

Guide for applicants

Deadline of the call for applications : Friday, the 26th of February 2021

Selection procedure

Eligibility criteria of the applicants

1. Applicants must have a master's degree (or be in the process of obtaining one) or have a University degree equivalent to a European Master's (5-year duration) to be eligible at the time of the deadline of the call;
2. There is no nationality or age criteria, but applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the deadline of the call (MSCA Mobility rule), namely between the 27th of February 2018 to the 26th of February 2021 ;
3. Applicants must declare to be available to start the programme on schedule.

In order to comply with the eligibility criteria, the applicants will provide the following documents:

1. English translated transcripts from the master's degree (or equivalent 5-year degree). A copy of the master's degree or a certificate of achievement will be required later on for the

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training experiences: scientific & non-scientific courses, soft skills, work experiences.	10%
Criterion 3: Motivation and qualities	

- Professional project.
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repeated until the number of laureates indicated in the call confirm their participation in the program or the end of the ranked list is reached.

- This procedure allows to focus on the excellence of the candidates first, and on the adequation with the PhD project they apply to.

The “AI4theSciences” principles

“Artificial intelligence for the Sciences” has embraced the MSCA principles.

The project will aim to foster excellence in the training, mobility and career development of researchers. It will have a very high level of requirement in terms of transparency in the selection, recruitment and career management of the young doctorates. It will offer attractive working conditions and promote gender equity and inclusiveness in the pursuit of excellence. It will include public actions and aims to inform the public about the societal challenges of research.

AI4theSciences will promote the "3i" rule, with interdisciplinary, international, and intersectoral (linked to the non-academic sector) PhD projects. In addition, all the candi0 Td (he)Tj 0.06 (er)JTJ e 0 Td (he



Frequently Asked Questions

How many PhD grants will be awarded in the first year?

For September 2021, 15 PhD grants will be awarded, following 2 rounds of selection (first via a written application and then an interview) taking place from March to June 2021, and following the publication of the unique ranking list of candidates. It is therefore the excellence of candidates, an essential Horizon 2020-MSCA principle, that will make possible to select the 15 thesis projects out of those proposed. Out of the 24 projects open for application, 9 projects will not be funded but could be proposed during the second call for applications AI4theSciences, for the beginning of the academic year 2022.

Is it possible to apply for more than one thesis project in the AI4theSciences program?

No, PhD candidates can only apply to one PhD project, among those listed in the program. Any multiple applications from the same candidate means an automatic ineligibility and exclusion from the selection process.

Can I apply if I am not an AI or mass data processing specialist?

Absolutely. In your application, you are asked to highlight your ability to be trained in AI or mass data processing techniques, and to detail your motivations. PhD students will receive at the very beginning of the 2021 academic year a dedicated introductory tr 638379 5Tw 8.37 0 -6.6 (-)-2 (at)-6 <</MC1c 0

Maturity of the professional project: capacity to project themselves within five years in terms of career development (5%).

Full details are provided in the “Selection procedure of the "Guide for applicants".

How does the recruitment process work?

PhD candidates can apply from November 2020 to February 26, 2021. After submitting their application, a message acknowledging receipt of the application will be sent within two days by email. Before the launch of the pre-selection (round 1), all applications will be examined to verify their eligibility. Candidates will receive during the first week of March a confirmation of the eligibility of their application.

The pre-selection phase (round 1) will last 4 weeks, from March 15 to April 9, 2021, and will focus on the evaluation of the written applications submitted by applicants.

The selection phase (round 2) will also last 4 weeks, from June 1 to June 25, 2021, and will take the form of interviews, either physical or remote. All candidates who are interviewed will receive feedback on their file, based on the selection and evaluation criteria. Unsuccessful candidates will also be informed of their ranking on the waiting list. The final list of successful candidates will be published on the PSL website.

Full details are provided in the “Selection procedure of the "Guide for applicants".

Will there be trainings shared by all the PhD students of the AI4theSciences programme?

PhD students will be invited to participate in the everyday life of AI4theSciences and to receive shared trainings (especially in AI). They will also be delivered courses on career management and cross-disciplinary skills useful to the career of a researcher (communication, outreach, fundraising, etc.). Finally, PhD students will also participate in the outreach activities of the programme.

Are there any prerequisites related to age or nationality?

There is no age or nationality requirement for applicants. Nevertheless, the “MSCA-COFUND mobility rule” must be respected. Any candidate who has lived in France for less than 12 months in the three years following the closing date of the call for applications, i.e. between February 27, 2018 and February 26, 2021, is eligible.

To give a concrete example, an international student who has arrived in France for his Master 2 in September 2020, can apply to be an AI4TheSciences doctoral student for the beginning of the 2021 academic year. To give another example, a French person living in Germany for 3 years is eligible, while a German person living in France for a lifetime is not.

Researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary/partner organisation (or — in case of international European interest organisations — with this organisation) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the co-funded programme's call deadline or the date of recruitment unless otherwise specified in Annex 1 for existing programmes. Time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention 1, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not considered.

This rule resolutely reinforces the European dimension of AI4TheSciences.

Can I apply if I obtain my master's degree in September 2021?



To whom may I ask questions before applying ?

Any questions can be asked to the project team: [ai-for-the-](#)



Statement of the 'AI4theSciences' applicant

To whom it may concern,

I,

hereby certify that I apply for a PhD project of the AI4theSciences programme, after having taken into knowledge and accepted the following:

- Being available to participate to auditions (round 2) and to start the training programme in France, at the beginning of September 2021.
- Respecting the MSCA "mobility" rule and conflicts of interest principles.
- Being committed to Horizon 2020 principles and ethical expectations.

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Contact information

For any additional information and to submit final application, candidates are invited to write to the AI4theSciences team PSL: ai-for-the-sciences_team@psl.eu



The “Artificial intelligence for the Sciences” project is co-financed by the Horizon 2020-MSCA-COFUND programme (Grant Agreement Number: 945304)