CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE

2022

Call for applications

Guide for applicants

Deadline for applications: October 31st 2022

https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/chair-excellence-2022-call-individual-applications

July 2022

1. Who can apply ?

Researchers, teachers and professors wishing to join Aix-Marseille Université's research and teaching site. The program is opened to all fields and disciplines. Applicants *must* meet the following criteria (incomplete applications and those that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated):

- PhD diploma
- PhD or last degree should not be from Aix-Marseille Université's research and teaching site
- Minimum 4 years of research/teaching experience after obtaining the PhD
- External applicants only (i.e. no internal recruitment to the Aix-Marseille site for a Chair of Excellence) with the exception of applicant for the "disability" position

For candidates for an "ERC" Chair of Excellence, only candidates with ERC grant will be eligible. The ERC Grant should not have started more than 36 months before the application date.

For the "Disability" Chair of excellence only candidates with disability can be considered for this type of chair.

Academic staff cannot be older than 67 years old, if you were born before 1960 we will not be able to hire you for the project.

2. Call for application deadline

Applications should be submitted before **October 31, 2022.**

For the "ERC" Chairs of Excellence, applications may be submitted **at any time**.

3. How to apply?

Identify possible collaborations

Applicants are encouraged to identify and contact research units or structures with which they wish to collaborate before sending their application (see information about the Aix-Marseille research and teaching site below).

Prepare you research, teaching and integration project

The research, teaching and integration plan must briefly present your most important work and achievements and propose a research and teaching plan as well as a description of the integration of your project within the research units, faculties, infrastructures, etc. of Aix-Marseille.

Maximum 4 pages (excluding references), in English.

For ERC laureates, the plan should indicate the laureate plans on transferring and using the ERC grant.

Update your online profiles to provide us with:

- Updated online ORCID profile including employment, fundings, works … (mandatory)
- Publication list (mandatory) : GoogleScholarID (strongly recommended) and/or PublonsResearcheID (recommended), or ScopusID (recommended)

Submit your application online, answer a few questions and send your documents

Where ? ➡ https://formulaires.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/application-chair-of-excellence-2022-amidex

Questions and information you will be asked to provide:

- Links to online profiles (ORCID and GoogleScholar, Publons, Scopus)
- Identification: last name, first name, gender, nationality, year of birth
- Current status: current position, country, employer
- Previous applications to researcher positions in France
- Date of phd
- Main field
- Identified Aix-Marseille structure (research unit, faculty etc.)
- ERC laureate status (to apply to the position reserved for ERC laureates)
- Disabled status (to apply to the position reserved for disabled person)

Documents:

- Research teaching and integration plan (mandatory)
- Letter(s) of support from one or more structures on the Aix-Marseille site (research unit, research and teaching institutes, faculties, etc.) (optional but strongly recommended)
- Letter(s) of recommendation, or other supporting documents (optional).
- For applicant to the "Handicap" chair, if you have (optional): a worker's certificate (RQTH for France) or another administrative certificate; (confirmation of compatibility of status will be assessed later during the selection process). *Do not share personal or medical information.*
- For ERC laureates only, you will be asked later in the selection process: the ERC project evaluation, the ERC project proposal and the grant agreement.

3. Excellence Chair program and objectives in short

Objectives: to attract and retain exceptional scientific and teaching talent on the Aix-Marseille research and teaching site:

- Conduct strategic recruitment of scientific/educational profiles, external profiles capable of leading innovative projects (research, pedagogy), of developing new scientific themes, or of reinforcing the excellence of the site in an existing theme;

- To recruit excellent/high-level researchers/teaching researchers on the Aix-Marseille site, capable of obtaining an ERC grant on the Aix-Marseille site within the next 5 years;
- Attract and recruit ERC laureates to the site (specific Chair of excellence for ERC laureates);
- Amplify the long-term impact by encouraging subsequent stabilization (permanent positions);
- Promote the academic career of excellent teachers, researchers and professors with disabilities (specific for Chair of Excellence for persons with disabilities).

Program in short

- A*Midex can cover the salary of the chairholder as well as a support package of up to €200 000 per year for 3 years
- Profile of the chairholder: researcher/teacher-researcher (team leader profile) or equivalent; external to the site (notably international);
- The call is open from July to October 31, 2022 (ongoing for ERC laureates);
- Recruitment and start of the Chair of Excellence projects expected between October 2023 and March 2024 (to be determined);
- Annual call: 3 laureates selected per year, including 1 position reserved for a person with disability and 1 position reserved for an ERC laureate.

4.The excellence chair offers:

Working environment

A*Midex Foundation Excellence Chair offers project funding (project team (post-doctoral, PhD students, engineers…), operating expenses related to research, missions, equipment, in accordance with eligible IdEX expenses[1]) up to 200 000€/year for 3 years

Salary and employment

- Salary determined according to experience and profile
- 3 years researcher/teacher-researcher contract (under CDD-LRU status: fixed-term contract for researchers or teachers[2]) with the possibility of 2 years possible renewal (on conditions and evaluation)
- Support for obtaining a permanent position

Aix-Marseille Université is an Euraxess centre[3] that helps researchers prepare for a successful stay in France and provides information on housing, banking, visas, health insurance, work and family benefits in France.

[1] Selected chair holder will have to prepare (after selection) a detailed budget according to the A*Midex rules
[2] https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article_lc/LEGIARTI000006525655/
[3] https://euraxess.univ-amu.fr/en/welcome-aix-marseille-university

5.Selection criteria and process

A competitive multi-stage selection process, consistent with French employment laws and with A*Midex requirements for excellence, will be observed. The selection process will last at least 12 months and include two hearings for successful candidates. Candidates will be informed at each stage of the process.

5.1. Selection process – indicative timetable

Applications screening: only applications which meet the eligibility criteria will be retained for evaluation;

Pre-selection for application: initial selection on the basis of CVs and research, teaching and integration projects by an ad hoc multidisciplinary committee including members from AMU and its partners (CNRS, IRD, INSERM, AP-HM, ECM, CEA, SciencesPo Aix). The suitability of the application to the research and teaching strategy of Aix-Marseille will be evaluated during this pre- selection.

Short-listed evaluations and hearings: the ad hoc committee including independent external and international experts will **hear the short-listed candidates**. The experts will be selected according to the adequacy and relevance of their scientific expertise and their disciplinary fields in relation to the main disciplines of the submitted projects, as well as their scientific recognition and reputation (identified differently according to the disciplinary field, for example: h-index, jury members, awards, number of Wos citations, editorial responsibilities…)

A*Midex selection: The A*Midex steering committee will select candidates based on the results of the hearings, the proposed research plan and the adequacy of the project with the priorities of the Aix-Marseille site.

Recruitment process: the candidate will have to formally apply to an open position in his/her discipline published by the university. The recruitment process includes a second audition.

Full project proposal: the successful candidate will submit a full project proposal and detailed project budget which will be evaluated and validated by the A*Midex steering committee.

Chair of excellence starts from November 2023 – March 2024 (to be determined during selection process)

5.2. Evaluation criteria (indicatives)

Scientific and pedagogical excellence

- Quality and innovative aspect of the scientific project and quality of the scientific and/or pedagogical approach
- Scientific production (bibliometric, quality criteria) evaluated according to the discipline
- International recognition, or even world leadership in his/her field
- Post-doctoral experience (4 years minimum)
- Prestige of the institutions attended
- Ability to obtain funding (funding obtained, potential to obtain an ERC grant, motivation to fund research)
- Supervisory capacity (experience as a team leader)
- International background: experience outside France (research and/or teaching) (the evaluation of this criterion will consider the profile and gender of the candidate)
- For researcher or teacher/researcher profiles: recent A rating or good ERC ranking preferred, eligibility for those who have applied to a researcher position in France (CNRS, INSERM)
- For teacher or teacher/researcher profiles: teaching experience and quality of pedagogical proposals

Relevance of the integration project

- Integration into the Aix-Marseille ecosystem (Aix-Marseille Université institutes, faculties, research units, technological platforms, etc.)
- Fluency in French appreciated

The selection criteria will be evaluated by experts trained on gender-based bias in selection according to Aix-Marseille Université gender equality and anti-discrimination policy.

6. About Aix-Marseille Université and A*Midex university foundation

Aix-Marseille Université (AMU) is the largest multidisciplinary French-speaking university. AMU welcomes 80,000 students and nearly 8,000 staff on 5 large campuses that meet international standards. AMU is an research-intensive university that has forged partnerships around the world, and affirmed its territorial anchorage and integration and which ranks among the very first French universities in the Shanghai ranking.

AMU and its partners (CNRS, CEA, INSERM, Ecole Centrale, Sciences-po Aix, AP-HM) have obtained the national label Initiative of Excellence within the framework of the national PROGRAMME INVESTMENTS D'AVENIR. The objective of **A*Midex university foundation** is to enhance and develop the exceptional potential of the Aix-Marseille site, by providing it with world-class research and higher education. A*Midex experiments with new actions and functions as a strategic growth lever for the territory.

The university has been awarded with the European **HRS4R label for human resources excellence in research** and implements the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct:

- Improve individual research conditions;
- Strengthen respect for ethical principles and professional responsibilities;
- Ensure greater transparency in recruitment, career development and mobility;
- Reaffirm a commitment to working and safety conditions and the professional environment;
- Reaffirm a training policy.

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Gender Equality is a priority for Aix-Marseille Université (AMU). The fight against inequalities between women and men in the academic field is implemented through a gender equality policy based on scientific research on gender bias and their influences. Aix-Marseille Université has implemented numerous actions to raise awareness of discrimination such as actions to make evaluators ware of the existence of gender bias and their influences in recruitment decisions. Selection committee in Aix-Marseille Université must have balanced representation and Aix-Marseille Université Facilitate career re-entry after parent-related leave.

7.Information about the Aix-Marseille research and teaching site

A*MIDEX Partners

- **Aix-Marseille Université (coordinator)** https://www.univ-amu.fr/en
- **CNRS - Centre national de la recherche scientifique - French National Centre for Scientific Research** : https://www.cnrs.fr/en , regional delegation https://www.provence-corse.cnrs.fr/fr
- **Inserm - Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale** ; national : https://www.inserm.fr/en; regional : http://www.paca.inserm.fr/
- **IRD Institut de recherche pour le développement – French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development** https://en.ird.fr/ IRD regional delegation South-East https://sud-est.ird.fr/
- **CEA Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives - French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission** https://www.cea.fr/english; https://cadarache.cea.fr/cad
- **AP-HM - Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Marseille Marseille Public University Hospital System** - http://fr.ap-hm.fr/presentation-ap-hm-anglais
- **Sciences-Po Aix** https://www.sciencespo-aix.fr/
- **Centrale Marseille** https://www.centrale-marseille.fr/

Aix-Marseille Université institutes

The Aix-Marseille Université institutes are the result of an interdisciplinary approach that relies on the university's research units and faculties, as well as on its socio-economic partners, to strengthen its international outreach.

https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/amu-institutes

Technology platforms and infrastructures

The technological platforms are state-of-the-art infrastructures backed by a laboratory or a research federation in Aix Marseille with high-level scientific and technological skills. They are open to a community of public and private users.

http://plateformesam.mmsh.univ-aix.fr/

Research Units

Aix-Marseille Université has 113 research units spread across the 5 major teaching and research sectors of Aix-Marseille Université : Arts, languages and humanities, Law and political science, Economics and management, Health, and Science and technology.

https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/research-units

Faculties, schools

Aix-Marseille faculties and schools: https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/components-faculties-schools-institutes

8.Contacts and information

Questions about the application process:

Solène Tyrlik, project officer for Attractiveness and Internationalization - A*Midex Foundation
Solene.tyrlik@univ-amu.fr

Practical information and contact about living in France

Euraxess https://euraxess.univ-amu.fr/en/welcome-aix-marseille-university

Useful links

A*Midex university foundation: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/initiative-dexcellence

A*Midex current calls: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/appels-projets-en-cours-amidex

Previous Chair of excellence calls: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/attractivite-talents

Previous Chair of excellence laureates: https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/laureates-attractiveness-talents

Aix-Marseille Université Gender Equality & Anti-discrimination: https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/gender-equality-anti-discrimination

HRS4R at Aix-Marseille Université : https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/public/hrs4r-amu-approach

How to update and optimize your ORCID profile : https://info.orcid.org/researchers/#optimize