

Young International Academics

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Postdoctoral Programme

Frequent Asked Questions

Q: Is there a deadline for Step 1?

A: Yes. The deadline for Step 1 submissions is set on April 05, 2024 at 2pm CET. Applicants who have not submitted their Step 1 by this date will not be able to submit their project proposal in Step 2.

Q: Is Step 1 and ePAS compulsory?

A: The 3 submission steps: 1. Step 1, 2. ePAS and 3. Step 2 (in this order) are mandatory for all candidates.

Q: What should the Research Facilitator or supervisor use in the ePAS as Funding Body, Program and Sub-Program?

A: ePAS should be submitted under UL / IAS / YIA, as shown in the photo:

Funding Body The Project Funding Body and Funding Prog
"OTHER" if the name is not in the displayed list.

Funding body*

UL - University of Luxembourg

Program*

Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS)

Co-funding Body



Sub-Program

Young International Academics

Q: When will I get the list of potential supervisors?

A: Communication of the list of potential UL supervisors will be done the next working day after receipt of the candidate's project proposal and initial successful eligibility check (Step 1).

Q: Who signs the letter of recommendation accompanying the final application?

A: A single letter of recommendation of no more than 2 pages must be signed by both supervisors, who are UL professors.

Q: Is there an age limit and a nationality ban for applying to the program?

A: Eligible candidates are of any age and any nationality.

Q: I defended my PhD more than 8 years ago, am I eligible?

A: Eligible candidates must have defended their doctoral thesis before the call deadline but no more than 8 years before the call deadline. However, eligibility can be extended for specific reasons such as maternity, paternity, illness, national service, training, natural disasters, or asylum. Extensions to the 8-year period can be calculated using ERC Starting Grant criteria.

Q: Can candidates resubmit their CV or cover letter at Step 2?

A: If Step 1 has been completed, we already have the CV and cover letter, which will also be part of the final package. If the candidate wishes to modify his/her CV or letter, he/she can send them back to us together with the final project, the copy of the PhD diploma and a signed letter from the 2 supervisors. We will consider the latter file(s) as long as they respect the templates and eligibility criteria.

Q: Where should I put my bibliographic references in the proposal?

A: The references count toward the 10-page limit for sections 1, 2 and 3. You can enter them as footnotes (minimum font size: 9 points).

Q: Who will check if the submitted documents are eligible?

A: All documents will be checked by the YIA Team and then by a team from the University of Mons. If the project proposal does not comply with the YIA rules, it will be declared ineligible. The project description template contains the following rules:

Sections 4 and 5 are not included in the page limit (please refer to the limits in red). Font to be used: Arial. Minimum font size for text: 11 points. Minimum font size for captions, tables, references, footnotes: 9 points. Top, bottom, left, right margins: 15mm. Single line spacing.

Q: Can I remove the instructions that appear under each section of the project description template?

A: Yes. You can remove all instructions from the template when you write your proposal.

Q: Do I have to attach the Career Development Plan and Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication documents to my application at step 2?

A: No. The application must contain a brief description of these two plans (no separate file). If the application is retained for funding, then the candidate, together with the supervisors, must prepare the detailed version of these two plans.

Q: Are there templates for the Career Development Plan and Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication?

A: These two documents must be prepared by YIA candidates together with their supervisors. There is not mandatory template imposed by YIA, but we recommend the candidates consult the information found online from the European Commission, which nicely explain the purpose and content of such documents.

Q: What eligibility criteria will UL and Uni Mons use?

A: Eligibility criteria are:

- Candidate did not reside or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Luxembourg for more than 12 months in the three years before the deadline of the call.
- Doctoral thesis successfully defended at the call deadline.
- The defense of the doctoral thesis took place less than 8 years before the call deadline.
- The candidate is supervised by 2 eligible UL professors in 2 different disciplines of the UL.
- All mandatory templates have been used.
- All mandatory documents are attached (CV, copy of the doctoral thesis or signed certificate, application form, letters of motivation and recommendation signed by both supervisors).
- The mandatory format is respected (font, size, margins, line spacing).

- A preliminary secondment plan is part of the application.
- A preliminary Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (PDEC) is part of the application.
- A preliminary Career Development Plan (CDP) is part of the application.
- The Ethics Self-Assessment has been completed in the application.
- The supervisor and co-supervisor are under UL employment contract for the duration of the project.
- The candidate is available to start the project at UL no later than 1 February 2025 (call #2).

Q: What do I need to do for the secondment?

A: Candidates must include a secondment in their project application, which must be described in the relevant sections of the proposal. Secondments should add an intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary and, as far as possible, an international dimension, be relevant, feasible, and beneficial for the researcher and the project. They may be undertaken with academic and non-academic partners. Secondments must last between 6 and 12 months and may be split in several shorter stays (for instance 2x 6 months for a total duration of 12 months). Secondments must take place between the 12th and 30th month following the candidate's project.

The host institution (with name of contact of the secondment supervisor) and an initial activity plan of the secondment are requested in the application form, but a detailed plan is not requested at the time of submission.

The suitability of the secondment for the project's objectives is one of the evaluation criteria.

Q: Can I have two secondment institutions instead of a single one?

A: If you choose to have more than one secondment host, make sure that you can justify their relevance for the project objectives, and how the shorter time spent at each one will still be sufficient to carry out the intended tasks. Keep in mind that shorter research stays are also allowed, so your collaboration with other institutions does not rely solely on the mandatory secondment.