

VISITING RESEARCHERS PROGRAM THEMATIC CALL FOR PROPOSALS — SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

GUIDELINES

(aussi disponible en français)

OBJECTIVE

The Research Chair in Science Diplomacy program—the product of a partnership between the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and the Embassy of France in Canada—was made official with the signing of a memorandum of understanding on April 24, 2023. The program, built on the expertise of researchers at the University of Ottawa and in France, seeks to address novel challenges related to science diplomacy (SD). Furthermore, it aims to foster scientific research and to coordinate academic discussion, with a view to generating common tools for tackling current issues in science and diplomacy through an interdisciplinary approach.

Science diplomacy refers to the area of international relations where the interests of science intersect with the interests of foreign policy. SD is defined based on three complementary facets: (i) diplomacy for science; (ii) science for diplomacy; and (iii) science in diplomacy. The definition used in this call for proposals is presented in the paper “Science Diplomacy. On several basic notions and key questions.”¹

Documents related to the call for proposals leading to the appointment of two holders of the mirror Chair in SD (a dual entity consisting of a researcher from the University of Ottawa and a researcher from France) to begin work in 2024 will be posted on the [website of the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation](#).

The current thematic call for proposals under the Visiting Researchers Program (VRP) will pave the way for the soon-to-be-launched mirror Chair in Science Diplomacy. It aims to support short-term mobility stays for professors open to all areas of science diplomacy (e.g., global health, artificial intelligence or climate), effective this year.

DESCRIPTION

This special component of the Visiting Researchers Program, managed by the [Office of International Research and Experiential Learning](#) (IREX), supports the mobility of researchers wishing to spend two weeks at the University of Ottawa or in France. The program hinges on dual participation, with a member of the research community at the French institution inviting a counterpart from the University of Ottawa, or vice versa. The program seeks to:

- Foster partnerships and collaborative research projects on science diplomacy involving researchers from the University of Ottawa and from France,
- Enrich students’ research experience by giving them the opportunity to work with renowned researchers,
- Increase the visibility of the University of Ottawa and France within the international community concerned with these issues.

¹ Pierre-Bruno Ruffini in *Philosophia Scientiae* (2019). Ref.: <https://www.cairn.info/revue-philosophia-scientiae-2019-3-page-67.htm>

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the VRP-SD, uOttawa regular professors applying must meet two conditions:

- Hold a full-time tenure or tenure track position at the University of Ottawa, or hold a full-time position at one of the University of Ottawa's affiliated research institutes.
- Submit a joint proposal with a researcher from an institution of higher education or a research organization in France.

Only one application per University of Ottawa professor will be accepted.

FUNDING

Up to six two-week visits (10 working days) will be funded under VRP-SD 2023–2024. The maximum budget is \$5,000 per visit. Funding covers the following expenses: return economy airfare, ground transportation, accommodations and living allowance for the length of the stay in Ottawa or France.

Visiting researchers' salaries are paid by their home institution. Visiting researchers can't receive an honorarium under any circumstances. The award can't be used to purchase software or hardware, or to cover the cost of travel to conferences outside Ottawa or the city in which the institution is located in France, or to organize events. Entry fees for Canada or France (e.g., work permits, visas) are not eligible expenses. Use of the funds is subject to the rules governing eligibility of travel expenses, as set out in the University of Ottawa's [Policy 21](#).

VISIT DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

Visits must take place between November 1st, 2023 and June 30, 2024, preferably during the fall or winter terms to maximize both the impact on graduate student education and the availability of researchers from the host institution. Stays, whether in Ottawa or in France, must be completed in one instance.

In addition to conducting research, visiting researchers must host at least one seminar or public lecture, to be organized by the person from the host institution paired with the visiting researcher. The financial contribution of the University of Ottawa and the Embassy of France in Canada must be mentioned at public events and in publications of research results.

Visiting researchers are expected to play a significant intellectual role in the research community in order to strengthen teaching activities and/or develop new areas of inquiry in science diplomacy. Applicants and visiting researchers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to work jointly on publications and grant applications in order to move their partnership forward.

Researchers from the host institution (whether University of Ottawa or institution in France) are required to provide visiting researchers with an office equipped with a computer and internet connection, office supplies and access to the institution's library. They are also responsible for sending an invitation letter and for referring the visiting researcher to the appropriate immigration authorities for information on requirements related to visas and other travel documents.

AWARD MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Responsibility for managing the VRP-SD award lies with the applicant (researcher) from the University of Ottawa. No additional amount will be provided if actual costs are higher than the estimated costs. Any unused funds must be returned to the OVPRI within one month of the visit. If, for unforeseen reasons, the visit to Ottawa or France can't go ahead, the entire award must be returned to the OVPRI. Funding is not renewable or transferrable.

In addition, within one month of the visit, the researcher from the University of Ottawa or France must submit financial and narrative reports to IREX describing the visit activities and outcomes and the visit's impact on teaching and research activities in the area of science diplomacy. These reports will be shared with the Embassy of France in Canada.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application must be submitted by the University of Ottawa regular professor who is inviting the researcher from France or who wishes to travel to the French researcher's institution.

The application package must include the following documents:

- The VRP-SD application form, together with supporting documents, including:
 - a description of the research interests of both researchers, their involvement in research projects or networks, and the complementary nature of their expertise
 - a description of planned activities, with a timeline
 - a budget, together with adequate explanatory notes and justifications
- a letter of recommendation signed by the office of the dean or vice-dean, research, of the faculty at the host institution, describing the reasons for the invitation and the anticipated impact on the unit's research activities and on student education
- CVs of both researchers involved
- an application (RE) form duly completed and signed by the applicant in [eAwards](#)

The form and all attachments (including the duly signed RE form) must be grouped into a **single** PDF file, identified with the program's name, and the applicant's and the visiting researcher's last names (e.g., VRP-SD_NAMEUOttawaresearcher_NAMEFrenchresearcher). The application package must be submitted by email to carmen.bauer@uOttawa.ca.

IMPORTANT DATES

VRP-SD 2023–2024 launch	May 23, 2023
Application deadline:	October 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EST
Announcement of results:	October 31, 2023
Earliest start date of visiting researcher's stay:	November 1, 2023
Latest end date of visiting researcher's stay:	June 30, 2024
Final report on visit:	Within one month of visit

SELECTION PROCESS

An evaluation committee consisting of experts assembled by the University of Ottawa and the Embassy of France will review and rank the applications according to the following criteria:

Evaluation criteria	Weighting
Excellence of the researchers' records (e.g., publications, research funding, international recognition)	25
Anticipated impact on the development of new collaborations (e.g., joint publications, conferences and potential for external funding)	25
Complementarity of research areas/topics; use of multidisciplinary approaches to research questions	20
Anticipated spinoffs for student learning and research activities	20
Budget rationale and amount of assistance provided by other sources (if relevant)	5
Alignment with the University of Ottawa's strategic areas of research and the French government's policy on scientific and academic diplomacy	5

CONTACTS (administrative questions)

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