

SMART LOIRE VALLEY (SLV) Programme

Call for applications and guidelines: campaign 2024

Tuesday 7th November 2023 to Thursday 15th February 2024 (17:00 – CET Paris time)



“After all, science is essentially international, and it is only through lack of the historical sense that national qualities have been attributed to it.”

Marie Skłodowska-Curie,

Polish-French scientist, Double Nobel Prize laureate famed for her work on radioactivity

PREAMBLE

Founded in 1996, inspired by the Loire Valley historical, geographical and human cultures, the objective of LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies is **to create a dynamic outwards-looking international scientific community** in the Centre-Val de Loire region (France) covering all research disciplines and involving public and private research institutions.

We **welcome experienced international researchers** to the research institutes/laboratories run by the universities and research centres and enterprises of Centre-Val de Loire region and offer them an inspiring multidisciplinary environment to conduct their research work and open up to a variety of scientific projects. To date, LE STUDIUM has attracted more than 280 experienced researchers to the region, coming from 49 countries.

LE STUDIUM proposes innovative **exchange initiatives and networking activities to stimulate the life** of a learning international faculty of LE STUDIUM fellows, in order to favour cross-disciplinary exchanges between regional and international scientific communities and to **build human capacity for research, development and innovation**.

The institute operates in the Centre-Val de Loire region of France with a network of partners including the University of Orleans, University of Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, ESAD Orléans, and national research centres based in the region: BRGM, CEA Le Ripault, CNRS Centre Limousin Poitou-Charente, Centre INRAE Val-de-Loire and Inserm. It also maintains special links with the university hospitals of Tours and Orléans, the MSH Val de Loire and poles of competitiveness. In total, more than eighty research institutes/laboratories work with LE STUDIUM.

The Centre-Val de Loire Regional Council is the main funder of LE STUDIUM.

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1 - PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME: CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1 - 1 Context and objectives

Beyond supporting the international mobility of applicants, the SLV programme aims to create sustainable collaborative projects and links between researchers and regional research stakeholders and their counterparts all over the world.

For the 2024 edition, the Smart Loire Valley (SLV) Programme offers **four types of awards** with mutual obligations between the awardee, the host research institute/laboratory and LE STUDIUM:

- **Professorship Awards**
- **Visiting Researcher Awards**
- **Integration Fellowship Awards**
- **Consortium Awards**

1 - 2 Presentation of the programme

This call for applications does not target any specific research themes. **It is open to international experienced researchers in all disciplines** wishing to join a research laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region (within research institutes of universities, national research centres and enterprises).

The programme targets **international experienced researchers** who have to embody, through their profile, the key words that capture the research values of LE STUDIUM: **Curiosity, Imagination and Intuition**. These values help to create an outward-looking international scientific community that recognises the benefits of international, multi- or interdisciplinary and intersectoral research approaches. The awards' package creates conditions that catalyse the development of scientific and human interactions with LE STUDIUM members' research structures and enterprises in the Centre-Val de Loire region, and the development of a wider Loire Valley research community. This programme benefits the visiting scientists, regional host laboratories and researchers, and supports the regional research innovation ecosystem.

Award	Duration	Candidate	Award's Benefits	Competitivity level
Professorship	12 non-consecutive months (4 periods of 3 months each year)	Experienced International researcher	- Travel costs - Furnished accommodation - Administrative support - International scientific events - Le Studium scientific community - Possibility to co-supervise a PhD	***
Visiting Researcher	3 to 12 consecutive months	Experienced international researcher	- Travel costs - Furnished accommodation - Administrative support - International scientific events - Le Studium scientific community	**
Integration Fellowship	12 consecutive months	International researcher	- Employment contrat & salary - Travel costs - Furnished accommodation - Administrative support - International scientific events - Le Studium scientific community	***
Consortium	One-week meeting every 6 months over 2 years (4 meetings)	Researcher based in the Centre-Val de Loire region	- Logistical and organisation support - Travels of 4 international partners - Meals & accommodation for members	**

Nota bene:

- ➔ Host research institutes/laboratories cover the research costs.
- ➔ Applicants to Professorship, Visiting Researcher and Integration Fellowship Awards must identify a host research institute/laboratory in the region. A list of host research institutes/laboratories is available on the following page: <https://www.lestudium-ias.com/regional-ecosystem/research-institutes-and-laboratories>
- ➔ Alternatively, the Le Studium Scientific Manager can try to identify a host research institute/laboratory.

➤ Professorship Award

OBJECTIVES

- 12 non-consecutive months residency to lead a **collaborative scientific research project**
- 4 periods of 3 consecutive months (one period/year) over 4 consecutive years
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting scientist and the host laboratory

BENEFITS

- Travel costs (economic class) capped to 800 EUR each year
- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist*
- Relocation administrative support (visa, banking, housing, insurance, schooling...)
- Full integration in an international research community in the Centre-Val de Loire region
- Possibility to co-supervise a PhD student in Centre-Val de Loire region (possibility validated case by case)
- French class (during academic year) and training opportunities
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM
- Opportunity for logistic support and funding to organise an international scientific conference

LE STUDIUM PROFESSORSHIP award is an opportunity for experienced scientists (5 years after PhD and more) on leave from their institution with salary maintenance to integrate a high-level research institute/laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region and the LE STUDIUM international faculty for 4 periods of 3 consecutive months (one per year). Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise in Centre-Val de Loire.

This award supports the installation of the visiting scientist and her/his family *(children under 18 only) in the region (travel cost for the awardee, visa, accommodation, logistics, administrative support) and offers opportunities to organise an international scientific conference or workshop.

This programme offers the opportunity to co-direct a PhD student who will strengthen the continuation of research activities of the project/collaboration between the periods of residency.

This award allows a starting date of the first residency period from September 2024 to May 2025.

➤ Visiting Researcher Award

OBJECTIVES

- 3 to 12 consecutive months residency to lead a **collaborative scientific research project**
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting researcher and the host laboratory

BENEFITS

- Travel costs (economic class) capped to 800 EUR
- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist*
- Relocation administrative support (visa, banking, housing, insurance, schooling...)
- Full integration in an international research community in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- French class and training opportunities
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM
- Opportunity, logistic support and funding to organise an international scientific conference

LE STUDIUM VISITING RESEARCHER award is an opportunity for experienced scientists (at least 5 years after PhD) on leave from their institution with salary maintenance to integrate a high-level laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region and the LE STUDIUM international faculty for periods of between 3 to 12 months. Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise in Centre-Val de Loire.

This award supports the installation of the visiting researcher and her/his family *(children under 18 only) in the region (travel cost for the awardee, visa, accommodation, logistics, administrative support) and offers

opportunities to organise an international scientific conference or workshop.

This programme is also well suited to researchers holding an Individual Fellowship (such as Full Bright, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, ERC, etc...) willing to complete their fellowship in the region.

This award allows a starting date of the residency from September 2024 to May 2025.

➤ Integration Fellowship Award

OBJECTIVES

- 12 consecutive months residency in a regional laboratory to lead a **collaborative research project and prepare an application for a permanent position in a regional research centre**
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting researcher and the host laboratory.

BENEFITS

- French contract and salary (2300 EUR/net per month)
- Travel costs (economic class) capped to 800 EUR
- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist*
- Relocation administrative support (visa, banking, housing, insurance, schooling...)
- Full integration in an international research community in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- French class and training opportunities;
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges;
- Invitation to scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM;
- Opportunity and funding to organise an international scientific conference.

LE STUDIUM INTEGRATION FELLOWSHIP award is open to international scientists who submit an application during the 2023-2024 academic year for a permanent position in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

This programme is an opportunity for a scientist having between 3 and 10-year experience after the PhD to integrate a high-level laboratory in the Centre-Val de Loire region for a one-year fellowship and prepare her/his resubmission for a permanent position application if not successful the first time.

This programme offers a French work contract with salary, supports the installation of the visiting researcher and her/his family in the region *(children under 18 only) (travel cost for the awardee, visa, accommodation, logistics, administrative support) and provides opportunities to attend international events and to organise an international scientific conference.

This award allows a starting date of the residence from September 2024 to November 2024.

➤ Consortium Award

OBJECTIVES

- Formation of a team of up to five internationally competitive senior researchers, public or private, sharing a **clearly identified research objective**
- Opportunity to achieve a common goal such as, but not exclusively, address or workshop a multidisciplinary problem, organise an international workshop/conference, build a Horizon Europe or an international application, write a book chapter, build a market strategy, etc...
- Coordination by a research institute/laboratory based in Centre-Val de Loire
- Better understanding of the expertise of each partner and her/his research team in order to build future collaborative research projects

BENEFITS

- A budget managed by Le Studium
- Logistical and organisation support for each meeting (4 meeting weeks over 2 years)
- Travels of the partners
- Meals and accommodation for the consortium members
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and the scientific programme led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges
- Support to organise an international event if the budget can be identified.

LE STUDIUM RESEARCH CONSORTIUM award enables the formation of a team of five experienced researchers (one researcher from region Centre-Val de Loire and four international researchers) and supports their interactions. This team is invited to meet for a full week twice a year over a period of 2 years (4 meetings in total). The consortium has to present a well-defined research work plan to implement and outcomes to achieve through milestone goals linked to the meetings.

This award allows a starting date of the first Consortium members meeting from January to May 2025.

2 - CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS

The applicants are advised to answer all questions listed in the application form, in a manner that substantiates any claims made by the applicant. Particular attention, but not exclusively, must be given to the following dimensions: **proposal background, research plan, data analysis and risk management, possible interdisciplinary dimension, significance and innovation of the project, background and record of accomplishments** of the applicant researcher and of the host scientist.

The applications have to be **written in English** in order to allow evaluations by international experts. A **resume in French is required**.

One of the objectives of the SLV Programme is the development of an enduring scientific relationship between the visiting research fellow and the host laboratory. Importantly, in order to support the application, the host scientist has to describe in the application form how the applicant is essential to the envisaged research project.

The host laboratory has to write a support letter arguing the importance of the application in line with its strategy.

3 - REVIEW OF THE APPLICATIONS

3 - 1 Eligibility criteria

This programme aims to attract **experienced international researchers willing to conduct a high quality and innovative project in collaboration with one of the research laboratories of the Centre-Val de Loire region.**

Candidates are eligible if they meet the following conditions:

- Be national or **long-term resident of a country other than France** that is not to have resided in France for more than 12 months in the three years preceding the closing date of the call for applications. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.
- Have negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory in Centre-Val de Loire.
- **For the Professorship and Visiting Researcher Awards**
 - To be in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least five years of full-time equivalent research experience after their doctorate.
 - Hold a work contract (permanent or not) in a foreign university or research institution during the residency
- **For the Integration Fellowship Award**
 - To be in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least three years and less than 10 years of full-time equivalent research experience after their doctorate.
 - To have submitted an application for a permanent position in the Centre-Val de Loire region during the academic year 2023-2024 and willing to submit again during the following academic year if not successful.
 - Researchers holding a permanent position are not eligible.

3 - 2 Evaluation criteria

➤ **For the Professorship, Visiting Researcher and Integration Fellowship awards**

External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications: the scientific quality, the impact of the proposed research and records of accomplishment of the applicant as well as the career development plan through the LE STUDIUM award:

- **Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the quality of the methodology, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility, and risk management.
- **Impact of the proposed research & collaboration (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed research, the demonstrated skill and ability of the researcher and her/his proposal to increase knowledge. In addition, it includes the application of new ideas, procedures, technologies, programmes or policy settings to important topics that will influence the proposed field of study and contribute to the host laboratory (co-publications, establishment of a new partnership with the research institute/laboratory employing the visiting scientist, teaching lectures, PhD supervision or mentoring...)
- **Career development, Track Record of the Applicant and Relevance of the choice of the host laboratory (25%)** – The track record evaluates whether the applicant’s previous research activities demonstrate her/his capacity to achieve the proposed scientific objectives. This includes the applicant’s ability to contribute to the research, especially in terms of having the appropriate mix of research skills and experience, to work with research teams and private partners. Experience of inter-sectorial and/or transnational mobility, as well as experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, management and team building experience, experience in transfer of technology and training competences will also be considered. An interruption to the applicant’s career path has to be documented. Interruptions may include pregnancy and childcare, escaping regions of conflict, unexpected illness etc. The relevance of the choice of the host laboratory to perform the proposed research project is also taken into consideration

➤ For the Consortium award

External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications: the scientific quality, impact of the proposed research and the track record of the applicant and coherence of the Consortium:

- **Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility and risk management.
- **Impact of the proposed research & collaboration (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed research project, the demonstrated skill and ability of the Consortium and their proposal to increase knowledge. In addition, it includes the application of new ideas, procedures, technologies, programmes or policy settings to important topics that will influence the proposed field of study and contribute to the host laboratory (co-publications, establishment of a new partnerships with research institutes/laboratories employing the visiting scientists...)
- **Track Record of the Applicant and Coherence of the Consortium (25%)** – One major point is the relevance and the scientific coherence of the proposed group of researchers. The track record evaluates whether the applicant’s previous research activities demonstrate her/his capacity to achieve the proposed scientific objectives and to federate research work among the consortium members. This includes the applicant’s ability to contribute to the research especially in terms of having the appropriate mix of research skills and experience to work with different research teams and enterprise partners. Experience of working in multidisciplinary teams as well as management and team building experience, experience of transfer of technology and training will also be considered.

3 - 3 Evaluation process

After the campaign closing date, the LE STUDIUM team performs an administrative check ensuring each application conforms to the submission format guidelines and that all necessary documents are complete and signed. Only eligible applications will be considered for review and selection.

To ensure a fair transparent evaluation and selection process, the following occurs:

- **LE STUDIUM** ensures that the global administration and management of the evaluation process respects set criteria for the scientific review, including rules related to non-discrimination and conflict of interest.
- **External peer-reviewers** are invited to provide an independent, expert assessment of the scientific content of each eligible application based on the selection criteria. A minimum of three reviewers, screened for conflict of interest, are invited to evaluate each submitted application.

- **The Scientific Council** is composed of twenty-five eminent scientists from both the public and private sectors. This committee, with the assistance of external peer-reviewers, provides an independent, impartial and fair scientific assessment of applications. Observers from the LE STUDIUM member structures, without any voting rights, are invited to attend the annual June meeting of the Scientific Committee.
- **Ranking of applications:** the cumulative scores and comments of external peer-reviewers and of the Scientific Committee members enable the LE STUDIUM team to build the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each application and to establish the final ranking list. Each ESR is validated by the President of LE STUDIUM Scientific Council. A reserve list is potentially established.

3 - 4 Appeal - Redress procedure

- Should an applicant feel that there has been a shortcoming in the process of evaluation of her/his proposal, s/he may call upon this procedure. The appeal can be filed after each step of the evaluation process.
- A candidate willing to appeal is invited to send an email to the LE STUDIUM General Secretary. The message should mention: the title of the application, the elements in the evaluation procedure perceived as unfair or inappropriate and the correction measures that the candidate deems necessary.
- The General Secretary will share these elements with the LE STUDIUM President and President of the Scientific Committee for review. Corrective actions will be undertaken if necessary.
- Within the ten days following the redress request message, the candidate will receive a feedback giving conclusion to the redress request.

4 - NOTIFICATION - DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The Scientific Committee meeting will take place in early June 2024.

Final results will be communicated in the four weeks following the meeting of the Scientific Committee: a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify all applicants.

All applicants, awarded or not, will receive an official notification and an evaluation summary report (ESR) listing the strengths and weaknesses of their proposal. For non-awarded applicants, the evaluation summary report may be helpful to improve the application and apply again for the following campaign.

After notification, the awarded applicants will have two weeks to confirm their acceptance of the award.

If an applicant does not accept the award, it will be given to the following candidate placed in the final ranking on the reserve list.

5 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF PROFESSORSHIP VISITING RESEARCHER & INTEGRATION FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

5 - 1 Preparing the fellows' arrival

After an applicant has accepted an award, the LE STUDIUM Scientific Manager invites her/him and the host scientist to a videoconference meeting to review award details, clear up administrative questions and to set the dates of the residency. Following this meeting, a formal letter of offer is sent to the fellow summarizing the residency and contract conditions. Awarded candidates will have to submit copies of their diplomas.

Following acceptance of the offer by the candidate, the LE STUDIUM staff process administrative duties to prepare the awardee's arrival (visa, residence permit, travel and/or private medical coverage, professional liability insurance, children's schooling, French class, other activities...). The accommodation is prepared to welcome the fellow and her/his family in the best conditions.

5 - 2 Welcoming the fellow

Upon her/his arrival, a member of the LE STUDIUM team welcomes the awardee and her/his family, introduces them to their apartment and answers any practical questions. The next day the fellow is invited to attend a meeting to review and finalise all contractual documents.

In the couple of weeks following the arrival, the fellow and host scientist are invited to a scientific discussion with the General Secretary and the Scientific Manager of LE STUDIUM to review the research project and discuss opportunities linked to the award.

5 - 3 Contractual obligations during the residency

The Smart Loire Valley Programme's awards are partnership awards with mutual obligations between the researcher in residence, the host laboratory and LE STUDIUM. The awarded researcher, the host scientist and research team are invited to participate in the scientific life of the LE STUDIUM international research community across a variety of scientific events. The attendance to the LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS monthly seminars is mandatory for awarded researchers. S/he will present her/his work during one of these seminars.

At the end of the residency, the LE STUDIUM researcher is asked to produce a final report explaining the outcomes of her/his project in the context of the original proposal. This report is due at the scheduled exit meeting with the General Secretary and the Scientific Manager of LE STUDIUM. The report will be made publicly available with a DOI # on the LE STUDIUM website on the dedicated LE STUDIUM Journal section.

Host research institutes/laboratories welcoming a LE STUDIUM Fellow / Professorship or Visiting Researcher will sign a collaborative agreement "convention de mise à disposition" detailing mutual rights and obligations. Universities and national research centres of Centre-Val de Loire have signed up to the European Charter for Researchers and have received the Code of Conduct for Recruitment (HRS4R) certification. They commit to welcome researchers and to offer excellent working conditions including work office space and research resources. LE STUDIUM does not acquire any intellectual property rights.

The collaborative agreement describes other contractual obligations, such as open access publications, credits, or mention of LE STUDIUM affiliation in the communications.

6 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF CONSORTIUM AWARDS

6 - 1 Preparation of the first meeting

After acceptance, the LE STUDIUM Scientific Manager invites the Coordinator of the Consortium to a scientific meeting. The objectives are:

- To discuss the scientific mission of the consortium;
- To define the scientific programme of the first meeting and agree on the timing.

LE STUDIUM and the Coordinator of the research institute/laboratory will sign a collaborative agreement detailing obligations of both parties.

The first meeting of the Consortium members has to be held between January and May 2025.

6 - 2 Logistics & budget for each meeting

LE STUDIUM team manages the budget and the logistics related to the meeting.

The weeklong meeting takes place in the Centre-Val de Loire region and is fully funded by LE STUDIUM within a capped budget envelop (a maximum of 6000 EUR/meeting). LE STUDIUM coordinates the organisation of the meeting week including the travel arrangements of members (visa, bookings), their accommodation and meals, the venue and necessary materials and equipment for the best outcome of scientific discussions.

At the end of each meeting week, Consortium members have to plan the next meeting date and a workplan that fits in the two-year timeframe of the award.

6 - 3 Contractual obligations during the Consortium period

- After first and third Consortium meeting, the Consortium coordinator must provide a **brief report** (2-3 pages maximum) to summarize the meeting.

- After the second meeting, an **interim report** must be delivered.

- After the fourth and final meeting, Consortium members are asked to produce a **final report** explaining the outcomes of the project in the context of the original proposal. This report may be made publicly available on the LE STUDIUM website and circulated to interested parties.

7 - SCIENTIFIC EVENTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH FELLOWS, REGIONAL RESEARCHERS & RESEARCH INSTITUTES/LABORATORIES

Awards include a scientific programme led by LE STUDIUM to stimulate scientific and interdisciplinary exchanges and the establishment of new international collaborations. They are designed to attract national and international participants to widen the exchange arena.

LE STUDIUM fellows and members of LE STUDIUM Consortium groups, their host scientists and coordinators, the members of the regional host research institutes/laboratories of universities, national research centres or enterprises are invited to attend these events.

The different scientific event formats are described hereafter.

7 - 1 LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

Awardees have the opportunity to convene one international event called **LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP**. These one or two-day international events are co-organised by the researcher in residence and the host laboratory with the logistical and partial financial support of LE STUDIUM.

To be eligible to the funding of these international LE STUDIUM events, researchers will be asked to prove the singularity and the interdisciplinarity of the proposed event: originality in the design, complementary approaches, topics generally not covered in standard conferences, adoption of a differentiated position of communication, list of potential invited speakers and dissemination of the outcomes. The event has to pursue a specific mission with clear interdisciplinary scientific objectives. A selected number of the LE STUDIUM Scientific Council members will review the event project and recommend or not its organisation.

7- 2 LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS

LE STUDIUM animates its international community of researchers through regular monthly interdisciplinary seminars called **LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS**. Each THURSDAY addresses a scientific topic of one or two LE STUDIUM fellows' research field. The challenge is that the speakers have to express themselves in such a way that the other fellows, whose specialties may be completely out of their own field of research, should understand them. These meetings encourage interdisciplinary exchanges, with the goal of germinating original scientific projects among researchers. They help the fellows deepen their scientific knowledge and communication skills while contributing to strengthening the LE STUDIUM faculty of international research scholars. LE STUDIUM encourages its faculty of fellows to look at the "universal" scientific man, as spoken of during the Renaissance period. This concept was especially present in the Loire Valley, where attracting international "talents" was highlighted and typified by Leonardo da Vinci.

The attendance to this monthly seminar is mandatory for the awarded researchers. They will be asked to present their research work during one of these seminars as well as the Consortium coordinators.

Attendance to THURSDAYS is open to doctoral students and all regional partners.

8 - APPLICATION FORMAT AND ONLINE SUBMISSION

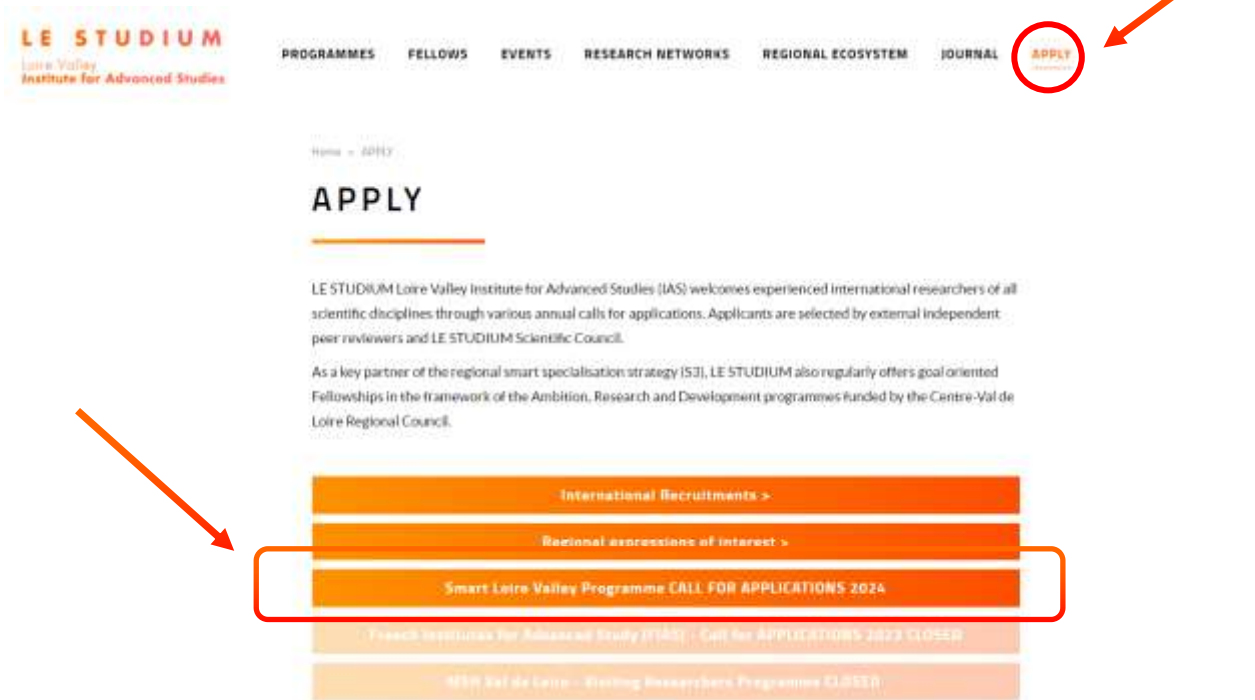
8 - 1 Process

Proposals must be submitted online through the LE STUDIUM website by Thursday 15th February 2024 (17:00 – CET Paris time)

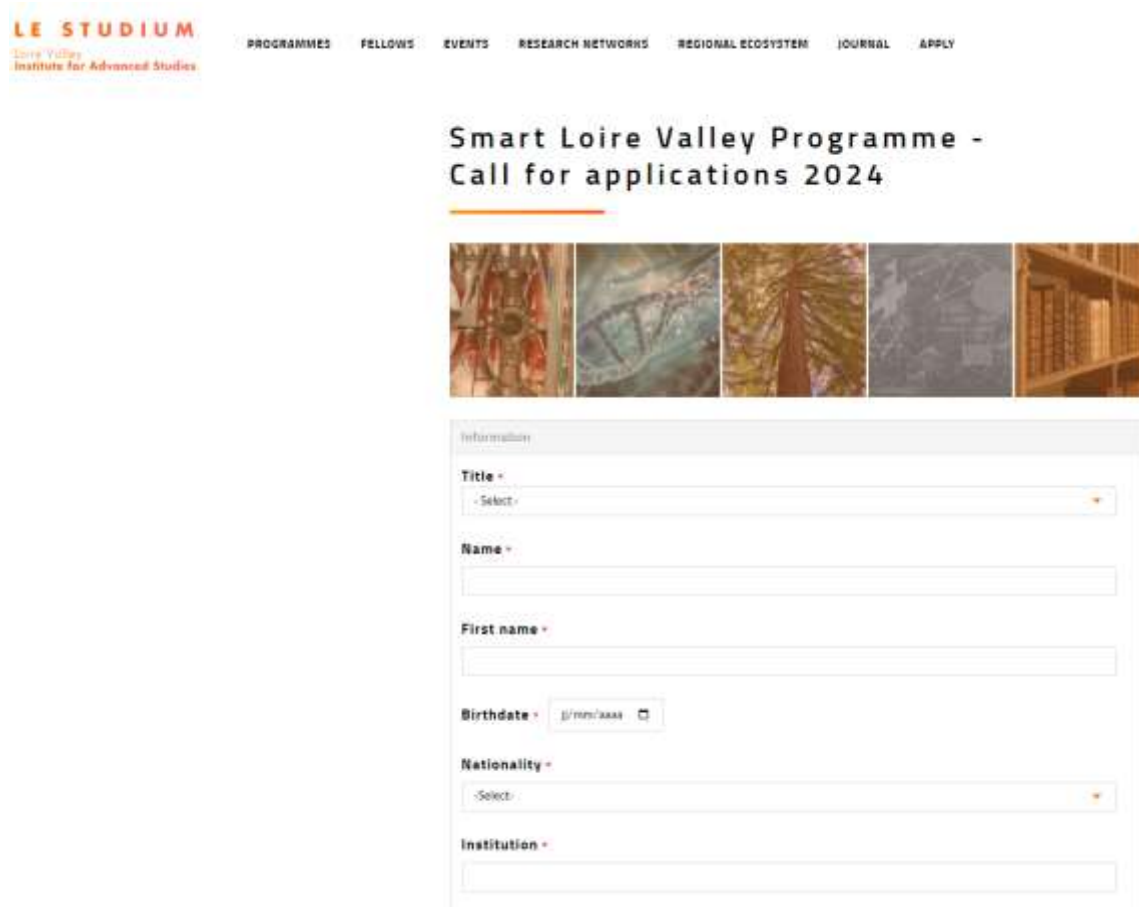
- Go to www.lestudium-ias.fr

From the top menu, click on Apply

- Select the recruitment type: Click on Smart Loire Valley Programme.



- Fill in the registration form. You will receive a confirmation email.



- **candidate account will be created** and an email sent to the applicant with the identification information.

8 - 2 Application form – Content and Rules

The online application form is divided into 3 parts:

- **Part A: General information (online form), CVs and support letters (documents to upload on the platform)**
- **Part B: Scientific proposal (document to upload on the platform)**
- **Part C: Engagement from the host laboratory (document to upload on the platform)**

Part A – Check the indicative form to see the different fields to be completed online.

Parts B and C must respect the following minimum standards:

- ✓ A minimum font size of 11 points, except for Gantt chart and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- ✓ Single line spacing
- ✓ A4 page size
- ✓ Margins (top, bottom, left, right) of 25 mm
- ✓ A clearly readable font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman) on a printed copy

Nota bene:

- You have the option to save the form **as draft** and complete it later.
- Applicants are invited to **upload their documents**: CVs, potential support letters, proposed research project (Part B) and laboratory commitment letter (Part C)
- You will get a **confirmation email** once you have completed the online Part A, uploaded Parts B & C and submitted the application.

Tables are only for illustrating the core text of the proposal. As such, they cannot be used to contain the core text itself. The page formatting will be systematically checked by the LE STUDIUM operational team. For non-compliant proposals, applicants will be asked to reformat their proposal without the possibility of modifying the content. Excess pages will subsequently be disregarded by evaluators.

Footnotes are to be used exclusively for literature references. Their minimum font size is 8. They will count towards the page limit.

The Part B should be composed as follows (detailed description below):

- ✓ Section 1: Scientific project
- ✓ Section 2: Impact of the proposed research
- ✓ Section 3: Career and Track record of the Applicant

Within the maximum pages quota applying to the whole document, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between sections 1, 2 and 3.

If some of the proposed sub-sections are not relevant to their proposal, applicants are invited to ignore them.

After the call deadline, excess pages will automatically be made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted PDF documents are readable and are within the page number limit.

Part C consists in a 2-page (maximum) letter from the host scientist supporting the application.

Part C has to be signed by the host scientist, the director of the host research institute/laboratory and the designated representative of the research institution (university, national research centre or enterprise) welcoming the potential awardee.

8 - 3 Advices for the submission

It is strongly recommended to:

- Process your registration on the LE STUDIUM website soon after the opening of the call for applications
- Refer to the FAQ document posted on the LE STUDIUM website when available
- Not wait until the deadline for submission to upload the documents
- If necessary, to contact by e-mail one of the persons listed on page 1 of this document.