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문화과

Call for proposals

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STAR-T exploratory mission program

2027

The STAR-T exploratory mission program is a funding program implemented by the Scientific and Academic Service of the French Embassy in the Republic of Korea, aimed at researchers from French institutions. Its goal is to enable researchers in France wishing to establish an initial contact with Korean research teams in their areas of expertise to initiate new bilateral collaborations. This program also aims to empower laureates to initiate new bilateral projects eligible for further funding, including the PHC STAR[1].

The call for proposals is open to all scientific fields, including humanities and social sciences. However, priority will be given to projects related to the following areas: health, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, quantum sciences, and materials science.

The potential for future European projects, particularly those under Horizon Europe, is an asset that should be clearly highlighted.

The Embassy also aims to disseminate French scientific excellence among Korean research communities. Candidates who wish to include a scientific engagement component with research communities in Korea, such as a seminar, a presentation in a French high school, or a scientific coffee session at the Embassy, are welcome to express this in their application

In particular, the Embassy intends to showcase French research at the European Union Research and Innovation Day, to be held on Friday 19 March 2027 in Seoul. Project leads who could participate at this event in-person as part of their mission are highly encouraged to apply and to mention this availability in their application.

Some missions may be co-financed by a private partner: laureates selected under this framework will be informed of this in advance.

Nature of projects:

The program supports scientific missions to the Republic of Korea in 2027 by researchers based in a French research institution.

Missions that also include visits to Korean academic partners with the aim of initiating/formalizing institutional partnerships, such as student mobility, dual degrees, etc., are eligible and valued.

Project eligibility criteria:

[1] More information available here : https://www.campusfrance.org/en/node/2352

The call for projects is open to researchers/lecturer-researchers belonging to laboratories attached to higher education establishments, research organizations, or French companies. Students are not eligible. Holding a Ph.D or doctoral-level degree is requires.

The START programme aims to encourage exploratory mobility for very early stages of upcoming cooperations. Projects that have already reached a significant level of maturity, for example following a previous opportunity, pre-existing co-publications or a robust and established relationship are not eligible – the PHC STAR program being the more appropriate funding vehicle.

Project selection criteria:

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence of the applicant and the field
- Quality of the project (innovative nature, complementarity of skills, quality of invitation letters, etc.)
- Relevance of the proposed mission to the Republic of Korea in terms of future collaborations and the Embassy's priorities.

Terms and conditions of support:

The support granted to each winner comprises the cost of a round-trip plane ticket from France to the Republic of Korea on a fixed-rate basis.

As the funding is granted on an annual basis, the allocated budget must be used before December 31, 2027, and cannot be carried over to the following year (2028). The end date of the mission (return flight) must therefore be set before December 31, 2027.

Selected candidates will be required to submit their definitive travel dates in Korea to the French Embassy within two months following the announcement of the results. Failure to do so will result in the loss of financial support.

Organization and follow-up of projects:

A partnership agreement, drafted by the Institut français de Corée du Sud, is sent to the selected candidate. This agreement must be signed by the researcher's affiliated institution and returned to the Institut français de Corée du Sud. Once the agreement has been signed by both parties, the researcher's affiliated institution advances the purchase of the plane tickets. The Institut français de Corée du Sud then reimburses the cost upon receipt of the purchased tickets, supported by an invoice.

Airfares booked prior to the partnership agreement by individual laureates may not be reimbursed.

The **final program** for the mission must be sent to the French embassy in the Republic of Korea before departure.

An **end-of-mission report** must be sent to the French Embassy no later than one month after the end of the mission.

How to apply:

- Opening date of the call for applications: November 18, 2026

- Deadline for submission of applications: January 5, 2027
- Notification of results: February 01st, 2027

Applications must be submitted by sending all the documents listed below to the French Embassy in the Republic of Korea electronically at the following address: star-t@kr.ambafrance-culture.org

- an **application file** (in French or English) in Word and PDF format, to be downloaded from the website of the French Embassy in the Republic of Korea;
- a **Curriculum Vitae** in French or English (2 pages maximum);
- **Letter(s)/e-mail(s) of invitation or support** in French or English from the laboratory(ies)/researcher(s) you wish to visit in the Republic of Korea.

When submitting your application, please state explicitly in the subject line of the email your surname, first name, and the acronym corresponding to your field of research as mentioned in the application file. e.g., LAST NAME First name (acronym) - STAR-T 2027 application
Your application will be considered submitted upon the receipt of an acknowledgement e-mail.

Contacts for the program:

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