

Young Academics Doctoral fellows IAS (YADIAS)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
COFUND Doctoral Programme

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The Young Academics Doctoral fellows IAS (YADIAS) is a European doctoral programme (Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions COFUND), which is open to doctoral candidates from all fields of research and hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies of the University of Luxembourg (UL).



Institute for
Advanced Studies



ABOUT YADIAS

The YADIAS programme, part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND), is a career development initiative by the University of Luxembourg ([Home - University of Luxembourg](#)) to support early-stage researchers in interdisciplinary and intersectoral research. YADIAS will fund 15 international doctoral fellowships of 48 months each, allowing candidates to propose and implement their own projects through a bottom-up approach. Open to all disciplines and sectors, the programme promotes interdisciplinarity, considered strategic for UL, Luxembourg, and Europe.

YADIAS is integrated into UL's Institute for Advanced Studies ([Institute for Advanced Studies \(IAS\)](#)), which advances bold interdisciplinary research, connects the University with international collaborators and society, attracts global talent, and upholds excellence and internationality. The University fosters a knowledge-based economy and prioritises breaking disciplinary and sectoral boundaries to generate impactful research and innovation.

YADIAS doctoral candidates (DCs) will benefit from:

1. **Institutional support for interdisciplinary research**, with access to over 450 supervisors and 350 public and private partners.
2. **Mentoring and networking opportunities** with IAS fellows, distinguished scientists, early-career researchers, MSCA postdoctoral fellows, and through secondments.
3. **A diverse and international environment** that values excellence.

The programme follows a transparent selection process with international experts and the IAS Scientific Council. Recruited DCs gain access to state-of-the-art infrastructure, interdisciplinary research opportunities, and a platform for organising events. All DCs will enrol in one of 14 doctoral programmes across four Doctoral Schools, receiving training in scientific and transversal skills, preparing them for careers in academia, industry, public institutions, or entrepreneurship.

YADIAS strengthens interdisciplinarity, employability, and career development, enhancing UL's socio-economic partnerships and international strategy. DCs will collaborate with 10 MSCA postdoctoral fellows

from the “Young International Academics” ([YIA](#)) programme to organise events and workshops that foster knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation across disciplines and sectors.

Ultimately, YADIAS equips outstanding doctoral candidates with the skills and networks needed to excel in a rapidly evolving research landscape while building a dynamic, interdisciplinary community within UL and IAS.

IN BRIEF

The New Fellowship Programme

YADIAS is an individual-driven research training and career development programme for doctoral candidates, based on incoming mobility. It aims to equip the next generation of researchers with strong expertise and interdisciplinary skills, preparing them for advanced research careers.

15 Full-Time Fellowships

YADIAS will offer 15 full-time fellowships of 48 months each. The programme follows a bottom-up approach, meaning that fellows are free to choose their research topics (within the University of Luxembourg’s disciplines) as well as their principal and co-supervisors.

Expand Your Scientific Skills

Fellows will deepen their knowledge in their core discipline while broadening their expertise across other domains. Each fellow will implement a research project with a strong interdisciplinary focus and gain access to international networks, enhancing future career opportunities.

Supporting Career Development

YADIAS provides outstanding doctoral candidates with excellent training and career development, culminating in the award of a doctoral degree. The programme is designed to strengthen interdisciplinarity, employability, and facilitate transition to postdoctoral funding or other career paths in academia and beyond.

Contract and Research Conditions

YADIAS offers a competitive contract and excellent research conditions to attract top candidates. The evaluation and selection process follows the principles of the Charter & Code, adhering to Open, Transparent, and Merit-based Recruitment (OTM-R) standards, with decisions based on international peer review.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible candidates:

- are of any age and any nationality;
- must be doctoral candidates, i.e. must not have been awarded a doctoral degree or equivalent at the deadline of the call (30 November 2026);
- have not started enrolment procedures for a PhD thesis at the University of Luxembourg at the deadline of the programme’s call;
- must hold a recognised Master-level degree (Master degrees obtained outside Europe must be equivalent to Level 7 as defined in Luxembourg law) and be eligible to enter doctoral studies in Luxembourg. A signed certificate or an official signed letter from the institution where the Master degree was obtained is required;
- must not have resided in 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). Periods of holidays or short stays are not taken into account;
- must have identified eligible supervisors in two complementary disciplines:
 - The supervisor must be a UL staff member with supervisory rights (ADR) and affiliated with one of the three Faculties or five Interdisciplinary Centres of the UL, with a valid employment contract for the entire duration of the doctoral fellowship. Affiliated researchers are excluded

- from serving as main supervisors.
- The co-supervisor must be one of the following:
 - a UL staff member with supervisory rights (ADR), affiliated with one of the three Faculties or five Interdisciplinary Centres of UL, and holding a valid employment contract for the full duration of the doctoral fellowship;
 - a researcher from one of the Luxembourg Institutes, holding ADR;
 - an affiliated professor at UL; or
 - a researcher from another academic institution (external to UL) who holds PhD supervision rights.
- must be fluent in English (the minimum required level is B2);
- must be legally eligible to work in Luxembourg at the time of recruitment.

WHEN TO APPLY?

- Call opening: 01 September 2026 @ 9am CET.
- Proposal submission deadline: 30 November 2026 @ 2pm CET.
- Eligibility Check Completion: First two weeks of December 2026.
- Deadline for Written Evaluations from External Reviewers: 31 March 2027.
- Pitch and Scientific Debate with the IAS Scientific Council: scheduled over three days from 05–09 April 2027 (indicative).
- Notification to candidates: End of April 2027 (indicative).
- Earliest start date: 01 June 2027 (fellowship duration: 48 months).
- Latest start date: 01 September 2027. After this date, the funding will be cancelled.

HOW TO APPLY?

The application consists of 3 steps:

Step 1: Declaration of Interest.

The candidate initiates the process by submitting a declaration of interest via a LimeSurvey questionnaire, including a brief project idea and their CV.

YADIAS doctoral projects are initiated solely by the doctoral candidates. Any contact between candidates and potential supervisors or co-supervisors must be limited to factual or practical questions (e.g. availability of equipment or infrastructure) and must not involve guidance or support in developing the proposal.

Step 2: Creation of a Project Announcement in the UL system.

Step 3: Submission of the Full Application.

The candidate submits a complete project proposal using the mandatory template available on the website, along with a letter of motivation, a CV, and a copy of their Master degree (or equivalent).

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

- LimeSurvey questionnaire

- Project idea document
- Curriculum vitae (CV)

STEP 3

- Application form (including Gantt chart)
- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae (CV) (*only if it has changed since Step 1*)
- Copy of the Master's degree (or equivalent)

TO WHOM SHOULD I SEND THE APPLICATION FILES?

The candidates submit all required documents to yadiaz@uni.lu to finalise the application.

WHO WILL ASSESS MY PROPOSAL?

Applicants to the YADIAS call will be assessed through a multi-stage evaluation process involving independent external experts and the IAS Scientific Council.

Independent external experts from both academic and non-academic sectors, with no conflict of interest and based outside the programme, will be involved in the evaluation of each submitted application at all stages of the written peer-review process. Each application will be assessed by multiple independent experts to ensure fairness, transparency, and consistency of evaluation.

The IAS Scientific Council, composed of internationally recognised experts external to the project consortium, will be responsible for the interview phase (oral pitch and Q&A) and for the final ranking of candidates. The Scientific Council operates as an independent selection body and ensures full compliance with MSCA principles of impartiality, transparency, and equal treatment.

WHERE DO I FIND THE DOCUMENTS?

YADIAS documents and guidelines can be found here: [Downloads and Links - YADIAS \(IAS\)](#).

YADIAS in a nutshell: [About YADIAS - YADIAS \(IAS\)](#).

How to apply: [Apply - YADIAS \(IAS\)](#). This page will be active from 1 September onwards.

Evaluation procedure: [Evaluation procedure - YADIAS \(IAS\)](#).

Institute for Advanced Studies: [Institute for Advanced Studies \(IAS\)](#).

Members of the IAS Scientific Council: [Governance - IAS](#).

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

One email address: yadiaz@uni.lu.

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

The YADIAS Support Team

Scan me!



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