

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EXCELLENCE FELLOWSHIPS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

2026



UNIVERSITÉ
CÔTE D'AZUR



Initiative d'Excellence

Contents



CONTEXT

Scope
Object of the call



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility
Selection criteria
Duration and details of the grant
Application file
Timeline



HOW TO APPLY

Application Submission and Contact Information



APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of IdEx Strategic Programs
Appendix 3: Application form
Appendix 3: Model of Curriculum Vitae

CONTEXT

Scope

As part of its commitment to excellence and international prominence, [IdEx of Université Côte d'Azur](#) is launching the call for applications “Excellence Fellowships for Young Researchers 2026” to encourage the recruitment of young postdoctoral researchers in its laboratories.

Who is this for?

This call will enable high-level young scientists to join a laboratory of Université Côte d'Azur for a period of 24 months, with one of the following specific objectives:

- Enabling the postdoctoral fellow to prepare an application for a permanent position at Université Côte d'Azur, such as a *Chargé de Recherche* (CR) position in a French national research organization, with one of Université Côte d'Azur's host laboratories selected as the first-choice assignment.
and/or
- Allowing the supervisor of the postdoctoral project and/or the fellow to submit an ERC grant application within two years of recruitment.

The call is endowed to fund 12 contracts. All disciplines and themes are eligible.

Candidates should first get in touch with a research laboratory or a group from Université Côte d'Azur (<https://univ-cotedazur.fr>). Together, the candidate and the local host should come up with an original research program and submit the application through our dedicated platform Nuxéo.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Article 1 – Eligibility Criteria

- The candidate must hold a doctorate (PhD).
- The candidate must have defended a doctoral thesis within the 4 years prior to the closing date for applications: the thesis must therefore have been **defended after March 6, 2022**.¹

Article 2 – Selection Criteria

In decreasing order of importance:

- Ability to meet the objectives of the call for applications.
- Quality of the candidate's CV (degrees, publications, caliber of the career plan).
- The scientific quality of the proposed project (importance of the topic addressed, originality and technical feasibility that takes into consideration the duration of the contract).
- Quality of the host laboratory and of the supervisor's CV (publications, scientific and technical environment, etc.).
- Suitability of the host laboratory to carry out the research project.
- Alignment of the project with the strategic programs of IdEx of Université Côte d'Azur (see list in the appendix) will be considered as a plus.

Article 3 – Duration

The duration of the funding will be 24 months.

Article 4 – Recruitment And Funding Conditions

- The gross monthly salary (*brut mensuel*) will be 3,525 euros.
- Additionally, an operating budget of 5,000 euros for the duration of the project will be provided.
- Funding will be awarded through a temporary contract (CDD) and the employer will be Université Côte d'Azur. The funding is non-renewable.
- This is a full-time research contract; additional activities (e.g., teaching activities). Any additional activity (such as teaching duties) will only be permitted with the prior approval of both the supervisor and the IdEx.
- The fellow must reside near the host laboratory for the duration of the postdoctoral contract.
- Temporary housing will be proposed to the laureates at the University Côte d'Azur [Faculty Club](#), with the first month provided free of charge.
- The [Welcome Center](#) informs, assists and offers personalized help beforehand and throughout the laureate's stay at University Côte d'Azur.

¹ This maximum period of 4 years may be revised and extended in various conventionally recognized cases such as taking into account maternity leave (counted at 100%), parental leave (counted at 50%), sick leave of more than 3 months, and certain other cases which will be assessed following a substantiated request.

Article 5 – Activity Report

At the end of the first year of funding, an activity report must be submitted to the IdEx Operational Research Program.

Article 6 – Publications - Presentations

The successful projects are anticipated to generate publications of significant impact. All publications resulting from the project must appropriately acknowledge the financial support of both the ANR and IdEx of Université Côte d'Azur. Additionally, the University signature should be included in the author affiliations (details [here](#)). Presentations at congresses, conferences, symposia should also mention this support and include the appropriate logos. The details of these mentions and visuals are provided in the communication kit of the IdEx project leaders as well as in the appendix of the contract. Publications must be published in Open Access, and a copy of each publication must be deposited in the [IdEx HAL-Université Côte d'Azur](#) database. Whenever possible, the codes and data used for the publications should also be made available in Open Access.

Article 7 – Selection Committee

A multidisciplinary selection committee will be established with the support of the Université Côte d'Azur components and will be chaired by the IdEx Vice President.

Article 8 – Fellowships Conditions

These individual fellowships are nominative, non-transferable, and cannot be combined with another postdoc funding. Candidates who decide to withdraw their application are kindly requested to inform their IdEx contact at Université Côte d'Azur as quickly as possible. Candidates selected for the fellowship cannot defer the beginning of their contract after February 1, 2027. In case of refusal of the fellowship offer(s), candidate(s) on the waiting list will be contacted.

Article 9 – Changement Of Circumstances

Postdoc fellows who secure employment with another organization during the funding period are required to submit written notification to their IdEx Research Program contact. Additionally, any pertinent changes in the candidate's circumstances should be promptly communicated to the university.

Article 10 - Application File

Regarding the candidate:

1. A cover letter highlighting the reasons for choosing the host laboratory,
2. A complete curriculum vitae using the template provided in the appendix,
3. A list of publications,
4. Two letters of recommendations:
 1. A first letter of recommendation relevant to the submitted project (e.g., external collaborator, thesis supervisor, subject matter expert, etc.),

- II. A second letter from the director of the laboratory or the team leader that will be hosting the postdoctoral fellow.

Note: for publications under review or in press, attach the abstract and editor's response.

Regarding the research project:

- A description of the project, 6 pages maximum, including the bibliography, explaining the feasibility and key stages of the project and its alignment with the project of the host team or laboratory.
- A half-page summary of the project outlining keywords and, when applicable, specifying one or more Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to the research project.

Regarding the strategic positioning of the application:

Whenever possible, include factual elements to support your chosen position.

- A commitment letter from the candidate, pledging to apply for a permanent research position at one of Université Côte d'Azur's components within the year following recruitment. If seeking the position of CR - Chargé de recherche (Researcher) at a French research organization (such as CNRS, INRIA, INSERM, INRAE, IRD), the candidate commits to selecting a host laboratory of Université Côte d'Azur as their first choice.

AND/OR

- A commitment letter from the supervisor and/or from the candidate to submit an application within the year following recruitment for an ERC grant and explaining how the award of a postdoctoral contract will strongly support this application.

Regarding the host laboratory:

- CV of the supervisor listing the main publications over the last three years and emphasizing, where applicable, the experience in supervising or co-supervising research projects.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Article 11 - Timeline Of The Call

- **November 14, 2025:** Launch of the call for applications:
- **March 6, 2026:** Deadline for the submission of applications on Nuxéo
- **Mid-May 2026:** Announcement of results
- **February 1, 2027:** Deadline for taking up the position



HOW TO APPLY

The application files must be submitted **by the supervisor** on Nuxéo, the IdEx project management platform: [Excellence Fellowships Post-doc IdEx 2026 CALL](#)

All the requested documents must be **combined in one single PDF file** named as follows: *candidate***FirstName_LastName-POSTDOCIDEX2026**.

An application form must also be completed in parallel **by the applicant, in coordination with the supervisor** : [COMPLETION OF THE CALL ONLINE FORM](#).

The first recommendation letter (*A letter of recommendation relevant to the submitted project*) must be sent in a separate email by the author of the letter to: idx.recherche@univ-cotedazur.fr.

Questions related to the program can be sent to the same afore mentioned address.

Appendix 2: List of the Strategic Programs of the IdEx of Université Côte d'Azur

- Mathematics
- Quantum technologies
- Biocontrol
- Earth and universe sciences
- Aging and well-being
- Arts and Sciences
- Tourism
- Socio-environmental challenges
- Risks in the Mediterranean region
- Digital health
- Flavors and Perfumes
- Marine Resources
- Challenges and impacts of the new programmable 5G/6G networks
- Intelligent mobility and automated vehicles
- Innovative materials
- Signals and waves
- Economics of innovation in Artificial Intelligence
- Impacts and challenges of globalization
- Creative industries - Cultural Heritage
- Environment and health - the exposome concept
- Therapeutic innovations
- Robotics
- Ion channels
- Biological signaling pathways
- Mecabionics

Appendix 2: Model of Curriculum Vitae

Please follow the template below as much as possible (it may however be amended if necessary). The name of PhD supervisor and date of defense must be included.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gender: Male/Female/Non-binary/Prefer not to say

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc):

Date of birth:

Nationality:

URL for web site:

EDUCATION

200? PhD

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

Name of PhD Supervisor and date of defense

199? Master

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

CURRENT POSITION(S)

201? – Current Position

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? - Current Position

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

200? – 200? Position held

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – 200? Position held

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

200? – 200? Scholarship, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? Award, Name of Institution/Country

199? – 199? Scholarship, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS (if applicable)

200? – 200? Number of Postdocs/ PhD/ Master Students

Name of Faculty/ Department/ Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

TEACHING ACTIVITIES (if applicable)

200? – Teaching position – Topic, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – 200? Teaching position – Topic, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS (if applicable)

201? Please specify your role and the name of event / Country

200? Please specify type of event / number of participants / Country

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (if applicable)

201? – Faculty member, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

201? – 201? Graduate Student Advisor, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – 200? Member of the Faculty Committee, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – 200? Organizer of the Internal Seminar, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – 200? Member of a Committee; role, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES (if applicable)

201? – Scientific Advisory Board, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

201? – Review Board, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

201? – Review panel member, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

201? – Editorial Board, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – Scientific Advisory Board, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – Reviewer, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – Scientific Evaluation, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – Evaluator, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES (if applicable)

201? – Member, Research Network “Name of Research Network”

200? – Associated Member, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200? – Founding Member, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

MAJOR COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

Name of collaborators, Topic, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

CAREER BREAKS (if applicable)

Exact dates - Please indicate the reason and the duration in months.