

MSCA COFUND
Young Academics Doctoral fellows IAS
“YADIAS”

Doctoral Programme – Call 2026

Call description and guidelines for candidates

Timeline:

Opening of the call	Proposal submission deadline	Selection Committee Meeting	Communication of call results	Earliest start date
01 September 2026 @9 am CET	30 November 2026 @2 pm CET	Between 05 to 09 April 2027 (indicative)	End of April 2027 (indicative)	01 June 2027



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Young Academics Doctoral fellows at IAS

Doctoral Programme

Description and application guidelines

The Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) at the University of Luxembourg (UL) offers funding opportunities and a supportive interdisciplinary environment to attract talented doctoral candidates. The programme welcomes researchers who wish to conduct doctoral studies in a multidisciplinary setting within research groups and in collaboration with partners of the University of Luxembourg. It is explicitly open to all disciplines, topics, and sectors encompassed by the academic expertise of the University.

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Candidates are invited to regularly check the YADIAS website ([YADIAS](#)) for any updates.

1. Description of the Young Academics Doctoral fellows IAS call

1.1 Introduction

The programme Young Academics Doctoral fellows IAS (YADIAS) is a programme co-financed by the European Commission and the University of Luxembourg. It is hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) of the University of Luxembourg (UL), and has the objective to attract outstanding doctoral candidates, who wish to conduct their interdisciplinary research in a group in one or more of UL Departments and/or UL Interdisciplinary Centres.

YADIAS is a career development programme offered by the UL to encourage young researchers (Doctoral Candidates “DC”) to gain momentum in interdisciplinary and intersectoral research. YADIAS will finance 15 interdisciplinary, international, and intersectoral doctoral fellowships. YADIAS applicants are international talents willing to propose and implement their own interdisciplinary doctoral research project through a bottom-up approach. The 15 YADIAS DC will receive individual fellowships of 48 months. YADIAS is explicitly open to all disciplines and sectors, involving the entire University in its mission towards increased interdisciplinarity, which is considered strategic for UL, for Luxembourg and Europe. UL’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, intersectoral and international approaches.

YADIAS doctoral fellows will benefit from the University of Luxembourg’s top research infrastructures, a comprehensive training programme in disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transversal skills, and a mandatory secondment as part of the fellowship to support further career development.

In addition to their UL contract, doctoral candidates who have been granted a YADIAS fellowship automatically join the IAS-Luxembourg and, therefore, the IAS community.

1.2 Call timeline

Key Milestones of the YADIAS call:

- Call Opening: **01 September 2026, 09:00 CET.**
- Proposal Submission Deadline: **30 November 2026, 14:00 CET.**
- Eligibility Checks: First two weeks of December 2026.
- Deadline for Written Evaluations from External Reviewers: 31 March 2027.
- Pitch and Scientific Debate before 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.
- Latest Start Date: 01 September 2027 (after this date, funding will be cancelled).



1.3 Eligibility for participation

The doctoral research project must be interdisciplinary in nature. Each project must be placed under the formal responsibility of a principal supervisor and a complementary domain expert (referred to as the “co-supervisor” in this document), namely:

- A **main supervisor** who is a UL staff member holding supervisory rights (*Autorisation à Diriger des Recherches* in French, hereafter referred to as ADR).
- A **co-supervisor** from a complementary discipline, either within the UL (holding ADR) or external to UL, holding supervisory rights at another academic institution.

The two supervisors must represent two complementary research disciplines (provided they fall within the competence of UL), within or across departments at UL faculties or UL interdisciplinary centres.

Interdisciplinarity is a core principle of this programme and will be explicitly assessed during evaluation.

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.

UL researchers who are already serving as PIs in an IAS project (MSCA COFUND YIA, Audacity, Brainstorm, and/or Distinguished) are eligible to act as supervisors.

There is no limit to the number of candidates that a UL staff member with supervisory rights (ADR) may supervise in this call.

Each candidate may submit **only one** application to YADIAS. Multiple applications are not allowed.

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 degree obtained outside Europe must be equivalent to Level 7 as defined in Luxembourg law) at the call deadline and be eligible to enter doctoral studies in Luxembourg¹. 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 (see Section 1.4):
 - The supervisor must be a UL staff member with supervisory rights (ADR) and affiliated with one of

¹ To obtain the **academic recognition** in Luxembourg of your higher education diploma obtained abroad, you are required to register the diploma in the register of formal higher education qualifications of the Ministry for Research and Higher Education ([Application for academic recognition of foreign higher education diplomas](#)). This requirement will be formally requested only if the fellowship is awarded. However, for the final submission, a signed certificate or an official signed letter from the institution where the Master's degree was obtained is mandatory.

the three Faculties or five Interdisciplinary Centres of the UL, with a valid employment contract for the entire duration of the doctoral fellowship. Affiliated professors 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 Institutes², 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**, as defined by the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\)](#));
- must be legally eligible to work in Luxembourg at the time of recruitment.

Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree are **not eligible**.

The list of eligible supervisors can be found on this page: [Supervisors](#). It provides the names, email addresses, disciplines, and research fields of all ADR holders at UL (over 450 across 20 distinct disciplines). The organisational entity (faculty, interdisciplinary centre, or Luxembourg Institutes) with which each supervisor and co-supervisor is affiliated is indicated below their name and discipline.

Main supervisors must be affiliated with one of the University's three faculties or five interdisciplinary centres.

The three faculties are:

- Faculty of Science, Technology and Medicine ([FSTM](#));
- Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences ([FHSE](#)); and
- Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance ([FDEF](#)).

The five interdisciplinary centres are:

- Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust ([SnT](#));
- Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine ([LCSB](#));
- Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History ([C2DH](#));
- Luxembourg Centre for European Law ([LCEL](#)); and
- Luxembourg Centre for Socio-Environmental Systems ([LCSES](#)).

Researchers from the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology ([LIST](#)), the Luxembourg Institute of Health ([LIH](#)), and the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research ([LISER](#)) may not serve as main supervisors but may act as co-supervisors.

Both the supervisor and co-supervisor will automatically be members of the doctoral candidate's supervision committee.

Candidates also have access to a list of academic, private, and public UL partners and international networks to help identify potential secondment hosts: [Partners and international networks](#).

² Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER).

Secondment requirement:

All candidates must include a **mandatory secondment** in their project proposal.

- Secondments must take place outside the University of Luxembourg.
- They must contribute an intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary, and where possible, an international dimension.
- Secondments must be relevant, feasible, and beneficial to both the researcher and the project.
- They may be undertaken with academic and non-academic partners. 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 submission time.
- The total duration of the secondment must be between 6 and 16 months and may be split into several shorter periods.

The costs associated with the secondment are covered by the project's mobility and travel allowances (see paragraph 5).

Additional compliance requirements:

- Candidates must be available to start their fellowship at the University of Luxembourg no later than 1 September 2027.
- The master's degree diploma, certificate, or official letter must be provided with a certified translation into English, French, or German if not issued in one of these languages.
- The Ethics Self-Assessment, Gantt chart, preliminary Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (PDEC), and secondment plan must be included in the application.

Failure to comply with any of the above eligibility conditions will result in the application being declared ineligible.

1.4 Doctoral Schools and Doctoral Programmes

The UL has four Doctoral Schools (DS). Each school has its own Doctoral Programme(s) (DP) and policies and procedures, and each DS is responsible for the recognition and validation of ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

Candidates must freely select two complementary disciplines available at UL from the 20 disciplines listed below. Please click the links below to explore the research areas in each programme (click the blue links for more information):

1. Sciences Exactes et Naturelles (Natural Sciences)

- [Systems and Molecular Biomedicine](#)
- [Physics and Materials Science](#)
- [Mathematics and Applications](#)
- [Complex Systems Science](#)

2. Sciences de l'Ingénieur (Engineering Sciences)

- [Engineering Sciences](#)
- [Complex Systems Science](#)

3. **Informatique (Computer Sciences)**
 - [Computer Science and Computer Engineering](#)
4. **Sciences Humaines (Humanities)**
 - [Humanities](#)
5. **Histoire (History)**
 - [History](#)
6. **Lettres (Literature)**
 - [Literature](#)
7. **Science du Langage (Linguistics)**
 - [Linguistics](#)
8. **Philosophie (Philosophy)**
 - [Philosophy](#)
9. **Sciences de l'Education (Educational sciences)**
 - [Educational sciences](#)
10. **Psychologie (Psychology)**
 - [Psychology](#)
11. **Sciences Sociales (Social Sciences)**
 - [Social Sciences](#)
12. **Géographie (Geography)**
 - [Geography](#)
13. **Architecture (Architecture)**
 - [Architecture](#)
14. **Sciences Politiques (Political Sciences)**
 - [Political Sciences](#)
15. **Sociologie (Sociology)**
 - [Sociology](#)
16. **Droit (Law)**
 - [Law](#)
17. **Sciences Economiques (Economics)**
 - [Economics](#)
18. **Sciences de Gestion (Management)**
 - [Management](#)
19. **Finance (Finance)**
 - [Finance](#)
20. **Médecine et Sciences de la Santé (Medicine and Health Sciences)**
(in preparation, foreseen to be implemented in 2027)

The doctoral degrees awarded by UL are listed in the tables below. Please note: The doctoral diploma will be recorded in French on all official transcripts.

Doctoral School in Science and Engineering ([DSSE](#))

Doctoral Programmes (DP)	Disciplines of Graduation
DP Systems and Molecular Biomedicine	Docteur en Sciences Exactes et Naturelles (Doctorate in Natural Sciences)
DP Physics and Materials Science	Docteur en Sciences Exactes et Naturelles (Doctorate in Natural Sciences)
DP Mathematics and Applications	Docteur en Sciences Exactes et Naturelles (Doctorate in Natural Sciences)
DP Complex Systems Science	Docteur en Sciences de l'Ingénieur (Doctorate in Engineering Sciences)
	Docteur en Sciences Exactes et Naturelles (Doctorate in Natural Sciences)
DP Engineering	Docteur en Sciences de l'Ingénieur (Doctorate in Engineering Sciences)
DP Computer Science and Computer Engineering	Docteur en Informatique (Doctorate in Computer Sciences)
DP Medicine and Health Sciences (in preparation, foreseen to be implemented in 2027)	Docteur en Sciences de la Santé (Doctorate in Health Sciences)

Doctoral School in Humanities and Social Sciences ([DSHSS](#))

Doctoral Programmes (DP)	Disciplines of Graduation
DP Humanities	Docteur en Sciences Humaines (Doctorate in Humanities)
	Docteur en Histoire (Doctorate in History)
	Docteur en Lettres (Doctorate in Literature)
	Docteur en Science du Langage (Doctorate in Linguistics)
	Docteur en Philosophie (Doctorate in Philosophy)
DP Education	Docteur en Sciences de l'Éducation (Doctorate in Educational Sciences)
DP Psychology	Docteur en Psychologie (Doctorate in Psychology)
DP Social Sciences	Docteur en Sciences Sociales (Doctorate in Social Sciences)
	Docteur en Géographie (Doctorate in Geography)
	Docteur en Architecture (Doctorate in Architecture)
	Docteur en Sciences Politiques (Doctorate in Political Sciences)
	Docteur en Sociologie (Doctorate in Sociology)

Doctoral School of Law ([DSL](#))

<i>Doctoral Programme (DP)</i>	<i>Discipline of Graduation</i>
DP Law	Docteur en Droit (Doctorate in Law)

Doctoral School in Economics, Finance and Management ([DSEFM](#))

<i>Doctoral Programmes (DP)</i>	<i>Disciplines of Graduation</i>
DP Economics and Management Sciences	Docteur en Sciences Economiques (Doctorate in Economics)
	Docteur en Sciences de Gestion (Doctorate in Management)
DP Finance	Docteur en Finance (Doctorate in Finance)

Read on to find out more about the Doctoral Schools and their Doctoral Programmes: [Doctoral Schools and programmes](#).

1.5 Programmes of study leading to a doctoral degree

Beyond the requirements set out in Art. 47 of the current Study Regulations and in the statutes of the doctoral programme, there are specific prerequisites for admission to the doctoral programme. Please refer to the Appendix to the Study Regulations of the University of Luxembourg, approved by ministerial decree on 15 January 2026: [Annexe au règlement des études – programmes de doctorat \(PDF\)](#).

Please note that applicants who do not meet these admission requirements may not be eligible for admission to the doctoral programme.

1.6 Choice of the discipline

The candidate has full freedom to choose the principal and secondary disciplines for their project. The two disciplines can be the same when the research topic is very broad, such as in “Natural Sciences”. However, interdisciplinarity is a key criterion of this programme, and if the two chosen disciplines are identical, the candidate must clearly justify the interdisciplinarity of their choice in the proposal.

1.7 Redress Procedure

After receiving negative feedback on the eligibility of their application, and in case candidates have evidence that their proposal was not treated fairly, they may initiate a redress procedure, but **solely concerning procedural matters, not the scientific content of the evaluation**.

Candidates will be informed of this possibility. If they wish to file a redress, they must submit their complaint within 10 days of receiving the decision to the YADIAS support team by sending an official request to yadias@uni.lu. In parallel, the complaint file will be sent for external review to a qualified impartial institution.

It is important to note that the responsibility for finding supervisors lies entirely with the candidate. In accordance with the programme rules, neither the YADIAS support team nor any other University of

Luxembourg team may assist with or intervene in this process. Consequently, a candidate's inability to secure a supervisor does not fall within the scope of the redress procedure and cannot be considered valid grounds for complaint.

The complaint can be dismissed or accepted. In the latter case, the support team ensures that the cause of the complaint is rectified, and the evaluation process is repeated for the complainant. The University of Luxembourg is aware that this might result in adding a candidate to the funded list and accepts this possibility. An additional 10 days are reserved for this process.

2. Project Proposal Information

2.1 Proposal submission process

The submission process is composed of **3 mandatory steps**. Applications that do not complete all three steps will be declared ineligible.

Step 1: Declaration of Interest (to be completed by the candidate)

The candidate is the initiator of the process by submitting a declaration of interest via a LimeSurvey questionnaire. The declaration of interest includes:

- the candidate's credentials (see below section 1.1),
- a 2-page description of the interdisciplinary research proposal using the "YADIAS COFUND Project Idea" form and,
- the CV of the candidate (limited to 5 pages).

1.1 Declaration of Interest (LimeSurvey)

The candidate must complete the online LimeSurvey "Declaration of Interest", which consists of 18 mandatory questions.

All fields must be completed; otherwise, the application will be rejected. All fields and uploaded documents must be completed in English.

The survey is available on the YADIAS website at: [LimeSurvey](#).

LimeSurvey Availability: Please note that LimeSurvey will not be available on **Monday, 14 September 2026, from 07:00 to 12:00 CET** and **Monday, 21 September 2026, from 07:00 to 10:00 CET** due to university-level maintenance activities.

During these periods, candidates will be unable to access the LimeSurvey platform or submit their Step 1 application. Please plan accordingly and make sure to complete and submit your Step 1 application outside of these maintenance windows.

Questions asked in Step 1:

- **Question 1:** First name (e.g. John).
- **Question 2:** LAST NAME (e.g. DOE).
- **Question 3:** Country of current place of residence.
- **Question 4:** E-mail address.

- **Question 5:** Citizenship.
- **Question 6:** Current or most recent university or institution.
- **Question 7:** Confirmation that you hold a recognised Master's-level degree and are eligible to enter doctoral studies in Luxembourg (Master degrees obtained outside Europe must be equivalent to Level 7 as defined by Luxembourgish law on recognition of degrees).
- **Question 8:** Principal discipline of your project (select one of the 20 listed disciplines).
- **Question 9:** Secondary discipline of your project (select one of the 20 listed disciplines).
- **Question 10:** Preferred main supervisors selected from ADR holders at UL (excluding affiliated professors). Applicants may indicate up to three names, ranked in order of preference.
- **Question 11:** Preferred co-supervisors selected from ADR holders at UL, researchers external to UL holding supervision rights from another academic institution, or affiliated professors at UL. Applicants may indicate up to three names, ranked in order of preference. *For researchers external to UL, please also specify their academic institution.*
- **Question 12:** Upload your project idea using the mandatory template (PDF).
- **Question 13:** Upload your CV using the mandatory template (PDF).
- **Question 14:** Confirmation that you have not resided in or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Luxembourg for more than 12 months during the 3 years prior to the call deadline.
- **Question 15:** Confirmation that you meet all eligibility criteria of the YADIAS call, as outlined in the *Application Guidelines for Candidates*.
- **Question 16:** The candidate acknowledges that they are solely responsible for identifying a supervisor and co-supervisor and that supervisors are under no obligation to accept or consider a candidate's application.
- **Question 17:** The candidate confirms that they are solely responsible for drafting their proposal and that no support has been or will be provided by the supervisors (or research support team) in its preparation, except for factual or practical matters (e.g., availability of expertise, equipment or infrastructure).
- **Question 18:** General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) consent. By clicking Yes, you agree to the personal data processing conditions described in the document (PRIVACY NOTICE_MSCA COFUND YADIAS_REV DPO).

By selecting "No" for Questions 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, you indicate that you do not agree to these conditions and therefore cannot be considered for evaluation. As a result, your application will be withdrawn from the selection process.

An automatic confirmation message will be sent once the survey has been successfully completed. Please note that submitting documents via LimeSurvey does not imply eligibility. The eligibility check will take place only after final submission.

1.2 Transmission to Supervisors

Once the declaration is completed, a member of the YADIAS Support Team will forward the 2-page project idea and the CV to the supervisor of the first preferred supervisor listed in Question 10.

1.3 Supervisor Decision

The UL supervisor may **accept or decline** the project idea.

1.3.1 If the project idea is accepted

The applicant bears sole responsibility for developing the project proposal and completing the application.

IMPORTANT! If one of the preferred supervisors agrees to supervise the proposed project, this merely confirms their willingness to host and supervise the candidate **should the proposal be selected for funding**. Such agreement does not constitute a preselection of the candidate and must not be interpreted as conferring any advantage in the evaluation process.

IMPORTANT! A supervisor may request a short phone call to discuss the project idea with the candidate. However, such interactions must be conducted with care to avoid any perception of preselection. Any contact should be clearly justified, for example, to seek scientific advice, discuss the proposed research, or obtain information about available expertise and infrastructure. Supervisors must not be involved in drafting or shaping the proposal, and no form of approval from the host organisation should be required as part of the submission process.

1.3.2 If the project idea is declined

The project idea will be forwarded to the second and third supervisors listed in Question 10 and their research support teams.

- Supervisors are under no obligation to accept a project; due to the high volume of requests, they may decline and/or suggest a colleague instead, and you should assume that no response means no.
- The names of the three preferred co-supervisors are mandatory but will not be used directly by the YADIAS support team. The names will be forwarded to the selected preferred supervisors together with the project idea and the candidate's CV. This is to ensure that candidates have adequately considered the disciplinary breadth of the supervisory arrangement and have identified appropriate co-supervisors accordingly.
- The candidates are responsible for reaching out to their preferred co-supervisor **once a supervisor has been identified**.
- If the preferred co-supervisors do not accept, the supervisor may propose to the candidate other potentially suitable co-supervisors to ensure the interdisciplinary nature of the project.
- If none of the listed supervisors accept the project, the candidate may choose to try to identify an eligible supervisor independently.

1.4 Project Development

The doctoral candidate develops the full project proposal and completes the application form "YADIAS COFUND Project ACRONYM_Candidate LASTNAME_Candidate Firstname", available on the YADIAS website under ([Downloads & Links](#)).

Step 2: Creation of a Project Announcement in CRIS

The supervisor must submit a project announcement to the UL's Common Research Information System (**CRIS**), specifying the YADIAS programme, before the full application is submitted. As candidates do not

have access to this platform, the supervisor or their research support team is responsible for completing this step. However, candidates must ensure that it is completed.

Step 3: Submission of the full application (to be completed by the candidate)

The candidate submits the full application by sending the following documents to the email address yadias@uni.lu:

- **Application Form** (mandatory template available on the YADIAS website - [Downloads & Links](#) page).
- **Motivation letter** (max 1 page, no template; font Arial, size 11, single line spacing, 1.5 cm top/bottom/left/right margins).
- **Copy of the Master-level degree** (or a certificate confirming that the candidate has successfully defended his/her master thesis at the call deadline). If the candidate's certificate is not in English, French or German, a certified translation must be provided into one of these three languages.
- **CV of the candidate** (max 5 pages, mandatory template available on the YADIAS website - [Downloads & Links](#) page).

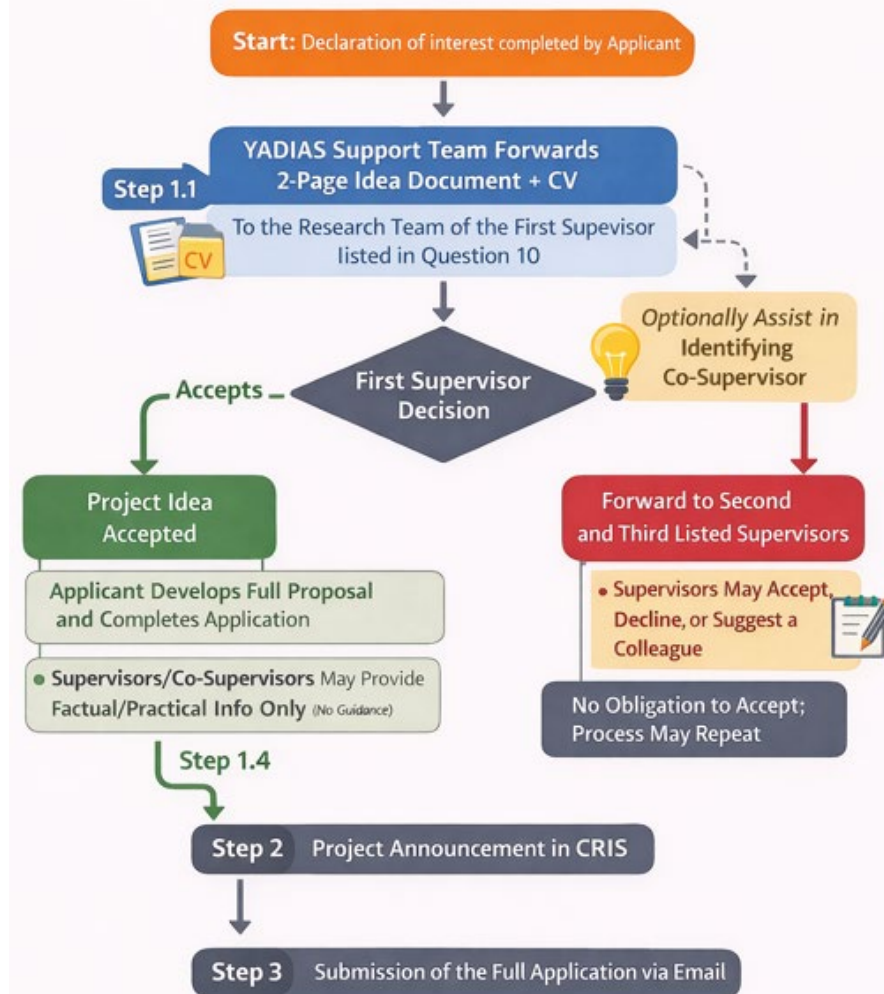
Important note:

This matchmaking stage between candidates and supervisors takes a considerable amount of time, so we strongly recommend starting well in advance.

Flowchart – YADIAS Submission Process:

- ✓ Step 1 – Start: Declaration of interest completed by applicant →
 - Step 1.1 – Complete LimeSurvey (18 questions) →
 - Step 1.2 – YADIAS support team forwards 2-page idea document + CV to the research team of the first supervisor listed in Question 10 →
 - Step 1.3 – First Supervisor Decision
 - Accepts →
 - Project idea accepted →
 - Applicant develops full proposal and completes application → Step 1.4.
 - Supervisors/co-supervisors may provide factual/practical info only (no guidance).
 - Declines →
 - Forward to second and third listed supervisors.
 - Supervisors may accept, decline, or suggest a colleague.
 - No obligation to accept; process may repeat twice.
 - Step 1.4 – Project Development by the candidate →
- ✓ Step 2 – Project Announcement in CRIS by the supervisor →
- ✓ Step 3 – Submission of the full application via email yadias@uni.lu by the candidate.

Flowchart — YADIAS Submission Process



Although the CV was provided at Step 1, we kindly request that you also submit it with your final submission. If the CV is not included in the final submission, the CV submitted at Step 1 will be used.

Candidates must complete the Ethics Self-Assessment available in the Application Form document, following the Horizon Europe guidelines.

The full project proposal must contain a preliminary plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication, taking the Open Science and FAIR principles into account.

Candidates must include a secondment in their project application. The secondment is mandatory for all candidates and must include a preliminary plan. University of Luxembourg cannot be considered as a secondment institution.

The CV and Research Idea templates are available online: [Downloads & Links](#). There is no template for the motivation letter, but the content must respect the following format: 1-page A4 maximum, font Arial, size 11, single line spacing and 1.5 cm top/bottom/left/right margins.

The support team of the YADIAS project will combine the full project proposal with the candidate CV, motivation letter of the candidate, and copy of the Master-level degree, and proceed with the two required eligibility checks (internal by UL and external by University of Mons, Belgium) before peer-review evaluations and final ranking.

If any of the following points are not met, the application will be declared ineligible:

- 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 recognised 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.

2.2 Key rules

- The candidate's supervisor or their research support team is expected to submit a project announcement in CRIS before the final submission.
- Proposals must be written in English and comply with the specified page limits and formatting requirements (e.g., number of pages, font, size, line spacing). Refer to the relevant templates for detailed instructions.
- The master's degree diploma, signed certificate, or official signed letter from the issuing institution must be provided with a certified translation into **English, French, or German** if the original documents are not already in one of these languages.
- **No budget file is requested for a YADIAS project.**
- Modifications after the submission deadline are not permitted. Incomplete proposals or those submitted late will not be processed.

2.3 Candidates and project coordination

YADIAS fellows will be supported in managing their doctoral projects under the co-supervision of two supervisors and are expected to:

- Engage with different departments, research groups, or University of Luxembourg entities.
- Take responsibility for designing, managing, and executing the project activities on a daily basis.
- Uphold high standards of ethical conduct and research integrity.
- Ensure the scientific quality of the research and its contribution to the four missions of IAS-Luxembourg:
 - Advancing bold, interdisciplinary research at the forefront of science,
 - Representing UL's values of excellence, interdisciplinarity, and internationality,

- Building bridges between the UL community, international visitors, and the general public,
- Supporting the attraction and retention of international talent.
- Promote interdisciplinary approaches and coordinate effectively with supervisors, reporting requirements, and UL administration.
- Serve as the primary point of contact with the Head of IAS and the YADIAS support team for all project-related matters.

2.4 Ethics, Open science, and Gender

Code of conduct, ethics and personal data

UL promotes the responsible conduct of research as described in the **University of Luxembourg - [Code of Conduct](#)**. UL implements the Guiding Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training set by the European Commission, and also respects fundamental ethical principles as listed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

At UL, any research involving the participation of human subjects, animals or the use of biological materials or personal data, or which may represent a risk for the environment or for society, is considered as having an **ethical component**.

Ethical components must be specifically addressed in the YADIAS proposal, by fulfilling the [ethics principles](#) in force at UL. Once the selection is completed, the **15 proposals selected for funding**, including those for which no ethical issues have been identified, will be subject to ethical review by the university ethics committee and, where appropriate, other relevant ethics committees. These ethics committees (ECs) will assess whether any ethical issues have been overlooked or appropriately described, and whether the proposed research and methodology comply with EU, Luxembourg, and UL ethical policies and standards. Based on their assessment, proposals may be deemed eligible either subject to required modifications to be implemented before commencing the relevant part of the research, or eligible without any modifications.

Open Science and DORA

The University of Luxembourg encourages the dissemination of research results to the scientific community and the general public, as well as their protection and economic exploitation, along the general principle “as open as possible - as closed as necessary”. The YADIAS fellows must adhere to the Open Access (OA) policies of Horizon Europe and UL. At UL, all researchers are encouraged to support the OA movement. Research outputs must be deposited on UL’s institutional Open Access repository Orbi.lu.

For added flexibility, YADIAS fellows may also deposit their research output in other repositories such as OpenAIRE or in the Registry of Open Access Repositories. The Office for Partnership, Knowledge and Technology Transfer at UL also provides guidance on IP rights to all researchers, including YADIAS fellows, who wish to share software through open-source licenses. In the spirit of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), UL also recognises the value of other types of research outputs.

Gender, Inclusion and Diversity

The University of Luxembourg embraces inclusion and diversity as core values. It is fully committed to eliminating any discriminatory barriers related to gender in the recruitment and career development of its staff. In line with this principle, the University ensures that the YADIAS community of the IAS is gender-balanced and receives training in relevant gender-awareness topics.

Furthermore, in accordance with its statutes, the Scientific Council of the IAS maintains gender balance.

2.5 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Applicants may use generative AI tools to assist in preparing proposals, but they remain fully responsible for all content, including AI-supported sections. Any use of AI must be transparently indicated, and all content must be original, accurate, compliant with Horizon Europe rules, and free from plagiarism, fabrication, or misleading information. Confidentiality and data protection must be maintained at all times, and sensitive or personal data must not be disclosed to external AI tools in violation of applicable legislation.

3. Selection process of YADIAS projects

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, without 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.

Adequate gender balance will be ensured in the composition of all evaluation and selection panels, in accordance with MSCA principles.

The IAS Scientific Council, composed of internationally recognised experts external to the project consortium, will be responsible for the interview phase (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.

The Scientific Council of the IAS is gender-balanced and comprises 11 members: 10 external members from recognised academic institutions with voting rights, and the Head of IAS, who acts as non-voting chair. The list of Scientific Council members is available on the IAS Governance webpage ([Governance](#)).

All evaluators are required to declare absence of conflict of interest and to comply with confidentiality and data protection rules. The entire evaluation and selection procedure ensures transparency, equal opportunities, and compliance with the principles of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND programme.

The selection criteria are listed in the tables below. The evaluation and selection processes of the YADIAS project proposals consists of several steps:

- 1. Submission (deadline 30 November 2026)** – Candidates submit their applications via email to yadias@uni.lu and receive an acknowledgment of receipt.
- 2. Eligibility check (2 weeks)** – The YADIAS support team will perform an initial eligibility screening. All submitted proposals will then be forwarded to an external validation partner (University of Mons (Belgium)) for an independent verification. Candidates will be notified of their eligibility status via email. Ineligible applications will not proceed further, while eligible proposals will automatically move on to the peer review stage.
- 3. Peer reviews (12 weeks)** – Eligible proposals are evaluated by independent external experts from academic and non-academic sectors. Before transferring any documents related to a project proposal,

each reviewer must declare that they have no conflict of interest with the application (see the template on the YADIAS website). Reviewers who declare no conflict of interest will then receive the following documents for assessment: the project application, the candidate's CV, a copy of their Master's degree, and the candidate's motivation letter. Reviewers will use the scoring system and criteria outlined in the table below. The written peer review ensures a robust, impartial, and comparative evaluation of all applications.

Note: If your proposal is sent to evaluators in countries which do not provide the same data protection level as Europe, your explicit consent will be requested before any personal data transfer. These experts are selected solely for their field-specific expertise. For more details, see *PRIVACY NOTICE_MSCA COFUND YADIAS_REV DPO*.

4. Ranking based on written assessments – Following peer reviews, applications are ranked based on aggregated written scores (using the points from the table).

The three main evaluation criteria are Excellence, Impact, and Implementation. The maximum score for the peer review is 60 points. Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for processing to the pitch, up to a maximum of **30 candidates**. Other proposals will not be considered further.

This ranking constitutes the first step of the integrated evaluation framework and is fully documented to ensure traceability between evaluation stages.

The peer review will be scored based on the following criteria:

<u>PEER REVIEW – for all applications</u>	
EXCELLENCE	
Academic Excellence of the candidate.	5 points
Degree of Interdisciplinary integration within the project.	5 points
Degree of Innovation within the project.	5 points
Adequate Research Training base to pursue a doctoral project.	5 points
Appropriateness of the methodology in relation to the project.	5 points
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship.	5 points
Total score for EXCELLENCE	30 points
IMPACT	
Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship.	5 points
Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results.	5 points
Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences.	5 points
Total score for IMPACT	15 points
QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION	
Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan.	5 points

Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management.	5 points
Relevance of the secondment in terms of complementarity.	5 points
Total score for IMPLEMENTATION	15 points
Total score for Peer Review	60 points

- 5. Oral presentation and scientific debate (3 days)** - Shortlisted candidates are invited to an oral evaluation consisting of a pitch of 10 minutes and scientific discussion of 10 minutes before the IAS Scientific Council (via video conference only). The Scientific Council members will rank the proposals based on the written reviews and the oral presentation and will recommend the final 15 candidates and their proposals for funding to the rector for final decision.

The pitch and scientific debate will be scored out of a maximum of 20 points based on the following criteria:

PITCH and SCIENTIFIC DEBATE – for the 30 best ranked applications	
Quality of the pitch presentation.	5 points
Persuasiveness in defending the project proposal during the scientific debate.	5 points
Persuasiveness in defending the methodology for its implementation during the scientific debate.	5 points
Communication skills to describe a complex and interdisciplinary project.	5 points
Total score for Pitch and Scientific debate	20 points

Reviewers and interviewers will score each criterion using a standardised scale (indicated in the table below).

Scoring	Meaning	Assessment of the peer review and oral pitch and Q&A
0	-	Proposal fails to address criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	Proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
4	Very good	Proposal addresses criterion very well; small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent	Proposal addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The top 15 projects are selected for funding based on this ranking. In case of a tie or non-consensus among the Scientific Council members, the scores of the first 3 criteria will be the deciding factor by the following order:

1. Academic excellence of the candidate.
2. Degree of interdisciplinary integration within the project.
3. Degree of innovation within the project.

6. Communication to candidates - Candidates are notified by the YADIAS support team via email, followed by a formal letter, in line with the Scientific Council's recommendation.

A reserve list of 3 applicants will be maintained to cover potential withdrawals. If an applicant withdraws, candidates on the reserve list will be offered funding in descending order of their scores. Once all 15 positions are filled and work contracts are signed, remaining reserve list applicants will be informed that their applications are no longer under consideration. The reserve list will remain active for six months.

4. Conflict of Interest (COI)

All external evaluators and members of the Scientific Council involved in the selection process for the YADIAS call must comply with the Code of Conduct of the University of Luxembourg.

A conflict of interest (COI) arises when personal or financial considerations could compromise, or appear to compromise, professional judgment and objectivity. Any private, personal, or commercial interests related to an application for YADIAS project funding must be declared in this document.

A conflict of interest exists if a reviewer:

- Was involved in the preparation of the proposal;
- Is a director, partner, or otherwise involved in the management of the candidate;
- Is employed by, or contracted to, the candidate;
- Is a close relative of the candidate (or any person living in the same household);
- Has collaborated with the candidate on publications, patents, or projects within the last five years;
- Has had a relationship of scientific rivalry or professional hostility with the candidate;
- Has been a mentor to, or mentee of, the candidate.

Exceptions may be considered if:

- The reviewer works in a different department, laboratory, or institute than where the project will be carried out, and
- The departments, laboratories, or institutes within the organization operate with a high degree of autonomy.

Any member with a conflict of interest will be excluded from the evaluation and selection process for the entire call.

5. Recruitment: duration and remuneration

Each project will have a duration of maximum 48 months, which aligns with the timeframe for completing a PhD at UL.

The maximum funding for a YADIAS doctoral project is limited to covering the gross salary, mobility and family allowances, as well as a monthly allowance for travel, conference fees, publications, training, and

related expenses. The research funds (research related costs) are made fully available at the start of the project, and any unspent budget may be carried over from one year to the next throughout the 48-month project period.

The table below provides a summary of each project's budget:

Categories		Amount (€/month)
<u>Monthly gross salary</u>	Living allowance (Indicative gross amount at the start of the project - Full time equivalent, paid 12 times)	3841*
	Mobility allowance (Indicative gross amount at the start of the project - Full time equivalent, paid 12 times)	625
	Family allowance (if applicable, see below) (Indicative gross amount at the start of the project - Full time equivalent, paid 12 times)	580
<u>Research related costs</u>	Travel allowance	600
	Research costs	800
	Training costs	800

*Living allowance as of 01 June 2026 (index 992.24, in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement of 01.04.2026). This living allowance is subject to increases due to Luxembourg's salary indexation on inflation, as decided by the Government of Luxembourg.

“**Monthly gross salary**” refers to the gross salary before any deductions. The net salary (take-home pay), which is **lower** than the gross amount, is the amount actually received after deduction of social security contributions (e.g. health and pension insurance) and income tax, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and depending on each fellow's personal circumstances.

The family allowance is paid based on family related criteria, specifically:

- if the person is married, or
- if the person is in a relationship equivalent to marriage, as recognised by the legislation of the country or region where the relationship was formalised, or
- if they have dependent children that they are supporting financially.

Family status will be determined as of the call deadline and may be subject to revision during the 48 months of the fellowship.

To be eligible for this allowance, HR will request a copy of the candidate's proof of partnership or marital status, or a copy of the family book.

“**Research-related costs**” are budgeted under a university account dedicated exclusively to the candidate's project and are not disbursed as monthly payments to the researcher's private account.

The travel allowance includes an estimated average of the researcher's expected travel costs to and from secondments, as well as coverage for travel to several trainings and conferences per year.

The Research costs cover expenses such as consumables, research data purchasing, costs of publication in Open Access, etc.

The Training costs can be used by the researcher to attend external trainings.

The University of Luxembourg offers additional employee benefits, such as (but not limited to):

- 32 days of annual leave (Full time equivalent).
- 18 meal vouchers/month : individual value 10.60€. The employee contribution is 2.80€ per voucher.
- travel insurance for the employee (business and personal travel abroad).

Travel from previous residence to Luxembourg for retained fellows is covered at the start of the fellowship (1-way economy ticket) by the IAS.

The UL Human Resources Department will be in charge of the recruitment process over an estimated period of 3 months. The earliest start date is 01 June 2027 and the latest is 01 September 2027.

6. Your PhD at the University of Luxembourg

A PhD is more than a degree. It is a journey of discovery, innovation, and learning. At UL, the Doctoral Education programmes empower early-career researchers to drive innovation in a dynamic, international and interdisciplinary research environment.

Whether you are aiming for a career in academia, industry, or entrepreneurship, your research will contribute to real-world solutions and scientific advancements.

Why choose a PhD at the University of Luxembourg?

- Research is conducted across pioneering fields, with supervision provided by internationally recognised experts.
- The UL makes it the ideal location to conduct research in an international and interdisciplinary environment.
- Founded in 2003, the University is young and vibrant. It already ranks among the top 20th Universities under 50 years of age.
- More than 50% of our doctoral candidates stay in Luxembourg after graduation, expanding our Alumni network to most sectors in the industry, institutions and academia.
- Campuses spread across sites in the city centre and in Belval, a bold example of urban regeneration serving education and technology.

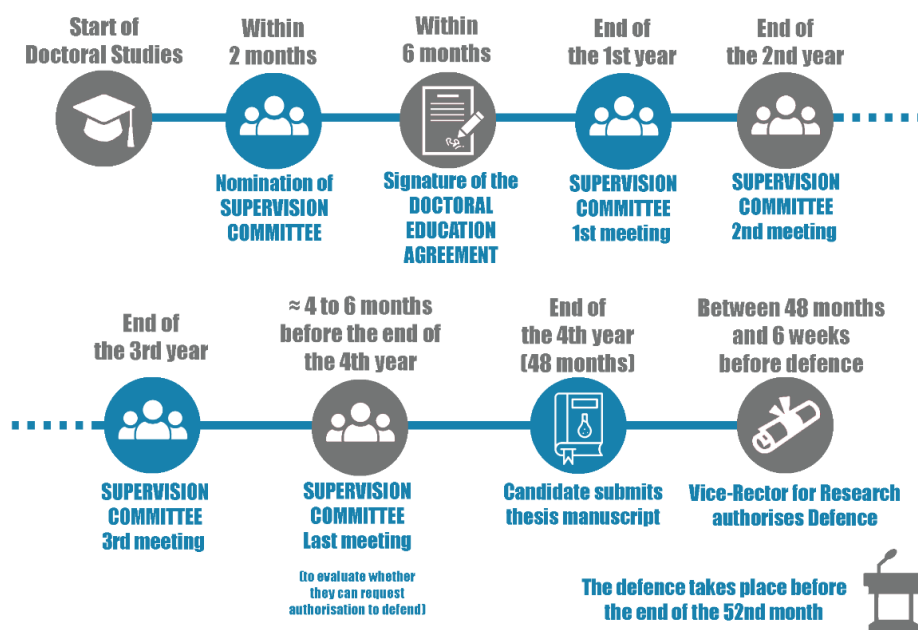
Doctoral education school in numbers:

- 4 doctoral schools
- 14 doctoral programmes
- 20 disciplines
- +1100 doctoral candidates
- +90 countries
- ~200 doctoral defences/year

Typical doctoral journey based on a full-time cycle:

TYPICAL DOCTORAL JOURNEY

based on a full-time cycle



Please download the report [Doctoral Education at the University of Luxembourg](#) for further information.

7. Contact information

For any administrative questions related to YADIAS, please contact the support team by email at yadias@uni.lu. The support team cannot assist with identifying eligible supervisors.

Responses will be provided within five working days, and within two working days during the call period. Telephone inquiries are not accepted; all requests must be submitted in writing via the email address above.