

Call for projects 2026

Master 2 Internships

Academic year : 2026-2027

Call for projects 2026 –Master 2 Internships

Context

Sequencing technologies have developed significantly over the past ten decades, opening up unprecedented research opportunities to study and better understand the diversity of life. In this context, the ATLASEa research program aims to obtain reference genomes for 4,500 marine eukaryotic species from France's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This effort is critical for studying marine biodiversity, which remains poorly understood and is under significant anthropogenic pressure, yet is essential for maintaining the physical and biological balance of marine ecosystems.

ATLASEa gradually brings together the French scientific community around marine genomics, promotes interdisciplinarity, accelerates collaboration between public and private stakeholders, and today stands as a leading international player in the acquisition of marine life genomes, in partnership with the ERGA (European Reference Genome Atlas) initiative and the global Earth BioGenome Project (EBP).

ATLASEa is also committed to training the next generation of scientists. As part of this mission, ATLASEa is launching its first call for projects to fund 6-month Master 2 (M2) internships during the 2026/2027 academic year. The goal is to accelerate the exploitation of marine genomic data by supporting innovative research projects aligned with the program's targeted themes.

Timeline

- *16 July 2026 : Call launch*
- *24 September 2026 : Call submission deadline*
- *October 2026 : Announcement of selected projects*

Contact

call-atlasea@bio.ens.psl.eu (Coraline Chapperon, programme manager)

Funding scheme

For this first call, ATLASEa will fund seven Master 2 internship projects starting from January 2027. The maximum budget is €5,000, and must cover:

- *the costs of 6-month internship stipend according to the current funding rates in place in France, as well as the mandatory contribution to public transportation expenses upon the student's request, and ;*
- *a part of the internship environment costs.*

The use of the allocated budget must be duly justified.

Projects submission

The application must be submitted by the main supervisor of the Master 2 project, no later than September 24, 2026, at 15:00 CEST, via the following online form: <https://www.atlasea.fr/call-for-master-2-projects-form/>.

Trainees cannot submit projects.

Eligibility Conditions

The main supervisor must be a researcher (post-doc, research engineer, junior researcher, etc.) or a faculty researcher affiliated with a French higher education institution or public research organization. The main supervisor is responsible for submitting the project to this call and commits to managing and supervising the selection of an intern. Only one application per (co-)supervisor will be accepted for this call. It is not required for the project supervisor to be part of a team already linked to ATLASea.

The internship topic must involve the exploitation of marine genomic data, relying on reference marine genomes from the public domain and/or the ATLASea project. It must align with one or more of the following scientific themes of the PEPR ATLASea:

- *Environmental genomics*
- *Computational functional genomics*
- *Experimental functional genomics*
- *Genome evolution*
- *Genomics of invasive species*
- *Bioinformatics*
- *Population genomics*
- *Genomes and metabolic pathways*
- *Genome structure and organization*

Selection of Internship Projects

The selection of projects will be carried out by an ad hoc committee of the PEPR ATLASea based on the following criteria: (i) Scientific quality of the project, and (ii) Alignment with ATLASea's thematic priorities for this call.

Selection of trainees (Master 2 students)

The selected projects will be published on the ATLASea website.

Students must apply directly to the internship supervisors.

The selection of a student is the responsibility and free choice of the main supervisor.