

Guide for Applicants 2027

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program – AToUT

Health/Well-being, Global Changes, and Sustainable Transitions

University of Toulouse

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1. Introduction

AToUT – Health/Well-being, Global Changes, and Sustainable Transitions at the University of Toulouse is a **postdoctoral fellowship programme** coordinated by the **University of Toulouse** and co-funded by the European Union under **Horizon Europe / MSCA COFUND** (**Grant Agreement No. 101216810**), within the **TIRIS** initiative. Building on the strengths of Toulouse's research ecosystem—**140+ research units** spanning life sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, social sciences and humanities—AToUT supports excellent, cross-disciplinary projects that address three society-wide challenges: **Health & Wellbeing**, **Global Changes**, and **Sustainable Transitions**.

This first call will award **up to 15 postdoctoral positions**, each of **24 months**, starting **September 2026**. Fellows will carry out an **independent research project** hosted by an eligible unit in Toulouse, benefitting from **structured supervision**, a tailored **Career Development Plan**, and **advanced training** in both scientific and transferable skills. In line with MSCA practice, the programme promotes **interdisciplinarity**, **international openness**, and **ethical and open-science** standards.

AToUT's aim is to provide the conditions for ambitious, high-impact research while helping fellows accelerate their careers. By connecting projects to the University's clusters and facilities, the programme enables fellows to access world-class infrastructures, broaden their networks, and translate results into meaningful outcomes for science and society.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Academic Requirements

Candidates must hold a **PhD** at the time of **the deadline** (28 february 2026)

Applicants who have **defended** their PhD but have not yet received the **diploma** are eligible. A **B2 level (CEFR)** in **English or French** is required; language training will be provided if necessary.

Mobility Rules

Applicants must **not** have **resided or worked in France for more than 12 months** in the **36 months** preceding the application deadline. Short stays (e.g., holidays) and time spent as a refugee are not counted toward this period.

Non-discrimination and Diversity

There are no restrictions regarding nationality, gender, or background. The programme offers specific support for disabled applicants, refugees, and researchers with atypical career paths.

3. Fellowship Conditions

Financial Support

Each fellow will receive:

Category	Amount (€/month)
Living Allowance	5,200 €
Mobility Allowance	350 €
Family Allowance (if applicable)	350 €
Research, Training, and Mobility Costs	1,250 €

Fellows will be hired on a **full-time employment contract in France for 24 months**, with full **social security** coverage. The compensation follows the MSCA model with **competitive allowances, living** and **mobility** allowances, plus **family** allowances where applicable, with a **minimum gross salary of 3 393,58 €**.

Each fellow will develop a **Career Development Plan**, benefit from **mentoring**, and access **tailored training** in open science, research integrity/ethics, project management, communication & outreach, and innovation/entrepreneurship.

The programme also provides **access to state-of-the-art infrastructures** and a broad network of **academic, public, and private partners**.

4. Application Process, Required Documents

Applications are submitted exclusively via the **AToUT online platform** (link available from 3 November 2026 on the AToUT website). Incomplete or applications received after application deadline will not be considered.

Required documents :

- **Application form (to be filled online from 3 November 2026).**
- **CV and motivation letter.**
- **Research proposal (objectives, methodology, feasibility, impact)**
- **PhD certificate (by the deadline).**
- **Host & supervision information (unit, supervisor(s)).**
- **Ethics self-assessment**

Important: Applications will be checked for scientific integrity, fraud, and eligibility.

5. Selection Process

The selection process is **transparent, merit-based, and impartial**, guaranteeing **equal opportunities** for all applicants.

Step 1 – Eligibility check. All applications are first reviewed to verify compliance with the programme's eligibility criteria.

Step 2 – Scientific evaluation and shortlisting. Each eligible proposal is assessed independently by **two external peer reviewers** and **two members of the Scientific Committee (SC)**. Scoring follows MSCA-aligned weights: **Excellence (50%)**, **Impact (30%)**, and **Feasibility/Implementation (20%)**. Based on these results, a **shortlist of approximately 30 candidates** is established.

Step 3 – Interviews. Shortlisted applicants are invited to a **structured interview** conducted by the **Interview Committee (IC)**, consisting of a **10-minute presentation** followed by **15 minutes of Q&A**. Candidates are ranked on scientific excellence, innovation, and career potential.

Step 4 – Final selection and results. The programme publishes the **final selection list** and a **reserve list**. All candidates receive **detailed feedback** on their application, and **unsuccessful applicants may lodge an appeal on procedural grounds**.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

Step 2: Shortlisting Evaluation Criteria

Tables of Criteria and subcriteria for the selection of candidates during step #2 (shortlisting)

	Excellence 50%	
CV 25%	Quality/novelty/pertinence: -of previous works/research realisations -of research training, of formal education	 15% 10%
Project 25%	-Quality/novelty of the research project, -Clarity of hypotheses / objectives, -Positioning with the state of the art, -Methodology.	10% 5% 5% 5%
	Impact 30%	
CV 10%	-of past works (publications, patents, codes, open science, dissemination, outreach, etc)	10%
Project 20%	-Ability to address the call -On the researcher future career	10% 10%
	Implementation 20%	
CV 10%	-Intersectorial, geographical and thematical mobility: relevance/extent	10%
Project 10%	-Feasibility, -sustainability	5% 5%

Step 3: Interview Evaluation Criteria

Table 2. Criteria and subcriteria for the interviews of candidates in step #3

Criteria	Excellence 50 %		Impact 25 %		Implementation 25%	
Applicant profile 25%	- Inter-national/sectoral experience - Prior academic achievements	5% 5%	- of past works - potential of leadership	5% 5%	-Intersectorial, geographical and thematical mobility: relevance/extent	5%
Presentation /Answers concerning the project: 75%	-ability to argue on novelty, hypothesis/objectives/risks/ organisation -ability to sustain a scientific discussion on the same points	20% 20%	-on the candidate future career -on the host institution -on science, society, and economy	5% 5% 5%	Ability to demonstrate and discuss: -Feasibility and Sustainability -Relevance of the hosting team -Synergy with the local environment	10% 5% 5%

Tresholds for Step 2 and 3

0 > 0- ⩽ 20% - The application fails to address the criterion.

1 > 20- ⩽ 40% - Poor. The criteria are inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 > 40- ⩽ 60% - Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 > 60- ⩽ 70% - Good. The application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 > 70- ⩽ 80% Very good. The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 > 80 % Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

6. Training & Career Development

AToUT fellows will benefit from a structured support ecosystem. Each fellow is paired with experienced researchers and, where relevant, industry professionals through a dedicated mentoring programme. The programme offers regular scientific seminars—both thematic meetings and interdisciplinary workshops—and annual general meetings where fellows present their work and expand their networks with experts. Continuing education is provided throughout the fellowship, with courses on research ethics and scientific integrity, intellectual property and technology transfer, project management and leadership, open science and data management, and entrepreneurship and career development.

Fellows are expected to create a **Career Development Plan (CDP)** with their mentors, to sign a **supervision agreement** that sets out rights and duties, and to communicate and disseminate their results and discoveries to both the scientific community and the wider public.

7. Research Environment

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Fellows are expected to create a **Career Development Plan (CDP)** with their mentors and to **communicate and disseminate** their results and discoveries to both the scientific community and the wider public.



8. Open Science & Ethics

Fellows commit to the European Charter for Researchers and to responsible research and innovation practices. They prepare a **Data Management Plan** in the fellowship, follow relevant approvals and compliance procedures for research ethics (e.g., human/animal subjects, data protection, dual-use), ensure open-access dissemination of publications in line with Horizon Europe requirements, and follow institutional guidance for research data where sharing is possible and lawful. Outreach and communication activities observe MSCA visibility rules, including the required funding acknowledgement and use of logos.

9. Key Dates & Contacts

Key dates

- **Call opens:** 3 November 2026
- **Deadline:** 26 February 2027
- **Results:** July 2027
- **Start date:** since november 2027

Contact Information

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Linkedin : https://www.linkedin.com/company/atout-postdoctoral-fellowship-programme/home

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