

CDP Information Session Q&A – 01 July 2026

1. Are Partner Institutions that already have an ongoing CDP collaboration with the JRC eligible to apply under this call?

Yes, Partner Institutions that have an ongoing CDP collaboration are eligible to apply for this call.

2. Which non-EU countries can apply to the CDP Call?

Non- EU countries that are associated with the EU Research Framework Programme currently in force can apply. The list of associated countries to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (for non-nuclear projects) and the Euratom Research and Training Programme (for nuclear projects) can be found [here](#).

3. Can applicant institutions be eligible if the doctoral programme under which the CDP doctoral candidate will be enrolled is still awaiting accreditation? The institution has other accredited doctoral programmes.

Partner Institutions must be entitled to award doctoral degrees under the specific doctoral programme in which the CDP student will be enrolled by the deadline of the Call for Expressions of Interest.

Alternatively, research institutions that are not accredited to award doctoral degrees may still be eligible provided that they have an agreement with a doctoral degrees-awarding institution.

4. Can a research organisation that does not award doctoral degrees apply jointly with a university entitled to do so?

Yes, research organisations that are not accredited to award doctoral degrees may still apply provided that they have an agreement with a doctoral degree-awarding institution. If their application is successful, the JRC will sign the CDP Agreement with both institutions.

5. Can multiple institutions apply together as a single partnership?

Each eligible institution must submit its own application independently. An exception applies where a research institution is not entitled to award doctoral degrees. In such cases, it may apply together with one doctoral degree-awarding institution.

6. If a research institution and a degree-awarding university apply together, should they submit a single application or an application per institution?

The two institutions should in this case submit one single application.

7. Should the application be submitted at university level, or can it be submitted by a department or graduate school?

The application may be prepared and submitted by researchers or administrative staff, with the authorisation of the legal representative of the applicant institution. While the application is submitted on behalf of the institution, the evaluation focuses on the team or department involved in the proposed collaboration. A potentially resulting CDP agreement is signed at the institutional level, often the university.

8. Who should be designated as the contact person for the application?

The contact person will be the main point of contact in the follow-up of the call process. The contact person can be but does not have to be a member of the applicant's team.

9. Who can submit an application on behalf of an institution?

The application may be prepared and submitted by researchers or administrative staff, with the authorisation of the legal representative of the applicant institution.

10. Can an application include researchers from different institutions within the same country?

Only if one of the institutions is not entitled to award doctoral degrees and therefore needs to partner with an institution that is. Otherwise, each eligible institution must submit its own application independently.

11. Can an institution apply for only one PhD topic within a Collaboration Theme, or does it need to apply to all of them?

This depends on the specific Collaboration Theme. Please see the relevant Collaboration Theme document available under "Related documents" on the [Call webpage](#).

12. Is there a minimum number of Collaboration Themes an institution must apply for?

No, there is no minimum or maximum number of Collaboration Themes that an institution can apply for.

13. Can a research group or researcher submit multiple proposals?

While multiple proposals from the same institution for the same Collaboration Theme does not lead to automatic disqualification, we encourage researchers from the same institution to submit coordinated proposals for each Collaboration Theme.

14. How many institutions will be selected for each Collaboration Theme?

As a general rule, one institution will be selected per Collaboration Theme.

15. Will the doctoral projects be jointly developed with the selected Partner Institutions, or are they already defined?

The Collaboration Themes and potential PhD topics published in the Call indicate the intended direction of the collaboration. The specific doctoral projects will subsequently be jointly developed by the JRC and the selected Partner Institutions.

16. Is there a dedicated funding for travel and conference attendance for the PhD student during the JRC hosting period?

Doctoral students may participate in work-related travel and conferences during their JRC hosting period. Where such travel is authorised, the related costs are covered by the JRC in accordance with the applicable conditions, without there being a set dedicated travel budget.

17. Does the JRC fund and employ the doctoral candidate for the entire duration of the PhD?

No. Doctoral students partaking in the CDP will spend anywhere between 12 and 24 months of their PhD projects at one of the JRC sites and the remaining time at the Partner Institution. Whilst staying at JRC premises, the JRC will employ the doctoral student under the national employment law of the site where they will be assigned and cover related employment costs including salary, necessary training and work-related travel costs.

18. Is the Partner Institution expected to employ the doctoral student and participate in the selection process?

The Partner Institution is expected to cover the costs related to the doctoral student, including their financial support, during the period that they are hosted by the institution. Doctoral students are selected through a joint selection process between the JRC and the Partner Institution. Information on the selection modalities of doctoral students can be found [here](#).

19. Who is responsible for covering tuition fees?

Tuition fees are the responsibility of the Partner Institution and/or the doctoral student, in accordance with the institution's rules.

20. At what stage must the Partner Institution confirm funding for the remaining years of the PhD?

Applying to the call and signing a CDP Agreement does not require any financial commitment from either party. However, funding should be available when the decision to publish a doctoral position is taken.

21. Can doctoral students funded through a scholarship rather than an employment contract participate in the CDP?

Yes, an employment contract is not required. The Partner Institution may support the doctoral candidate through a scholarship, an employment contract, or any other arrangement in accordance with its own rules. While employed at the JRC, any salary or stipend from the Partner Institutions must be paused for the duration of the CDP fellow's employment at the JRC.

22. Is the Partner Institution expected to match the salary paid to the doctoral student by the JRC?

No, the financial support provided to the doctoral student while hosted at the Partner Institution is at the Partner Institution's discretion.

23. Can a student who has already started a PhD with independent funding later join the CDP?

Candidates who are already enrolled in a doctoral study programme at the Partner Institution can be considered eligible, provided that they have been enrolled for less than 12 months by the application deadline indicated in the Doctoral Vacancy.

24. What is the expected duration of a CDP doctoral project?

The duration of a CDP doctoral project depends on the requirements of the Partner Institution's doctoral programme. The total duration of the PhD does not impact the possible length of the stay at the JRC.

25. How many doctoral positions are expected overall for this call and how many are allocated, on average, to each partner?

A total of 24 PhD positions is expected under the 2026 CDP Call. These positions will be distributed across all 8 Collaboration Themes and the actual number allocated to each partner will depend on the Collaboration Theme and the outcome of the selection process.

26. Will JRC be involved in reviewing the research proposals?

Yes, the research proposals are evaluated by the JRC.

27. How does the doctoral student selection process work?

The modalities for the selection of doctoral students are indicated in the [Annex C](#) of the CDP Agreement, which is available on the Call website.

28. Is there a summary of the overall process, including a flowchart or indicative timeline?

Yes, an overview of the overall process is available on the CDP webpage [here](#).

For the 2026 Call. The indicative timeline is as follows:

- June 2026: publication of the Call
- 25th September 2026, 23:59 (CEST): deadline for applications
- December 2026: announcement of selection results
- September 2027: start of PhD projects

29. Where in the application form should applicants address the published selection criteria?

The relevant questions appear in the application form once the applicant selects the Collaboration Theme for which they wish to apply.

30. Can specific clauses, such as provisions excluding dual-use activities, be included in the collaboration agreement?

The CDP Agreement is a standard template that is intended to be applied without modification to ensure equal conditions for all Partner Institutions. Modifications are considered only in exceptional cases where there is a duly justified need, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

31. Can applicants contact the JRC points of contact before submitting an application to discuss the direction of the proposed Collaboration Themes and PhD topics?

Applicants are free to reach out to points of contact to help inform their application.

32. Can the listed JRC contact points answer administrative questions before submission?

For administrative questions, applicants can contact the CDP Team: JRC-CDP@ec.europa.eu