When the collaboration between (a) team(s) affiliated to CNRS and (a) team(s) abroad is already well-structured and the teams wish to work full-time together in the same laboratory, the CNRS and the partner Institution(s) may decide to set up an International Joint Unit.

What is a UMI?
A UMI is a joint, full-fledged single-located research laboratory, as found in universities and research organizations. It is based in a unique location abroad. It brings together researchers, students, PhDs, and supports staff from the CNRS and the partner Institution(s). The director of the UMI is jointly appointed by the CNRS and the foreign partner institution(s).

How long does a UMI last?
Five years, potentially renewable twice after evaluation.

Who can submit a UMI proposal?
An application to create a UMI must be submitted by its future director (a researcher or a professor) to both the CNRS and the partner Institution(s) abroad.

How and when to submit a proposal?
Requests to set up a UMI can be made at any time to the relevant CNRS scientific Institute and the partner Institution(s) abroad. The application file includes a research proposal and a provisional budget (plus total cost) for 5 years.

How are the proposals evaluated?
The scientific evaluation of the proposals is carried out, by the CNRS and the partner Institution(s). The choice of UMIs is highly selective and based on mutual agreement between the Partners. As UMIs have the same status as CNRS units in France, decisions concerning their creation must be ratified by the President of the CNRS. Once the decision to create a UMI has been taken, a contract is signed by the President of the CNRS and by the head of the partner Institution(s). It must include a research programme description, a consolidated provisional budget, management rules and intellectual property provisions.

How is a UMI funded?
Human and material resources are provided to the UMI by the CNRS and the partner Institution(s), in addition to funds from other sources, such as grants from other organizations, agencies, foundations and private companies. The salaries of researchers, PhDs students, PhDs and support staff are covered, as much as equipment, running costs, research trips and infrastructure expenses. These expenses are jointly supported by the Partners according to an annual provisional budget, following a consultation between the administrative and the scientific authorities in the countries overseeing in the UMI.