



FORMAL, PHYSICAL AND  
ENGINEERING SCIENCES  
GRADUATE SCHOOL AND RESEARCH



UNIVERSITÉ  
CÔTE D'AZUR

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL POSITIONS 2023

[Launch of the call : March 8, 2023](#)

[Deadline of the call : May 5, 2023 at noon](#)

[Results : June 26, 2023](#)





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## PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The Formal, Physical and Engineering Sciences Graduate School and Research, also known as SPECTRUM draws from the excellence of its research laboratories to offer a top-level multidisciplinary education at Master's and Doctoral level, rich in theoretical knowledge and practical applications in mathematics, physics, astrophysics, earth sciences, chemistry and engineering. In this context, interdisciplinary work is strongly encouraged, and disciplinary excellence is required.

SPECTRUM Graduate School and Research invites applications for 3-year PhD positions and is offering this year up to four half-grants for a duration of 3 years each (€72k for a half-grant), as well as 2 full doctoral contracts: one on the theme of artificial intelligence entirely funded by the Interdisciplinary Institute of Artificial Intelligence Côte d'Azur (3IA) and the other on quantum technologies fully funded by the project ANR QuanTEdu-France.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### ARTICLE 1 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The host research team must be a member of SPECTRUM.
- In the case of fully funded doctoral contracts, the research theme must fall within the scope of AI (the subject must fall within one of the four research areas of 3IA: fundamental AI, Health, Biology or Intelligent Territory) or quantum techniques.
- In the case of doctoral contracts co-funded by SPECTRUM, co-funding of up to 50% (72k€) is required with mandatory payment by the partner to UCA.

### ARTICLE 2 – SELECTION CRITERIA

The thesis project must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- ◆ The project has international reach, with a strong collaboration with a foreign university (including thesis co-supervision).

or

- ◆ The project has an industrial link and / or the potential for innovative industrial developments.



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or

- ◆ The project is interdisciplinary within SPECTRUM (between two or more laboratories), or between SPECTRUM and another graduate school of UCA.

or

- ◆ The project is disruptive and can be submitted to ANR or ERC calls for proposals during or, at the latest, at the end of the doctorate.

Applications for this call will be assessed on the following elements:

- The scientific merit of the proposed project (see documents to be provided for the research project - article 3 of the call for applications).

and

- The caliber of the supervision (see documents to be provided by the supervisor - article 3 of the call for applications. The availability of one or more supervisors in relation to the other current supervisors will also be a deciding factor).

and

- The excellence of the candidate (see documents to be provided by the candidate - article 3 of the call for applications).

## **ARTICLE 3 – WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR APPLICATION**

- The application must be written in English.
- **For the research project:**
  - ◆ Project summary (half a page).
  - ◆ Project description (4 pages maximum describing in particular the issues, the originality, the technical feasibility considering the duration of the 3-year contract and the key stages of the project) including a bibliography and specifying the potential for innovative industrial development.
  - ◆ A letter of commitment from the partner (€72k for a half-grant) which specifies that the transfer of funds to UCA will be effective in the event of success in this call for applications.



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• **For the supervisor:**

- ◆ The CV of the supervisor and any co-supervisor (maximum 2 pages).
- ◆ A list of the major publications over the past 3 years and projects led in the targeted areas.
- ◆ A letter of recommendation from the director of the laboratory or the research team who will be hosting the successful candidate.

• **For the candidate (deadline: May 20, 2023):**

- ◆ The CV of the candidate (including the name)
- ◆ Academic transcripts and grades (if applicable) of the candidate's undergraduate and master's degree(s).
- ◆ Cover letter (1 page).
- ◆ Two letters of recommendation.
- ◆ A letter from the supervisor explaining the link with AI and 3IA research areas in the case of a project funded by 3IA.

**It should be specified on the cover page of the application which type of funding is sought (full or half).**

Applications not complete by May 5, 2023, will not be considered (except for documents relating to the candidate). Applications must be complete by May 20, 2023.

## **ARTICLE 4 – SELECTION PROCESS**

The assessment steps are as follows:

- Preselection of candidates by a subcommittee of the SPECTRUM scientific and pedagogic advisory board in collaboration with members of the 3IA institute and QuanteAzur for the funding concerned.
- Interview of preselected thesis supervisors with members of the sub-committee of EUR SPECTRUM, the 3iA Institute and QuanteAzur for the funding concerned.
- Interview of the student selected by the thesis supervisor with the head of the relevant discipline in the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences (EDSFA).
- Evaluation by the QuantAzur Steering Committee of applications within the scope of quantum techniques, between June 10 and 15.
- Evaluation by the Scientific Council of 3IA of applications within the scope of IA, on June 20, 2023.



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## **ARTICLE 5 - TIMETABLE OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS**

- March 8, 2023: Launch of the call.
- **May 5, 2023** at noon: Deadline for the submission of applications.
- May 17, 2023: Announcement of the selection of supervisors for interview.
- **May 22 - 27, 2023**: Thesis supervisor interviews.
- **May 31, 2023**: Supervisors are notified of the ranked list.
- **June 5 - 9, 2023**: Interviews (possibly by videoconference) of the selected students with the head of the relevant discipline from the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences.
- **June 15 – 23, 2023**: Applicants are informed of the award of the scholarship.
- June 26, 2023: Posting of results
- **June 30, 2023**: Deadline for acceptance of the scholarship.

## **ARTICLE 6 - HOW TO APPLY**

- Submitted applications must be signed by the Director of the project leader's Research Unit.
- Applications must be submitted via the Nuxeo platform [by clicking on this link](#).
- All the requested documents must be assembled in a single PDF file named as follows: LAST NAME of the project leader\_Project acronym\_2023.pdf

## **ARTICLE 7 - RECRUITMENT AND FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- The positions offered are fixed-term contracts of three years, beginning on December 1, 2023 at the latest.
- The employer is Université Côte d'Azur (UCA); all co-funding must therefore be paid to UCA.
- The student must reside near the host laboratory for the duration of the contract (with the exception of joint supervision). Thus the place of residence must enable daily access to the laboratory.
- The monthly salary offered is €2,500 gross.



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## **ARTICLE 8 - OTHER GRANTS**

These individual PhD scholarships cannot be combined with other grants.

Successful candidates will therefore have to work 100% of their time on the selected research project, with the exception of a possible assistant teaching obligation with SPECTRUM of 64 hours (TD equivalent) per year.

## **ARTICLE 9 - CHANGE OF SITUATION**

It is the responsibility of the successful candidate to notify the Doctoral School of any change in situation or status that may occur during the term of their contract (in particular in the event of recruitment to a permanent contract or official position).

*Contact: Ketty Guillouzouic (Project Manager), [Ketty.GUILLOUZOUIC@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:Ketty.GUILLOUZOUIC@univ-cotedazur.fr)*