

International associated laboratories (LIA)

What is a LIA?

In order to structure **collaboration between two research teams or laboratories** (one in France and the other abroad) that **already have joint publications**, the creation of an international associated laboratory (LIA), a "laboratory without walls", can be requested. The relationship between the two partners is formalized through **a contract signed by the heads of both organizations**, with provisions covering issues such as intellectual property rights. Human and material resources are pooled to carry out the project. Teams or laboratories associated through an LIA **retain their separate autonomy**, status, Director and location.

The LIA activities are coordinated by two co-principal investigators and by a scientific steering committee.

How long does a LIA last?

Four years, possibly renewable once.

Who can submit a LIA proposal?

In France: **CNRS researchers or academic staff working in CNRS-affiliated research units** willing to be co-principal investigators for the LIA.

In Hong Kong: **researchers or academic staff from a research organization or university** willing to be co-principal investigator for the LIA.

How and when to submit a proposal?

Proposals must be submitted to **the relevant CNRS thematic institute** and simultaneously to **the partner institution abroad**, according to their specific agenda.

How are proposals evaluated?

Proposals are evaluated at **both CNRS and the partner institution** if this is provided for in a **bilateral Agreement**.

At CNRS, evaluation is carried out by the relevant thematic Institutes.

Once the decision to create a LIA has been made, an agreement with a research project description, a provisional budget, and intellectual property provisions is signed by the authorized representative(s) of the French and partner institutions abroad.

How is a LIA funded?

CNRS and the partner institution earmark funding for LIA projects, in addition to other resources provided by the home institutions for research on the project.

Running costs, research trips, small equipment are eligible for funding.

Funding begins at the start of the fiscal year following the decision to create a LIA.

Scientific and financial reports must be submitted annually.

International programs for scientific cooperation (PICS)

In situations where **cooperation between French and foreign partner is well-established**, and **has resulted in joint publications in scientific journals**, it is possible to **formalize the relationship through PICS**. This is a more involved form of cooperation than a plain exchange of researchers in that it is based on pre-existing joint research, and has a longer time frame.

It brings together **two research teams** and the **participation of young researchers** (Ph.D.s and postdocs) is encouraged.

What is a PICS?

A PICS is a joint **research program** aimed at supporting joint research projects carried out by two teams, one from CNRS and one from abroad. Funding required by the cooperation to support exchanges comes from both partners.

How long does a PICS last?

Three years, non renewable.

Who can submit a proposal?

In France, **CNRS researchers**, as well as academic staff from other institutions who work in **CNRS-affiliated** research units.

Outside France, researchers and academic staff from a research organization or university.

How and when to apply?

A call for proposals is published annually on the website of the CNRS european research and international cooperation office (DERCI). The two-stage application process begins on March 1 and finishes on the first week in June. Funding begins at the start of the following year. Before submitting a proposal, CNRS researchers must seek approval from the relevant thematic institute. Once they have obtained it, they can request an application form from DERCi.

The foreign partner must simultaneously submit a proposal to their home institution. A provisional budget is to be presented with the research project proposal.

2015-2016 Schedule:

Opening date: 15 April 2015

Closing date: 2 June 2015

Results: January 2016

How are applications evaluated?

Proposals are evaluated at both CNRS and the partner institution if this is provided for in a **bilateral Agreement**.

At CNRS, evaluation is carried out by the relevant thematic Institutes.

How are PICS funded?

Both institutions participate in PICS funding. Funding covers research trips, meetings, and running expenses if needed.

Funding begins at the start of the fiscal year following the decision to carry out a joint project within the framework of the PICS.

Scientific and financial reports must be submitted annually.

More information: <http://www.cnrs.fr/derci/spip.php?article51> (French)