

Inserm – University College London Visiting fellowship scheme

Call for proposals 2026

**Deadline for application
Monday 26 octobre 2026, 6pm (Paris time)**

1. Context and objectives of the programme

Context

In 2026, Inserm and the University College London (UCL) signed a cooperation agreement that includes the establishment of a "Visiting fellowship scheme" to promote exchanges between researchers from the two organisations.

About University College London

Founded in 1826, University College London is London's first multidisciplinary university. It has many campuses, more than 18,000 employees and 51,000 students from 150 different countries. On the education side, UCL offers 440 undergraduate programmes and 675 Master programmes spread over 11 faculties, including Humanities and Social Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Neuroscience and Architecture. UCL is regularly ranked among the top ten universities in the world (according to the QS World University Rankings 2010-2024) and ranks second in the UK in terms of research power. In its strategic plan, the major challenges that UCL wants to address are climate change, mental health and well-being, data-driven societies, inequalities, intercultural communication.

Objectives

The visiting fellowship scheme between Inserm and UCL is coordinated by Inserm's Department of National and International Affairs. It aims to help young Inserm researchers expand their international networks and prepare applications for European funding, in particular the "ERC Starting Grant", via a mobility of up to 4 months in a UCL laboratory, to meet a researcher who has already won an ERC award.

UCL offers a reciprocal opportunity to its researchers at the beginning of their careers to carry out a research stay with an ERC grant winner based at Inserm.

1. Conditions for application

Applications must be submitted via an online form accessible from September 14 on Inserm Pro.

<https://sondage.inserm.fr/index.php/633886/lang-fr>

<https://pro.inserm.fr/rubriques/appels-a-projets>

Calendar

- Applications open: 14 September 2026
- Deadline for applications: 26 October 2026, 6:00 pm
- Communication of results: early December 2026
- Mobility period: between 4 January 2027 and 31 July 2027

Financial contribution

- Financial assistance of up to €5,000 per scholarship recipient is available to cover the costs of the stay, including travel, accommodation, catering and local transport costs.
- Expenses related to the purchase of reagents or equipment are excluded from eligible costs.

2. Applications

Eligibility criteria

- Applications are open to early-career researchers in all disciplines, who have obtained their PhD. between 2024 and 2019 and plan to apply for an ERC (European Research Council) grant, including "Starting Grant" in the next two years.
- Applications are open to researchers employed by Inserm, with a permanent contract or a fixed-term contract covering the period of the program (until July 31, 2027).

Documents to be provided

In addition to the form, supporting documents must be provided (no imposed format):

- CV (PDF format, max 2-4 pages)
- Letter or e-mail of recommendation from the host institution (PDF format)
- Permission from the Head of Department or laboratory (PDF format)

Role of the UCL ERC beneficiary

- Candidates are required to identify and contact a recipient of an ERC grant working at UCL and obtain his/her agreement to host them in his/her laboratory. In order to facilitate this process, a file with the names and contacts of UCL ERC laureates (provided by UCL) is available on Inserm Pro.
- No responsibility is imposed on the host researchers, they may, for example, contribute by:
 - Sharing expertise and advice on funding applications
 - Promoting the exchange of knowledge, good practices and development of technical skills
 - Offering support and supervision of researchers
 - Providing career advice
 - Facilitating contacts and networking opportunities
 - Involving the visiting researcher in a research project

Please note that UCL ERC beneficiaries are under no obligation to accept hosting an Inserm researcher. Applicants are encouraged to contact potential hosts well in advance of submitting their application.

Authorisations and responsibilities

- As part of the application procedure, researchers must obtain the agreement of their unit director and the UCL researcher who will host them. A written confirmation (letter or email) must be attached to the application.
- Applicants will also need to confirm their willingness to be an ambassador for the program if they are selected in this program. This may include promoting the program, sharing their experiences, participating in outreach activities.
- Grant recipients will be asked to provide a report on impact and results at the end of the program.

Evaluation criteria

- Applications will be evaluated by a jury chaired by Mireille Guyader, Director of the Department of National and International Affairs.
- Evaluation criteria include:
 - Scientific excellence: the jury will consider the candidate's CV and list of publications. The candidate will also have to demonstrate how this grant and mobility will strengthen his or her future applications to the ERC.
 - Impact and expected results: the candidate must clearly explain his/her understanding of ERC funding mechanisms, his/her interest in future funding applications, in particular for ERC Starting Grant.
 - Potential for long-term collaboration and creation of cooperation networks.

Contacts

For Inserm: for any questions relating to this program or your application, contact:

Marie Anson, European Affairs Officer – Scientific Cooperation

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For UCL, in particular for questions relating to ERC laureates, contact:

Franziska Enichlmayr, Head of Global Engagement at UCL

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