

Call for projects 2026 Cross Disciplinary Programs (CDP)

Deadline for project submissions: 2 March 2026, 12:00 noon

The University of Grenoble Alpes (UGA) starts a call for Cross Disciplinary Programs (CDP) projects to provide the human, scientific, technical and administrative resources needed to build new interdisciplinary scientific communities or strengthen existing communities in line with UGA's strategy.

The CDP call for projects is open to the entire scientific and academic community (researchers, teacher-researchers and similar) at UGA, with no restrictions in terms of disciplines or methodologies: UGA research laboratories or associated laboratories (CEA-DRT).

The CDP call for projects has two components :

- One aimed at fostering the emergence of new interdisciplinary scientific communities,
- The other aims to support the extension of CDPs certified in 2022 in order to anchor their actions over the long term and deploy a sustainable dynamic in line with the UGA's strategy, particularly in terms of interdisciplinarity.

Funding is granted on a project basis and must justify the need for the resources requested.

Contact address : dgdriv-aap-recherche@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

■ **Acceptability criteria**

The project leader or co-leaders (maximum of four) must be permanent members (researchers, lecturers-researchers or equivalent) of a research unit at UGA or a Grenoble unit of CEA-DRT. Each person may only lead or co-lead one project.

After a project has been approved, one of the co-leaders will be identified as the corresponding co-leader. Emeritus staff members cannot be leaders or co-leaders.

Projects must bring together research teams from different laboratories belonging to at least two research Pôles or at least one research Pôle and the CEA's DRT.

■ **Eligibility criteria**

Only multi-laboratory, inter-Pôle, interdisciplinary scientific projects are eligible.

Interdisciplinarity must give rise to new knowledge and/or new skills for each discipline involved, beyond methodological or technical involvement. Simply using a methodology from one discipline in the context of a topic belonging to another discipline does not constitute interdisciplinarity.

Furthermore, only disciplines that are significantly involved in terms of research staff, lecturers and similar personnel will be taken into account. The number of staff in each discipline will be taken into account when assessing this criterion.

Specific criteria for each component :

Criterion	CDPs 2026	Continuation of CDPs in 2022
Eligible	The entire scientific and academic community (researchers, teacher-researchers and similar) within the IdEX UGA scope, without restriction in terms of disciplines or methodologies: UGA research laboratories and Grenoble units of the CEA-DRT (Leti, Liten, List).	CDP certified in 2022.
Not eligible	CDPs certified in 2016, 2017 or 2022.	CDPs certified in 2016, 2017.

■ Assessment criteria

Three criteria will be used to evaluate the projects submitted, with no hierarchy between them. Their breakdown into sub-criteria is shown below.

Critères	Sous-critères
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Originality and quality of the project from a scientific and methodological perspective, - Ambition of the scientific questions posed for the various disciplines involved, - Alignment with the scientific strategy of the UGA*, - Nature of the expected results (theoretical, practical, technological, scientific, methodological), - Design and practice of interdisciplinarity, - Consistency of the consortium with regard to interdisciplinary, scientific and methodological issues.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution to addressing major societal challenges and promoting interdisciplinarity at the Grenoble site, - Strategy for disseminating results and methodologies, - Ambition to promote research results, - Quality of proposed actions at the science-society interface, - Coordination with UGA international collaborations*, - Contribution to training within UGA*, - Ambition to raise additional funding, - Commitment to organizing international scientific events at UGA, - Strategy for pooling the tools and methodologies developed, where applicable in conjunction with UGA's technology platforms.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance : consistency with the project's ambition in line with its objectives, respect for gender parity, particularly in the project's leadership. - Coordination with UGA's strategic projects (LabEx, SFR, FR, etc.). Where applicable, consideration of potential funding through the national strategies of the France 2030 program*, - Feasibility, risk management, - Justification of the requested budget. <p><i>Additional criterion concerning communities originating from CDPs certified in 2022 :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a strategy enabling the community to become self-financing at the end of the CDP.

* : these sub-criteria will not be assessed by external experts.

■ Financial request

The financial request for the project may include :

- Payroll expenses for funding doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, research support staff, visitors, internship allowances, Master's scholarships, etc.
- Operating expenses : consumables, travel expenses, services, etc.
- Capital expenditure on equipment.

With regard to funding for doctoral theses or postdoctoral research, the topics and supervisory team will be described, at least in general terms.

If the project aims to create a new CDP 2026, the financial request must be between €500k and €1.2M. The total estimated budget for this category of projects is €6-8M, to be adjusted according to the number of projects submitted.

If the project follows on from a CDP 2022 project, it is expected that the project will outline a strategy for raising funds from outside the UGA or for contributions in kind from partners. The financial request must be between €300k and €800k. The total provisional budget for this category of projects is €3 to €5M, to be adjusted according to the number of projects submitted.

The project budget may include internal co-funding (from UGA laboratories or structures) or external co-funding, whether national or international. The amount awarded may be adjusted in relation to the amount requested, particularly if the consortium already has the resources available to carry out the project. In this regard, applicants are expected to provide complete transparency in the application form, and any insincere statements will be grounds for rejecting the project.

■ Project evaluation

Projects are assessed by experts selected for their expertise in the areas relevant to the project. Each project will receive at least three expert assessments. These experts will be external, i.e. working outside the UGA, and preferably international.

Project assessment is based on an evaluation form strictly limited to the criteria and sub-criteria mentioned in these specifications. Expectations will be adapted depending on whether it is a renewal of a 2022 CDP or the creation of a new 2026 CDP.

At the time of submission, the applicant or co-applicants may indicate any experts with whom they have a conflict of interest. It is also possible to request, stating the reason, that a member of the selection committee (see below) not participate in the evaluation or deliberations on a project.

■ Project selection and certification

• The selection committee

The committee is composed of members of the expanded Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation, including one member of the management team from each research cluster. The committee is chaired by the Vice-President for Research at UGA.

In its work, the committee draws on the opinions and recommendations expressed by experts in their evaluations and on the information provided during public hearings on the projects. The committee takes into account the project selection criteria and the elements of the UGA's strategy. It ensures a balance between research areas and the thematic diversity of the projects selected.

Following the project hearings, the committee draws up a proposal for projects to be supported and the allocation of resources. This proposal distinguishes between CDPs 2026 and CDPs 2022.

The committee bases its proposals on both scientific and strategic grounds.

The committee's membership will be made public before 27 January 2026. It will be adjusted to take into account any conflicts of interest with the projects submitted.

- **The decision-making body**

The expanded UGA Executive Board approves projects and validates the allocation of resources. It ensures compliance with UGA policy and strategy. It takes into account the areas covered by the projects and ensures that thematic balance is maintained. If necessary, it issues recommendations on certain projects.

- **Rules governing confidentiality, professional ethics and the handling of conflicts of interest**

The obligations and rules regarding confidentiality, professional ethics and the handling of conflicts of interest comply with the principles adopted by the UGA Board of Directors on 11 October 2021.

No project leader or co-leader may be a member of the CDP selection committee, the board of directors of a research Pôle, the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation, or the extended UGA Board of Directors.

To monitor issues of ethics and the handling of conflicts of interest in the CDP call for proposals selection process, the Research Committee will appoint three observers to attend committee meetings.

- **General terms and conditions**

- **Project duration and eligibility of expenditure**

The projects will begin on 7 September 2026 and end on 31 December 2030. Operating and investment expenses will be eligible until 31 December 2030. Doctoral contracts may be signed until the end of 2028 and therefore conclude before the end of 2031.

- **Project affiliation**

- A project must be submitted to at least one research Pôle (or CEA-DRT) corresponding to its reference theme, regardless of the main Pôle to which the (co-)sponsoring laboratory is attached.
- At least one second Pôle or the CEA-DRT must be designated.

- **Project funding**

- Projects involving national or international academic partners outside the scope of UGA or actors from the socio-economic or cultural world are eligible, but only the activities of UGA laboratories or a DRT institute will be funded.

- **Regarding doctoral contracts**

- Doctoral contracts are awarded in a research unit supervised by the UGA or an institute of the DRT.
- The thesis supervisor must be affiliated with a UGA Doctoral School.
- The thesis proposal must be widely published. The recruitment of doctoral students is subject to approval by the doctoral schools. It is not necessary to identify a candidate at the time of submitting the proposal.
- Each potential thesis supervisor must ensure that they comply with the rules on supervision ratios in force at their affiliated doctoral school.

- **Regarding postdoctoral researchers**

- Postdoctoral researchers must demonstrate research experience outside the laboratories of the UGA research Pôles, either during their PhD or during postdoctoral work.
- The job offer must be widely advertised.

■ Project submission

The tender dossier is written in English. It consists of the following elements:

- Scientific description of the project, max. 20 pages, Calibri 11 pt, single spacing (.pdf):
 - Project context (max. 5 pages): open scientific, technological and methodological questions, socio-economic or cultural issues, summary of preliminary results already obtained, summary of funding already obtained or requested and currently under review. For 2022 CDPs, include a description of previously funded projects, a summary of scientific and technological results already obtained through collaborations between several laboratories, several Pôles and several disciplines.
 - Project quality (max. 5 pages),
 - Project impact (max. 5 pages),
 - Project implementation, including budget justification (max. 5 pages).

For each criterion, the dedicated section will address each of the sub-criteria.

- Where applicable, signed letters of financial commitment from partners outside the UGA, 1 compiled file (.pdf),
- CVs in English of the project leader and co-leaders, where applicable, max. 4 pages each, 1 compiled file (.pdf),
- Summary in French, max. 1 page (.pdf),
- Summary in English, max. 1 page (.pdf),
- List of personnel involved in the project (.xls).

Electronic applications must be submitted on time, in the required format and complete, in accordance with the procedure described on the [DEPOSIBUS](#) project submission platform.

The schedule is as follows:

- Call publication date: 5 December 2025.
- Deadline for submitting a one-page summary in French or English, by email in PDF format to dgdriv-aap-recherche@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr : 24 February 2026 at 12:00 noon.
- Deadline for submitting the complete project: 2 March 2026 at 12:00 noon.
- Project hearings: 16 and 17 June 2026
- Certification of selected CDP projects: 3 July 2026.
- Launch of CDP projects: 7 September 2026.