# Toulouse Safe Place for Science

## Details of the program to welcome international academically impeded researchers (version 15-10-2026)

## 1. Context

In the face of the threats and drastic, targeted budget cuts that have affected scientific research across the globe, endangering globalized science, **Toulouse higher education and research establishments** are determined to reaffirm the values they uphold of **free, open and diverse academic research.**

Based on the national "ChooseFranceForScience" program, and with the **support of the Occitanie region**, these establishments have decided to set up a **Toulouse Safe Place for Science program to enable researchers who are prevented or threatened from carrying out their research in their current environment to do so in the serenity required for all scientific research that Toulouse offers.** The launch of this program is based on the ExcellenceS Toulouse Initiative for Research's Impact on Society (TIRIS) project.

In order to provide researchers with a suitable environment within the framework of the regional scientific strategy, the program is deployed in particular in **4 threatened areas (humanities, health, climate, space)** and in coherence with the three priority areas of the TIRIS project ("understanding and promoting healthy living and well-being"; "global changes and impacts on societies"; "accelerating sustainable transitions for mobility, energy, resources and industrial change").[1]

## 2. Toulouse Safe Place for Science Schemes

The Toulouse Safe Place for Science program which is open to researchers whatever their nationality, including French, features four schemes, detailed below. These schemes are part of the TIRIS project for hosting researchers and equipping research laboratories.

The program is composed of three annual waves of hosting of around 5 researchers each. These waves will take place between the years 2025 and 2027.

**Contact should be made by email to welcome-tiris@univ-toulouse.fr, starting with :**

- **a CV,**
- **a cover letter**
- **and a letter of support from the host laboratory targeted in Toulouse.[2]**

[1] https://en.univ-toulouse.fr/tiris/three-thematic-pillars-tiris

[2] ***The Guide to Research in Western Occitania :*** *Tool for identifying the site's public research potential: units and their components, federative structures, doctoral schools, based on thematic or institutional criteria.*



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**A more complete file will then be requested if the application is deemed eligible**. Each recipient will be under contract with one of TIRIS' partner establishments for the duration of their stay. As such, they will be subject to the associated rights and obligations.

1) **Welcoming Researchers**: this scheme enables to welcome researchers (e. g. Associate/Assistant Professor or Professor positions). Funding from TIRIS will be based on the salary scales in effect at the recruiting institution supplemented by a relocation allowance. The academic stay will last between 6 and 24 months. At the request of the guest researcher, TIRIS partner establishments may be asked to take on a permanent position. TIRIS funding is non-renewable for this program, but the recruited researcher can renew his/her contract with other sources of funding. The guest researcher will benefit from the support provided for the arrival of researchers as part of the ToolBox offer[3].

2) **Welcoming Post-docs**: This scheme enables TIRIS to host post-doctoral fellows who would otherwise be unable to complete their post-doctoral studies in their country of employment. TIRIS will finance the stay in accordance with the salary scales in force at the recruiting institution supplemented by a relocation allowance. The academic stay will be between 6 and 24 months. Hosted post-docs are strongly encouraged to apply for open positions at TIRIS partner institutions. TIRIS funding is non-renewable for this program, but the recruited researcher can renew his/her contract with other sources of funding. The recruited researcher will benefit from the support provided for the arrival of post-docs as part of the ToolBox offer[2].

3) **Welcoming teams**: This scheme enables teams to be hosted, with at least one full researcher and one doctoral or post-doctoral student. For the team's researchers and post-docs, each person must complete a Welcome Researcher or Welcome Post-docs application form, and must indicate that the application is for the Welcoming Team scheme. In this case, the applications will be assessed as a whole. TIRIS cannot provide funding for PhD students. Successful Welcoming Team applications will receive specific operating funding (max 200k€) in addition to Welcoming Post-docs and Welcoming researcher funding.

4) **Welcoming Data**: The aim of this system is to secure access to critical data for scientific research. Such data may be in the process of being acquired, or still to be acquired, and their hosting and/or use are not restricted by a consortium agreement. The sensitive nature of this type of request will require case-by-case processing and appropriate financial analysis.

*https://www.univ-toulouse.fr/guide-de-recherche*

[3] https://toulbox.univ-toulouse.fr/en



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# 3. Implementation, application selection

The selection process will take place in two phases (see diagram below).

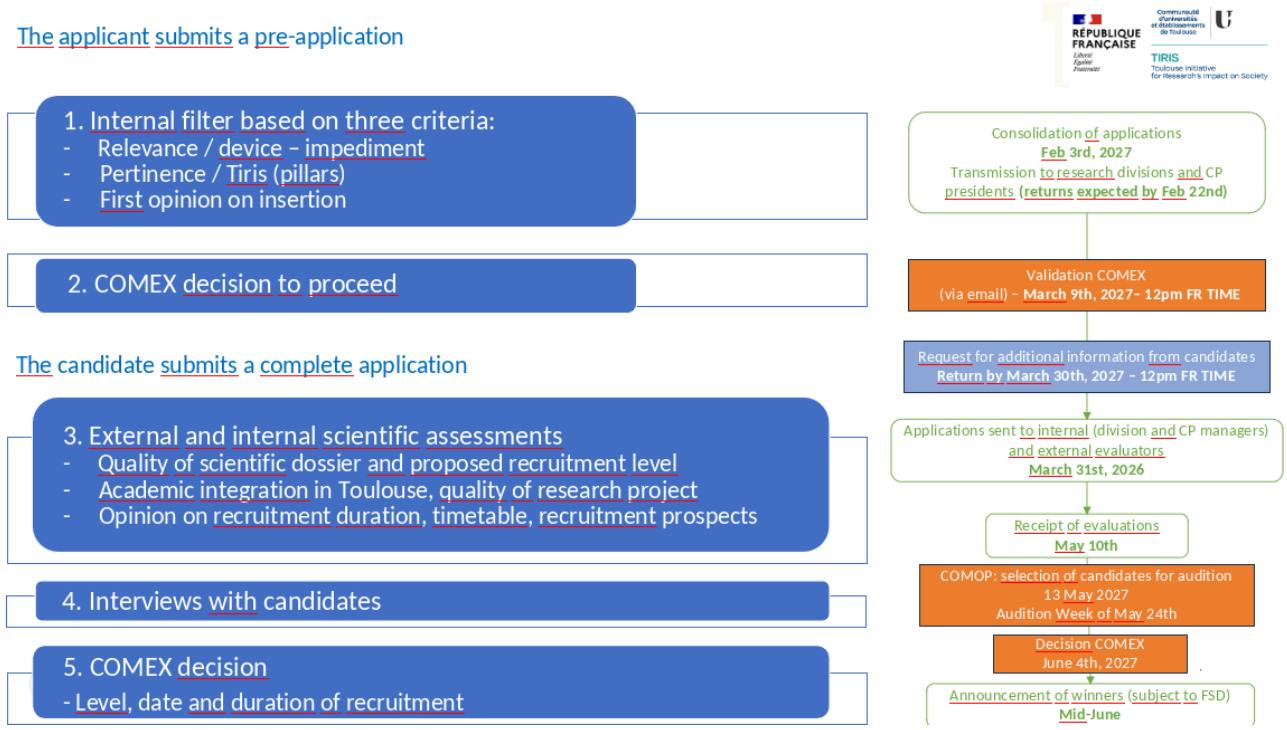



*Figure 1: Selection procedure for 3rd wave winners of the Toulouse Safe Place for Science program*

## a) Phase 1: pre-sélection

The application is initiated by sending an e-mail to welcome-tiris@univ-toulouse.fr with **a detailed CV, a covering letter** indicating the extent to which :
- **the candidate is prevented or threatened from carrying out his/her job,**
- **the candidate will be able to carry out his/her academic work on the Toulouse site**
- **the work he or she is carrying out is in line with one of the three scientific pillars of TIRIS and in one of the four targeted fields of Humanities, Health, Climate or Space.**

And a **letter of support from the hosting laboratory in Toulouse** indicating
- **The alignment and the contribution of the candidate's research to the laboratory dynamics**
- **The conditions of hosting and resources made available to the candidate**

On the basis of these criteria, the local members of the Selection Committee will propose to the TIRIS Executive Committee a list of candidates shortlisted for phase 2.



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## b) Phase 2: selection

**Candidates selected for the second phase** are encouraged to **submit a complete application within 2 weeks after the announcement of their selection for phase 2**. The complete application must be submitted via the TIRIS platform, the address for which will be provided to shortlisted candidates.

In particular, applicants will be asked whether they have applied for a host position elsewhere in France or Europe.

Together, these documents will enable the TIRIS team to apply for co-funding under the ChooseFranceForScience scheme.

**Evaluation** is carried out by a **jury of peers from Toulouse and elsewhere**. The selection criteria are:
**- academic quality;**
**- ability to integrate into Toulouse's academic, and possibly extra-academic, ecosystems.**

The final selection is made following an interview by the jury (videoconference) with the shortlisted candidates.

The final decision is made by the TIRIS Executive Committee, subject to the agreement of the Defence Security Officer of the recruiting institution.



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