



Frequently asked questions – Ignite Program Seeding Stage

What is the BIST Ignite Program?

The BIST Ignite program is a mechanism to foster multidisciplinary research among the BIST community. It is based on a two-stage funding scheme, composed of two progressive calls:

- a) A first stage or **seeding stage**, which is an open internal call for project ideas,
- b) A second stage with an **exploratory nature**, awarded to the two best projects of those awarded the previous year with an Ignite seeding stage grant. The selection of these two winning projects is based on both the preliminary results obtained during the seeding stage and on the viability and the justification of continuing the collaboration.

Who can apply for the first phase or seeding stage?

Any Group Leader (GL) at a BIST center can apply and be a PI in an Ignite Project.

Associate researchers and postdocs are also welcome to apply, as long as they have written clearance from their group leader. In this sense, the GL's clearance letter must be loaded along with the application as without it, the project proposal cannot be passed onto evaluators.

Researchers already holding an Ignite Program Grant at the time of the call's deadline are not eligible to apply.

Are non BIST groups allowed to participate in the call?

Yes, non BIST groups are allowed to participate if they provide an expertise which is not available within BIST. A good example would be the participation of clinical researchers. However, external groups are not eligible for direct funding from BIST.

What kind of projects are suitable for this first (seeding) stage?

Project ideas which explore novel, multidisciplinary approaches to complex or unsolved questions, involving new collaborations between researchers from different scientific fields of at least two BIST centers.

Where do I apply?

The application is done online through the Slidesroom portal

<https://bist.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/38578>.

What do I need to provide in my application?

The required documentation consists of an online questionnaire and a short (2-4 page) project proposal. **The proposal must reflect the scientific content and the added value of the proposed collaboration and** include: 1.- title and acronym, 2.- state of the art, 3.- long term goals & specific objectives, 4.- research approach (methodology and workplan), 5.- budget (clearly indicating the percentage to be allocated to each of the BIST centers in case the project is granted), 6.- expected outputs.

In case you are a postdoc or an associate researcher, you must also provide a letter of support from your GL.

The online tool provides space for additional information / material as well. However, please submit only that which is really indispensable and facilitates the understanding of your project.

What costs are eligible?

The funds provided may be spent to cover any expenses required for the development of the projects, except for investments - including laboratory equipment.

How are the projects evaluated?

The projects will be evaluated by a panel of experts (both internal and external) during a two stage process, which involves both online revision of the proposals and in person meetings to discuss the proposals and decide on both the runner-ups and winning projects.

Three criteria will be taken into account when evaluating the project proposals:

- Multidisciplinarity and added value of the collaboration (40%)
- Novelty, and possible future impact of the idea (40%)
- Viability, both in terms of time and objectives (20%)

The evaluation criteria form provided to the reviewers can be downloaded from the webpage.

Who can I contact if I have doubts regarding the call?

You may send your doubts by email to research@bist.eu or talk with the contact point at your institute (see below for names and contact details)

Do I need to provide an ethics clearance / ethic's review board report?

No, you don't need to provide an ethic's review board report. However, if your project requires of ethic's clearance, as with any other project you will need to pass it. Your centers are responsible for ensuring ethical compliance of the projects being carried out in their laboratories.

Will BIST claim IP rights over the results that may arise from the Ignite project's execution?

No, BIST will not claim any IP rights over the results that may arise from the Ignite project's execution, nor will it require the signature of any previous agreement between partners.

IP will belong to the scientists involved following the policy and regulations of the Centers to which they belong.