

Call for projects GATES@UGA PhD Year 2026

Project submission deadline : December 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Application submission website : [DEPOSIBUS](#)

Context and objectives

The GATES@UGA PhD 2026 call for projects from Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA) aims to strengthen the ties between UGA and major European research facilities located in Grenoble through the co-funding of PhD theses and the funding of mirror theses. This call for projects was prepared within the UGA Vice Presidency for research and innovation.

The major European facilities targeted in this call are :

- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, ESRF,
- Institut Laue Langevin, ILL,
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory, EMBL,
- European Magnetic Field Laboratory, EMFL,
- Institut de Radio-Astronomie Millimétrique, IRAM.

Involvement of an additional international partner other than those listed above is encouraged.

Progress of the collaboration :

Large facility	Target: number of theses funded involving collaboration between UGA and the Large Facility (2022–2032)	Achieved: number of theses funded involving collaboration between UGA and the Large Facility (2022–present)
ESRF	24	9
EMBL	10	3
ILL	24	11
IRAM	8	2
EMFL	5	3

Timeline of the call

- Publication of the call: November 7, 2025
- Opening of the submission site: November 7, 2025
- Submission deadline: December 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
- Publication of results: April 2026

Eligibility

This call for projects is open to the entire scientific and academic community (researchers, faculty members, and equivalents), without restriction of discipline or methodology. The project leader must be a permanent, active member (researcher, teacher-researcher, or research engineer holding a PhD) of a UGA research unit. Members of the research division boards, the Vice Presidency for research and innovation, and emeritus researchers or faculty members cannot be project leaders or co-leaders. Structures such as federations or platforms are also not eligible to submit a project.

Coordination with Other UGA Funding Mechanisms

A project leader (or co-leaders) may not simultaneously submit an identical project to other UGA doctoral funding programs (Doctoral Contract for Exploratory and Emerging Projects, LabEx, EUR). All site-wide calls for projects are now listed on a single web page available [HERE](#).

Contacts

General inquiries : dgdriv-aap-recherche@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Contacts for research divisions :

- CBS : directoire-cbs@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- MSTIC : directoire-mstic@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- PAGE : directoire-page@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- PEM : directoire-pem@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- PSS : directoire-pss@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- SHS : directoire-shs@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Objectives and procedures of the call

Objective	To strengthen ties between UGA and major European research facilities located in Grenoble through PhD funding.
Funding	- Co-funding of PhDs: the doctoral contract is funded 50% by UGA and 50% by the partner facility. - Mirror theses: one doctoral contract is funded by UGA and the other by the partner facility.
Specific Conditions	<p>Co-funded theses: theses will be co-supervised by staff from a UGA research unit and staff from the partner facility, with equal engagement (50-50). Personnel of the partner facility refers to anyone employed by the facility.</p> <p>Mirror theses: the thesis will be supervised by staff from a UGA research unit, mirrored by a thesis conducted at the partner facility. One doctoral contract is funded by UGA and the other by the partner facility. Co-supervision of the mirror thesis by supervisors from both institutions is recommended but not mandatory. Both mirror theses must contribute jointly to the same scientific project. The partner facility's thesis may not start more than one year before or after the start of the thesis funded under this call.</p> <p>Applicants proposing mirror thesis projects must coordinate with the partner facility's management when preparing the project.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>- <u>Project strength</u> : originality beyond the national and international state of the art, scientific and/or technological ambition, relevance of the collaboration.</p> <p>- <u>Feasibility</u>: adequacy of human and methodological resources to project goals, risk analysis and mitigation, complementarity of the consortium, coherence between doctoral research and the overall project.</p> <p>- <u>Impact</u> : significance of expected results relative to the state of the art, dissemination strategy, contribution to the development of scientific knowledge and technological innovation within UGA, and strengthening of the potential for national or European project submissions.</p> <p>The point of view from the targeted doctoral school will be requested regarding supervision quality and the adequacy of the thesis topic with the school's research themes.</p>

General procedures

➤ Project affiliation

- A project must be submitted under the research division corresponding to its main topic, regardless of the laboratory's primary affiliation.
- If applicable, a secondary research division may be indicated. Dual affiliation must demonstrate a real added value for both divisions beyond a methodological or technical contribution.
- Approval from the head of the lead laboratory is mandatory. No laboratory quota applies.

➤ Thesis supervision

- Doctoral recruitment and all procedures related to the collaboration will follow the rules and conditions defined in existing agreements between UGA and the partner facilities.
- The thesis director must be affiliated with a UGA doctoral school.
- Thesis start date must be before December 31, 2026.
- Doctoral recruitment must be coordinated with the relevant doctoral school. The recruitment procedure (draft and publication of the position, description of working conditions, preselection, and interviews) will be defined by future supervisors and validated by the doctoral school. The process must involve experienced individuals in doctoral supervision and international recruitment. Identifying a candidate at submission time is not required.
- The doctoral school will be consulted on: (1) the number of ongoing theses supervised by the proposed supervisor(s); (2) the number of funded theses supervised by the proposed supervisor(s) that started more than four years ago and are still not defended. This inventory will cover a 10-year period or, if applicable, since the supervisor's recruitment.
- Before submitting the project, each potential supervisor must ensure compliance with the doctoral college's new internal regulations regarding supervision ratios.

➤ Additional criteria

- If a project is resubmitted, previous evaluations and modifications will be taken into account.
- In line with UGA's environmental policy, each project leader must explain how potential environmental impacts will be minimized.
- The dissemination and valorization strategy will be evaluated, particularly regarding the choice of national or international conferences and peer-reviewed journals indexed in international databases. Articles and manuscripts must be deposited in an open-access repository (such as HAL or arXiv).
- To ensure fairness, project descriptions must strictly adhere to the page limits. Non-compliance will render the proposal ineligible.
- For EMBL-related projects, collaborations should focus on epigenetics, infectious diseases, and drug discovery.

➤ Evaluation and selection procedure

- The selection procedure follows [UGA's ethical guidelines for project calls](#), particularly regarding conflicts of interest.
- Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest and adhere to confidentiality and ethical rules.
- The advisory body is exempt from conflict-of-interest declarations.

- The following bodies are responsible for evaluation and selection:

Committee	Consultative body	Decision-making body
Ad-hoc committees by partner	Extended Vice Presidency for Research & Innovation	Extended UGA Board and Partner Facility Management

- Committee : Ad-hoc Committees (by partner) :

Scientific projects will be evaluated by UGA research divisions and the involved partner facility. Evaluations will be transmitted to a dedicated ad-hoc committee composed equally of UGA and partner representatives. Each committee will propose a project selection list. Committee compositions will be announced before February 17, 2026.

- Advisory Body: Extended Vice Presidency for Research & Innovation :

Extended Vice Presidency for Research & Innovation reviews committee work and considers institutional strategy and policies. It issues recommendations on selected projects.

- Decision-making Body: The Extended UGA Board and Partner Facility Management :

The Extended UGA Board and Partner Facility Management validate project selections, label projects, and allocate resources. They ensure alignment with UGA's policies and may issue recommendations.

➤ Feedback to applicants

- Each committee will appoint a rapporteur per project to draft a synthesis of evaluations to be sent to the applicant. Each applicant may request a meeting with a division board member to discuss their proposal.
- A summary report of the overall call will be shared with applicants and made public, including committee proceedings, selected projects, deliberation process, and arbitration methods.

Submission of proposals

Applications must be submitted electronically, on time, complete, and in the required format through the [DEPOSIBUS](#) platform. Proposals must be written in English. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Documents (Calibri 11 pt or equivalent, single spacing; reference list excluded from page count):

- CV of the project leader(s) (one document, max 2 pages per person)
- Project summary (max 1 page)
- Project description (max 5 pages)
- List of project participants
- Proof of submission signed by the Head of the main laboratory
- Doctoral candidate's role (max 1 page)
- Commitment letter from the partner facility
- List of active funding sources related to the project