



Depuis 80 ans, nos connaissances
bâtissent de nouveaux mondes

International Research Laboratory (IRL)

An international cooperation tool shared by the CNRS, aimed at structuring highly-localised international research collaboration.

1. What is an International Research Laboratory?

International Research Laboratories are international schemes in which research work is jointly conducted around a shared scientific focus. They structure, within an identified location, the significant and lasting presence of scientists from a limited number of French and foreign research institutions (a single foreign partner country).

They include facilities that bring together scientists from various research units including international laboratories — International Joint Units (UMI) and Service and Research Units (USR) abroad — which are set up whenever the support of a dedicated Operational Research Structure (SOR) is required.

International Research Laboratories have a duration of five years.

2. Who are International Research Laboratories intended for?

International Research Laboratories bring together personnel conducting research at the CNRS or at partner institutions.

3. How are International Research Laboratories established?

International Research Laboratories are proposed by the scientific Institutes of the CNRS based on structured international collaborations. They involve a high degree of internationalisation among the participating teams, as well as a strong concentration of research activity within a partner organisation.

They are evaluated by peer review within the Institutes as well as by the relevant section of the National Committee for Scientific Research, when necessary. The location of activities (prospect of long-term scientific stays or assignments depending on specific cases) is an essential criterion of evaluation. Consideration is also given to the scientific value of the project, the potential interest of the collaboration and its expected impact, the quality of the team and institutional partnership, the balance between institutional partners in contributing resources, the participation of young researchers, collaboration history, ethics, and financial justification.

The decisions relating to the creation or renewal of International Research Laboratories are made by the CNRS Executive Board.

4. What are the outlines of the institutional formalisation of International Research Laboratories?

International Research Laboratories are developed over a year, during which a cooperation agreement is negotiated between the various French and international supervisory bodies involved.

5. How are International Research Laboratories financed?

In addition to the resources pooled by the institutions involved and directly provided by participating laboratories, International Research Laboratories receive, over their duration, funding earmarked by the CNRS for a total amount comprised between €75,000-€100,000 . Managed by the CNRS laboratory overseeing the International Research Laboratory, these funds are allocated in annual instalments depending on the initial project, scientific assessments, and the annual financial reports issued by its director and members.

Should a dedicated unit be created, the funds are allocated to this structure, and supplemented by specific resources (functioning, equipment, investment), and the assignment of personnel.

More information and points of contact are available on the CNRS's international webpage

<http://international.cnrs.fr>

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