

Call for Proposals Scientific programs 2023/2024

Objective

Institut Pascal (IPa) facilitates thematic programs to have scientific communities meet, explore pioneering ideas and establish new collaborations. The spirit of the IPa initiative is to host programs of long durations (typically from 3 weeks to a trimester), allowing researchers to devote the necessary time and energy to particularly important challenges. These programs should favor brainstorming that leads to innovative advancements. Hence, Institut Pascal encourages programs that dedicate large slots of time to interactions of small to medium-size groups of researchers.

IPa provides this facilitation, welcoming all of Université Paris-Saclay's laboratories and their partners. The institute supports programs attracting scientists and students from all over the world and can host up to 60 (inter)national visitors in excellent conditions, having 26 offices dedicated to this end and multiple lecture rooms for plenary meetings.

Scientific Themes

The thematic programs may fall within any of the scientific fields covered by the Université Paris-Saclay, be they theoretical or experimental. They include among others: Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Climate Science, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics. Proposals with a component in the humanities or social sciences are also welcome.

Selection

The IPa Scientific Council, consisting of internationally recognized scientists, will evaluate the program proposals based on:

- Scientific importance of the topic, timeliness, intellectual challenges
- Recognized leadership of the program organizers and participants
- Overlap with the research activities carried out in the Paris-Saclay region
- Size of the community in Ile-de-France area that the program can attract
- Gender balance in the organization and the design of the program

To optimize the interaction with Institut Pascal staff, we encourage a local organizing committee composed of 2 to 4 persons that cut across the different disciplines of the program.

Organization

Taking into account the current pandemic and the requirements of research decarbonation, IPa has acquired an up-to-date equipment for distant communication, including videoconferencing with two amphitheatres and formal and informal virtual meeting rooms. Program organizers are requested to consider this equipment in their proposal, consequently avoiding inviting on site participants for less than 2 weeks¹.

Once a program has been accepted, the IPa board discusses with the scientific organizers how the institute can best provide its support.

IPa will take care of accommodation bookings nearby, in consultation with the individual participants. The scientific organizers of programs are in charge of scheduling seminars, lectures, tutorials and brainstorming sessions. These events will form the core of each program but in addition to this, the

¹ If the pandemic situation still impose limitations to travel in the coming years, we ask the organizers to commit to conduct the program in a hybrid format using the visio-conference equipment.

coordinators are encouraged to coordinate their program with a more traditional workshop or conference. Coordinators are also encouraged to take advantage of their thematic program to organize general-public conferences, for which IPa can provide organizational and advertising support.

Budget

Institut Pascal ensures significant support to the selected programs, which includes accommodation costs, coffee breaks and lunches for invited participants and organizers. A limited amount of support will be allocated to reimbursement of travel expenses.

To benefit from this support, each participant is expected to stay for a minimum of 2 weeks. There can be some flexibility to this rule, but the scope and rationale for waiving this requirement should be clearly explained in the proposal.

Institut Pascal highly encourages scientific organizers to explore additional sources of funding as well. The amount of the expected additional source of funding, and its usage, should be included in the proposal.

In the case of self-funded programs, the organizers are requested to approach the IPa board to discuss the modalities of organization and distribution of tasks, prior to the evaluation of the proposal by the Scientific Council.

Application Details

Each program proposal should provide the following information:

- Title of the program
- List of the scientific organizers, co-organizers and scientific committee. **Please note that the breadth of the topic or/and its inter-disciplinary aspect should be reflected in the choice of the scientific organizers coming from different sub-fields/fields.**
- Full description of the program (5 pages max), including a brief description of the field for non-experts, and a list of important questions to be addressed.
- Structure of the schedule, on a week-by-week basis. Specify the expected participation *per week* (the typical value expected is about 30 participants, but this number could range between a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 60). Specify if the program is expected to be held fully on-site or in an on-site/remote hybrid mode and how flexible is the proposed organization in case of persistent travel restrictions.
- Initiatives with regards to students (workshops, schools, seminars) and the broader public.
- Additional funding opportunities (requested or obtained), and how they will be spent.
- Exceptions to the “2-week minimal stay” rule, and rationale.
- A mention of how the equipment for distant communication will be used during the program.
- Desired start and end date (**within 2023 or 2024**)
- Suggestions for referees

DEADLINE: 22nd of APRIL 2022

It is strongly recommended that organizers submit a first draft of their proposal before the 8th of April 2022. The IPa board will then offer feedback at an early stage to improve the proposed program and increase its chances of being selected.

The evaluation by the Scientific Council will be communicated to the program organizers in July 2022.

Proposal should be sent in single PDF-format to:
<mailto:institut-pascal@universite-paris-saclay.fr>