



## Qu'est-ce que le dispositif des thèses en miroir IDIL ?

Un projet doctoral en miroir permet d'articuler deux thèses disciplinaires distinctes au sein d'un projet multidisciplinaire commun.

Il s'agit d'aborder un même projet de recherche par le biais de deux disciplines différentes pour favoriser la multidisciplinarité. Les méthodes et les références propres à chacune des disciplines concernées devront donc être mobilisées.

Le programme gradué IDIL finance, pour la rentrée 2024, deux projets doctoraux en miroir, soit 10 contrats doctoraux au total sur une durée de 3 ans.

### 1 PROJET DOCTORAL EN MIROIR



### 2 CHAMPS DISCIPLINAIRES DIFFERENTS (exemple deux sections CNU non sœurs)



1 CONTRAT DOCTORAL  
DISCIPLINE

A

1 CONTRAT DOCTORAL  
DISCIPLINE

B

## Sujet de thèse

**Context.** The **SMArT** project (“Smart nanoparticles delivering siRNA to treat gastrointestinal stromal Tumors”) is funded by the **Inter-Disciplinary & In-Lab Graduate Program** of **Université de Montpellier** with 2 mirror PhD positions starting in 2024: one in Chemistry @IBMM (UMR5247, P.I.: Sébastien ULRICH) and one in Biology @PhyMedExp (UMR9214, P.I.: Prisca BOISGUERIN).

**Overview of the project.** The design of **smart vectors of nucleic acids** that degrade in cells at the appropriate place and within the appropriate time-scale is a major current challenge to improve the performances of nucleic acid therapies. The current strategies enable only 1-2% of the nucleic acids to be released in cells, thus leaving huge opportunities for improvement. This PhD project rests on our recent achievements in making smart pH-sensitive peptide conjugates as vectors of siRNA (ANR-funded project NanoCard, 2022-2025, manuscript in preparation). In this new project, we will tackle the engineering of **multi-dynamic peptide-**



**based conjugates with improved sensitivity and controlled degradation.** The candidate will focus on implementing a rich set of dynamic covalent reactions in order to optimize the sensitivity of the vectors to various degradation processes that will improve the siRNA release. The work will involve the **synthesis of modified peptides** and **dynamic covalent conjugates** (SPPS, HPLC chromatographies, NMR, LC-MS, UV-Vis spectroscopies), the determination of their kinetic of degradation, and the *in vitro* evaluation of siRNA complexation and release (gel electrophoresis, DLS,  $\zeta$  potential measurement).

A close collaboration with the mirror PhD in biology will contribute to this interdisciplinary project.

**Host laboratory.** The Institut des Biomolécules Max Mousseron ([IBMM](#), UMR 5247) is devoted to research in biomolecular systems for health applications. In this context, we develop dynamic covalent assemblies and conjugates for gene delivery applications (see for instance: *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2023**, *29*, 7, e202202921; *ChemBioChem*, **2023**, *24*, 19, e202300333; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2021**, *60*, 11, 5783-5787; *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **2019**, *52*, 2, 510-519).

**Graduate school/Ecole doctorale de rattachement :** [Sciences Chimiques Balard](#), ED459

**Ph.D. candidate.** You have recently graduated (M.Sc., Ecole d'Ingénieur) with excellent theoretical and practical knowledge in bioorganic chemistry (synthesis, purification, characterization). You have a strong interest for the interface with biology, with a desire to learn and practice. You are a self-starter, working autonomously, willing to take initiatives and eager to work in a multidisciplinary project. You show a clear enthusiasm for research. You are a team player with very good communication skills. Knowledge of French would be useful but is not essential. Starting date: October 2024 (flexible), salary: ca. 2100 €/month.



## Modalités de candidature

Date limite de candidature : 15 avril 2024, 23H CET

Afin de postuler aux contrats doctoraux en miroir IDIL, les étudiants candidats doivent compléter leurs dossiers et les envoyer avant la date limite à l'adresse email suivante : [idil-team@umontpellier.fr](mailto:idil-team@umontpellier.fr), ainsi que remplir le formulaire de candidature Microsoft Forms en parallèle.

**Important, afin d'être pris en considération, le format de l'objet de l'email de candidature doit respecter strictement la méthodologie suivante :**

**[IDIL PhD Application: Subject n° (Ajouter le numéro du projet choisi) – Doctoral school (Ajouter la lettre A ou B de correspondant à l'école doctorale d'affiliation) – Surname – Name]**

N'hésitez pas à copier-coller directement celui-ci en remplaçant simplement les éléments adéquats entre parenthèses.

Les numéros associés aux différents projets doctoraux en miroir ainsi que les lettres correspondantes aux écoles doctorales sont retrouvables sur la page internet dédiée :

<https://idil.edu.umontpellier.fr/inscrivez-vous-dans-un-doctorat-interdisciplinaire/>

Les éléments à joindre obligatoirement au dossier pour évaluation (n'oubliez pas de répondre au formulaire également):

- Une lettre de motivation, signée et datée
- CV
- Relevés de notes de L3, M1 et M2 (ou de toutes les années du cursus équivalent, par exemple un diplôme ingénieur) avec classement

Le lien du formulaire de candidature à transmettre en parallèle pour tous les étudiants candidats :

<https://forms.office.com/e/w97RmAL6RU>



# The University of Montpellier

## KEY FIGURES

**52372**

students



**74**

research facilities

**TOP 200**

in the Shanghai ranking

**657**

National and institutional diplomas

**17**

faculties, schools and institutes

**9**

doctoral schools

3rd worldwide in ecology

**5132**

employees

including 2818 teachers, researchers and research assistants

**6500**

scientific publications in 2021

## RESEARCH CENTERS

From space exploration and robotics to ecological engineering and chronic diseases, UM researchers are inventing tomorrow's solutions for mankind and the environment.

Dynamic research, conducted in close collaboration with research organizations and benefiting from high-level technological platforms to meet the needs of 21st century society.

The UM is committed to promoting its cutting-edge research by forging close links with local industry, particularly in the biomedical and new technologies sectors.

**More Information:** <https://www.umontpellier.fr/en/recherche/unites-de-recherche>

## SCIENTIFIC APPEAL

Open to the world, the University of Montpellier contributes to the structuring of the European higher education area, and strengthens its international positioning and attractiveness, in close collaboration with its partners in the I-SITE Program of Excellence, through programs adapted to the major scientific challenges it faces.

**More Information:** <https://www.umontpellier.fr/en/international/attractivite-scientifique>