



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
JOINT DOCTORATE
2017

1. FRAMEWORK

The Université Lille-Nord Europe will be formed by gathering of Université de Lille, Centrale Lille, ENSAIT, ENSCL, IMT Lille-Douai, Sciences Po Lille, ESJ, ESAPL, ENSAM, Campus de Lille, CNRS, INSERM, INRIA, CHRU de Lille and Institut Pasteur. A consortium that recently received the prestigious “I-SITE financement” by the French government. I-SITE ULNE furthermore is eager to engage in international collaborations, in which KU Leuven has agreed to become the priority partner. The ambition of the I-SITE ULNE project is to sustain and expand excellence in research and education. The project¹ is built around 3 interconnected hubs, covering a wide range of disciplines: “Precision Human Health”, “Science for a Changing Planet” and “Human-Friendly Digital World”. Internationalization and valorization are also core priorities of I-SITE ULNE. In the context of an increasingly competitive international university landscape, reinforcing collaborations is decisive. This call for proposal aims to strengthen the cooperation between I-SITE ULNE and KU Leuven

As part of this collaboration a total of 9 joint doctorates (cotutelle) will be financed (6 by I-SITE ULNE and 3 by KU Leuven) of which 6 doctorates fit within one of the three key research domains (“Hubs”) precisely described in I-SITE ULNE. The three remaining ones are open to all scientific disciplines that can further contribute generally to the HUB-themes..

Hub 1: Precision Human health

Challenge 1: Promoting system biology and precision medicine
Challenge 2: Catalyzing digital revolution in biomedical research
Challenge 3: Maximizing the impact for patient and society

Hub 2: Science for a Changing Planet »

Challenge 1: Understanding and monitoring planet challenges
Challenge 2: Exploring alternatives to exploitation of fossil resources
Challenge 3: Impacts and adaptation, impact of air pollution on health

Hub 3: Human-Friendly Digital World

Challenge 1: Humanities for a friendly digital world
Challenge 2: Taming complexity with innovative conceptual tools
Challenge 3: From disruptive concepts to friendly devices (hard and soft)

2. CONDITIONS

Goal

- ✎ The goal of the present call is to provide scholarships for PhD students. As part of the “smart internationalization” strategy, the call aims to promote the cooperation between KU Leuven and I-SITE ULNE research teams.

¹ <http://www.isite-ulne.fr/docs/projet-isite-en.pdf>



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
JOINT DOCTORATE
2017

Who can submit

- ✗ Open to all teams of KU Leuven Kulak (Kortrijk) and Bruges Campuses and I-SITE ULNE. The French teams must be members of the consortium².
- ✗ Joint doctorates have at each side, KU Leuven and I-SITE ULNE, at least 1 supervisor ('promoter') and can have an additional co-supervisor ('copromoter')
- ✗ Having an ongoing collaboration with researchers from the other institution or envision a clear collaborative project intended to last beyond the current PhD-grant is an asset.
- ✗ The applicants should be the supervisors of the doctorate.
- ✗ Once funded, PhD-candidates are selected by the supervisors/co-supervisors from both KU Leuven and I-SITE ULNE. For the granted KU Leuven projects, the selected candidate still must receive admission from the respective doctoral committee of KU Leuven to enroll as a PhD researcher and to receive permission to prepare a thesis in partnership.
- ✗ For each doctoral candidate a partnership agreement will be set up between KU Leuven, I-SITE ULNE and the doctoral candidate that stipulates the details of the collaboration in line with the current call and the doctoral training program.

Eligible researchers at KU Leuven side:

- When acting as main applicant for funding and/or as supervisor of the doctoral thesis at KU Leuven side ('promoter'), the applicant is professor at KU Leuven Kulak or the KU Leuven campus Brugge. Being a junior staff member is an asset and junior staff members are therefore strongly encouraged to participate.. The main applicant further fulfills the requirements as stipulated in the regulations for promoter/copromoter by "Internal Funds KU Leuven" (see <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/research/associatienet/doc/if/documents/regulations.pdf>)
- Acting as co-applicant for funding and as co-supervisor of the doctoral thesis at KU Leuven side ('co-promoter'), with a main applicant of KU Leuven Kulak or the KU Leuven campus Brugge, the co-applicant can also be a researcher from another KU Leuven campus, being further also in line with the regulations by Internal Funds KU Leuven.
- The role taken up in the application for funding will also be the role of the applicant for the doctorate itself (promoter/copromoter).

Projects

3 theses will be funded by KU Leuven and 6 theses will be funded by I-SITE-ULNE.

For the 3 projects funded by KU Leuven, students will be located mainly on KU Leuven campus and must stay at least 6 months in the I-SITE ULNE laboratory involved. The main applicant will be from KU Leuven, the co-applicant from the I-SITE ULNE. For the 6 projects funded by I-SITE ULNE, students will be located mainly in the I-SITE ULNE laboratory involved and must stay at least 6 months on one of KU Leuven Campuses. The main applicant will be from the I-SITE ULNE, the co-applicant from KU Leuven. The projects must be submitted in English.

² Université de Lille, Centrale Lille, ENSAIT, ENSCL, IMT Lille-Douai, Sciences Po Lille, ESJ, ENSAPL, ENSAM- Campus de Lille, CNRS (S) - 30e) - 42003-420) - 30) 40 02



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
JOINT DOCTORATE
2017

Project monitoring will be carried out via an annual report.

For all projects, in accordance with the ambitions of I-SITE ULNE, special attention will be given to those from the human and social sciences or involving the human and social sciences.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

Only proposals that are submitted before the deadline at both sides (KU Leuven and I-SITE ULNE) are eligible.

All eligible projects will be evaluated and ranked as first, second or no priority by each partner. In mutual agreement between both universities and based on the combined ranking, a final selection will be agreed upon in which KU Leuven will finance maximum three projects of which the main applicant of this application for funding is from KU Leuven side. I-SITE - ULNE will finance maximum six projects. If choices should be made within the same rank of scores, research in the humanities and social sciences will be promoted and special attention will be given to gender equity over the different projects.

The evaluation will be carried out according to the following criteria:

1) **Quality and originality of the project**

- ✘ Clarity of the objectives
- ✘ Potential for progress with respect to the state of the art
- ✘ Feasibility of the methodology and risk management
- ✘ Originality of the topic

2) **Implementation of the project**

- ✘ Skills, expertise and commitment of the supervisors
- ✘ Appropriateness of the means with respect to the objectives
- ✘ Work plan and methodology
- ✘ Expected outputs and calendar

3) **Impacts of the project**

- ✘ Capacity to enhance the international visibility and reputation of both institutions
- ✘ Potential to attract external grants, other funding (H2020, ERC, etc.)
- ✘ Capacity of the project to address the chosen challenge(s) or to expand them.
- ✘ Scientific, technological, social, economic and/or cultural impacts
- ✘ Strategy for the dissemination and exploitation of the research



KU LEUVEN

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
JOINT DOCTORATE
2017

4. CALENDAR AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

For each doctoral candidate a partnership agreement will be set up between KU Leuven, I-SITE ULNE and the doctoral candidate that stipulates the details of the collaboration in line with the current call and the doctoral training program.

Deadline for research project submission: 12 February 2018 (11:59 PM GMT +1)

Selection of projects: In the course of March 2018

Final decision: Beginning of April 2018

Start of thesis: October 2018

Please send I-SITE-ULNE applications to the following address: projects@isite-ulne.fr

Help desk

france.merimee@isite-ulne.fr

scheherazade.boudaoud@isite-ulne.fr

Please send KU Leuven applications to

Ms. Marian Schoenmaekers

Research coordination office

Email: Marian.Schoenmaekers@doc.kuleuven.be