

FAQ – Principal Supervisor/ Co-supervisor

Are international and/or intersectoral secondments mandatory in the frame of the thesis?

Secondments are mandatory during the 3-year thesis. Whether in non-academic institution and/or foreign research units. The secondments should at least last 1 month but not exceed a 12-month duration. Please, note that PhD students in cotutelles with foreign institutions do not have to perform any further secondments or research placements, but they are anyway encouraged if possible.

My research project is preselected. Will it be funded in any case?

Congratulations. You passed the first step. We will recruit between 15 and 20 PhD students at the occasion of this first call. If your project does not attract any candidate with a sufficient level to meet the excellence criteria, you will not be funded by PEARL. You will then be encouraged to apply for the second call starting in June 2020. It is thus recommended to activate your network to get a substantial amount of candidates of a high quality and thus to maximize the chances to be finally funded.

Can supervisors submit several research projects? Can supervisors be involved in several research projects?

A supervisor can submit several research projects, but only one project per supervisor will be preselected. You will be allowed to (co-)supervise at most one PhD student in the PEARL programme.

What is the language of the thesis manuscript/defence?

The [French law](#) states that “*if the thesis is written in English, the thesis has to be completed with a summary in French*”. In PEARL, the PhD students will have the opportunity to write their PhD thesis manuscript in English with the approval of the *École Doctorale*. Note that the interviews of the PhD candidates for the selections will be conducted in English; therefore, the PhD candidate and the supervisors have to be fluent in English.

Do the PhD candidates have to apply to a research project listed in a database?

Yes, following the research projects request, the preselected projects will be published on PEARL Website and will be advertised worldwide. A candidate can apply to one or several thesis project(s).

What should the supervisor do to submit a research project?

In order to submit a research project, you have to comply with the eligibility criteria. You have to fill in the Application form and the attached documents upon careful reading of the call.

My project was preselected, what should I do now?

Congratulations. Now your project will be advertised on PEARL website and *via* several networks. Do not hesitate to advertise your research project in order to attract PhD candidates. In the meantime, the Programme coordinator will give you advices on H2020 principles regarding research and researcher’s recruitment. You will be included in the Evaluation Committee to give your opinion on the candidates who will be interviewed.

What is the training mentioned in the call for research projects?

In order to be eligible, at least one of the two supervisors has to follow a training on thesis management. 2 sessions will be put in place during the beginning of January 2020. If you have already followed this training you do not need to follow it again. Note that the Doctoral College is providing equivalent training during 2019; so, feel free to contact them to realize this training before January and ensure your eligibility.

Are secondments in foreign non-academic institutions eligible?

Yes, provided such secondments are in line with the project and serve its realization and/or backup the career plan of the PhD student.

- ✎ **In case of cotutelles, are partners limited to Ghent University, the University of Kent or KU Leuven or can we choose another university?**

No, you are not obliged to plan cotutelles with these universities. Before planning to realize a cotutelle with another university, please contact the international department of your institution to make sure that it is possible to do so at least from a technical point of view.

- ✎ **I am a CNRS or Inserm or Inria researcher from a research unit external to I-SITE ULNE. Can I apply?**

Unfortunately, not. You have to belong to a research unit attached to I-SITE ULNE consortium.

- ✎ **In the framework of a cotutelle, how many months do the PhD students have to stay in the partner university?**

The rules of a thesis in cotutelles are specified in the French law. Conventionally, the PhD students have to spend at least 6 months or 1 year in the partner university.

- ✎ **Where will be recruited the PhD students and where will be enrolled the PhD student?**

The PhD student will be enrolled in one of the three following institutions: University of Lille, IMT Lille-Douai or Centrale Lille, which have the ability to award a doctoral diploma.

The PhD student will be hired by the entity in charge of the principal supervisor laboratory, except in case of the event of a derogation provided for in the site contract. In all cases, the provisions of the site contract will apply.

Note that the PhD students have to be enrolled in one of the six doctoral schools, namely the doctoral school in relation with the main supervisor.

- ✎ **How do I choose the related hub for me? In relation with the research project or in relation with my own researches?**

You have to choose the related hub according to the expertise you bring in the project, which is more likely linked with your current research and thus hub. In case of doubt, feel free to contact contact@pearl-pdh-lille.eu

- ✎ **In case of cotutelles, are 2 supervisors from Lille mandatory?**

Yes. In any case the PhD candidate has to be supervised by 2 supervisors from I-SITE consortium. In addition, for PhD student in cotutelle, at least a third supervisor from the external institution is required.

All information provided to these questions are not contractual binding and can be submit to change.