

GATES (Grenoble ATtractiveness and ExcellenceS) International Excellence in the Humanities Programme

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS **Matching PhDs – Thèses en miroir 2026**

*Maison de la Création et de l'Innovation (MaCI)
Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA)*

November 15th, 2025: Opening of the call
January 15th, 2026: Submission deadline
February 2026: Selection of candidates
September 2025: Start of PhD projects

Description

[The Maison de la Création et de l'Innovation \(MaCI\)](#), UGA's International Center for the Humanities, is launching its annual Matching PhD Programme funded by the France 2030 ANR project GATES (Grenoble ATtractiveness and ExcellenceS).

The present call is open to proposals aiming to fund **matching PhDs (thèses en miroir)** involving a collaboration between an international partner in the humanities and social sciences and the Maison de la Création et de l'Innovation (MaCI). The aim of this call is to develop doctoral projects within the context of an international partnership in the humanities and social sciences.

This call for projects is intended for colleagues from the UGA scientific and academic community (researchers, professors-researchers and equivalent positions) in the field of the humanities and social sciences.

The PhDs projects will largely take place at the MaCI and will be supervised, or co-supervised, by one or two faculty members from an UGA research unit matching a corresponding, fully-funded thesis at the partner institution. A co-supervision of the MaCI matching PhD by the UGA supervisor(s) and the supervisor(s) from the international partner is recommended but not compulsory.

In addition to a fully funded doctoral project, the recipient of the matching PhD fellowship will also benefit from an extra 15 k€ funding (5 k€ per year) for travelling expenses and the organization of research activities (workshops, conferences) at the MaCI with the international partner.

The international partners of the Humanities Fellowship Program at the MaCI are Oxford University, Swansea University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University and the University of British Columbia. However, the present call is open to any other international partner offering matching PhDs in the field of the humanities and social sciences.

▪ **Assessment criteria**

Quality of project: originality of the project, international state of the art, scientific ambition, relevance of the collaboration with the UGA at MaCI;

Feasibility: adequate human and methodological resources for the project goals, risk analysis and management, complementarity between the two matching PhD research projects;

Impact: importance of the expected outcomes for the state of the art, dissemination strategy, contribution to the growth of scientific knowledge.

▪ **Shared and complementary criteria**

- In the event that a given project is submitted for a second time, the assessments from the previous year will be taken into consideration in addition to those from the current year, and also the description of any changes made to the project submitted.
- In the context of the UGA's environmental policy, each principal investigator will explain how the potential environmental impacts of their project will be limited.
- The dissemination and exploitation of result strategies will be taken into consideration, especially as regards the choice of national or international conferences, national or international journals including peer review, and referencing in the target international databases. Moreover, it will be mandatory to file the articles and manuscripts written in an open database.
- To ensure that all applications are dealt with fairly, the project description must be strictly limited to the recommended number of pages, 11-point Calibri font or equivalent, single spaced. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the proposal being ineligible for consideration. The reference list is not included in the page count.

▪ **Project coordination**

- The project's principal investigator must be an active permanent faculty member (researcher, professor-researcher in an UGA research unit. An emeritus researcher or lecturer/researcher is not entitled to act as a project principal investigator.
- The project's principal investigator must not be the director of the MaCI, a member of a research department board (*membre du directoire d'un pôle de recherche*), of the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation, of the Vice-Presidency for International Affairs, or of the UGA Council of Deans.
- The approval of the principal investigator's laboratory management board must be obtained. All projects are eligible, with no quotas per laboratory.

▪ **Regarding the doctoral supervision**

- The thesis supervisors must be affiliated with a UGA Doctoral School.
- Doctoral students must be recruited in conjunction with the Doctoral School concerned. The recruitment procedure (drafting and publication of the job description, definition of the working conditions, pre-selection and then interviews) will be defined by the future supervisors and then validated by the Doctoral School. People with experience in thesis supervision and the international recruitment of doctoral students must be involved in each phase of the process. It is therefore not necessary to identify a candidate when submitting the project.
- The prospective Doctoral School will be questioned regarding the number of theses in progress and the number of theses funded but not defended after 4 years and supervised by the proposed thesis supervisor(s). This list will cover the past 10 years or, failing this, date from when they were hired. In addition, the opinion of the Doctoral School will be sought regarding the quality of the doctoral supervision and whether the subject of the thesis is consistent with the Doctoral School's fields of research.
- Each potential thesis supervisor must confirm with the Doctoral School with which they are affiliated that the applicable rules relating to student/teacher ratio are complied with in the

context of roll-out of the new Doctoral School regulations and the transitional phase thereof.

▪ **Selection procedure**

- Scientific projects will be assessed by two external experts designated by the research departments (SHS and PSS, and secondary departments in the case of inter-department applications). These assessments will be sent to a committee composed of the VP Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the VP for International Affairs, the director of the MaCI and representatives of the research departments SHS and PSS concerned.
- The proposal of each committee will be submitted for decision to the UGA council of Deans (Directoire).
- The selection procedure will comply with the UGA code of ethics for calls for projects, including in particular the treatment of potential conflicts of interest. A link of interest declaration will be required from committee members. All members of committees and bodies are required to respect all rules regarding confidentiality and the code of ethics.
- Each committee will appoint an expert for each project from among its members, who will write a summary of the assessments to be sent to the principal investigator. Each principal investigator will be entitled to request a meeting with a member of the research department board to discuss his or her application.

▪ **Submission of projects**

Complete applications will be written in English and must be submitted electronically in the form of one single .pdf file within the deadline and according to the procedure specified, to the following email address:

humanitiesfellowships@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

The results will be published by end of February 2026.

The following documents must be enclosed with the application:

- CV of Phd supervisors (2 pages maximum per supervisor),
- [Proposal document](#) (respect the stipulated number of pages for each category),
- [Confirmation of project submission](#) signed by the Director of the UGA main laboratory,
- [A letter of commitment](#) from the international partner confirming that the matching PhD project will be fully funded for the whole duration of the project.

Contact address for general questions:

humanitiesfellowships@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

and for the research departments:

PSS directoire-pss@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
SHS directoire-shs@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr