

In 2026, the Academy of Excellence 4 "Complexity and Diversity of Life" launches three actions for its call for projects:

Action 1: Call for projects for transdisciplinary master's degree internships

Action 2: Call for projects for the installation of new research teams in Life Sciences on the site of Université Côte d'Azur

Action 3: Call for projects for scientific events

The Academy of Excellence 4 is pursuing the transformation of the University by perpetuating its key actions to:

- ✓ Support the setting up of new emerging projects
- ✓ Initiate and promote strong interactions between disciplines, centers, projects, and academies
- ✓ Allow the acceleration of ongoing projects and partnerships with high potential
- ✓ Provide appropriate conditions for the maturation of projects
- ✓ Enable competitive funding to be obtained (ANR, ERC, HFSP, ...).
- ✓ Increase the international visibility of research within Université Côte d'Azur
- ✓ Pursue its attractiveness policy in the region

Transdisciplinarity is a central vector.

Project applicants are invited to read in detail the instructions below.

For more information, please contact: academies.excellence4@univ-cotedazur.fr

Action 1: Call for projects for transdisciplinary master's degree internships

The Steering Committee of the Academy of Excellence 4 "Complexity and Diversity of the Living Systems" is opening a call for projects for transdisciplinary Master's degree internships. In 2026, the call will fund up to 7 fellowships for 24 k€ each (120 k€ total). This amount will cover operating costs, including stipends for both master's students, for one university year. Operating costs = consumables, small equipment, missions, and internship stipends. **No payroll**.

Conditions for eligibility:

- ☐ The project applications must be within the scope of Academy 4 "Complexity and Diversity of Living Systems".
- ☐ They must comprise:
 - o Two internship supervisors: one from Biology or Medical sciences, the other one from another discipline, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, etc, but not Biology or Medical sciences.
 - o 2 complementary approaches.
 - o 2 master's students in 2026/2027 from distinct (multi)disciplinary programs.
 - o 2 different research centers (institutes / laboratories)
- ☐ If one of the two master's students is a medical doctor, his/her supervisor will have to provide his/her own funds for a Master 2 internship.
- ☐ Applicants must be affiliated with an institution that is part of the IdEx perimeter (PERIdEx). This perimeter is displayed on the web page of Academy 4 ([partners](#)).
- ☐ The project cannot be funded by another IdEx program.
- ☐ The project cannot be the subject of an application for another IdEx program.
- ☐ For each project, in addition to both internship supervisors, other teams called partners, are allowed.
 - o In this case, the final budget for the whole project will still be 24 k€ (see below).
 - o Consequently, if the putative partners wish to train master's students, they will have to provide master's stipends from their proper funds.
- ☐ Only one project is allowed per research team with a specific thematic. To better appreciate this point, which is discipline specific, each applicant will provide an organizational chart of his/her laboratory.
- ☐ **A supervisor cannot apply to this call more than once a year.**

Funds will be allocated upon approval by the scientific council, comprising internal and external reviewers, and the steering committee, regarding eligibility, scientific quality, interdisciplinarity and feasibility of the project for both master's students.

Conditions for application:

Each project will be written, in English or in French, following the template document that can be downloaded from the Nuxeo platform: [2026 Action1 A4](#)

The project must comprise:

- ☐ An acronym
- ☐ A title
- ☐ The names of both applicants (Masters supervisors) and partners
- ☐ The postal address of the structure to which each project applicant and partner belongs
- ☐ A scientific & technical summary of the project (max. 500 words)
- ☐ A public summary of the project (max. 500 words)
- ☐ A description of the project and the scientific challenges involved (max. 4 pages)
- ☐ A detailed summary of the financial needs and the relevant provisional budget (max. 1 page),
- ☐ A list of the people involved in the project and their respective affiliations
- ☐ An organizational chart for each applicant

- ☐ The signature of the director of the involved research units

The application may include a link to a short video presentation of the project by the applicants (optional).

The application will be submitted on the Nuxeo platform in the tab “Project”: [2026 Action1 A4](#)

Deadlines:

Call for project opening: **February 12th, 2026**

Project submission: **March 30th, 2026**

Results: **end of June 2026**

Funding allocation: **July 2026**

Funding closure: **November 2027**

Project follow-up:

A scientific and financial report, as well as any publication, will be communicated at the end of the funding year (including both student manuscripts).

The Academy 4 will ask for an oral presentation by both students, in the presence of their supervisors, during a workshop organized by Academy 4 at the end of June 2027.

Action 2: Call for projects for the installation of new research teams in Biology on the site of Université Côte d'Azur

The Steering Committee of the Academy of Excellence 4, "Complexity and Diversity of the Living Systems" opens a call for co-funding of young research teams (ATIP/Avenir CNRS/Inserm and equivalent) that are interested in dedicating part of their activities towards the development of inter/transdisciplinary projects.

The Academy 4 wishes to support the installation of **young research teams** within an existing research structure in which they have never been active, and which falls within the IdEx perimeter of excellence. This perimeter is defined on the web page of the Academy 4 ([partners](#)). Co-funding is also granted to **advanced research teams** that relocate to Université Côte d'Azur, have a new project assessed for excellence, are financed through national or international competitive calls for proposals, and align with the thematic of the Academy 4.

Hence, the Academy 4 wishes to promote mobility and attractiveness of our laboratories for high-potential team leaders. The mobility criterion will be rigorously evaluated by the Scientific Council and validated by the Academy 4 Steering Committee, considering the Curriculum Vitae of each candidate team leader, his or her audition by the Scientific Council, and the added value to Université Côte d'Azur that the installation of each funded team represents.

The project must not be simultaneously funded by another IdEx program. Applicants will be interviewed and will present their projects to the scientific council before the funding period.

Funding and duration:

70 k€ (maximum amount allocated per project, with no exception) for one year.
Funds can only be used for operating or equipment costs (no payroll).

Deadlines:

Call opening and closing dates: **from February 12th to December 31st, 2026**

Funding allocation: **1 month after the project acceptance by the Scientific Council**

Conditions for application:

Each project will be written, in English or in French, following the template document that can be downloaded from the Nuxeo platform: [2026 Action2 A4](#)

The project must comprise:

- ☐ An acronym
- ☐ A title
- ☐ The name of the applicant
- ☐ The postal address of the structure to which the applicant belongs
- ☐ A scientific & technical summary of the project (max. 500 words)
- ☐ A public summary of the project (max. 500 words)
- ☐ A description of the project and the scientific challenges involved (max 4 pages)
- ☐ A detailed summary of the financial needs and the relevant provisional budget
- ☐ A list of the people involved in the project and their respective affiliations
- ☐ The signature of the director of the research unit

The application may include a link to a short video presentation of the project by the applicants (optional).

The application must be submitted on the Nuxeo platform in the tab "Project": [2026 Action2 A4](#)

Project follow-up:

A scientific and financial report, as well as any publication, will be communicated by the applicants at the end of the funding year. The Academy will ask for an oral presentation of the completed or ongoing project during a workshop organized by the Academy at the end of June 2027 or during seminar series of the Academy 4.

Action 3: Call for projects for scientific events

The Steering Committee of the Academy of Excellence 4 opens a call for project to finance workshops, visiting scientist expenses and assistance in setting up major projects. This call for project is conceived as an incubator for innovative and ambitious scientific activities in the field of Life Sciences. We will specifically consider emerging activities or projects with major development capabilities, notably able to obtain higher support from Université Côte d'Azur. The academy will not necessarily exclude projects that will not present transdisciplinary or innovative and structuring aspects.

Scope:

- Support for project setup to facilitate the arrival on site of partners of interest in the perimeter of IdEx (PERIdEx) or the subsequent financing of international consortia involving Université Côte d'Azur researchers as main project leaders.
- Workshops with lectures by researchers for researchers
- Thematic and inter-academy workshops
- Expenses for visiting scientists' accommodation (from one week to several months).

Eligibility criteria:

The applicant institution must be part of the IdEx perimeter (PERIdEx). This perimeter is defined on the Academy 4 (partners) website.

Applicants should mention if more than one academy is involved in the project.

Applicants should also demonstrate that the project is in line with one of the following criteria:

- Short or middle-term transformation of the local scientific landscape
- Structuring of the research in the field of interest
- Increase in the local and international research visibility
- Development of research with high scientific impact.

Visiting scientists must deliver at least one on-site lecture.

Evaluation criteria:

Applications will be evaluated by the Scientific Council, if necessary. In addition to scientific excellence and the eligibility criteria described above, the following points will also be considered during the evaluation process:

- In the case of a trans-disciplinary project, the added value of Transdisciplinarity
- Innovative value
- Putative attractiveness for students
- Quality of the scientific process
- Relevancy of the budget in accordance with the project objectives.

Agenda:

Call for project opening: **February 12th, 2026**

Project submission: **March 30th, 2026**

Results: **end of June 2026**

Funding allocation: **July 2026**

Funding closure: **November 2027**

Unless exceptions, supports of 1500€ to 3000€ are allowed for a year only.

Eligible costs:

Eligible costs are operating costs (except missions), missions and invitations.

For visiting scientists, eligible costs are not salaries but current expenses like accommodation.

External partners may be included in the project, but will not be funded by the Academy 4.

The Welcome Centre is mobilized to assisting with accommodation on the site for external lecturers and their families: <https://univ-cotedazur.eu/attending-universite-cote-dazur/welcome-center>.

Europe and Territories Centre (MET) for assistance in setting up international research projects is also mobilized to support researchers, doctoral students, and managers in their awareness, training, and application to European funding: <https://univ-cotedazur.eu/services-for-research-scientists/setting-up-national-european-and-international-projects>.

Conditions for application:

Each project will be written in English or in French, following the template document that can be downloaded from the Nuxeo platform: [2026 Action3 A4](#)

The project must include an acronym and be limited to a maximum of 5 pages in A4 format as a PDF file.

For visiting scientists, the applicant will have to provide a resume and a list of major publications over the last ten years.

The application will be submitted on the Nuxeo platform (tab "projets" under the name of the call for project): [2026 Action3 A4](#)

Each file must include:

- ☐ An acronym
- ☐ A title
- ☐ The first and last names of each project leader and partner
- ☐ The email address of each project leader and partner
- ☐ The postal address of the structure to which each project leader and partner belongs
- ☐ A scientific & technical summary of the project (max. 500 words)
- ☐ A public summary of the project (max. 500 words)
- ☐ A description of the project and its challenges
- ☐ A detailed summary of the needs and the related provisional budget
- ☐ The list of people involved in the project (name, first name, email, telephone)
- ☐ A detailed organization chart specifying the position of each project leader
- ☐ The signature of the unit director of each applicant

The application may include a link to a short video presentation of the project by the applicants (optional).

Project follow-up:

A scientific and financial report, as well as any related publication, must be communicated at the end of the funding year.