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Communauté
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de Toulouse



TIRIS

Toulouse Initiative
for Research's Impact on Society

FAQ

In case you had concerns, here are some frequently asked questions and answers about AToUT Postdoctoral Program

1. WHAT IS THE ATOUT PROGRAMME?

AToUT (Health and Wellbeing, Global Changes, Sustainable Transitions) is a 24-month postdoctoral fellowship programme coordinated by the University of Toulouse and co-funded by the European Union under the MSCA COFUND scheme (Grant Agreement No. 101216810). It aims to foster international, interdisciplinary research and support early-career researchers through training, mentoring, and mobility.

2. HOW MANY FELLOWSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

A total of 15 fellowships will be awarded in this first call for applications.

3. WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

Applicants must:

- Hold a PhD (or equivalent) by the application deadline.
- Comply with the MSCA mobility rule: not have resided or carried out their main activity in France for more than 12 months in the 36 months prior to the deadline.
- Not hold a permanent position in the proposed host institution.
- Not receive EU funding for the same project.

4. WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED?

Fellows will receive a competitive salary, a mobility allowance, and full social security coverage. The exact amount will follow national standards and institutional practices.

5. CAN I CHOOSE MY HOST INSTITUTION?

Yes. Applicants must identify at least one eligible host research unit affiliated with AToUT. Tools for this include:

- [Lab Connect](#)
- [Guide to Research in Occitania](#)

6. DO I NEED A SUPERVISOR BEFORE APPLYING?

It is not mandatory, but strongly recommended. It will strengthen your application.

7. ARE SECONDMENTS ALLOWED?

Yes. International, intersectoral or inter-institutional secondments are optional and should be described in the research proposal.

8. DOES DOING MY PHD IN FRANCE MAKE ME INELIGIBLE?

No, doing your PhD in France is not a problem.

You are eligible as long as you haven't spent more than 12 months in France in the last 36 months before the call deadline.

9. I DEFENDED MY PHD BUT HAVEN'T GRADUATED YET. AM I ELIGIBLE?

Yes, as long as you can provide official proof of your successful PhD defence by the application deadline.

10. CAN I APPLY IF I ALREADY HAVE SEVERAL YEARS OF POSTDOC EXPERIENCE?

Yes, there is no maximum time since PhD. However, you must still meet the mobility and employment criteria.

11. I AM CURRENTLY LIVING IN FRANCE. CAN I APPLY?

You can apply if you haven't lived or worked in France for more than 12 months in the last 36 months before the deadline.

12. CAN I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROJECT?

No, only one application per person is allowed.

13. DO I NEED TO SPEAK FRENCH?

No, the working language of the programme and the application process is English. You can also have french as working language.

14. I HAVE FRENCH NATIONALITY . CAN I APPLY?

You can apply if you haven't lived or worked in France for more than 12 months in the last 36 months before the deadline.



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15. IF THE PROJECT'S LAB IS UNDER BABS BUT THERE ARE SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT COME ALSO UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF MST2I. DO WE NEED TO MENTION BOTH DISCIPLINES IN THE PROPOSAL OR JUST THE DISCIPLINE WHERE WE HAVE THE LAB.

If your project naturally relates to both BABS and MST2I, you may mention both disciplines in the proposal to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of your work.

However, for administrative purposes, you should identify the main discipline based on the lab where the project will be hosted.

16. HOW IS THE MONTHLY TRAINING AND RESEARCH BUDGET MANAGED?

The monthly training and research budget is flexible. Fellows are not required to spend the amount each month. The funds can accrue over time and be used later when needed—for example, to cover costs related to laboratory analyses, specialised courses, conferences, or other training and research activities.

17. IF THE PHD THESIS HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BUT THE DEFENCE IS SCHEDULED AFTER 28 FEBRUARY, IS THE CANDIDATE STILL ELIGIBLE?

No. To be eligible, candidates must have completed their PhD (including the defence) by the call deadline of 28 February. A submitted thesis without a completed viva does not meet the eligibility requirements.

18. DOES THE MENTOR NEED TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE SUPERVISOR, AND MUST THE MENTOR BE BASED AT A UNIVERSITY IN TOULOUSE?

The mentor and supervisor may be two different people, as indicated in the template. The mentor does not have to be from a university in Toulouse, although this is generally encouraged to support local integration. Candidates are free to select the mentor who best fits their professional development needs.

19. IS THE MONTHLY ALLOWANCE IN ADDITION TO THE SALARY OR PART OF THE SALARY?

The monthly allowance is included as part of the overall salary package, not added on top of it.

20. IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT OR A “YEARS SINCE PHD” RESTRICTION FOR ATOUT?

No. AToUT has no age limit and no cap on years since PhD. Applicants of any career stage are welcome to apply. Selection is merit-based.



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