



Programme
« Allocations de recherche
pour une thèse au Sud (ARTS) »
ARTS program

Call for proposals 2016

Timeline

Call for projects: 31 May 2016

Project selection: June – September 2016

Results communication: November 2016

Disbursement: February 2016

ARTS: formerly called « IRD PhD Grants program »

ARTS PROGRAM

Objectives

The "Allocations de recherche pour une thèse au Sud" (ARTS) is one of the programs supporting the strengthening and consolidation of research potential in southern countries being implemented by IRD. Through this program, IRD intends to help with the initial training of scientific staff in southern countries.

IRD PhD grants are intended to support PhD students from southern countries who are writing a thesis under a partnership between a northern research team and a southern research team, providing them with supervision and a good quality working environment and, in so doing, strengthening these countries' research capabilities.

The goal is to prepare & encourage young researchers to integrate the higher education and research system of a southern country, after finishing their thesis.

Eligibility conditions

Students meeting the following conditions may apply:

- National of a southern country
- Presenting a thesis topic falling within the scope of an existing research partnership between an IRD jointly-supervised unit and one or more southern teams
- Where the work program includes study periods alternating between the country of residence and another country (another southern country, France or another northern country) of at least 2 months' duration and, in France, limited to 6 months per year.
- Being under the age of 45.

Assessment criteria

- Scientific quality of the project: scientific interest of the topic, scientific coherence of its presentation.
- Quality of the applicant and relevance of career path
- Quality of the partnership: the project forms part of an existing north-south partnership; the actual supervision given
- Overall relevance of the request: the fit with national research priorities, project's connection to a formalized research program, consistency of the work program, feasibility
- Expected consequences: the student's prospects of finding a position in the home country, potential for strengthening the capabilities of the home (southern) country team and the north-south and/or southern regional partnership.
- Jointly supervised or jointly tutored thesis projects and those presented with joint financing will be given preference.

The IRD promotes equality between the sexes. As a result, applications from women are strongly encouraged.

Nature and terms of help provided

The financing period is 36 months maximum, with no renewal or extension.

The monthly allowance is a contribution towards subsistence costs, calculated on the basis of the salary for an entry-level researcher in the host country. As the PhDs are taken with study periods alternating between the country of residence and another country (another southern country, France or another northern country), the monthly payment will vary depending on the student's location. The allowance paid per country is available on the [IRD](#) website.

To encourage mobility between southern countries, the allowance is increased by a fixed sum for study periods in another southern country

IRD provides social security cover for the allowance recipient during the period the allowance is paid.

IRD pays travel costs between the planned study locations, namely one return trip per year.

The host team pays any operating costs together with the costs of any assignments that the allowance recipient might be required to carry out as part of his or her PhD work.

Mid-way through the PhD, the allowance recipient is obliged to submit an interim scientific report, accompanied by a detailed opinion from the thesis tutor and, if applicable, the thesis advisory committee's conclusions. A negative assessment might lead to suspension of the allowance. A final report is also to be submitted at the end of the allowance period.

An agreement stipulating the various parties' commitments is signed when the allowance is awarded.

As from 1 February 2016, receipt of the allowance is subject to the student obtaining a master's degree and admission to a PhD.

Procedure

The application pack (terms of the call for projects, summary, application form) is available on the IRD's website.

The application process is done electronically (single PDF file). The different parts of the application are described below.

Applicant

✓ Summary sheet

This must include a summary of the planned PhD thesis.

✓ Application form

Unless otherwise indicated, all fields are mandatory. You are asked not to attempt to modify the form. The description of the research organisations makes it possible to appraise the applicant's scientific background; therefore each host team within a single research organisation must be described. Consequently, an applicant hosted in a non-IRD organisation in Senegal and in an IRD centre in France and Burkina Faso will fill in

one "research organisation" with one "host team" for the non-IRD organisation, and one "research organisation" with two "host teams" for the IRD centre.

- ✓ Covering letter from the applicant on a separate sheet
Where the PhD has already started, the covering letter should be backed up with a progress report.
- ✓ The applicant's curriculum vitae on separate sheet(s)
- ✓ Detailed thesis plan, approved by the project coordinator (10 pages maximum, including in particular a precise current status report, the objectives, methodology, partnerships, expected results and consequences, an accurate work schedule and detailed bibliography) and if possible, the thesis committee composition.
- ✓ If work on the thesis has already started, a detailed progress report is requested.

IRD Scientific Coordinator

The coordinator is one of the joint scientific supervisors, a researcher from an IRD supervised or jointly supervised unit. He is IRD's contact point.

- ✓ Reasoned opinion on letter-headed paper from the project coordinator, accompanied by his or her CV (1 page)
- ✓ If the project coordinator is not the unit head, a supporting letter from the IRD unit head (IRD deputy unit head for a joint research unit)

Southern and Northern home organizations

- ✓ Additional opinion on letter-headed paper from the thesis supervisor(s) (where these are neither team leaders nor unit heads) and scientific team leaders for each of the other host teams.

The reasoned opinion will describe the benefit of the thesis topic for the home research unit or institution, the way it is organized, the agreement about the work program and details of the planned study periods away from home (the dates for the first year are fixed and cannot be altered).

- ✓ Copy of the master's degree or equivalent or, failing that, proof that it was obtained
- ✓ A letter from the employer certifying your lay-off. The allowance cannot be combined with a salary
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- ✓ For applicants receiving joint funding, letter-headed document from the backer stating the terms, amounts and duration. The possibility of cumulating several grants.

**Incomplete applications and applications received after midnight on
May the 31th 2016 will be rejected**

Email address for electronic copy of the application: arts@ird.fr

Mis en forme : Anglais (États-Unis)