

IMCBio International PhD Call – Rules and regulation

The rules and regulation of the IMCBio International PhD Call are proposed by the PhD committee and IMCBio manager and validated by the IMCBio Executive committee. They are reviewed every year before the beginning of the new call.

The IMCBio International PhD Call is organized by the IMCBio Graduate School and its PhD committee.

IMCBio PhD Committee composition

The PhD committee is in charge of the selection and evaluation of the candidates. Its composition is defined by the Executive committee of the Graduate School as follows:

- 4 representatives of the Cluster Research INRT (one for each IGBMC departments)
- 3 representatives of the Cluster Research NetRNA (one for each institute involved)
- 2 representatives of the Cluster Research MitoCross (one for each institute involved)
- 1 representative of the Cluster Research HepSYS
- The Graduate School Manager

Additionally, to these members, each year, two outside members (generally emeritus researchers) are included to oversee all the process and applications.

For the 2026 IMCBio International Call the appointed members are:

Cluster Research INRT

- Dept GFC: Dr BERGAMIN Elisa
- Dept BDCS: Dr KIM Minchul
- Dept MTN: Dr MOINE Hervé
- Dept BSI: Dr TRAVE Gilles

Cluster Research NetRNA

- Institute ARN: Dr SMYTH Redmond
- Institute M3I: Dr. AUBRY Fabien
- Institute IBMP: Dr. LANGE Heike

Cluster Research MitoCross

- Institute GMGM: Dr SISSLER Marie
- Institute IBMP: Dr CASTANDET Benoît

Cluster Research HepSYS: Drs VIEIRA Angelica and MUKHERJI Atish (transition)

IMCBio Graduate School manager: Dr. GRAULIER Gwenaëlle

Emeritus

- Dr. WASYLYK Bohdan
- Dr. ENTELIS Nina

Number of fellowships and projects selection

The number of fellowships funded by each Cluster Research is defined by the head of Cluster before the start of the Call.

The IMCBio Graduate School funds on its own budget the projects associating two teams from different Cluster Research, called inter-cluster fellowships. The Graduate School funds up-to-three inter-cluster fellowships per Call. The IMCBio Graduate School also funds on its own budget a maximum of one project involving a team and a platform of the ITI IMCBio+ perimeter aiming at develop new technologies.

Starting at the beginning of the new academic year, a call for thesis projects is made within the IMCBio perimeter. Each Cluster Research has its own rules to define who can post a project. To know the rule of the concerned Cluster Research, please refer to the head of Cluster.

Regarding the inter-cluster projects, a project can be submitted by teams that do not currently host a student who is already benefiting from an inter-cluster fellowship.

A team can benefit from different types of fellowship (e.g., one supported by its Cluster Research and one inter-cluster or team-platform) as they are from independent funds.

Once validated, the projects are displayed on the front page of the application website of the Call:

<https://imcbio-phdprogram.unistra.fr/>

Note for Principal Investigators about the Doctoral School competition:

Submitting a project as part of the IMCBio International PhD Call does not prevent the same project from being submitted for the EDSVS competition (selected by the unit's director) and a candidate from being proposed. However, the results of the IMCBio selection program must be known before the date of the plenary council meeting that determines the list of candidates selected for the EDSVS competition. Candidates for an HDR who have obtained funding under the IMCBio International PhD Call is automatically excluded from the EDSVS competition, meaning that only one institutional grant can be obtained per HDR in the same year.

Application procedures

Usually, the application phase is open from end of November to end of January. For the 2026 Call the application phase is planned between November 24th 2025 and January 25th 2026.

To apply the candidate must be at least in the process of completing his/her master thesis. Master grades are important but not absolute parameters to assess student levels. While it is difficult to compare grades in different educational systems, IMCBio aims to recruit students with grades equal or above to 13/20 in the French grading system but will also take into account other information. (E.G., a student may have had limited grade for some reasons (foreign language,...) and/or may have acquired additional skills after the Master. Further, final grades may not yet be available.)

The application is submitted online via the application website of the Call: <https://imcbio-phdprogram.unistra.fr/>. All fields are requested and the following documents are mandatory:



- An up-to-date CV;
- Last diploma;
- Transcripts for each diploma provided;
- Motivation letter;
- Description of the master work and previous research experiences.

Application documents have to be in English or provided with a certified official English translation except for Diplomas and transcripts that may be in French or English.

Only complete applications will be considered. Due to the large number of applications, no reminder will be sent.

NB: The choice of projects made during the application procedure is not definitive. Candidates are allowed to modify their choices at each step of the process.

Competition stages

Files selection: all the files are reviewed by an equal number of PhD committee members. The candidate will be evaluated regarding the quality of his/her motivation letter, CV and previous master works (which should not be redundant but complementary), the grades and added value of the candidate for the program and the references letters.

Note on the use of AI: use of AI is not prohibited but must be used appropriately and mentioned.

Online interview: selected candidates have to participate to a 30 minutes online interview with 4 members of the PhD committee. The interview is composed by a 10 minutes presentation of the candidate and his/her work followed by 20 minutes of questions by the committee.

On-site interviews: short-listed candidates are invited to come on-site to do an interview with the full committee, meet Principal Investigators and see the research environment of the IMCBio Graduate School. They come for a few days (usually 3) during which they will have to present their work during 10 minutes, followed by 20 minutes of questions. Meetings with at least 3 Principal Investigators are also mandatory. Both interview and meetings are considered for the final ranking.

Final ranking: it is based on the grade fixed by the committee during the on-site interview. The final ranking is common for all the candidates, independently on the origin of the funding they applied for (research clusters or inter-clusters). The project proposed is based on the order of the choices of the candidate and of the Principal Investigator.

Once the candidate has accepted the offer, he/she has to sign a commitment letter and the recruitment administrative procedures can start.