(IB)² ULB-VUB- 2023 PhD Seeding Grant

The Interuniversity Institute of Bioinformatics in Brussels ((IB)²) is a collaborative bio-informatics research institute jointly supported by the ULB and VUB universities. The goal of the (IB)² is to bring together research groups in and around Brussels requiring bioinformatics and computational biology expertise. The (IB)² 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)² 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.
- **Enable scientific excellence:** Through training, education, innovation and collaborations, the (IB)² has the ambition to further consolidate its competitive structure of scientific excellence, recognized at national and international level.

Aim

The aims of the call are (a) to broaden the current (IB)² community by attracting more researchers (especially young scientists) in the lab premises and (b) to extend the portfolio of (IB)² 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.
- **(IB)² situated**: they should propose:
  o a PhD student who will work most of her/his time in the (IB)² premises and
  o the active participation of promoters in the institute life.
- **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)² 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)² (http://ibsquare.be/research/projects). An explicit commitment of all partners to take part and organize initiatives in the (IB)² premises is required.
- **Co-funded**: the plans for supporting the PhD student beyond the (IB)² funding horizon should be explicitly outlined[1].
- **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)² 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.

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

INTERUNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF
BIOINFORMATICS IN BRUSSELS

UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES

ULB

VUB

VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

Budget

The project grant provides an amount sufficient to hire a PhD for 1 year (2023-2024)

Submission timeline

- **Submission deadline: May 15, 2023**
- Funding decision: End of June 2023
- Start of funded project: October 1, 2023

Decision process

The projects will be evaluated by the (IB)² steering committee based on the following criteria:

1	Overall scientific quality of the project (40%)
2	Pertinence for the (IB)2 (40%)
3	Preliminary score for the candidate based on the CV if provided otherwise score rescaled (5%)
4	Interdisciplinary and interuniversity nature of the project (5%)
5	Involvement of young investigators (5%)
6	Plan to financially support the project beyond the (IB)2 funding horizon (5%)

All members of the committee will provide a written evaluation before meeting to select one project, and one or two back-up projects. Only a top-quality project satisfying the above-mentioned criteria will be funded. In case of insufficient quality, no project will be assigned.

How to submit your proposal

The proposal (max. 4 A4 pages) should be submitted by an academic staff member with a permanent position at either ULB or VUB following the template which can be found here.

By submitting a proposal, all junior and senior partners commit to
   a. affiliate to (IB)²,
   b. acknowledge (IB)² membership in publications,
   c. take part and organize initiatives in the (IB)² premises,
   d. the PhD student should have her.his main office at (IB)².

The application should be submitted electronically to Matthieu Defrance (Matthieu.Defrance@ulb.be) and Sophie de Buyl (Sophie.de.Buyl@vub.be), at the latest on **May 15, 2023**.

Contacts

Sophie de Buyl, VUB, Director, Sophie.de.Buyl@vub.be
Matthieu DEFRANCE, ULB, Director, Matthieu.Defrance@ulb.be

* We will advertise jointly the projects for this Seeding Grant for which a candidate is not already proposed at the time of the intention of application (upon agreement with the supervisors).