

Annex for Franco-American projects

Lead Agency Procedure (NSF)

Generic Call for Proposals 2022

Important

1. Franco-American projects shall **be evaluated only by the NSF Agency**, according its own terms, through its Solicitation 21-593 ([PHY core program, Physics of Living Systems](#)). Full information available at the following address: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=505058&ods_key=nsf21593
2. This document sets out detailed rules for the submission and funding procedures applicable to French teams working on Franco-American projects.
3. It is essential to carefully read [work programme 2022, the generic call for proposals \(AAPG\) 2022, the AAPG 2022 guide](#), the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) and all of this document before submitting research project proposals.
4. In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

ANR Contact Information:

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

aapg.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

aapg.si@anr.fr: difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

The NSF Division of Physics and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences

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NSF website : <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20120/nsf20120.jsp?org=NSF> <https://www.nsf.gov/>

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH USA

By establishing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, the French National Research Agency (ANR) allows French researchers to initiate or extend their collaborative work with researchers from other countries. In this way, it hopes to encourage the emergence of European and International teams of excellence.

The aim is to fund innovative bi-national projects that clearly stand out from on-going national projects, demonstrating great synergy between each country's teams and real integration of joint research.

To simplify and streamline the terms of collaboration and to set up borderless research funding areas, ANR (*Agence nationale de la recherche*) and NSF (*National Science Foundation, Division of Physics (PHY) and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)*) have decided to enter into a Lead Agency type of agreement. Within this framework, the teams from the two countries prepare a joint project and one single agency (the Lead Agency) takes charge of the whole evaluation process (peer review and scientific panel evaluation) of the projects. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the agency carrying out the evaluation. The partner agency can access all information on the projects. Each agency provides funding for its national teams¹ according to its own terms.

The Lead Agency procedure established between the ANR and the NSF *Division of Physics (PHY) and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)*) recognizes the NSF as the "Lead Agency" for the evaluation and for the selection of the Franco-American PRCI projects.²

The two agencies take turns yearly handling the submission, evaluation and selection of projects according to its own procedures. For 2022, **the submission and evaluation of project proposals will be handled by NSF**. The scientific coordinator and other partners of the French part **must nevertheless provide** ANR with certain administrative information in accordance with procedures described in this Annex.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and NSF is to support projects in which there is genuine³ collaboration between Franco-American partners. Partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific inputs of each country and the added value of the international cooperation. Insofar as possible, the French and foreign partners' projects must start and finish on the same dates. For information, NSF requests the duration **up to 36 months**.

¹ A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

² International Collaborative Research Projects

³ Jointly defined objectives, sharing of skills and tasks, sharing of risks and results

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with the NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB is open to the following disciplinary fields: **Physics from Molecules to Cells**

The emergence, evolution, dynamics and function of self-organized cellular systems stem from the interaction of biological components and the environment to yield robust, resilient and adaptive living systems. Through this funding opportunity NSF and ANR seek proposals that use multidisciplinary approaches that emphasize quantitative, predictive and theory driven science aimed at understanding mechanisms underlying these essential life processes at the molecular, subcellular and cellular scales. We are seeking proposals which integrate approaches from theoretical and experimental physics and biology to develop testable and quantitative understanding of biological questions. Projects providing innovative methodological or conceptual approaches to a biological question and with a strong theoretical physics component are strongly encouraged. Purely descriptive projects without predictive quantitative components are of low priority. Projects that leverage unique resources and capabilities of partners in the US and France will be given priority.

Therefore, as one of the major objectives of the agreement between ANR and NSF is to **strengthen the interfaces between physics and biology**, research project proposals **must correspond both** to one of the scientific axes of the 2022 generic call **and to** the NSF requests mentioned below.

ANR:

- Axis B.1 “Physics of condensed matter and of dilute matter” (CES 30)
- Axis C.2 “Characterization of structures and structure-function relationships of biological macromolecules” (CES 11)
- Axis C.3 “Genetics, Genomics, RNA sciences” (CES 12)
- Axis C.4 “Cellular Biology, Developmental Biology and Evolution” (CES 13)
- Axis H.14 “Interfaces: mathematics, digital sciences - biology, health” (CES 45)

NSF:

- Solicitation 21-593 ([PHY core program, Physics of Living Systems](#)).

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

French and American partners must prepare a joint scientific project. Each country’s teams **must designate a national scientific coordinator.**

NSF is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.

Project proposals must be submitted by American coordinators to NSF via the NSF's submission website <https://fastlane.nsf.gov/> or <https://www.research.gov/research-web/> or <https://www.grants.gov/> respecting the format and the details of **NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB** programme

Applicants should consult the information available on the website of NSF: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21120/nsf21120.pdf>

The deadline for the submission of applications to the NSF is **14th December 2021, 5 p.m.**

French partners:

No registration of intention to submit a project is required by ANR.

However, for administrative reasons, although the submission and evaluation are conducted by the foreign agency, the French participants must submit their proposals to the ANR via the ANR submission site:

- **The same scientific project proposal as that submitted to NSF, in the same format.** Note, the acronym and title of the project provided to each agency must be the same.
- **The administrative and funding information** linked to **both** French and foreign partners:
 - o **The detailed** information is expected from the French partners. The French coordinator has to appear as **scientific coordinator** on the ANR submission website
 - o The **minimum**⁴ information is expected concerning foreign partners : the foreign coordinator (**country referent**)⁵, the name of the Institute⁶, its category (private / public), and the information concerning, requested funding by foreign partners to their national agency
- **A scientific panel** responsible for the scientific monitoring of the project in case of success (description of the scientific panels is available in the AAPG 2022 text). **Please note:** this choice **cannot be changed** once the closing date and time has passed.

The French coordinator is subject to the rules (in particular of eligibility) to which all national scientific coordinators of the 2022 Generic call for proposals must comply (*see AAPG 2022 Guide, § B.5.2. Eligibility of full proposals*).

The deadline for submitting this information to the ANR is the **December the 15th, 2022, 5 p.m.** (Paris time). Projects proposals must be submitted to both agencies at due time. Those submitted to only one agency will be rejected.

⁴ Simplified entry

⁵ The information is essential for the data crosschecking with the DFG

⁶ Partner as a legal entity

The submission website will open on the October the 15th 2022, the link will be indicated on the ANR website, on the generic 2022 call for proposals page.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Each agency decides on the eligibility of a project in accordance with **its own rules**.

ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposal taking into account the criteria detailed in the AAPG 2021 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 *Eligibility of full proposals*) and detailed below:

1) The provisional project proposal duration must be the same for the two country partners.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. The NSF rules for MCB and PHY can be found at the following addresses:

- <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21509/nsf21509.htm>
- <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20580/nsf20580.htm>
- https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg22_1/nsf22_1.pdf

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁷

Country (agency)	Submission to the foreign agency	Submission to the ANR	Duration	Participation of a company	Other
USA (NSF)	yes	copy of the project proposal	36 months maximum	ANR eligible NSF to be checked with NSF eligibility rules	

To be eligible, proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the two funding agencies.

5. EVALUATION

Projects shall **only be evaluated by NSF** in accordance with its own rules.

The NSF will propose a list of projects to be funded by ANR.

The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded.

⁷ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams according to **its own rules**. ANR's funding regulations are available at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

7. CALENDAR

- Closure for submission proposals on the NSF website: 14th of December 2021, 5 p.m
- Closure for submission proposals on the ANR website: 15th of December 2021, 5 p.m (Paris time) **no registration**
- Joint decision and publication of results: October 2022 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2022 – January 2023 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.