EXPLORE#9

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

EXPLORE#9 CALL FOR PROPOSALS, SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

As part of the I-SITE Excellence Program (P.E.I), the University of Montpellier (UM) is launching EXPLORE#9, the ninth edition of the support for international mobility call for proposals.

FUNDED ACTIVITIES

This call for proposals provides **three distinct schemes**:

1. Support for **incoming or outgoing individual mobility of professors, researchers, research professors, engineers, technicians, or administrative staff** (tenured or under contract at the time of mobility) for the exploration of new international projects;
2. Support for **outgoing collective mobility of professors, researchers, research professors, engineers, technicians, or administrative staff from several components or institutions of the P.E.I** (tenured or under contract at the time of mobility) for the exploration of new international projects;
3. Support for **incoming or outgoing individual mobility of PhD students** for research stays aimed at strengthening or developing strategic collaborations.

OBJECTIVES

This call for proposals aims to foster international collaborations and contribute to new initiatives. Projects must demonstrate clear added value for the P.E.I and go beyond the usual international activities carried out by each institution as part of their regular operations.

For **staff mobility**, priority will be given to projects that aim **to create or expand student mobility programs or internationalized training programs, or to initiate the development of collaborative research projects that may later receive external funding (e.g., European programs, funding agencies, etc.).**

For **PhD student mobility**, priority will be given to projects that contribute **to acquiring knowledge or expertise and to strengthening or developing** international collaboration between research units or institutions.

PREFERRED PARTNERS

Priority is given to the partners listed below; it is planned to devote 75% of resources to this priority. Proposals outside this list remain possible, up to a maximum of 25% of resources.

EUROPE	**(*1)**		**AFRICA**	
	Alliance CHARM-EU		South Africa	U. Pretoria ; U. Stellenboch
Germany	U. Heidelberg		Morocco	IAV Hassan-II ; UM6P ; U. Cadi Ayyad, U. Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah (Fès), ENSAT Tétouan, U. Hassan II de Casablanca, ENSAK Kénitra (ENSAK)
			Senegal	University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD)
NORTH AMERICA	**(*1)**		Kenya, Tanzania	(*1)
Canada	U. British Columbia, U. Laval ; U. of Sherbrooke		Ivory Coast	INP Félix Houphouët-Boigny ; U. Nangui Abrogoua ; U. Félix Houphouët-Boigny
USA	UC Davis ; U. Arizona, Tucson ; U. of Minnesota			
			LATIN AMERICA	
ASIA	**(*1)**		Brazil	U. São Paulo ; Embrapa
Thailand	Kasetsart U., Chiang Mai U., Mahidol U., Chulalongkorn U.		Costa Rica	UCR, San Jose ; CATIE
Indonesia, Malaysia	(*1)			
			OCEANIA	
			Australia	UWA, U. Melbourne
			New Zealand	U. Auckland, U. Otago, Massey U.
PARTNERS' INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS			Any framework **if** the project's added value is demonstrated	

*(1) **Any university whose profile is similar to that of UM**, i.e., an institution **oriented towards research**, open to bilateral student exchanges, and interested in the three pillars: "Feed–Care–Protect".

Candidates wishing to **identify a host research unit at the University of Montpellier** can consult the list via this link.

ALLOCATED BUDGET

The budget allocated to the **EXPLORE#9** call for proposals is **360 000 €.**

ECO-RESPONSIBILITY

The candidates are invited to reduce their impact and to favor, when possible, less polluting modes of transportation. **When applying online, candidates must enter the amount of CO2e potentially emitted during the round trip, using the Ademe calculation tool.**

CALENDAR

- **Launch date of the call for applications: November 16, 2026**
- **Deadline for applications: January 29, 2027 (11:59pm, Paris time)**
- **Announcement of the results by e-mail: from the end of April 2027**
- **Mobility stays may start: from May 15, 2027 to December 31, 2028**

EVALUATION

After an administrative analysis of the applications by the International Relations Office, the applications will be sent for evaluation to the EXPLORE#9 Evaluation Committee, chaired by the UM Vice-President in charge of International Relations and composed of members of the UM Academic Council (CAC), directors of the UM research clusters and representatives of the COMIS member institutions.

The EXPLORE#9 Evaluation Committee will produce an evaluation of the eligible applications and will propose a ranking submitted to the UM Strategic Investments Committee (COMIS). Results will be sent by email **from the end of April 2027** onwards to successful and unsuccessful applicants.

SCHEMES 1 AND 2 - INCOMING AND OUTGOING MOBILITY FOR STAFF

1/ INDIVIDUAL MOBILITY STAYS

Create or expand student mobility programs or internationalized training programs; initiate the development of collaborative research projects that may be eligible for future funding (e.g., European programs, funding agencies, etc.).

2/ OUTGOING GROUP MOBILITY STAYS

Develop or expand international collaborations (such as the creation of training programs, establishment of institutional partnerships, development of structured research projects, etc.) involving a group of 2 (or 3) individuals from **2 (or 3) different structures within the P.E.I.**

DETAILS OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The EXPLORE#9 (schemes 1 and 2) call for proposals funds grants consisting of:

- **A daily allowance**, based on the destination country (see Order of July 3, 2006), **capped at 7 daily allowances per beneficiary**, regardless of the total duration of the mobility.
- **Coverage of transportation costs** (based on actual expenses and within the limit of one round trip per beneficiary) with a ceiling (see below). The distance between the place of departure and the place of arrival is calculated with the tool developed by the European Commission:
  - From 0 to 999km : 600 € per beneficiary;
  - From 1 000 to 7 999km: 1 300 € per beneficiary;
  - More than 8 000km: 2 000 € per beneficiary.

These allowances are intended to cover additional mobility-related costs and cannot be used to finance the wage bill.
Do not apply to EXPLORE#9 if there is already a funding opportunity on the same theme within the P.E.I.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Funding for mobility with the sole purpose of attending a symposium or conference is excluded from the EXPLORE call for proposals. In addition to the criteria of project coherence and quality, **the following selection criteria will be taken into account:**

- **Potential for project submission** in the field of education (student mobility; internationalized training programs; ERASMUS+ projects; etc.) as well as in the field of research (collaborative research projects; development aid projects; etc.);
- **Commitment of both host and sending institutions to the exchange**, particularly in terms of human and financial resources mobilized, where applicable;
- **Collaborative impact within the P.E.I**. through group mobility that must involve multiple educational and/or research structures of the P.E.I.

APPLICATION PROCESS

You must submit your application before January 29, 2027 (11:59 pm, Paris time) via the following platform: https://um.sipres.amue.fr/ihm/fr/appel-a-projets/3

You will have to provide: **a brief description of the project, a letter of support** with approval from the director of the applicant's teaching and/or research unit, or from the supervisor for administrative staff and **a letter of invitation** from the director of the host teaching and/or research unit. For collective outgoing mobility stays, the project leader submits the application only once.

SCHEME 3 - INDIVIDUAL MOBILITY FOR PHD STUDENTS

ELIGIBLE AUDIENCE

EXPLORE#9 is open to PhD students for incoming or outgoing individual mobility in the form of research stays lasting a minimum of 2 weeks. Students must be enrolled in a PhD program at the time of their mobility.

DETAILS OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The EXPLORE#9 call for proposals provides a contribution of **up to 3 500 € per PhD student** to **cover travel and accommodation expenses (regardless of the total duration of the mobility)**. This contribution is supplemented by resources from the sending and/or host institutions.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In addition to project coherence and quality, the following selection criteria will be considered:

- **Learning content:** acquisition of scientific techniques, completion of experiments, etc.;
- **Collaborative impact:** development of collaborations between researchers from foreign laboratories and those from P.E.I. laboratories through the PhD student's mobility;
- **Commitment of both the home and host institutions to the exchange,** particularly in terms of resources mobilized.

APPLICATION PROCESS

You must submit your application before January 29, 2027 (11:59 pm, Paris time) via the following platform: https://um.sipres.amue.fr/ihm/fr/appel-a-projets/3

You will have to provide: **a brief description of the research project including a simple estimated budget** (via the dedicated form), **a letter of support** signed by the director of your home teaching and/or research unit, a **letter of invitation** from the director of the host teaching and/or research unit, and a **detailed budget specifying the co-funding.**

Contact : mobility@umontpellier.fr