

**MSCA COFUND**

***YOUNG INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS***

**“YIA”**

Postdoctoral Programme – Call#2 2024

Application Form

**Submission deadline: 30 April 2024 @2pm CET**

**General instructions (please delete the first and second page in the final version)**

The template is mandatory. Candidates are required to read carefully and comply with the layout instructions (font, font size, margins, line spacing included).

- Sections 1, 2 and 3 should together not exceed 10 pages (including references). Project proposals exceeding this length limit will be declared ineligible.

- All sections must be filled out.

- 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). Minimum font size for captions, tables, references, footnotes: 9 points.

- Sections 4 and 5 are not included in the page limit (please refer to the limits in red).

- The red lines and red text (START PAGE COUNT – MAX 10 PAGES and STOP PAGE COUNT – MAX 10 PAGES) must be removed in the final version.

- Font to be used: Arial

- Minimum font size for text: 11 points

- Top, bottom, left, right margins: 15mm

- Single line spacing

- Please remove the first 2 pages of instructions in the final version.

**YOUNG INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS – PROJECT PROPOSAL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project acronym** |  |
| **Project title** |  |
| **Name of the candidate** |  |
| **Principal discipline** |  |
| **Secondary discipline** |  |
| **Keywords (5)** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Abstract (max 1000 characters (not words), blanks included)** |
|  |

**START PAGE COUNT – MAX 10 PAGES**

**1. Excellence**

**1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project’s research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious and go beyond the state of the art). Appropriate consideration of gender aspects if any.**

Provide a brief and clear introduction, discuss the state-of-the-art and explain the research questions/objectives.

Provide a description of the methodology used to achieve the objectives/answer the questions. Present any preliminary results that show the feasibility of the proposed project.

Explain the innovative character of the research project and to what extent it advances significantly the state-of-the art and the knowledge in the research field.

Discuss the gender dimension in the research content (if relevant).

**1.2. Interdisciplinary aspect of the project**

Provide a description of the level of interdisciplinarity of the project (including relevance of supervisors and secondments).

**1.3. Quality and appropriateness of the secondment**

Provide a description of the secondment and its intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary and, as far as possible, the international dimension. Describe the added value of the secondment for the researcher and the project. A preliminary plan and the point of contact at the hosting institution must be included in this section.

**1.4. Appropriateness of the training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the hosting group**

Describe the training activities proposed. Two types of training exist:

* Research-related training that will be established in the form of a personalised project with the guidance of the supervisor and that will include the training necessary to address the specific needs of the project (e.g., learning a technique, attending conferences, secondments, etc.)
* Wider training on cross-cutting issues (ethics, open science) and transferable skills (communication, pedagogical skills, intellectual property rights management, project management, etc.).

Outline how a two-way transfer of knowledge will occur between the researcher and the host entity:

* Explain what new knowledge the experienced researcher will gain during the fellowship at the host entity and how it will be acquired.
* Outline the previously acquired knowledge and skills that the researcher will transfer to the host entity.

Propose a preliminary Career Development Plan (CDP). The CDP will be further developed after funding decision in collaboration with their supervisor and co-supervisor.

**1.5. Appropriateness of the supervision and the hosting arrangements: quality of the supervisors and their research groups**

Describe the qualifications and experience of both supervisors. Provide information regarding the supervisors’ level of experience on the research topic proposed and their track record of work, including main international collaborations, as well as the level of experience in supervising/training especially at advanced level (PhD, postdoctoral researchers). Describe the precise involvement of the supervisors in the specific project.

Describe the environment of the hosting research group and the infrastructure, logistics, facilities offered insofar as they are necessary for the implementation of the project.

**1.6. Quality of the researcher and potential to reach professional independence**

Describe how your existing competences and background are necessary for the successful completion of the fellowship. Explain how the new competences acquired during the fellowship will help you reach professional maturity and independence. The section will be evaluated in conjunction with your CV.

**2. Impact**

**2.1. Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher**

Explain the impact of the research project and the training activities (i.e. the added value of the fellowship) on your career perspectives inside and/or outside academia.

**2.2. Quality of the strategy for the dissemination, communication, and exploitation of project results and activities**

Describe how the new knowledge generated by the project will be disseminated and exploited, and what the potential impact is expected to be. Discuss the strategy for targeting peers and key stakeholders (such as the scientific community, industry, professional organisations, policy makers, etc.).

Also describe potential commercialisation, if relevant and how intellectual property rights will be dealt with, where relevant.

* Dissemination refers to the results of the project and how they are transmitted to the scientific

community and other stakeholders (e.g., publications, conferences, workshops with policy makers, etc).

* Exploitation also refers to the results of the project and how they can be valorised for economic or societal purposes, i.e., protected through patenting, licensing, copyright etc. Candidates should comment on the potential for commercialisation or societal valorisation of the project results.

Demonstrate how the planned public engagement activities contribute to creating awareness of the performed research. Demonstrate how both the research and results will be made known to the public in such a way that they can be understood by non-specialists.

* Communication refers to all types of activities undertaken during the project and communicated to diverse audiences, including the general public. These activities aim also at raising public awareness on European research and are, therefore, designed to be understandable by non-specialists (e.g., videos, blog, presence in science fairs, school visits, etc.).

All dissemination, exploitation and communication activities should be detailed and clearly appear in the work plan of the candidate (Gantt Chart).

**2.3. Project’s contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**

Provide a narrative explaining how the project’s results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project.

The narrative should include the components below, tailored to your project. Be specific, referring to the effects of your project, and not R&I in general in this field. State the target groups that would benefit.

- Expected scientific impact(s): e.g., contributing to specific scientific advances, across and within disciplines, creating new knowledge, reinforcing scientific equipment and instruments, computing systems (i.e., research infrastructures).

- Expected economic/technological impact(s): e.g., bringing new products, services, business processes to the market, increasing efficiency, decreasing costs, increasing profits, contributing to standards’ setting, etc.

- Expected societal impact(s): e.g., contributing to the pursuit of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) of the United Nations, to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, etc.

The full project proposal must 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.

**3. Implementation**

**3.1. Coherence, feasibility, and effectiveness of the work plan**

Describe and justify how the work is planned throughout the duration of the project.

A Gantt chart (see example below, candidates can use the format of their choice) to visually represent the work plan must be included.

Describe the work packages, deliverables, milestones, and secondment plan.

A Work Package (WP) is a sequence of activities that leads to a deliverable, or one project objective set in section 1.1. There is no correct or wrong number or structure of WPs, it is highly dependent on the nature of the work.

Deliverables (D) are distinct tangible and measurable research outputs (e.g., a report, a software, a prototype, can also be a conference or a publication, etc.).

Milestones (M) are significant stages or events in the development of the project, not necessarily in the form of a distinct output (e.g., a decision, the organisation of a conference, a major deliverable coming out).



Figure 1: Example of a Gantt Chart

*Notes: The number of WPs provided here is an example only. Add or remove WPs as needed. Add as much detail as needed for your proposal.*

**3.2. Appropriateness of management structure and procedures, including risk management**

Explain the management structure of the project and the way decisions will be taken. Specify the exact role of each implicated party (candidate, supervisors, research group).

Describe the mechanism for the quality management of the project (e.g., meeting frequency, progress reports etc.).

Provide a clear identification and assessment of the potential risks, strategies to minimise them and contingency plans in case they appear.

**3.3. Quality and capacity of the host institution and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements**

Describe the complementarity between the hosting groups and the secondment entity.

Do not spend time describing the administrative support that UL offer during the fellowship as this is by default offered to all successful candidates.

**STOP PAGE COUNT – MAX 10 PAGES**

**4. Description of the supervisor and co-supervisor**

Maximum 1 page for each table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SUPERVISOR** | |
| **LAST NAME, First Name** |  |
| **Title, Position** |  |
| **Department and Faculty or Interdisciplinary Centre** |  |
| **Scientific field** |  |
| **E-mail** |  |
| **Under UL employment contract for the duration of the project (Y/N)** |  |
| **Previous and current involvement in research and training programmes** | Indicate up to 5 relevant EU, national or international research and training actions/projects in which the supervisor has previously participated and/or is currently participating. |
| **Relevant publications and/or research/innovation products** | Max. 5 key elements of the achievement, including a short qualitative assessment of its impact and (where available) its digital object identifier (DOI) or other type of persistent identifier (PID).  Publications, in particular journal articles, are expected to be open access. Datasets are expected to be FAIR and ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CO-SUPERVISOR** | |
| **LAST NAME, First Name** |  |
| **Title, Position** |  |
| **Department and Faculty or Interdisciplinary Centre** |  |
| **Scientific field** |  |
| **E-mail** |  |
| **Under UL employment contract for the duration of the project (Y/N)** |  |
| **Previous and current involvement in research and training programmes** | Indicate up to 5 relevant EU, national or international research and training actions/projects in which the co-supervisor has previously participated and/or is currently participating. |
| **Relevant publications and/or research/innovation products** | Max. 5 key elements of the achievement, including a short qualitative assessment of its impact and (where available) its digital object identifier (DOI) or other type of persistent identifier (PID).  Publications, in particular journal articles, are expected to be open access. Datasets are expected to be FAIR and ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’. |

**5. Ethics Self-Assessment Information**

In parallel with the peer review, all proposals with ethics issues (as indicated by the candidates, or as referred by the peer reviewers) will undergo an ethical check performed by the University Ethics Review Panel and any other appropriate ethics committee. These ethics committees (ECs) will decide whether ethics issues are adequately described and if the proposed research and methodology is in line with EU, Luxembourg and UL ethics policies and standards. Depending on their decision, proposals can be declared ineligible, eligible on conditions that amendments are made before the relevant part of the research begins, or eligible.

The relevant ECs will provide:

* Ethics clearance: ethics issues addressed well; proposal remains on ranked list.
* Temporary ethics clearance: the candidate needs to clarify issues; proposal remains on ranked list but additional information must be provided before project start.
* No ethics clearance: the proposal addressed topics that are ineligible, proposal removed from

ranked list.

The candidates must follow the YIA Ethics Self-Assessment template provided below.

**Ethics Self-Assessment (TEMPLATE)**

*Delete any sections (1-11) that do not apply.*

**1. HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES**

**1.1 Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (HESCs)? If Yes,**

1.1.1 Are they previously established cell lines? **If Yes:**

● What is the origin and line of cells?

● Give details of the licensing and control measures by the competent authorities of the Member States involved

1.1.2 Does your research involve the use of human embryos? **If Yes**,

● What is the origin of embryos?

● Give details of the recruitment, inclusion and exclusion criteria and informed consent procedures.

● Confirm that informed consent has been obtained.

1.1.3 Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells? **If Yes,**

● What is the origin of human foetal tissues/cells?

● Give details of the informed consent procedures.

● Confirm that informed consent has been obtained.

**2. HUMANS**

**2.1 Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants? If Yes,**

2.1.1 Does it involve invasive techniques (e.g. collection of human cells or tissues, surgical or medical interventions, invasive studies on the brain, TMS etc.)? **If Yes,**

● Detail risk assessment for each technique and overall.

2.1.2 Does it involve collection of biological samples? **If Yes,**

● What type of samples will be collected?

● What are your procedures for collecting biological samples?

**2.2 Does your research involve human participants? If Yes**

2.2.1 Are they volunteers for social or human sciences research? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the recruitment, inclusion and exclusion criteria and informed consent procedures.

2.2.2 Are they persons unable to give informed consent (including children/minors)? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the procedures for obtaining approval from the guardian/legal representative and the agreement of the children or other minors.

● What steps will you take to ensure that participants are not subjected to any form of coercion?

2.2.3 Are they vulnerable individuals or groups? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the type of vulnerability.

● Give details of the recruitment, inclusion and exclusion criteria and informed consent procedures.

These must demonstrate appropriate efforts to ensure fully informed understanding of the implications of participation.

2.2.4 Are they children/minors? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the age range.

● What are your assent procedures and parental consent for children and other minors?

● What steps will you take to ensure the welfare of the child or other minor?

● What justification is there for involving minors?

2.2.5 Are they patients? **If Yes,**

● What disease/condition/disability do they have?

● Give details of the recruitment, inclusion and exclusion criteria and informed consent procedures.

● What is your policy on incidental findings?

**3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES**

**3.1 Does your research involve human cells or tissues (other than from Human Embryos/Foetuses)? If Yes,**

3.1.1 Are they available commercially? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the provider (company or other).

3.1.2 Are they obtained within this project? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the source of the material, the amount to be collected and the procedure for collection.

● Give details of the duration of storage and what you will do with the material at the end of the research.

● Confirm that informed consent has been obtained.

3.1.3 Are they obtained from another project, laboratory or institution? **If Yes,**

● What is the country where the material is stored?

● Give details of the legislation under which material is stored.

● How long will the material be stored and what will you do with it at the end of the research project?

● Give name of the laboratory/institution.

● In which country the laboratory/institution is located?

● Confirm that material is fully anonymised or that consent for secondary use has been obtained.

3.1.4 Are they obtained from a biobank? **If Yes,**

● What is the name of the biobank?

● In which country the biobank is located?

● Give details of the legislation under which material is stored.

● Confirm that material is fully anonymised or that consent for secondary use has been obtained.

**4. PERSONAL DATA**

**4.1 Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing? If Yes,**

● Give details of the technical and organisational measures to safeguard the rights of the research participants. For instance: For organisations that must appoint a DPO under the GDPR: Involvement of the data protection officer (DPO) and disclosure of the contact details to the research participants. For all other organisations: Details of the data protection policy for the project (i.e. project-specific, not general).

● Give details of the informed consent procedures.

● Give details of the security measures to prevent unauthorised access to personal data.

● How is all the processed data relevant and limited to the purposes of the project (‘data minimisation’ principle)?

● Give details of the anonymisation /pseudonymisation techniques.

● Give justification of why research data will not be anonymised/ pseudonymised (if relevant).

● Give details of the data transfers (type of data transferred and country to which it is transferred for both EU and non-EU countries).

4.1.1 Does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g. genetic, health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction.)? **If Yes,**

● Give justification for the processing of special categories of personal data.

● Why can the research objectives not be reached by processing anonymised/ pseudonymised data (if applicable)?

4.1.2 Does it involve processing of genetic, biometric or health data? **If Yes,**

● Confirm that you will obtain a declaration confirming compliance with the laws of the country where the data was collected.

4.1.3 Does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals or processing of large scale of special categories of data, intrusive methods of data processing (such as, tracking, surveillance, audio and video recording, geolocation tracking etc.) or any other data processing operation that may result in high risk to the rights and freedoms of the research participants**? If Yes,**

● Give details of the methods used for tracking, surveillance or observation of participants.

● Give details of the methods used for profiling.

● Describe risk assessment for the data processing activities.

● How will harm be prevented and the rights of the research participants safeguarded? Explain.

● Give details on the procedures for informing the research participants about profiling, and its possible consequences and the protection measures.

**4.2 Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)? If Yes,**

● Give details of the database used or of the source of the data.

● Give details of the data processing operations.

● How will the rights of the research participants be safeguarded? Explain.

● How is all of the processed data relevant and limited to the purposes of the project (‘data minimisation’ principle)?

● Give justification of why the research data will not be anonymised/ pseudonymised (if relevant).

**4.3 Does your research involve publicly available data? If Yes,**

● Confirm that the data used in the project is publicly available and can be freely used for the project.

**4.4 Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? If Yes,**

● Details of the types of personal data to be exported.

● How will the rights of the research participants be safeguarded?

**4.5 Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU? If Yes,**

● Details of the types of personal data to be imported.

**5. ANIMALS**

**5.1 Does your research involve animals? If Yes,**

● Give details of the species and rationale for their use, numbers of animals to be used, nature of the experiments, procedures and techniques to be used.

● Give justification of animal use (including the kind of animals to be used) and why alternatives cannot be used.

**5.2 Are they vertebrates? If Yes,**

5.2.1 Are they nonhuman primates (NHP) (e.g. monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas, etc.)? **If Yes,**

● Why are NHPs the only research subjects suitable for achieving your scientific objectives?

● What is the purpose of the animal testing?

● Where do the animals come from?

5.2.2 Are they genetically modified? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the phenotype and any inherent suffering expected.

● What scientific justification is there for producing such animals? Give details.

● What measures will you take to minimise suffering in breeding, maintaining the colony and using the GM animals?

5.2.3 Are they cloned farm animals? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the phenotype and any inherent suffering expected.

● What scientific justification is there for producing such animals?

● What measures will you take to minimise suffering in breeding, maintaining the colony and using the GM animals?

5.2.4 Are they an endangered species? **If Yes,**

● Why is there no alternative to using this species?

● What is the purpose of the research?

**6. THIRD COUNTRIES**

**6.1 In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? If Yes,**

● Describe risk-benefit analysis.

● What activities are carried out in non-EU countries?

**6.2 Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)? If Yes,**

● What type of local resources will be used and how exactly?

**6.3 Do you plan to import any material from non-EU countries into the EU? If Yes,**

● What type of materials will you import?

● Specify the materials and countries involved.

**6.4 Do you plan to export any material from the EU to non-EU countries? If Yes,**

● Give details of the type of materials to be exported.

● Specify the materials and countries involved.

**6.5 Does your research involve low and/or lower middle-income countries? If Yes,**

6.5.1 Are any benefits-sharing actions planned? **If Yes,**

● Give details of the benefit sharing measures.

● Give details of the responsiveness to local research needs.

● Give details of the procedures to facilitate effective capacity building.

**6.6 Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk? If Yes,**

● Give details of the safety measures you intend to take, including training for staff and insurance cover.

**7. ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH and SAFETY**

**7.1 Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants? If Yes,**

● Describe risk-benefit analysis.

● Show how you apply the precautionary principle (if relevant).

● What safety measures will you take?

**7.2 Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas? If Yes,**

● Declare you will obtain specific authorisations (if required).

**7.3 Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff? If Yes,**

● Give details of the health and safety procedures.

**8. DUAL USE**

**8.1 Does your research involve dual-use items in the sense of Regulation 428/2009, or other items for which an authorisation is required? If Yes,**

● What goods and information used and produced in your research will need export licences?

● How exactly will you ensure compliance?

● How exactly will you avoid negative implications?

**9. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON CIVIL APPLICATIONS**

**9.1 Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications? If Yes,**

● Explain the exclusive civilian focus of your research.

● Justify inclusion of military partners or military technologies (i.e. explain how they relate to civilian applications, e.g. in the context of law enforcement activities).

**10. MISUSE**

**10.1 Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results? If Yes,**

● Describe risk-assessment.

● Give details of the applicable legal requirements.

● Details of the measures to prevent misuse.

**11. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES**

**11.1 Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration? If Yes,**

● Please specify.

For more information about Ethics Self-Assessment, please see: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf>