

Inserm-NSTC (France/Taiwan) Exploratory Mobility Programme & Joint Workshops Programme

Call for proposals 2024

Since 2004, Inserm and NSTC have offered researchers an opportunity to develop scientific and technological collaborations in Life Sciences and Human Health. To celebrate 20 years of fruitful partnership between Inserm and NSTC, both institutions have decided in 2024 to renew and strengthen their bilateral programme in order to better support scientific and research collaborations in targeted fields of common interest. The new programme will support **Exploratory Mobility** and **Joint Workshops**. Synergies between both are encouraged but not mandatory. Both exploratory programmes are the object of a **single annual joint call for projects**.

Inserm and NSTC may be consulted prior to the application in order to identify relevant partner teams according to the chosen scientific focus (cf. section 8).

Application Guidelines

1. Eligibility criteria

To be considered eligible, projects must be submitted by researchers from both sides according to the following criteria: On the **French side**, researchers must be situated within Inserm units, and the proposals submitted by a Principal Investigator from Inserm. On the **Taiwanese side**, researchers must be qualified as NSTC project leaders and eligible to the NSTC funding instruments in Taiwan.

2. Research Areas

Areas of collaboration may include, but are not limited to: Health Technologies / Med Tech (i.e. A.I. for Health, Precision and Personalized Medicine, Medical Devices), Genomics, Cancer / Healthy Ageing, Neurosciences / Mental Health, Emerging Infectious Diseases.

3. Application and requirements

Identical proposals using the dedicated form must be submitted in English to both Inserm AND the NSTC in order to be considered eligible.

4. Evaluation process

Evaluation of projects will be carried out separately by Inserm and NSTC. Valid applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by Inserm and NSTC. Joint consultations, arbitration and final validation will be carried out between Inserm and NSTC to determine the final selection.

5. Project selection

Jointly selected projects will be determined by exchange of lists with an order of scientific and institutional priority between Inserm and the NSTC. In the event of a difference of assessment between Inserm and the NSTC regarding projects to be co-financed, a mutual consultation will be carried out between the competent services (see article 7. "Contacts") in order to achieve a balanced modus vivendi and jointly identify the project(s) to be funded by both Inserm and the NSTC.

6. Timetable

- Opening of calls for application on both sides : **Monday April 15, 2024**
- Deadline for joint submission to Inserm and NSTC : **Monday September 13, 2024**
- Review and joint arbitration by Inserm and NSTC : **September – November 2024**
- Publication of results: **Friday November 15, 2024**
- Start of projects : **January 2025**

7. Administrative support and checklist

Researchers must ensure that they hold a valid passport and insurance covering their travels to/from and whole duration of their stay in the host country. Useful information is available on the dedicated webpage of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs ([MEAE](#)) website *Conseils aux Voyageurs/Conseils par pays/destination Taïwan*.

8. Contacts

Inquiries and submissions on both sides should be made electronically to the following contacts:

Inserm

Hugues BOITEAU (Mr.)
Tél. : +33 (0)1 44 23 62 12
hugues.boiteau@inserm.fr

NSTC

Wei-Jiun Chuang 莊惟鈞先生
Tél. : +886 (0)2 2737-7559
wjchuang@nstc.gov.tw

I- Exploratory Mobility Programme

1. Programme description

The exploratory mobility programme is designed to support bilateral mobilities for **up to twelve (12) months**. Each year, Inserm and NSTC fund **up to two (2) mobility stays**, which must be carried out **within one (1) year**. Eligible activities include participation in scientific seminars, visits to laboratories and technological platforms and meetings with scientists of related areas of expertise.

2. Programme funding

Inserm side and Taiwan side will each fund their own researchers on the basis of round-trip economy class plane tickets and living costs (including accommodation, meals, domestic travel in the host country). **The maximum budget for exploratory mobility projects is €10,000 (Inserm) and equivalent amount in NTD (NSTC) per year. A maximum of two (2) projects will be jointly selected and funded by Inserm and NSTC.** Selected projects will be funded at the beginning of the year following the evaluation.

3. Selection criteria

Proposals will be independently evaluated and jointly selected by Inserm and the NSTC. The selection criteria for exploratory mobility projects are:

1. *Scientific excellence;*
2. *Research complementarity;*
3. *Project relevance.*

II- Joint Workshops Programme

1. Programme description

The Joint Workshops programme provides support for scientific workshops to be jointly held in France or in Taiwan by eligible researchers. Each year, Inserm and NSTC will fund **up to two (2) workshops** which must be carried out **within one (1) year**.

2. Programme funding

Inserm and NSTC fund their own researchers on the basis of round-trip economy class plane tickets and living costs (including accommodation, meals and domestic travel in the host country/region). **The maximum budget for joint workshop projects is €12,000 (Inserm) and equivalent amount in NTD (NSTC) per year. A maximum of two (2) projects may be jointly selected and funded by Inserm and NSTC.** Selected projects will be funded at the beginning of the year following the evaluation.

3. Selection criteria

The joint workshop projects submitted will be evaluated independently and selected jointly by Inserm and the NSTC. The selection criteria for joint workshop projects will be:

1. *Scientific excellence and relevance in view of the thematic expertise of the speakers;*
2. *Perspectives in terms of cooperation between Inserm and Taiwan;*
3. *Novelty of the planned collaborations;*

4. *Added value of cooperation between Inserm and Taiwan in the targeted area;*
5. *Feasibility of the seminar (in terms of budget);*
6. *Involvement of young researchers in the joint workshop.*

III- Potential synergies between Programmes

Researchers may submit a project for **one or the other** programme or for **both** programmes, depending on the aims and characteristics of the cooperation (e.g. exploration of new avenues of joint research or deepening of existing cooperation).

Researchers are free to apply to both programmes to support more ambitious, long-term bilateral research projects. Researchers are also encouraged to look for potential synergies with other **competitive funding and annual-based linkage instruments at national, bilateral or European level, such as:**

- Inserm international Instruments (“First Step” and “International Research Programmes”);
- NSTC Partnership program for Connection to the top labs in the world (Dragon Gate Program);
- PHC « Orchid »: bilateral Hubert-Curien Partnership operated by the French Embassy;
- ANR-NSTC Joint Research Funding Programme (Franco-Taiwanese PRCI);
- The *Académie des Sciences* – NSTC Franco-Taiwanese Scientific Grand Prize;
- Opportunities through the European Union’s Funding Programmes (Horizon Europe) via the Taiwan European Union Innovation and Cooperation Platform (TEUICP).