YUF4EPostdocs

An Introduction

October 2023
YUF4Postdocs in a Nutshell
YUFE4Postdocs in a Nutshell 1

Project for recruitment & training of Postdocs, co-funded by Horizon Europe’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie program

- EC contribution 7.3 million (overall budget 14.3 million)
- For appointments of max. 51 postdocs at 9 YUFE partner universities
- Appointments for 36 months
Young Universities for the Future of Europe - Postdoc programme

Objective

YUFE4Postdocs (Y4P) is an ambitious and novel postdoctoral training programme, launched by the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) Alliance in the context of its R&I Agenda. Under the overarching theme ‘Urban opportunities & challenges in the 4 YUFE Focus Areas’, two calls will result in the appointment of 51 excellent researchers across 10 universities. Stakeholder interactions, Open Science and interdisciplinarity run as a red thread throughout the programme, which is centered around community engagement.

Y4P offers attractive employment conditions, including 36-month appointments and competitive remuneration. Its selection process pilot a novel approach by assessing applicants on a broader and qualitative set of selection criteria, with extensive involvement of external stakeholders. The unique 3-pillar training programme features interactive stakeholder engagement seminars (Pillar 1), combined with a variety of joint transferable skills trainings (Pillar 2) and complementary partner courses (Pillar 3). A triple-I mobility scheme is set in place, covering 6-month intra-YUFE mobility, optional intersectoral secondments, and encouraged interdisciplinary cooperation. Each postdoc is supported by a kind of supervisors, with a Career Development Plan as their individual roadmap.

YUFE4Postdocs out in the open: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101081327
YUFE4Postdocs in a Nutshell 2

- Two joint calls in 2023 directed to postdocs, with joint selection procedure
- Open for applications in all disciplines
- Candidates identify in their project one or more societal challenges framed in an urban context, and …
  - they define their research project within one of the YUFE focus areas: (1) sustainability, (2) digital society, (3) citizens well being, (4) European identity
  - they identify a host research group & supervisor (Host University) and a co-host research group & co-supervisor (Co-Host University) within YUFE alliance
  - they will be trained in stakeholder interaction, open science and open innovation

→ YUFE Postdocs will carry out their project in regular contact with one or more stakeholder organizations
YUFE4Postdocs in a Nutshell 3

Training programme on stakeholder interactions, open science and open innovation

19 city & regional councils and business organisations, involved as Associated Partners, contribute in training and mentoring
YUFE4Postdocs: An Introduction

October 2023

Unit 12: Research Services

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

- BRIGHTLANDS MAASTRICHT HEALTH CAMPUS (NL)
- CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY TORUN (PL)
- CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY (HR)
- GETAFE INICIATIVAS (ES)
- NORTH KARELIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FI)
- VOKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANTWERP-WAASLAND (BE)

CITY COUNCILS & REGIONS

- ANTWERP (BE)          - KUOPIO (FI)
- BREMEN (DE)           - MAASTRICHT (NL)
- COLCHESTER (UK)       - NICOSIA (CY)
- ESSEX (UK)            - RIJEKA (HR)
- GETAFE (ES)           - TORUN (PL)
YUF4EPostdocs Calls
First Call

Two focus areas: Digital Societies / Sustainability

- 29 postdoc positions (1st cohort)
- Call open: **1 March 2023**
- Call closes: **7 May 2023**
- Selection process: 8 May 2023 – 30 October 2023
- Appointment: by 1 January 2024
Second Call

Two focus areas: Citizens' Well-Being / European Identity

- 22 postdoc positions (2nd cohort)
- Call open: **1 October 2023**
- Call closes: **20 December 2023**
- Selection process: 1 January 2024 – 30 May 2024
- Appointment: by 1 September 2024
Focus Domain “European Identity”

“Where the subject of research touches on European identity/ies in an urban context, the application should be directed to the focus area “European Identity”. The subject can consider inter-relationships between European identity/ies and urban policies, structures, processes, communities or stakeholders, as well as elements of such identities in an urban context, such as culture, heritage, politics, values, ....

Research taking a critical perspective exploring the potential threats, challenges and risks of a concept like European identity (e.g., social and economic exclusivity, governance approaches, etc.) also fits in the scope of this focus area.”
Focus Domain “Citizens’ Well-Being”

“Where the subject of research touches upon health (physical, mental, environmental, public health, etc.) or other aspects of well-being of citizens in various capacities (residents, patients, students, caregivers, parents, or other stakeholders) the application can be directed to the focus area “Citizens’ Well-Being”.

The subject should be explicitly framed in an urban context, which could consider, for example, health burdens, populations, environments, inequalities, care systems, planning and policy...”
Conditions
Eligibility

Postdoc candidates
- obtained their PhD max. 6 years before the call deadlines. Experience outside research and career breaks are taken into account
- international incoming (MSCA mobility rule)
- can be of any nationality

Supervisors and co-supervisors
- tenured or tenure-track faculty members with at least a 10% appointment
- can support max. two candidates applying in the call
- produce a commitment letter to applicants (but applicants define their own research project!)
- can act as supervisor for max. one postdoc and as co-supervisor for max. one postdoc
Mobility Rules

→ **Postdoc candidates must respect the mobility rule of Marie Skłodowska-Curie action when appointed in your university**
  - May not have resided or carried out their main activity in the host country more than 12 months in the last 36 months prior to the deadline of the call (= 20 December 2023 for call 2)
  - They can come from any institution, even from other YUFE universities

→ **Postdocs must undertake an intra-YUFE mobility**
  - Max. 6 months in another (or more than one) YUFE university (co-host)
  - Objective is to set up R&I collaboration
  - Stays can be short or longer, single or multiple

→ **Postdocs can undertake an intersectoral mobility**
  - In a business or non-business entity, suggested or not by the Associated Partners
  - Within the ecosystem of the host university or the YUFE partner university
Framework Conditions for Appointed Postdocs

→ Supervisors
(1) supervisor at host uni; (2) co-supervisor at co-host uni; (3) non-academic mentor from stakeholder organisation
  • Academic supervisors are defined in application
  • Mentor is defined after start of the project

→ Career Development Plan
→ Developed within first 3 months after appointment
→ Quality & progress assessed regularly
  • Expected achievements research project and participation in C&D
  • Longer- and short-term career objectives
  • Planning of mobilities/secondments, including the intra-YUFE mobility, or research visits
  • Training needs
Allowances

An attractive remuneration: employment contract or equivalent

Mobility allowance: EUR 200 in addition to their salary, for personal use

Intra-YUFE Mobility allowance:
EUR 7,200 per postdoc to cover costs for 6 months stay at the co-Host university.
Continuous or multiple shorter stays of min. 1 month.

Travel allowance: EUR 1000 EUR/year
Research allowance: Maximum of EUR 400/month

+ access to the Y4P training programme and mentorship scheme
Training program on stakeholder interactions, open science and open innovation

YUFE4POSTDOCS TRAINING PROGRAMME

INTAKE MEETING
Community building, introduction to Open Science & Y4P training offering

2 NETWORK-WIDE 2-DAY SEMINARS
1. Open Science & CERI
2. CERI at an advanced stage of the research process, science communication, valorisation and entrepreneurship

MANDATORY JOINT WORKSHOPS & COURSES
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Research Ethics and Integrity

À LA CARTE (non-exhaustive list)
- R&I Proposal Writing
- Entrepreneurship & Business Development
- Science Communication & Public Engagement
...

COMPLEMENTARY TRAININGS

PILLAR 1
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

PILLAR 2
JOINT TRANSFERABLE SKILLS TRAINING

PILLAR 3
INDIVIDUAL TRAINING OPTIONS

→ 19 city & regional councils and business organisations, involved as Associated Partners, contribute in training and mentoring
What Can Y4P Offer to an Academic Co-/Supervisor?

For the supervisor:
• An excellent postdoc paid by the university (of faculty) with support of the EC grant
• A postdoc that starts or further develops research collaboration with the co-host research group in the YUFE alliance, and beyond
• New contacts in YUFE universities, and with the city and regional councils and/or business organisations
• Visibility of their research group by the YUFE4Postdoc communication & dissemination activities

For the co-supervisor:
• A visiting researcher that starts or further develops research collaboration with the host research group new contacts in YUFE universities, and with the city and regional councils and/or business organisations
• Visibility of their research group by the YUFE4Postdoc communication & dissemination activities
Support Available

A dedicated Navigator in every University
• assists potential applicants seeking info (e.g. employment conditions, visa, mobility etc.) and areas of expertise
• supports matchmaking between host supervisor and co-supervisor
• are interconnected between YUF E universities
• Contact details are on the YUF E4Postocs website

An inventory of research groups of YUF E universities on the YUF E4Postocs website
Thank you for your future engagement in YUF4Postdocs!

For more information: [www.yuf4postdocs.eu](http://www.yuf4postdocs.eu)

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