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The Institute provides a stimulating environment for scientists of different disciplines to interact and aid each other's research. This facilitates pre- and postdoctoral researchers working jointly with mentors from different academic backgrounds. The intellectual environment in the Institute is further enriched by Senior Scientists, Senior Research Associates, Research Scientists and Visiting Scholars. Active colloquium and seminar series, as well as a more informal weekly 'bag lunch', stimulate information exchange. Housed in the Gordon Center for Integrative Science building, the Institute provides office and state-of-the-art laboratory space which operates a number of specialized research facilities. These include a low-temperature (cryogenics) laboratory, materials preparation and spectroscopic facilities, scanning probe and electron microscopes, and extensive shop facilities.

In an age where much cutting-edge research lies at the boundaries between traditional disciplines, the James Franck Institute fosters creative interdisciplinary work at the forefront of science.