

Young International Academics

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Postdoctoral Programme

Young International Academics for interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellows

Young International Academics (YIA) is a European postdoctoral programme (Marie Skłodowska Curie COFUND action), which is open to postdoctoral researchers from all fields of research and hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies of the University of Luxembourg.



INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (IAS)

ABOUT YIA

YIA is a career development programme hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies Luxembourg (IAS - [Institute for Advanced Studies \(IAS\) - University of Luxembourg | Uni.lu](#)) of the University of Luxembourg (UL - [Home - University of Luxembourg | Uni.lu](#)) to nurture early-career postdoctoral researchers to gain momentum in interdisciplinary research. YIA candidates are international talents holding a recent doctoral degree and willing to propose and realise their own interdisciplinary research projects through a bottom-up approach. YIA will welcome 10 postdoctoral fellows with individual fellowships of 36 months each.

YIA is explicitly open to all disciplines and sectors, involving the entire university in the drive towards increased interdisciplinarity, which is considered strategic for UL, for the country and Europe. The University's rationale is based on the consideration that the world's challenges are so multifaceted and intricate that they can only be solved through interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches.

This integration provides the YIA candidates with:

- an institutional supervision frame for interdisciplinary and intersectoral research with more than 350 potential supervisors and co-supervisors, and about 250 potential public- private partners,
- peer and cross-generational interactions/mentoring through IAS fellows, invited distinguished senior scientists, early career researchers, and a mandatory secondment, and
- a truly international flavour in an environment that cherishes diversity and excellence.

The YIA provides an open, transparent, and validated selection process involving international experts and the IAS Scientific Council to recruit the most deserving, talented, and pioneering YIA candidates. YIA fellows recruited at UL will be offered competitive contracts for mobility fellowships, with access to state-of-the-art research infrastructures as well as opportunities to meet and organise events in places of historical European significance, all the while, researching in at least two distinct disciplines.

The YIA fellows will be offered an “à la carte” training to suit the fellow’s career aspirations. A specific team will be set up to provide support to candidates, fellows, and supervisors to implement the YIA project in all its aspects. The ultimate purpose of the YIA programme is to provide excellent training and career development opportunities for outstanding postdoctoral fellows, with the view to increase their interdisciplinarity and employability. In turn, UL will strongly benefit from this vivid young community of interdisciplinary YIA fellows.

IN BRIEF

The new fellowship programme is an individual-driven research training and career development programme for early-career researchers, based on incoming mobility. YIA aims to provide early-career researchers with the expertise and experience needed to become the next generation of leaders with strong expertise and interdisciplinary skills.

YIA will offer 10 full time fellowships of 36 months each. YIA implements a bottom-up approach, which means that fellows will be free to choose their research topics (provided it falls within the competence of the UL) and their principal supervisor.

Expand your range of scientific skills. 10 fellows will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of their core scientific discipline while broadening their range of scientific skills in other domains. They will implement a research project with a strong interdisciplinary focus. They will have the opportunity to widen their professional networks at the international level, which will provide them with advanced career opportunities.

Supporting the career development of early-career researchers. YIA offers an extensive training programme, including research-based training, secondments, summer/winter schools, options for additional scientific and transferable skills such as leadership, ‘out of the box’ thinking, Open Science, and presentations of research results.

Contract and research. YIA will offer a competitive contract and excellent research conditions to attract outstanding early-career researchers. The evaluation and selection process will follow the principles of the Charter & Code, following the Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment principles, and will use international peer review.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible candidates:

- are of any age and any nationality.
- are early-career researchers having successfully defended their doctoral thesis at the call deadline.
- must have defended their doctoral thesis before the call deadline but no more than 8 years before the call deadline.

- cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Luxembourg for more than 12 months in the 3 years before the deadline of the call.
- must have identified 2 eligible UL professors in 2 different disciplines within the 3 Faculties or 3 Interdisciplinary Centres of the UL.
 - The supervisor must be either an assistant, associate or full professor having a valid employment contract for the full duration of the postdoctoral project (affiliated professors are excluded as main supervisor).
 - The co-supervisor can be a professor of UL or an affiliated professor of UL having a valid employment contract for the full duration of the postdoctoral project.
- must be fluent in English.

Extensions of eligibility: Eligibility can be extended for reasons such as maternity, paternity, illness, national service, training, natural disasters, or asylum, and these should be described in the application. Extensions to the 8-year period will be calculated using ERC Starting Grant criteria. Please refer to the YIA website for more information.

WHEN TO APPLY?

Call #2 agenda

- Call opening: **01 FEB 2024 @ 9am CET.**
- Step 1 deadline: **05 APR 2024 @ 2pm CET.**
- Proposal submission deadline: **30 APR 2024 @ 2pm CET.**
- Eligibility check deadline: Mid-May 2024 (indicative date).
- Pitch and scientific debate with the IAS Scientific Council: 24 and 25 September 2024 (indicative).
- Notification to candidates: Mid-October 2024 (indicative).
- Earliest start date: November 2024 (indicative) (fellowship duration: 36 months).
- Latest start date: 01 February 2025. After this date, the funding will be cancelled.

HOW TO APPLY?

The application consists of 2 steps:

- Step 1: Declaration of interest. The candidate is the initiator of the process by submitting a declaration of interest via a Lime Survey questionnaire.
- Step 2: Submission of the full application. The candidate submits the full project proposal (mandatory template available on the website) following the different sections of the template, together with a letter of recommendation signed by both supervisors.

A preliminary **Career Development Plan (CDP)** must be part of the application. The CDP will be further developed after the project starts in collaboration with the supervisor and co-supervisor.

Candidates must complete the Ethics Self-Assessment available in the Application Form document, following the Horizon Europe guidelines. The full project proposal must also contain a preliminary **Plan for**

Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (PDEC) explaining scientific, societal, and economic impacts of the project, taking the Open Science and FAIR principles into account.

Candidates must include a **secondment** in their project application. 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 (outside of UL).

WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED?

STEP 1

- Lime Survey questionnaire (17 fields)
- Project Proposal document
- Curriculum Vitae document
- Letter of motivation from the candidate

STEP 2

- Application Form document (including Gantt Chart)
- Copy of the PhD degree
- Letter of recommendation signed by both UL supervisors

TO WHOM SHOULD I SEND THE APPLICATION FILES?

The candidates submit all required documents to via@uni.lu to finalize the application.

WHERE DO I FIND THE DOCUMENTS?

YIA documents and guidelines can be found here: [Downloads and Links - Young International Academics "YIA" \(uni.lu\)](#).

The documents will be uploaded on the YIA website on 1st of February 2024 for the second call.

YIA in a nutshell: [About YIA - Young International Academics "YIA" \(uni.lu\)](#).

How to apply: [Apply - Young International Academics "YIA" \(uni.lu\)](#).

Evaluation procedure: [Evaluation procedure - Young International Academics "YIA" \(uni.lu\)](#).

Institute for Advanced Studies: [Institute for Advanced Studies \(IAS\) - University of Luxembourg | Uni.lu](#)

Members of the IAS Scientific Council: [Governance - University of Luxembourg | Uni.lu](#).

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

One email address: yia@uni.lu.

Thank you for your interest in the YIA programme.
Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

The YIA Team

