



# 18<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals in scientific research - 2023 -

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Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs  
of France



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي  
Ministry of Higher Education and  
Scientific Research of Palestine



Ministry of Higher Education and Research  
of France

## ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Al Maqdisi programme is the French-Palestinian Hubert Curien partnership. It is coordinated by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESR), and by the Consulate General of France in Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry for Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR). It aims at developing and strengthening scientific and academic exchanges between French and Palestinian higher education institutions and research organisations. To this purpose, it supports the mobility of French and Palestinian researchers and seeks to foster new structuring collaborations, closer ties with the private sector, as well as to encourage the participation of young researchers. The programme is open to all scientific fields.

The call for applications is issued on a yearly basis. The application deadline in 2023 is **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

This call for proposals is open to all researchers belonging to higher education institutions or public research organizations. Companies can be part of the project as long as they have partnered with an academic institution. Teams which have already received an Al Maqdisi grant may apply again, as long as their proposed project differs from the previous one and demonstrates evidence of scientific progress, as well as an effort to find other sources of funding. In any case, new collaborations will be favoured.

Applications must be submitted by the French partners on the Campus France platform.

Elements that will be considered positively in the selection process:

- Scientific quality of the project and its team;
- The experience of the project leaders;
- The active participation of young researchers, especially PhD and post-doctoral researchers;
- The relevance of the cooperation and the complementarity of the French and Palestinian teams;
- Co-funding;
- Long-term prospects involving visibility and possibilities for further cooperation, such as:
  - o Projects within a network or with a European dimension will be given priority. Researchers may submit an application on the same scientific topic within the framework of another Hubert Curien Partnership.
  - o Expected outcomes (publications, patent or licence, scientific outputs, etc.)
  - o Collaboration prospects after the Al Maqdisi programme;
  - o Projects aiming at the creation of an [International Associated laboratory](#) ("laboratory without walls"), pooling together human and material resources of both partner teams.
- The involvement of researchers from several Palestinian universities and/or local companies.



## CALENDAR

May 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023	Deadline to submit applications
October 2023	List of selected projects published online
November 2023	Start of the selected projects

## 1. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APPLICANTS

1.1. The selection process rests on the following requirements and principles:

- The project must be created and developed within the framework of a partnership between a French and a Palestinian research team;
- The project must include training through research;
- The project must specify expected publications and scientific outputs and, when relevant, cooperation with the socio-economic, professional and industrial development sectors;
- The duration of a project shall not exceed two years, as of the signature of the contractual documents. The project cycle must be planned through a detailed schedule, listing the tasks of each of the parties as precisely as possible.
- All scientific research areas are eligible. However, proposals fitting within the Palestinian national priorities for research and the France 2030 strategy will receive careful consideration from the selection committee.

1.2. If the project includes one or several PhD students, one of the team members must be qualified to supervise a PhD thesis.

1.3. The application has to be submitted by the French researchers, following Campus France's online application procedure on the dedicated website: <http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/al-maqdisi> (in French). Please make sure to anticipate the deadline, in order to avoid any technical setbacks.

1.4. The committee's decisions are final; applicants must respect them. Grants are offered to the selected applicants on the basis of the proposal submitted; selected research teams must implement the submitted project and abide by the financial and administrative conditions ruling the programme.

1.5. The project proposals and reports shall be submitted in English (exceptions can be made upon request from the teams, if all team members can work in French). Publications can be made in the language required by the relevant scientific outlet.

1.6. The committee will only review projects submitted according to the afore-mentioned rules and deadlines. **Proposals which do not meet the required criteria will not be considered.**



## 2. SELECTION PROCESS

- 2.1. **The eligible projects will be subject to an external scientific evaluation made by a committee of experts**, to ensure that the proposals of the highest quality are selected for funding. Experts are called on the basis of their competence in the related fields and for their recent contributions to research.
- 2.2. These experts will review the proposals according to standard evaluation forms provided by the committee; the evaluation will bear on the scientific interest of the proposals and of their expected outputs, the ability of both teams to carry out the project in the given framework and conditions, the adequacy of requested means to support the research, the relevance of the expected outcome in serving the community. The evaluations will remain confidential.
- 2.3. A bilateral meeting between the French and the Palestinian parties will be held after the evaluations in order to compare the results of their evaluations and reach an agreement on the final list of approved projects.
- 2.4. The committee will grant a specific budget to each project in accordance with available funds.
- 2.5. Applicants will be informed by email of the decision and the list of selected projects will also be published on the [Consulate General of France in Jerusalem](#) website.

## 3. FUNDING

- 3.1. The Al Maqdisi programme aims primarily at **promoting exchanges and mobility between partners from both countries**. This funding may cover travel expenses, short-term stays, exchanges between the two research teams involved in the partnership, as well as logistical support to acquire technical equipment needed for the research. Therefore
  - **Travel and travel-related expenses shall not amount to less than 85% of the whole budget requested by the French partner, and the amount for logistical support cannot exceed 15%.**
    - o Subsistence allowances : 110 EUR/day
    - o Travels : reimbursement on actual costs, and up to 1000 EUR/ return ticket
  - Because Palestinian research teams often need to acquire light equipment in order to enable them to conduct their research, the purchase of documentation and/or of laboratory material may be considered, but **travel and travel-related expenses shall not amount to less than 60% of the whole budget requested by the Palestinian partner. Under no circumstances should salaries or any other form of wages (for teachers, students, technicians, etc.) be paid by the Al Maqdisi grant.**
    - o Subsistence allowances : 125 EUR/day
    - o Travels : reimbursement on actual costs, and up to 1000 EUR/ return ticket
  - Logistical support includes documentation (excluding subscriptions), user fees for joint measurements, consumable products needed for the research and small research material. It can also include:
    - o Seminar organisation costs (excluding transit and accommodation);
    - o Costs for publications (mentioning the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation);
    - o Registration costs for seminars and conferences.
  - Office softwares, administrative supplies, communication and desk fees, fuel costs, and all depreciable equipment (including IT equipment) are excluded. All the purchase orders have to be linked to the research



project. Any other necessary expenses for the implementation of the project have to be covered by other sources of funding.

- 3.2. The evaluation committee will consider positively additional funding for the project.
- 3.3. French public funding procedures are subject to rules which must be respected: the budget is managed on a yearly basis and cannot be retroactive.
- 3.4. For information, in 2022, the French team was granted 2000€ for the first year and 2000€ for the second year; and the Palestinian team was granted 7500€ for the first year and 7500€ for the second year.
- 3.5. The allocation of the second-year funding is dependent on a minimal 60% consumption of the first-year budget. At the end of Year 1 (September), each selected pair of teams shall submit **a mid-term progress report** and **a mid-term financial report**, specifying the scientific progress made, the problems encountered and the mobility carried out or planned before the end of the current year.
- 3.6. For the Palestinian team, the grant is issued in two instalments, one per year. The grant for the French team is managed by Campus France (see details on Campus France website). The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Consulate of France in Jerusalem reserve the right to change the modalities of payment of the grant. The financial contribution of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research will take the form of in-kind contributions (plane tickets, hosting of delegations and scientific events).
- 3.7. The funding has to be spent:
  - For the French team: Between November 1 and October 31 of the corresponding year, and it cannot be transferred on the next financial year; so from November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024 for the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the funding, and from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025 for the second part. Campus France is in charge of managing the travel and travel-related expenses of the French team.
  - For the Palestinian team: The funding will be granted as follows:  
The first allocation will be granted at the signature of the financial protocol, and will have to be spent during the first year of the project. The second allocation will be granted after the submission and the review of the mid-term progress and financial report (and the corresponding receipts) on the use of the first allocation. These documents have to be sent to the Consulate General of France before September 17, 2024. In case of planned expenses that have not yet been spent, the corresponding quotations need to be sent.
- 3.8. At any time from selection to final reporting, grants may be suspended or terminated for teams that have failed to keep their commitments or have acted in an ethically questionable manner in the framework of the research project. Grants may also be terminated should one of the teams fail to submit the necessary documents and agreements within the deadlines.
- 3.9. Closure of project: at the end of Year 2, teams must submit a final progress and financial report to both funding partners, up to 3 months after the completion of the project.



## 4. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF RESEARCH RESULTS

It is up to the project leaders to take all necessary measures for the protection of intellectual property.

## 5. CONTACTS

### Palestinian teams coordinators

#### **Consulate General of France in Jerusalem**

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### French teams coordinator

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