



Research Collaboration Program

between

The University of São Paulo (USP)

and

The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

Research Opportunity

Scientific Areas

The CNRS and the USP are launching a joint call for proposals between the two institutions in order to further develop collaborations.

This call for proposals **supports collaborative research between the French academic community and the USP. This year, the call will focus on megacities facing accelerated climate change.**

In order to guide the scientific communities towards the themes that are of particular interest for this joint call, applicants are encouraged to consider proposals addressing the challenges of **megacities facing accelerated climate change**. Within this perspective, the CNRS–USP “Megacities” PhD cluster identifies several research directions of high priority: the mapping and mitigation of **urban heat islands and thermal stress**; the **adaptation of infrastructures and water systems** to increasing extreme events; the examination of **climate justice and socio-environmental inequalities** in vulnerable urban areas; the development of **urban agriculture and short supply chains** to enhance food resilience; the analysis of **biodiversity loss and ecological fragmentation** within metropolitan environments; the exploration of **low-carbon design, construction materials and sustainable urban planning**; as well as the integration of **citizen-generated data and digital tools** into climate-related urban governance. These themes are not exhaustive, but they illustrate the type of interdisciplinary approaches and innovative doctoral projects expected in this call, combining environmental sciences, social sciences, agriculture and decarbonization, climate studies, and computational methodologies

The joint call is intended to fund up to 3 years of a PhD fellowship and travel starting in September 2026 for all awardees.

Eligibility



Principle Investigators:

- USP: Faculty with graduate faculty member status
- CNRS: Researchers working in a CNRS unit
- A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.

Students:

- USP: any PhD student
- France: first-year PhD students

Collaborative Research

Each proposal must have at least one applicant PI from USP and one from CNRS leading each proposal.

PIs who do not already have a collaborator may consult the CNRS website or the relevant USP faculty/departmental websites to find information on the research groups and projects being carried out in either institution.

Amount

In accordance with respective institutional policies, PhD students are expected to be financially supported by their home institution, at the equivalent level of a PhD fellowship in keeping with these policies, including when the student is visiting the host institution.

A fellowship will be funded for the doctoral student, according to the following terms:

- CNRS: A three-year fellow fellowship starting in the fall of 2026
 - USP: A four-year fellowship starting in the first semester of 2026
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Additional funds will cover mobility costs for visits to France & to USP for the PhD student over three years (CNRS provides up to €5,000 per year for PhD students from France to travel to USP, and USP provides, from its own budget or using external resources from funding agencies, up to the equivalent of 5,000 euros in Brazilian reais per year for USP students to travel to France).

Support period

Up to 3 years (CNRS)
Up to 4 years (USP)

Number of awards

Up to 5 awards will be distributed per call. Each award will support 1 PhD student at USP and 1 PhD student at CNRS per selected proposal.



Call date

October 3rd, 2025

Submission date

November 3rd, 2025

Notification date

February 16th, 2026

Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a joint USP - CNRS committee according to the following criteria:

- Research quality & originality of the project
- Research merit of the teams
- Training environment for the PhD students involved
- Synergy, including interdisciplinary collaboration, between the teams
- Capacity for future collaboration & plans for raising external competitive funding (EU collaborative grants, national research agency grants, etc)

Successful recipients will be formally notified via email of the award and informed of funding conditions.

Reporting

At the end of each year (12 months from the approval of the award), awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) to CNRS and USP.

This report should detail the outcomes of the collaboration to date and the ways in which the grant has enhanced, or will enhance their research activities and/or leverage larger opportunities – including funding.

Funding for the subsequent year will be remitted after review of the report and confirmation of travel plans for the PhD students for that year.

As part of this report, PIs will be required to provide information on how the funds awarded for PhD mobility were expended and how much was expended.

Mode of application

Only one proposal is required and should be submitted by the **CNRS applicant** in electronic format and **in English** via the dedicated CNRS Website: <https://noa.cnrs.fr/#/accueil>



The proposal must consist of the following parts, in one single file of up to 6 pages (not including references and the CVs of the CNRS and USP participants).

PART A: Title Page

Title of the proposal, names of the principal investigators and their laboratories, their addresses, telephone, and e-mail. The names of the PhD students can be provided if they are already known. Please specify on the Title Page of the application "This application is submitted for consideration within the USP - CNRS Collaboration Program".

PART B: Description of the scientific project (2 pages)

The current state of the research landscape and how the project contributes to it, description of the scientific project and domains of interest, historical context of application (if applicable), quality and originality of the project, objectives, scientific methodology, expected results and their relevance, future perspectives. Explain how the PhD fellow will be supervised and mentored, and how the collaboration will enable and enhance the project. Explain the relation between the project and the research themes of the laboratory.

PART C: Added-value of the international cooperation

Describe the added-value of the international cooperation in fulfilling the aims of the project (explain why the project cannot be carried out at a national level only). Describe the expected benefits for the French and USP teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the French and USP teams. If any additional industrial, or governmental collaboration are involved in the project, please describe their role.

PART D: Planned activities

Describe the planned activities in the framework of the project and provide a timetable. Explain how these activities will help achieve the aims of the project.

PART E: Budget

Proposed budget including a breakdown of the division of funds, separated into distinct budgets for USP and CNRS. The budget section regarding travel should contain explicit line items for travel of the PhD student.

PART F: Perspectives & external funding

Outline any proposed plans for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, etc.)

PART G: Scientific quality of the teams

Please attach in the Annex a list of up to ten detailed (complete) citations for publications related to the project for each team. This list does not count against the page limit. Authors from the respective laboratories must be clearly indicated in the author lists, with superscript or parenthesized letters corresponding to the respective countries, for example Dupont JP (FR), Menezes F (BR).



PART H: Short (maximum two-page) curriculum vitae of all PIs

PART I: Ethics

Does the project raise ethical questions? If yes, please describe them and how they will be addressed.

Enquiries

USP enquiries should be directed to prpg@usp.br

CNRS enquiries should be directed to Antonia.alcaraz@cnrs.fr