

PROJET ASDESR - UCACCELERATOR

Third call for applications “Doctoral expertise mission to support European projects in Research Units”

Context of the call

Funded by the French National Research Agency as part of the ASDESR Acceleration of Development Strategies for Higher Education and Research Institutions call for projects, the **'UCAccelerator - Development of Université Côte d'Azur's Own Resources'** project aims to support the increase in the number of site applications for calls for projects (AAP) within the Horizon Europe (HE) program, while offering effective and professional assistance to researchers and their Research Units.

In order to achieve this, the following four objectives have been defined:

- Objective 1: Monitoring, detection and positioning
- Objective 2: Information and awareness-raising
- Objective 3: Improving the quality of support services
- Objective 4: Greater recognition of commitment to Europe

The project, funded beginning in September 2023 for a duration of 6 years, is coordinated by Université Côte D'Azur in partnership with site partners (OCA, CNRS, INRIA, IRD, INRAE and INSERM) within the framework of the “[Cellule europe mutualisée](#)” (CEM).

Purpose of the call and description of the expertise mission

As part of Objective 3, the improvement of the quality of support services, the call for expressions of interest “Doctoral expertise mission to support European projects in Research

Units” will fund 12 doctoral expertise missions per year between 2024 and 2029, for a total of 36 funded expertise missions.

In addition to supporting the European dynamics of research units, this initiative will enable selected young researchers to acquire valuable skills, which will be certified by an open badge, in calls detection and project development, an invaluable asset in the advancement of their careers.

The expertise contract will be divided into two stages:

-Stage 1: Doctoral candidates will undergo 5 half-days (2.5 days in total) of Horizon Europe project-writing training in order to act as relays within their laboratories.

This training, which will take place in December 2025/January 2026, (part remotely, part face-to-face) is mandatory.

- Stage 2: The doctoral candidates will be responsible for supporting their research units/laboratories in the preparation and submission of Horizon Europe projects in collaboration with the dedicated European services.

Required skills and competencies

Candidates will be selected based on the submitted documents and the final interview:

- Affinity for project-oriented approaches
- Strong communication, facilitation and oral expression skills
- Organisational and coordination skills
- Capacity to engage various involved partners and create networks
- Ability to work in a team
- Excellent written and oral English proficiency
- Basic knowledge of European project calls (optional)

Assignment Location

The selected doctoral candidates will carry out their assignments within the laboratories/affiliated units and in compliance with the administrative management authorities.

Selection Committee

An ad hoc selection committee, formed by the Executive Bureau of the UCAccelerator project, will be responsible for evaluating eligible applications.

Eligible pre-selected candidates will be invited to participate in an interview (15 minutes) to determine the final selection of candidates.

Twelve (12) candidates will be selected as part of this third call for applications.

Application Requirements

Applicants must be **enrolled in a doctoral program** at Université Côte D'Azur, in any academic discipline, for the academic year 2025/2026. They must carry out their thesis within Université Côte D'Azur or one of its partner institutions (OCA, CNRS, INRIA, IRD, INRAE and INSERM). Applicants are eligible to apply whether or not they benefit from funding for their research.

Important: a letter of support signed by the thesis director, and also counter-signed by the research unit/laboratory director, is required.

The mission will be formalized via amendment to selected candidates' initial doctoral contracts or by a student contract for doctoral candidates without a previously-awarded contract.

Volume and duration of the assignment: up to 32 working days per year (with the possibility of renewal)

Remuneration: Up to €100 gross per day

This mission is open to people with disabilities.

How to Apply:

Application files including:

- **the candidate's detailed CV (maximum 2 pages),**
- **a letter of motivation and**
- **a letter of support signed by the thesis director, and counter-signed by the research unit/laboratory director (template attached)**

should be sent by email **before December 3rd, 2025 at 12pm** to: cellule-europe-mutualisee@univ-cotedazur.fr

Timeline

Call opening: November 12th, 2025

Deadline for the submission of applications: **December 3rd, 2025, at 12pm**

Meeting of the selection committee: December 3-5, 2025

Invitation to (remote) interviews for pre-selected candidates: December 3-5, 2025

Communication of final results: December 8th, 2025

Training : 16, 18 and 19 December 2025 or 12 – 16 January 2026 (to be confirmed)

Contact

For information and applications: cellule-europe-mutualisee@univ-cotedazur.fr