**YUFE4Postdocs Frequently Asked Questions**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| I received my first doctoral degree more than 6 years ago. Can I still apply for YUFE4Postdocs? | Postdocs must have a maximum of 6 years of experience in research from the date of award of their (first) doctoral degree. This differs from the 8 years of research experience defined in the MSCA scheme and is a distinct feature of the Y4P program.  The limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons:   * Maternity Leave (18 months-i.e., 548 days per child born after the PhD award date, or the exact duration of maternity leave taken, whichever is longest). * Paternity Leave (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date). * Compulsory national service. * Time spent not working in research. * Long-term sick leave (periods greater than 30 days).   Applicants are invited to list possible extensions in the CV template and do not need to provide evidence at the point of submission. However, it may be requested at a later stage. |
| I have not completed my PhD or previous studies at one of the nine YUFE Universities. Am I eligible to apply? | Applicants from all institutions (and nationalities) can apply. It is open to those who have studied/worked in one of the YUFE universities and for those who have not. |
| Can I apply for a part-time position? | It is expected that postdocs will take on a full-time contract and work exclusively on the research training project. However, in agreement with the supervisor, host university and coordinating entity (University of Antwerp) and prior approval by the EC, a postdoc could implement their project on a part-time basis. This is to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In cases of part-time work, researchers must dedicate a minimum amount of their working time to the project. |
| I will not have defended my PhD by the application deadline. Can I still apply? | If the candidate cannot provide a PhD diploma certificate at the point of application, they can provide a statement on headed paper from their supervisor/academic institution confirming that the thesis has been submitted and will be defended by 31st August 2023. The cut-off date for the second call is 15th May 2024. Applicants must then send proof of a successful defence by the dates mentioned above, or their application will not be passed on to the selection committee. |
| I have found a supervisor, but they do not have a tenured status. Is it possible to list them in my application or do I need to find another supervisor? | Supervisors must be ‘tenured academic staff from the YUFE universities’. If the potential supervisor is not currently tenured but can provide evidence that they will receive a tenured status by 31st August 2023, they can supervise a postdoc. In this case the supervisor must indicate the expected date of their tenured status in the signed commitment letter. |
| In the application should I already indicate the non-academic mentor who is to be part of the supervising team? | The non-academic mentor will be identified after the appointment of the postdoc in consultation with the supervisor. You must not indicate a name or an organisation that is to delegate this non-academic mentor. |
| Can the stakeholders identified in the application be businesses? | Companies may be described as stakeholders and have an interest in the research conducted. However, you must not define a project that is tailor made for one specific company (or public entity party). We require your project to be more generically relevant for multiple companies or a business sector. |
| I previously received a Marie Curie grant/fellowship. Does this mean that I cannot apply for YUFE4Postdocs? | YUFE4Postdocs applications will be assessed independently and people who have completed previous Marie Curie fellowships can still apply. However, we are searching for junior postdocs as those will benefit most from the comprehensive Y4P training scheme. |
| What is the timeline for the second YUFE4Postdocs call? | The second call will open on 1st October 2023 and will close on 20th December 2023. Successful candidates will be appointed around 1st September 2024. |
| What is intra-YUFE mobility? | It is compulsory for all postdocs to undertake intra-YUFE mobility. The aim is to initiate or further develop research collaboration and this involves the postdoc spending time at the co-host university. The duration is a min. of one month and a max. of six months and stays can be short or longer, single or multiple. Travel can be supported by a travel allowance. During this intra-YUFE mobility postdocs maintain their employment in the host institution. |
| When will candidates for the first call be notified about the outcome? | During the week of 15th May 2023 applicants will be informed if their application was eligible or not. By the end of August, candidates will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the peer-review assessments. In mid-October candidates will be informed about the selection committee’s final decision. |
| Do candidates need to complete an interview as part of the selection procedure? | The host universities accept the outcome of the selection procedure and will start the appointment procedures without interviews. However, the University of Essex requires that candidates must complete an interview before a labour contract is offered. This additional step will not require a new application by candidates and will not impact on the timing of the appointments. |
| What is the process of assessing the applications? | The assessment procedure consists of a number of steps:   1. Initial eligibility check 2. Peer review conducted by external reviewers. 3. An interdisciplinary and intersectoral selection committee decides on the ranking list per focus area for each university.   Candidates receive an evaluation summary report. |
| Who will be part of the YUFE4postdocs selection committee? | A selection committee is established for each of the YUFE focus areas (two for the first call and two for the second call). Each committee consists of eight academic members and three societal members. The societal members will issue advice from a non-academic perspective, e.g., the contribution of the research project to societal and/or economic impact. |