

Young Academics Doctoral fellows IAS (YADIAS)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
COFUND Doctoral Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to include a letter of support with the final application?

A: No. A letter of support signed by both supervisors is not required. If such a letter is submitted, it will not be considered as part of the evaluation.

Q: Is there an age limit and a nationality restriction for applying to the programme?

A: There are no age or nationality restrictions under MSCA COFUND rules. Candidates of any age and nationality may apply.

Q: Is CRIS compulsory?

A: Yes. CRIS is required for internal project registration at the University of Luxembourg. Since candidates do not have direct access to the system, the main supervisor at the University of Luxembourg must create the project entry in CRIS.

Q: Are the three steps of the submission procedure mandatory?

A: Yes. All three steps are mandatory for the application to be considered complete. Eligibility will be assessed after final submission.

Q: I already defended my PhD, am I eligible?

A: No. Candidates must be doctoral candidates and must not already hold a doctoral degree at the deadline of the call (30 November 2026). Candidates who have defended their thesis but have not yet been formally awarded the degree are also considered ineligible.

Q: Is a candidate who has already started a PhD thesis at the University of Luxembourg eligible to apply?

A: No. Candidates who have already started a PhD thesis at the University of Luxembourg or who have already initiated a PhD enrolment process at the University of Luxembourg are not eligible, even if they meet other eligibility criteria. This rule is intended to ensure equal treatment of all applicants and a fair selection process.

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

A: References count toward the 10-page limit for Sections 1, 2 and 3. They may be included as footnotes (minimum font size: 9 points).

Q: What happens if my abstract is too long?

A: The abstract must not exceed the maximum length specified in the application guidelines (including spaces). If it exceeds the limit, only the eligible portion will be taken into account.

Q: What happens if my application file is too long (more than 10 pages)?

A: The proposal must respect the page limit. Any content exceeding the limit will not be considered during evaluation.

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

A: Yes. All template instructions must be removed when preparing the CV and project proposal.

Q: There is no template for the letter of motivation. Can I use any format I want?

A: Yes. Candidates may use any format, provided that the letter does not exceed one (1) A4 page and complies with the required font and formatting rules.

Q: Do I have to attach the Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication documents to my application?

A: Yes. The application must include a brief description of the PDEC within the proposal. If the project is selected for funding, a more detailed version will be developed with the supervisors.

Q: Is there a template for the Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication?

A: No mandatory template is provided. Candidates are responsible for preparing this section. Guidance from the European Commission may be consulted to understand its purpose and expected content.

Q: Does submitting my documents in LimeSurvey guarantee that my project will be eligible?

A: No. Submission in LimeSurvey does not guarantee eligibility. Eligibility is assessed only after final submission.

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

A: All applications will first be checked by the YADIAS support team and then reviewed by the University of Mons (Belgium). Applications that do not comply with eligibility criteria will be declared ineligible.

Q: What eligibility criteria will Uni.lu and Uni Mons use?

A: Eligibility criteria include:

- Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Luxembourg for more than 12 months in the three years preceding the call deadline.
- Candidates must hold a recognized Master-level degree qualifying them for doctoral studies in Luxembourg.
- Candidates must be doctoral candidates at the deadline of the call (not already holding a PhD degree).
- Candidates must not have started formal enrolment procedures for a PhD at the University of Luxembourg.
- All mandatory templates must be used.
- Applications must be submitted in English; Master-level diplomas may be in English, French or German.
- Proposal formatting rules must be respected (page limits, font, margins, spacing).
- A preliminary secondment plan must be included.
- A Gantt chart must be included.
- A preliminary Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (PDEC) must be included.
- The Ethics Self-Assessment must be completed.
- Candidates must identify eligible supervisors in two complementary disciplines at UL.
- The preferred main supervisor must hold an ADR and be a UL staff member (excluding affiliated professors).
- The co-supervisor must hold an ADR and be either UL/LIs staff or an external researcher with PhD supervision rights.
- The three-step submission procedure must be completed (LimeSurvey + CRIS + full submission).
- All mandatory documents must be submitted before the deadline to yadias@uni.lu (CV, master's certificate or proof, application form, motivation letter).

- Candidates must be available to start the project no later than 1 September 2027.

Q: What is the MSCA mobility rule for candidates?

A: Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Luxembourg for more than 12 months in the three years immediately preceding the call deadline (30 November 2026). Short stays and holidays are not taken into account.

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

A: Candidates must include a secondment in their proposal and describe it in the relevant sections. Secondments should strengthen the intersectoral, interdisciplinary, and/or international dimension of the project and must be relevant and feasible.

Secondments are typically expected to last between 6 and 16 months in total and may be split into shorter stays (for example, several periods of a few months), depending on the project design and host agreement. The host institution and a preliminary activity plan must be included in the application. A detailed implementation plan is not required at submission stage. The suitability of the secondment is an evaluation criterion.

Note: The University of Luxembourg cannot act as a secondment host institution.

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

A: Yes, multiple secondment hosts are allowed if they are justified in relation to the project objectives. Applicants should ensure that the planned duration at each host is sufficient to achieve the intended research activities.

Q: If I need to make changes to my CV between the declaration of interest and the final submission, can I update it?

A: Yes. Although the CV is requested at Step 1, candidates must also include an updated version in the final submission. If no updated CV is provided, the Step 1 version will be used.

Q: What should I do with the Ethics Self-Assessment, part of the application file?

A: Candidates must complete the YADIAS Ethics Self-Assessment template provided in the application form. Non-relevant sections may be removed. If no ethical issues are identified, candidates should clearly state this in the dedicated section (e.g. "No ethical issues for my proposal").

Q: Can I choose both disciplines to be identical?

A: Candidates may freely choose their primary and secondary disciplines. Both disciplines may be identical in justified cases, particularly for broad fields (e.g. Natural Sciences). However, interdisciplinarity is an important evaluation criterion and must be clearly demonstrated in the proposal, even if both disciplines are the same.