



MUSE



MONTPELLIER UNIVERSITY OF EXCELLENCE

EXPLORE

Call for International Mobility 2018



UNIVERSITÉ
DE MONTPELLIER



CONTEXT

In the spring of 2017, the French government validated the proposal of a consortium of 19 institutions, led by the University of Montpellier whose goal is to create an internationally recognized research-intensive university in the Montpellier area: the I-SITE Montpellier University of Excellence (MUSE) initiative which is carried out within the framework of the French Investment for the Future Program.

With significant scientific concentration in the fields of Agriculture, Environment and Health, focused on addressing three challenges “FEED – PROTECT – CARE”, MUSE gathers a scientific, institutional and economic community to meet the major intertwined challenges of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the Paris Climate Agreement.

In line with the initiative objectives, **MUSE launches EXPLORE, an international mobility support program.**

MAIN OBJECTIVE

ENCOURAGE EXCHANGES AND COLLABORATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, INCREASE THE SITE'S ATTRACTIVENESS AND EXPOSURE AND CONTRIBUTE TO STRUCTURING PROJECTS

EXPLORE, MUSE international mobility support program, favors collaborations with the targeted strategic partners jointly selected by MUSE members. In line with the recommendations of the IDEX-ISITE international jury, it also focuses on the international platforms in partnership abroad, managed by institutions of the MUSE consortium such as IRD and CIRAD.

In 2018¹, EXPLORE first call for international mobility will support:

Option 1: Mobility opportunities for targeted recipients as detailed below (Professor, Professor-Researcher, Researcher, Doctoral student, Engineer, Technician or administrative staff), from or to the targeted strategic destinations of the MUSE consortium which are presented in Annex 1;

Option 2: Mobility opportunities for a **PAIR** of beneficiaries, comprised of a **research institution staff member** who is highly familiar with platforms in partnership abroad, **jointly carrying out a mission with a staff member** who is **not familiar** with such exchanges (Professor, Professor-Researcher, Researcher, Doctoral student, Engineer, Technician or administrative staff). These paired mobilities seek to leverage, promote or strengthen existing platforms in partnership abroad, or to explore new prospects (cf. Links to existing platforms in partnership in Annex 2).

¹ Within the framework of this call for mobility published in February 2018 and of a second call for mobility which will be published in the Fall of 2018, covering the school year 2018-2019.

Seeking to structure tomorrow's university, which will be non-exclusive and open to all disciplines, and besides the two above-mentioned priorities, proposals that both meet the eligibility and selection criteria of this call, and offer exceptional value-added to the I-SITE MUSE may be considered for funding.

DESTINATION AND ORIGIN

For its mobility program, MUSE will noticeably favor, but not exclusively, prioritized universities or partners (including non-academic ones) or geographical areas and countries (cf. Annexes 1 and 2), in connection with its scientific program (cf. Annex 3).

TARGETED PARTICIPANTS

EXPLORE international mobility support program is designed for:

- **Doctoral students:** INCOMING and OUTGOING mobilities seeking to explore collaborative projects with MUSE strategic partners for potential **post-doctoral professional research projects**;
- **(Assistant) Professors, Professor-Researchers and Researchers** (tenure and contract-based) : INCOMING and OUTGOING mobilities;
- **Engineer, Technician or administrative staff** (tenure and contract-based): OUTGOING mobilities only.

INCOMING mobility requires **an invitation letter** from the educational and/or research structure within MUSE scope.

OUTGOING mobility requires **the approval signature** from the director of the educational and/or research structure within MUSE scope (for Doctoral students, (assistant) Professors, Professor-Researchers and Researchers); or from the supervisor of the Engineer, Technician or administrative staff member employed by one of MUSE consortium members.

Mobility recipient are not subjected to any nationality condition. In case of INCOMING mobilities, the recipient must be employed by (or, in case of doctoral students, registered in) an institution.

SUPPORT

Funding for **EXPLORE 2018** first call amounts to **540,000€** and originates from I-SITE MUSE contributions and University of Montpellier's, CIRAD's and IRD's own funding.

PROJET ELIGIBILITY

A project is deemed eligible if it is:

- Coherent with MUSE global scientific ambition, focused on three societal challenges that are “FEED – PROTECT – CARE”, and open to all themes/disciplines likely to contribute to those objectives (cf. annex 3);
- Submitted within the framework of an educational and/or research structure within MUSE scope;
- Separate from mobilities generated from institutions whose core activity is international mobility (namely CIRAD, IRD, CIHEAM-IAMM).

N.B.: funding for mobilities targeting the participation to a **symposium or a conference** is **excluded from EXPLORE scheme**.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

In addition to coherence and project quality, the following selection criteria will be taken into account:

- By its **exploratory component**, the contribution of value-added for I-SITE MUSE (strengthening of excellence, acquisition of new skills, innovation);
- The development of partnerships with private-public stakeholders in the area of education, research, value-generation or pedagogical and organizational innovation;
- The collaborative impact induced by the mobility project within I-SITE MUSE (for instance, the project involves 2 educational and/or research structure within MUSE scope);
- Commitment of hosting structures and of structures of origin, especially in terms of dedicated human or financial resources.

SUPPORT AMOUNT AND DETAILS

EXPLORE international mobility program offers financial support comprised of:

- (1) a daily allowance, which varies according to the country of destination (cf. [Decree of 3 July 2006](#) which sets the rates of French daily mission allowances), **limited to a maximum of 30 daily allowances**, whatever the total duration of the mobility may be;
- (2) the payment of transportation expense (based on **real costs** and limited to 2 round-trip tickets per recipient) according to the following grid:

Distance in km ⁽²⁾	Maximum travel expense per mobility (in EUROS)
0-999	600
1,000-7,999	1,300
> 8,000	2,000

This financial support is meant to help compensate additional costs induced by the mobility, and under no circumstances can finance salary costs or wages.

² Distance between the place of departure and the place of arrival is calculated with the tool developed by the European Commission https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en

RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

Selected candidates will be required to sign a commitment charter upon accepting the financing offer. This charter will precisely detail the recipient's obligations during her/his mobility in terms of communication, I-SITE MUSE ambassador's role or experience feedback to be provided to MUSE (activity report) upon completion of the mobility.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Applications will be submitted electronically via a dedicated submission portal on the muse.umontpellier.fr website, section [Call for International Mobility](#). All requested attachments must be submitted for the application to be valid.

Application file should include

- Completed application form;
- Approval signature from the director of the applicant's educational and/or research structure of employment, or of the applicant's supervisor in the case of support staff;
- Letter of invitation from the director of the hosting educational and/or research structure.

Application assessment – Following the administrative assessment of submitted applications by MUSE executive team, applications will be transmitted to an evaluation committee for ranking.

The evaluation committee is comprised of members from the Academic Council of University of Montpellier (10 members), of representatives of MUSE clusters (5 members), and of representatives of MUSE consortium member institutions (8 members). The evaluation committee will assess applications deemed to be eligible and will present a ranking list to the MUSE Board for final decision.

TIMELINE

- Publication of EXPLORE Call for mobility: 20 February 2018
- **Deadline for submitting applications: 9 April 2018** (noon Paris time)
- Administrative assessment of submitted applications: 10-16 April 2018
- Application assessment: 17 April-14 May 2018
- **Results publication: June 2018**
- Possible starting date for mobility: from the date of results announcement through 28 February 2019 at the latest



List of geographical areas, countries, and universities prioritized by MUSE (Option 1)

Reminder: this list presents preferred, yet not exclusive, prioritized destinations

Geographical areas, target countries and targeted partner institutions* (when applicable) of EXPLORE mobility program

<p>EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN BASIN Of which: Germany (<i>University of Heidelberg</i>) Spain (<i>University of Barcelona</i>) Morocco (<i> Hassan II Institute of Agronomics and Veterinary studies, Rabat</i>) Netherlands (<i> Wageningen University and Research</i>) United Kingdom (<i>Oxford University</i>) Sweden (<i>Uppsala University</i>) Switzerland (<i>ETH Zürich</i>) Tunisia</p> <p>NORTH AMERICA Canada (<i> Université de Laval, Québec; University British Columbia, Vancouver</i>) United States (<i>University of California Davis, CA; University of Cornell, NY</i>)</p> <p>CENTRAL AND LATIN AMERICA Of which: Argentina Brazil (<i>University of São Paolo</i>) Colombia Costa Rica</p>	<p>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA Of which: West and Central Africa Burkina Faso Cameroon Ivory Coast Guinea Senegal (<i> Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar</i>)</p> <p>South Africa (<i>University of Pretoria</i>) Madagascar</p> <p>ASIA – SOUTH-EAST ASIA Of which: China (<i>Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing</i>) Indonesia Japan (<i>Kyoto University</i>) Malaysia Thailand (<i>Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok</i>) Vietnam Singapore (<i>Nanyang Technological University</i>)</p>
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* in italics: partner institutions prioritized by MUSE consortium



MUSE consortium members' existing platforms for partnership abroad (Option 2)

Find all platforms for partnership abroad on the respective websites of MUSE consortium member institutions, and notably:

CIRAD: <https://www.cirad.fr/en/our-research/platforms-in-partnership-for-research-and-training>

CNRS: <https://www.cnrs.fr/derci/?lang=en> > Section "Cooperation around the world" > by geographic area

INSERM: <https://www.inserm.fr/en/about-inserm/europe-and-international/inserm-in-europe-and-internationally-in-figures>

IRD: <https://en.ird.fr/ird.fr/the-ird-in-the-world>

REMINDER OF THE I-SITE “MONTPELLIER UNIVERSITÉ d’EXCELLENCE” PROJECT GOALS

The vision of a Planet with seemingly unlimited resources is coming to an end, and the world needs to sustainably manage limited and finite natural resources. Continuing human population growth increases the need for goods and services, resulting in substantial alteration of most ecosystems on Earth and food safety difficulties for the most fragile populations. At the same time, populations face novel health problems that may be linked to environmental issues or lifestyles (infectious diseases, chronic pathologies). Resulting factors - such as biodiversity loss, climate change, disturbance of the water cycle, changes in land use (urbanization, deforestation, intensive farming), food and nutrition insecurity, increasing number of toxic agents - bring the world to face unprecedented challenges and rely on scientific research for providing sustainable solutions to a series of issues that include: emerging diseases in man, plants, and animals, human health alterations, increasing pressure on ecosystems and the environment, non-sustainable management of natural resources such as those derived from agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture systems, and more.

I-SITE “Montpellier Université d’Excellence” (MUSE) intends to address three intertwined challenges, consistent with the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change: **(1) promoting an innovative agriculture to contribute to food security and environmental quality; (2) fostering a transition towards a sustainable-management oriented and environmentally-friendly society; (3) improving human health in changing environments.** These three challenges concern the whole planet and most particularly developing countries in Africa, Asia, South America, especially in inter-tropical areas, and around the Mediterranean Sea,.

Agriculture, environment, biodiversity, biology and health sciences are at the core of this project. For each of these disciplines, and in addition to research support in the mentioned fields, MUSE will dramatically transform the way we work and will lead to building bridges between: agriculture and environmental sciences to address concepts and prospects in agro-ecology; environment and health sciences to cover the new area of ecology of health; and, between health and agriculture to establish a link between nutrition and well-being conditions.

To reach these goals, MUSE connects **above-mentioned core sectors to chemical, social, natural, formal or engineering sciences.** Indeed, chemical sciences and chemical engineering are essential to our project, not only because they are linked naturally with pharmacy, bio-health or biochemistry of plants, but also because they will open new horizons for bio-sourced materials, soil remediation, material recycling or energy storage.

MUSE encourages the stronger integration of **social sciences** by leveraging the excellence of its partners in this vast scientific. Such expertise will strengthen the core domains by addressing issues such as the legal and ethical aspects of risk prevention, the equilibrium between development and preservation of rights, or even the economic component of health systems. This knowledge will be instrumental in the transformation of scientific innovation into societal innovations by developing entrepreneurship and appropriate management approaches.



Bioinformatics, biomathematics, and biophysics are instrumental as well, as the needs for modelling and data processing are crucial for agriculture, environment and health sciences or for creating tools available for societies to develop a smart governance of resources and ecosystems. Moreover, expectations are growing for new ways of collecting information (**electronics**) or assistive means to physically interact with the environment and with Humans (**robotics**).

Through these approaches, we will achieve scientific breakthroughs *and* drive industrial and societal innovations in agriculture, human health, and environmental sectors. Hence, MUSE will create a **transformative effect by opening the University to new partnership opportunities** with the public sector (guiding public policies) and the private sector (from startups to major companies, NGOs and foundations)

