BoostUrCAreer call for PhD projects

Context

BoostUrCAreer project aims at implementing at Université Côte d’Azur (UCA) a multidisciplinary doctoral programme in e-health to attract to the French Riviera early-stage researchers (ESRs) and to enhance their employability with the support from the European Commission and the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur. BoostUr Career wishes to foster interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international experiences.

Every doctoral project needs to associate two laboratories of UCA, a foreign academic partner and a non-academic one. BoostUrCAreer will thus provide a diversified education combining the most basic aspects of research with the practice of transfer towards other the socio-economic world. This dual expertise represents a real benefit for career development and is acquired thanks to specific trainings on practical and transferable skills and a six-month mobility abroad at an international research laboratory.

High-level applicants are selected through a merit-based, open and fair process to develop projects with UCA research teams. BoostUrCAreer will promote European best practices for research and innovations and should serve as a model to disseminate these policies to the whole region.

Object of the call for PHD projects

Université Côte d’Azur will launch 2 calls, one in 2019 and one in 2020 with 15 PhD supports. The selected PhD projects will be published on-line and prospective ESRs will apply to one specific PhD project.

The ESRs will receive a monthly salary, as well as living and mobility allowances. In addition, funds for research activities (including dissemination activities) is included in the BoostUrCAreer Grant.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, the PhD project must:

- Address a topic linked to e-health;
- Be co-written and supported by two supervisors from two different scientific fields to foster interdisciplinary dynamics;
- Be supported by an international collaborator stating he/she is ready to host the PhD for a 6-month secondment;
- Respect the time frame of 3.5 years for completion;
- Include if possible components for tech transfer and commercial exploitation (not compulsory but encouraged).

If the PhD project offered by the supervisor requires knowledge of French, it will need to be addressed in the description of the topic. Be aware, the selection committee will make sure there is a balance between projects requiring English and those requiring French in order not to exclude non-Francophone applicants.

In addition, projects must follow French and European regulations on ethics. Namely, projects involving activities aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes, or intended to modify the human genetics in a heritable manner, or aiming at creating human embryos for the sole purpose of research, cannot
be funded. Each project will have to be approved by the UCA ethics committee prior to their start. An ethics officer has been appointed at UCA and will supervise the approval process.

**Procedure to Apply**
- All proposals must follow the template [Annex 1]
- Prior to sending the proposal, the document converted into a PDF fill and will be renamed with the Acronym of the Phd Project
- The deadline for applying is: 23/11/2019 at 00:00 PM UTC+1 (CET)
- All applications will be sent to the email boostercareer@univ-cotedazur.fr
- No budget is requested

**Selection Committee**
The project proposals will be selected by the recruitment committee, which includes at least:
- 2 external academics (including international )
- 1 internal expert
- the director of the UCA’s graduate school Digital Systems for Humans (DS4H)
- 1 non-academics working in the fields of digital systems or health
- 1 representative of the Regional Council
- 1 representative of the regional health cluster Eurobiomed.
- Academics (UCA)

**Evaluation Criteria**

A. Excellence
- Quality and originality of the submitted research project
- Interdisciplinary, international and inter-sectoral framework
- Complementarity of the supervising teams and working environment
- Scientific excellence of the host teams

B. Impact
- Potential impact on the fellow career in terms of employability within and outside academia
- Relevance to the smart specialisation strategy of the Region
- Relevance to the UCA structuring programmes
- International visibility of the host teams
- Potential for social and/or economic transfer to the non-academic sector

C. Implementation
- Coherence of the work plan, feasibility
- Involvement and guidance abilities of the supervisors
- Adequacy of involved means and support from the laboratory

**Further information and questions can be asked by email**: boostercareer@univ-cotedazur.fr