can attract
* **Gender balance in the organization committee and in the design of the program**
* Expected deliverables at the end of the program (which could be in the form of a white paper).

**DEADLINE: 28APRIL 2023**

It is strongly recommended that organizers submit a first draft of their proposal before the 14 April2023. The IPa board will then offer feedback at an early stage to improve the proposed program and increase its chances of being selected.

The evaluation by the Scientific Council will be communicated to the program organizers in July 2023.

Proposal should be sent in single PDF-format to:

Institut-pascal@universite-paris-saclay.fr

1. If the pandemic situation still impose limitations to travel in the coming years, we ask the organizers to commit to conduct the program in a hybrid format using the visio-conference equipment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)