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## RENNES MÉTROPOLE RESEARCH CHAIR PROGRAMME

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025

## INFORMATION SHEET

The complete application file must be sent to Rennes Métropole by the beneficiary institution/organisation **by September 1st, 2025 at the latest**

- ▶ An original copy must be sent to the following address :  
**Rennes Métropole**  
**Pôle Stratégie Développement Aménagement – Direction de l'Économie, de l'Emploi et de l'Innovation**  
**Service Enseignement Supérieur Recherche**  
**4 avenue Henri Fréville – CS 93111 – 35031 Rennes**  
**France**
- ▶ An electronic PDF copy must be sent to the following e-mail address :  
[enseignement-recherche@rennesmetropole.fr](mailto:enseignement-recherche@rennesmetropole.fr)

#### Mandatory Documents in the Application File

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- Application form [to be downloaded](#), completed and signed by the head of the host research unit, the legal representative of the institution/organisation receiving the grant and the applicant
- Provisional financing plan [to be downloaded](#) and completed in French
- Letter of motivation from the applicant
- Detailed CV with research activities (up to 10 pages)
- 3 recommendation letters from leading scientists outside Brittany (including at least one from a foreign country)
- Any other document or recommendation that the applicant deems useful

#### Intervention Framework

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Rennes Métropole is firmly committed to strengthening higher education, research and innovation in its territory, focusing on their contribution to ecological, social and democratic transitions. The policy adopted on September 28, 2023 aims to foster a stimulating framework for high-quality research that addresses contemporary issues. Rennes Métropole's "Chaires de recherche d'excellence" scheme is fully in line with this ambition. Its aim is to attract renowned researchers with international backgrounds, by enabling them to develop ambitious research projects over a maximum period of four years within the units of the metropolitan site, with a view to contributing to their long-term anchorage in the region. . With this initiative, Rennes Métropole aims to create an environment conducive to the emergence of high-quality projects, capable of providing concrete solutions to current and future societal challenges, while offering the opportunity to explore a variety of fields of excellence.

Rennes Métropole may provide financial support of a minimum of €100,000 and a maximum of €200,000 per Chair. Rennes Métropole's support is capped at 75% of the total cost of the project.

## Provisional Schedule

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Submission of the Project by the Beneficiary Institution/Organisation	Dissemination of Results	Start of the Project
September 1st, 2025 After examination of the pre-proposals by the enlarged Rennes Site Research Committee in July 2025*	November 2025	November 2025 – February 2026

\* Subject to appropriation in the 2025 budget

## Admissibility Criteria

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The application is deemed admissible when the application and the research project meet the following criteria :

### ► Chair Holder:

- The applicant is an internationally recognised researcher or professor in his field
- The applicant is a permanent researcher (EPST) with a mobility project or a researcher recruited as a statutory or contract employee in an institution/organisation based in Rennes Métropole area, provided that the chair project is part of a certified research unit (recognised by the ministry of Higher Education and Research)
- Most of the applicant's academic and professional career took place outside Rennes Métropole area. The applicant's last professional experience in the territory ended no later than September 1st, 2020.
- At the time of the application (September 1st, 2025), the applicant has not taken up his position (recruitment or mobility project)
- The applicant agrees to stay in Rennes Métropole area for at least the duration of the project

### ► Chair Project:

- The project spreads over a maximum period of 48 months
- A co-financing of at least 25% of the total cost of the project is provided by the beneficiary institution/organisation or by another public or private co-funder
- The expenses covered by the grant from Rennes Métropole must include at least 51% of investment expenses, qualified as such according to the rules applicable in the beneficiary institution/organisation and certified compliant by their accounting officer

## Selection Procedures

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### ► Selection Criteria

The selection of applications will be based on the following elements:

- Quality and ambition of the proposed project, importance of the scientific and societal issues addressed
- Excellence of the applicant's academic background
- Benefits for the host research unit in terms of scientific resourcing, development of new fields of expertise, scientific production, attractiveness and international visibility
- Integration of the chair project into the scientific strategy of the host research unit and the scientific roadmap defined in agreement with the institutions/organisations based in Rennes Métropole, and contribution to the attractiveness and structuring of the academic site
- Reception conditions established by the host institution/organisation (including financial, technical and human resources made available to the chair holder)
- The project's contribution to solving ecological, social and democratic challenges
- Ability to connect with Rennes Métropole's socio-economic environment
  - Expected leverage effect and prospects (potential to enhance the value of the research work carried out – patents, development of new products and services, industrial and technological applications, etc. –, submission of European projects – Horizon Europe, ERC –, potential multiplier effect for the local

ecosystem, including in terms of new partnerships with civil society and/or the economic sphere, innovation stakeholders, etc.)

- Feasibility and consistency of the funding request with regard to the project submitted
- Prospects for the chair holder's permanent establishment in the territory of Rennes Métropole

#### ► Selection Process

**Step 1:** examination of pre-files by the Extended Research Thematic Steering Committee of the Rennes site, which issues reasoned opinion on the pre-files and classifies them

- **Step 2:** the beneficiary institution/organisation sends the complete application file to Rennes Métropole by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025
- **Step 3:** Rennes Métropole examines the files using the admissibility and selection criteria of the programme
- **Step 4:** decision on the allocation of the grant by the elected representatives of Rennes Métropole during a Metropolitan Council meeting

### Scientific communication

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As part of the intensification of the dialogue between the world of research and the local authority, prize-winners may be asked to speak to elected representatives and agents of Rennes Métropole.

### Eligibility of Expenditure

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- Eligible expenses correspond only to the expenses incurred by the research chair project:
  - Investments: cost of equipment and software necessary for the implementation of the project, insofar as these costs are qualified as investments by the accounting officer of the beneficiary institution/organisation
  - Staff Costs: costs related to the employment of persons directly associated with the project (salaries and social security contributions of the chair holder; researchers, PhD students, engineers, technicians, and other contract support persons)
  - Programme Support: mission expenses, service provision, consumables, small equipment, access to platforms, studies and analyses...
  - Management Fees (up to 4% of the grant from Rennes Métropole)
- By default, the amount of the transaction must be indicated exclusive of VAT, unless the beneficiary institution/organisation can justify the non-recovery of VAT
- The expenses must be incurred after the date of notification of the agreement and before the end date of the project set in the agreement between Rennes Métropole and the beneficiary institution/organisation

### Terms of Payment of the Grant

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- 1st payment of 50% upon notification of the agreement
- Intermediate payment of 25% at 12-18 months conditional on:
  - the presentation of a progress report co-signed by the chair holder and the head of the host research unit
  - the presentation of a financial statement certifying that 25% of the total project expenditure has been incurred, and certified compliant by the accounting officer of the beneficiary institution/organisation
  - the organisation of a project follow-up meeting involving the members of the Extended Research Thematic Steering Committee of the Rennes site, representatives of Rennes Métropole and any other co-funders, with hearings of the chair holder and the head of the host research unit
- Payment of the balance upon presentation of:

- a summary statement of all project-related expenditure, certified compliant by the accounting officer of the beneficiary institution/organisation
- a review of the research project (questionnaire provided by Rennes Métropole)
- In order to evaluate public policies, the applicant also agrees to provide balance sheet items in the event of a request from Rennes Métropole within 5 years following the end of the project