



Frequently asked questions – Ignite Programme Seeding Stage

What is the BIST Ignite Programme?

The BIST Ignite programme 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 will not pass to evaluators.

Researchers already holding an Ignite Programme Grant at the time of the call's deadline are not eligible to apply. Only one proposal per PI will be accepted.

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 or high-performance computing researchers. However, external groups need to provide their own resources independent of any funding from BIST.

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

Project ideas that 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 process is done online through the Slidesroom portal <https://bist.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/46082>. Access to the portal also provided through the link in the BIST webpage <http://bist.eu/ignite-call>

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 center 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.

Make sure you write your project in a language understood by scientists that may not experts in your field.

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

What costs are eligible?

The funds provided can 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 an in person meeting.

Three criteria are taken into account when evaluating the project proposals:

- Multidisciplinary 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 is available at the BIST 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 (contact details available in the 2018 terms and conditions document).

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 an ethic's clearance, as with any other project you will need to pass it before starting the work. 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 BIST 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.