



## INTERNATIONAL PhD PROGRAM in Parasitology 'ParaFrap'

The International PhD program of the French national research project 'ParaFrap' is currently open for applications for **11 Ph.D. positions** to be started in October 2016.

### Presentation

The Labex (Laboratory of Excellence) **ParaFrap** is a Health Sciences collaborative research program focusing on **molecular and cellular Parasitology** in its wider sense; it was initiated by 21 French leading groups in the field. It is funded by the Excellence Initiative of the French Ministry of Research and supports four major research fields in protozoan models such as *Plasmodium*, *Toxoplasma*, *Leishmania*, *Trypanosoma*, *Entamoeba* and *Theileria* :

- Post-genomic data exploration
- Mechanisms of pathogenesis and protective immunity
- Parasite molecular and cellular biology
- Towards new intervention strategies against parasitic pathogens

The ParaFrap International PhD program is an ambitious program offering competitive PhD grants to high-quality students/early stage scientists. The call is international, opening applications to foreign students. The early stage scientists will be joining research projects selected by an external scientific board and managed by a main supervisor and a co-supervisor from two distinct research groups of the LabEx. These core research projects will focus on the use of state-of-the-art post-genomic tools to enhance knowledge of the parasites' biology and of their interactions with their hosts. Additional information about ParaFrap can be found on <http://www.labex-parafrap.fr/en/>.

### Applications

#### *Eligibility requirements*

1. Applicants must have achieved academic excellence and be highly motivated to pursue a PhD project in Parasitology. They should have obtained a 'Masters 2' degree or an equivalent (5 years after high/secondary school) in science by July 2016; out of this format, only exceptional dossiers (upon justification) will be considered by the program director.
2. English language skills are necessary.
3. The PhD program does not have an age restriction, but most accepted candidates are 24-26 years old and start their Ph.D. within a year of finishing their M.S., a few of them within 3 years.
4. Mobility between the Master's lab and the PhD lab is mandatory, meaning that the applicants must change from their present Research Director and Institute to another (s) for the PhD training.

**Information about the PhD research projects, selection process, as well as the application procedure, is available at <https://www.parafrap-application.org> .**

Successful applicants will be enrolled in one of the 11 research groups who were awarded the PhD grants, distributed among diverse French Universities (see website). Each applicant will have to indicate 3 projects of interest. He/she should be enrolled in one of the three projects indicated, unless the selection committee sees a particular interest in modifying one of his/her options.

**The deadline for submitting applications is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016.**

## Selection procedure

- *Pre-selection:* Applicants will be selected by a committee formed by group leaders of each of the participating laboratories, based on the high standards used at EMBL, including academic achievements, previous experience in research, and (blind) letters of recommendation. Each PI will select six applicants according to his/her CV, academic records, laboratory experience and letters of recommendation from referees.
- *Interviews:* The ParaFrap selection committee will then shortlist 25-30 candidates who will be invited for the final selection round (interviews) which will take place at Institut Pasteur in Paris on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by ParaFrap; but applicants from outside the European Union might be interviewed by video conference.
- *Final selection:* After ranking by the selection committee, acceptance letters will be sent immediately to the top 11 candidates, who will be asked to respond within the next week. Candidates 12-20 will also be notified of their outcome. Should a candidate refuse the offer, the first candidate in the waiting list will receive a letter of acceptance.

## Supervision of the PhD thesis work

The PhD student will be supervised by his/her thesis supervisor and will also be assigned a personal tutor, who has to be from another institute and, in general, will be the main collaborator ('co-PI') in the project. A PhD thesis committee will interview the student at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year and produce a report to the Doctoral School.

## Thesis contract

- *Duration:* The PhD thesis contract is established for three years.
- *Studentship:* The monthly gross salary will be according to French national rules approx. 1750 € (net salary approx. 1420 €). Selected candidates will receive private health insurance and social security entitlements.

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## PhD Program provisional planning

April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	Application deadline
April 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Referees deadline (blind letters of recommendation)
April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Invitations for interviews sent to applicants
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	Interviews in France (Institut Pasteur, Paris) and notification of the results
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Definitive acceptance by the selected applicants
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	Start of the PhD