

## "Inria International Chairs" programme 2027 call for proposals

### 1. PRINCIPLES

Inria set up the "Inria International Chairs" (IIC) programme to encourage longer research stays - typically several weeks up to a year - by scientists from international institutions embedded in Inria research teams in France, and to give them greater visibility.

Applications from international scientists working in Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) are particularly encouraged under this programme.

Until 2022, the Inria International Chairs programme targeted only internationally renowned tenured researchers with advanced careers.

Since 2023, a second section has been open to researchers in the early stages of their careers. There are two possible application routes:

- **"Starting Career" IIC (5 to 12 years of experience):**
  - Aimed at tenured researchers with 5 to 12 years of research experience after Ph.D. diploma as of 01/01/2027
  - Allows a 6 to 9 month stay between 01/01/2027 and 31/12/2029
  - Stated desire to develop a collaboration with Inria, supported by the chairholder's home institution
- **"Advanced Career" IIC:**
  - Aimed at internationally renowned tenured researchers with advanced careers
  - Allows a 10 to 12 month stay between 01/01/2027 and 31/12/2031
  - No age restrictions other than those applicable to civil service jobs in France  
*In accordance with the French General Civil Service Code, Inria is not allowed according to French law to hire contract staff aged 67 or older at the time of signing the contract.*

To be eligible to apply for a such a chair, a scientist must:

- Carry out his/her main activity outside France,
- Get a written permission from his/her main employer, if he/she is appointed to a chair, to conduct a research stay at Inria and receive a salary from Inria while he/she is present at Inria,
- Submit a work schedule, in connection with the targeted host research team(s),
- Commit to spend the defined period at the institute in France during the term of the chair, with the dates of the research stay being agreed with the leaders of the hosting Inria teams according to the submitted provisional schedule,
- Agree to give lectures or to teach/deliver training to reach a wider audience than just the members of the host research teams,
- Commit to include Inria in their affiliation for scientific research carried out during his/her research stay at the institute

By awarding an Inria International Chair, Inria agrees to:

- Remunerate the chairholder (subject to written approval from their main employer), on the basis of Inria general employment framework - *Research Positions* pay scale, for the duration of his/her stay(s) at Inria. This remuneration includes exclusively the chairholder's salary.
- Provide a working environment compliant with international standards.
- Transfer the chair to a new institution if the chairholder is reassigned, provided the new institution commits to maintain the chair.

Inria International Chairholders will receive an official notification letter from Inria Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). They will be able to use this title as they wish, by specifying the tenure period.

The Inria International Chair (IIC) is implemented by the Human Resources department at the host Inria team's Centre. An agreement will be drawn up, defining in particular the duration of the chair (from 01/01/Y to 31/12/Y+3 or Y+5) and the corresponding remuneration conditions. Each research stay by the chairholder will then be covered by a specific employment contract.

The advertising of this programme, including the submission procedure, is sent to Inria Centres and posted/ published on the institutional website.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION**

The decision to offer an Inria International Chair is left to the discretion of the Inria Centre director, who prepares the relevant files, in particular in relation with Inria's strategic priorities and those of their Centre.

The application file must include the following documents:

- The duly completed application form (available at [www.inria.fr](http://www.inria.fr))
- A copy of the applicant's passport
- A detailed resume
- A research project covering the duration of the chair, including prospects for technological developments and where applicable, technology transfers
- A work plan specifying the considered research stay periods (provisional visit schedule) over the full duration of the chair
- A written consent from the main employer for the chairholder to conduct research stays residency at Inria and receive a salary under an Inria contract while he/she is present at Inria
- The viewpoint of the leader of the host research team
- Letters of recommendation from international experts may be attached.

***For "Starting Career" IICs only:***

- Provide a statement of commitment to developing international collaborations with Inria
- Include a letter of support from the chairholder's home institution

The Inria Centre directors are asked to send the application files that they support to the International Relations Department (DRI, represented by Cécile Vigouroux and Natacha Régis), at [iic@inria.fr](mailto:iic@inria.fr), stating their opinion and where applicable, any priority rankings, by **no later than 15 October 2026**.

The applications are considered by the Inria International Chairs Committee, which delivers its opinions to General Management.

Chairs are awarded by Inria's CEO for the duration of the chair, subject to approval from the Senior Defence and Security Official (FSD).

Inria International Chair awardees are notified by a formal letter from the CEO.

The DRI informs the relevant Inria Centre directors and research team leaders.

Following the decision by the CEO, the Human Resources departments at the host teams' Inria Centres, are responsible for organising the onboarding of the chairholders, in consultation with the research team leader and Centre director, in order to define the chairholders' working conditions and the stays' dates. The chairholder and Inria sign an agreement covering the duration of the chair, as well as an employment contract for each stay.

The International Relations Department monitors the programme, in liaison with HR.

### 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR 2027

For 2027:

- **2** new chairs may be implemented for the "**Starting Career**" **IIC** route
- **2** new chairs may be implemented for the "**Advanced Career**" **IIC** route

### 4. SCHEDULE

|                                       |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 2026</b>                      | <b>Launch of the call for proposals</b>                             |
| <b>No later than 1 October, 2026</b>  | Submission of the applications to the Inria Centre Directors        |
| <b>No later than 15 October, 2026</b> | Transfer of the complete files to DRI by the Inria Centre Directors |
| <b>From October to December 2026</b>  | Review of the applications by the Chairs Committee                  |
| <b>January/February 2027</b>          | Communication of the decision awarding the 2027 Chairs              |