

## (IB)<sup>2</sup> ULB-VUB- 2020 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Interuniversity Institute of Bioinformatics in Brussels ((IB)<sup>2</sup>) is a collaborative bioinformatics research institute jointly supported by the ULB and VUB universities. The goal of the (IB)<sup>2</sup> is to bring together research groups in and around Brussels requiring bioinformatics and computational biology expertise. The (IB)<sup>2</sup> is an interuniversity, cross-faculty (Medicine, Sciences, and Applied Sciences) collaborative space located on the La Plaine campus of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

The missions of (IB)<sup>2</sup> consists of the following:

- **Harness and increase the scale of bioinformatics expertise:** Raise the impact of bioinformatics research by bringing together experts from different fields to tackle various (bio) medical problems with the aim to advance fundamental research as well as assist clinicians in helping patients.
- **Provide infrastructure:** Enable interdisciplinary and interuniversity research collaborations in bioinformatics by providing a physical location for research, meetings, collaborations, seminars as well as high-performance computer facilities, involving the ULB-VUB computing center.
- **Enable scientific excellence:** Through training, education, innovation and collaborations, the (IB)<sup>2</sup> has the ambition to further consolidate its competitive structure of scientific excellence, recognized at national and international level.

### Aim

The aim of the call is to:

- broaden the current (IB)<sup>2</sup> community by attracting more researchers (especially young scientists) in the lab premises
- extend the portfolio of (IB)<sup>2</sup> research projects to support future initiatives of interdisciplinary and interuniversity research in bioinformatics and computational biology.

## Eligibility

Eligible proposals must fulfill the following criteria:

- **Interdisciplinary:** promoters from at least two different units.
- **Interuniversity:** at least one research unit from the ULB and one from the VUB (e.g. jointly supervising a PhD student).
- **(IB)<sup>2</sup> situated:** they should foresee
  - o the recruitment of a young scientist (e.g. a PhD student or postdoc) who will work full-time in the (IB)<sup>2</sup> premises and
  - o the participation of promoters (or other senior scientists) in the institute for at least 1 day per week.
- **Pertinent to 'holistic' bioinformatics:** they should describe the interdisciplinary nature of the project and the pertinence of the topics to the future of bioinformatics and computational biology research.
- **(IB)<sup>2</sup> focused:** they should contain a detailed description of how the project will contribute to the visibility and develop synergy with running projects of the (IB)<sup>2</sup> (<http://ibsquare.be/research/projects>). An explicit commitment of all partners to take part and organize initiatives in the (IB)<sup>2</sup> premises is required.
- **Co-funded:** the plans for supporting the project beyond the (IB)<sup>2</sup> funding horizon should be explicitly outlined<sup>1</sup>.
- **FAIRness:** Outline your attempts to make your research and data access FAIR, i.e. findable, accessible, interpretable and reusable.

In case of similar evaluations, projects and investigators exploring new topical areas not currently covered by the (IB)<sup>2</sup> will be preferred.

The proposals are also expected to include at least one young scientific investigator in the team and contain a clear description of the starting knowledge base of the participating groups.

## Budget

- The project grants provide an amount sufficient to hire a PhD for 1 year (2020-2021)
- Maximum number of research projects that can be funded: 2

## Submission timeline

- Submission of title: May 15<sup>th</sup> 2020
- Final proposal submission deadline: May 28<sup>th</sup> 2020
- Funding decision: July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

<sup>1</sup> If the funded PhD receives another grant while being on the (IB)<sup>2</sup> scholarship, then the remainder of the scholarship returns to the (IB)<sup>2</sup> budget.

- Start of funded projects: October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

## Decision process

The projects will be initially filtered by the (IB)<sup>2</sup> steering committee based on the eligibility criteria. The eligible projects will be forwarded for external peer review, and the final decision will be taken by the steering committee based on the scientific quality and strategic impact on the future activities of the (IB)<sup>2</sup>. Particular attention will be devoted to the potential impact of the proposed research for other groups both at ULB and VUB. Only top-quality projects satisfying the above-mentioned criteria will be funded. In case of insufficient quality, no projects will be assigned.

## How to submit your proposal

The proposal (max. 4 A4 pages, Arial 11, single-spaced) should be submitted by a ULB-VUB academic with permanent position and should contain

1. Detailed description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project and the pertinence to (IB)<sup>2</sup>.
2. Explicit commitment of all junior and senior partners to
  - a. affiliate to (IB)<sup>2</sup>,
  - b. acknowledge (IB)<sup>2</sup> membership in publications
  - c. take part and organize initiatives in the (IB)<sup>2</sup> premises.
  - d. to work the premises at least once a week.
3. Budget including an explanation of how the project (and related personnel) will be supported at the end of the funding period.
4. Short cv of the promoters (3 pages each)

Submission of the title should be done within the 15<sup>th</sup> of May by sending an email to the two directors. Applications should be addressed to Tom Lenaerts and Wim Vranken and be submitted electronically to the secretary, Rebekah Hajir (Rebekah.Hajir@ulb.be), before the 28<sup>th</sup> of May at 10am.

## Contacts

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