

INDO-FRENCH LIFE SCIENCES CAMPUS FOR HEALTH

France would like to establish an Indo-French Campus in India. The main objectives of such a campus would be the development and strengthening of academic and research cooperation between India and France.

This project intends to leverage and emphasize the respective strengths of the two countries in higher education and research. Based on the existing scientific collaborations and taking into account the priority topics identified during bilateral dialogues, the focus of the proposed Indo-French Campus would be mainly centred on the health sector. The recent pandemic has shown the magnitude of future global challenges. It has also raised questions on ethics, public health policies, economics, and management of healthcare institutions.

The Indo-French Campus will involve the best French and Indian higher education institutions interested in joint teaching and research activities in the fields of pure and applied sciences, as well as in those of economics, social and human sciences specifically related to life sciences and applied to health and healthcare. Its main objective is to create an Indo-Pacific regional hub of excellence in this sector.

Expected degrees

At this preliminary stage, the Campus is proposed as a coalition of Indo-French academic partners in which each pair agrees on a syllabus for a course awarding a dual degree (1 Indian degree + 1 French degree). The partners could ideally involve a French and an Indian institution that already have ongoing collaboration(s), but it could also involve new stakeholders provided there is evidence of reciprocal commitment. Participation could be as part of a consortium, identified as a group of higher education institutions in which a lead coordinator is clearly mentioned for both countries.

The degree agreed upon by the partners, and the way they wish to proceed to reach the stage of a dual degree is totally dependent on the decisions of the partners themselves. The long-term aim of the campus is to confer degrees for Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes. Considering the existing academic opportunities in France and the wish to quickly link teaching, research and innovation activities, dual degrees at the master's level are expected as a realistic short-term goal.

A call for projects launched in France

A call for projects was published in mid-April 2022 by France (<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/a-new-french-indian-life-sciences-campus-for-health>), which aims to support a fair and transparent process for the selection of partners, whether they are standalone institutions or consortia.

The pre-selection step would help identify French institutions interested in the idea of such a Campus. An English translation of the call for projects is available for the information of Indian institutions.

The best shortlisted projects will be invited to India for an Indo-French workshop to be held on 27th - 29th June 2022. The best of India's NIRF-ranked institutions that are capable and desirous of conferring dual degrees, are already involved in academia or research projects with French institutions, or demonstrating a strong wish to do so, will also be invited to attend the workshop.

The final selection will take place in October 2022. The implementation of the project must start before 31st December 2022.

Funding

The French government will allocate funds for establishing the Campus that are to be shared between the final selected applicants (a maximum of 3 different projects will be funded). This funding can be used to cover travel expenses, scholarships, or specific costs and must be spent before the end of 2024.

The sustainability of the Indo-French Campus must be guaranteed through diversified sourcing in its operating budget: tuitions fees, sponsorship, public-private partnerships, grants, etc. The involvement of the corporate sector would be highly considered.