

Call for applications : POSTDOCTORAL CONTRACT

Positions reserved for people with disabilities

2026

Application framework

Deadline for expressions of interest:

31 December 2026 inclusive

Publication address:

<https://www.univ-amu.fr/en/appel-projets-post-doc-handicap>

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1. Background

1.1. Presentation of the Amidex Initiative of Excellence

Amidex is the university foundation that leads the Initiative of Excellence (IdEx) for the Aix-Marseille site. Having been selected in 2012 following the 'Integration and Development of IdEx' call for proposals launched by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the initiative was secured for the long term in 2016 with a grant of €750 million.

The foundation now brings together a consortium of nine institutions from the Aix-Marseille region, coordinated by Aix-Marseille University: the CNRS, the IRD, École Centrale Méditerranée, Sciences Po Aix, the AP-HM, the Paoli-Calmettes Institute, the CEA and INSERM.

Its aim is **to support the development of a world-class higher education and research hub, capable of making its mark on the international stage whilst meeting the needs of the local region. To achieve this, Amidex funds, supports and accelerates transformative projects addressing the scientific and societal challenges of today and tomorrow.**

Since its creation, Amidex has facilitated investment of 25 million euros per year to foster the emergence of more than 500 training, research and innovation projects through calls for proposals and co-funding, in close collaboration with the university's central services. These projects are led by research teams and academic staff, sometimes in collaboration with public and private partners.

1.2. Overview of the strategic priority addressed by the call for applications

Supporting people with disabilities¹

Higher education and research is, by its very nature, an open, universal space that upholds equal rights and opportunities. Its mission is to promote the integration and success of every student, as well as that of its staff. Amidex therefore continues to support the institution's policy by promoting access for people with disabilities to academic careers, in particular through more targeted support for PhD students (in line with national policies), postdoctoral researchers and also for roles as researchers and/or lecturer-researchers.

1.3. Joint development of the call for applications

To fulfil these objectives, this call for applications was developed through consultation between the Amidex Foundation', the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Health and Disability, the Vice-Chancellor for Research, the partners of the Amidex consortium (CNRS, Inserm, CEA, IRD, Centrale Marseille, Sciences Po Aix, Assistance-Publique Hôpitaux de Marseille, and in collaboration with the relevant university departments (notably the Human Resources Department).

¹ [Strategic Roadmap 4.1](#)

1.4. Background to the call for proposals

The previous call for applications for *Postdoctoral Contracts for People with Disabilities* in 2023 had a similar objective.

2. Overview and objectives of the call for applications

2.1. Objectives of the call for applications

- To promote the academic careers of outstanding scientists with disabilities;
- To attract and retain scientific talent at the Aix-Marseille research and teaching hub;
- To amplify the long-term impact by encouraging subsequent career stability (permanent posts);
- To position Aix-Marseille University on the national stage as an inclusive institution, committed to disability issues and supportive of research careers for people with disabilities
- To increase the number of lecturers, lecturer-researchers, researchers and scientists (IGE/IGR) with disabilities at the Aix-Marseille site

To this end, Amidex will select up to five successful candidates for this call. Support will be provided to facilitate the securing of a permanent post. Relocation support for successful candidates based off-site will also be offered via Euraxess:².

2.2. Budget

Amidex will cover the successful candidates' salaries for up to 36 months, as well as providing a research budget of up to €15,000 for the same period subject to the programme's maximum budget of €900,000.

The final salary offered will be determined in accordance with the current AMU pay scale (up to approximately €37,000 gross per annum).

Teaching duties may form part of the role.

The research budget is earmarked solely for scientific activities and may be combined with 'individualised support' expenditure (see 2.4.2).

2.3. Eligible candidates

Researchers wishing to join or remain at the Aix-Marseille University research and teaching site. Candidates must meet the following criteria (incomplete applications and those that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be assessed):

- The programme is open to applicants of all nationalities;

² Aix-Marseille University is a **Euraxess centre** which helps researchers prepare for a successful stay in France and provides information on accommodation, banks, visas, health insurance, employment and family benefits in France.

- Holders of a PhD awarded no more than three years prior to the start of the postdoctoral contract;
- Proven disability status (see 3.1 eligibility criteria);
- The principle of external recruitment set out in the Amidex HR Vademecum does not apply to this call. A PhD student at amU is therefore eligible to apply.

2.4. Types of projects supported

The programme is open to all fields and disciplines. However, applicants must identify and secure the support of a research unit or organisation³ with which they wish to collaborate before submitting their application.

2.4.1 Timetable and duration of contracts

Contracts have a maximum duration of 3 years.

For applicants who have already been awarded a postdoctoral contract at amU, the duration of the contract applied for will be reviewed and may be adjusted for administrative reasons.

2.4.2 Eligible expenditure

Project budgets will be verified by Amidex during the selection process. For successful projects, in the event of ineligible expenditure or expenditure that does not comply with the terms of reference and/or the institution's regulations, the budget will be adjusted when the project implementation agreement is drawn up.

The budget should be quoted exclusive of VAT.

2.4.2.1 Project

The budget must be structured into two main categories: Operating Costs and Capital Expenditure. **No payroll costs will be accepted.** These provisions apply in conjunction with the Amidex Financial Regulations, available online to AMU staff (<https://procedures.univ-amu.fr/amidex>) or via email for non-AMU staff.

IT equipment may only be eligible if it is specific to scientific or educational purposes and is directly related to the implementation of the project – for projects that can demonstrate a specific need for such equipment due to the nature of the scientific and educational activities carried out. Office equipment is not covered by Amidex's funding but falls within the remit of the research units hosting the grant recipients. A justification will be required for the funding of IT equipment from project funds.

2.4.2.2 Individualised support

Individualised support may be provided, in particular regarding:

³ [Research organisations within amU](#)

- Adapting the workstation to accommodate a disability;
- Adapted transport for professional activities, limited to travel related to research, in particular for attending international conferences; this excludes journeys between home and work, and is subject to the provision of supporting documentation.

Applications must be submitted to the Disability Unit of the Human Resources Department (DRH), accompanied by the following supporting documents:

- A medical recommendation from the doctor at the Student Health Service (SSE) or the University Preventive Medicine Service for Staff (SUMPP);
- Quotations submitted for a request for prior approval.

Other expenses are not eligible. These include :

- The PhD student's personal equipment;
- Commuting between home and work;
- Support at the workplace provided by a specialist service;
- Modifications to a personal vehicle;
- Building accessibility (to be covered by amU or the employing institution).

3. Application selection process

The selection process described below reflects the Amidex Foundation's firm commitment to ensuring that the projects it supports combine scientific and educational excellence, operational quality and strong potential for impact.

3.1. Eligibility assessment

The eligibility of each application will be verified by the Amidex Foundation upon receipt of the complete application pack. Applications that do not meet these criteria will be declared ineligible and will therefore neither be assessed nor presented to the Amidex steering committee.

List of eligibility criteria for the call for applications:

- Applicant profile:
 - A researcher who obtained a PhD less than three years prior to the projected start date of the contract;
 - A PhD student currently undertaking a PhD. Acceptance of the application for this call will be conditional upon the PhD being awarded before the date on which the project agreement is signed and the post-doctoral contract commences.
- Proven disability:
 - For French candidates, a valid proof of disability must be provided. Certificates confirming that an application has been submitted to the MDPH will not be accepted;

- For international applicants, a valid proof of disability issued in their country of origin must be provided.
 - Successful candidates must submit a medical report translated into French via a secure, encrypted channel. Recognition of the disability in France is a condition of the candidate's final appointment.
- Completeness of the application :
 - Application form completed using the appropriate template;
 - Budget appendix;
 - The applicant's CV;
 - Letter of commitment from the management of the unit hosting the project, confirming (1) the unit's capacity to undertake the administrative management of the project, (2) specifying how this application fits within the research unit's strategy, (3) its commitment to supporting the successful candidate in settling in and setting up their project, taking into account any disability-related adjustments, and (4) setting out the plan for retaining the candidate in post;
 - Diplomas.

3.2. Administrative review

The following administrative elements will be analysed by the Amidex Foundation for each eligible application. This analysis will be provided to the Steering Committee.

- Contract start dates between June 2027 and December 2027;
- Project duration of between 1 and 3 years;
- Compliance of the project with the terms of reference;
- Compliance of the budget with the eligible expenditure set out in the terms of reference (see 2.4.2);
- Compliance of expenditure with the Amidex Financial Regulations;
- Administrative and financial capacity of the research unit or component;

3.3. Scientific/educational evaluation

Each application will be subject to independent evaluations, with the primary aim of ensuring high-quality scientific expertise. An initial selection based on CVs and project proposals will be carried out by a multidisciplinary committee, with each evaluator selected for their level of scientific qualification, their relevance to the project under assessment and the specific requirements of the call for proposals.

Project evaluation grid:

1) Scientific excellence, marked out of 5 (Weighting: 4)

- *Scientific quality and innovative nature*: Originality of the project, rigorous methodology and potential impact within the field.
- *Scientific independence*: A project distinct from the PhD thesis, involving collaborations or independent leadership (supervision, organisation of events).
- *Academic background and output*: Assessment tailored to the discipline, taking into account any adjustments required due to disability.

2) Relevance of the integration project, marked out of 5 (Weighting 3)

- *Integration at Aix-Marseille*: Integration at Aix-Marseille: Links to AMU's local laboratories, platforms or networks.
- *Consistency of prospects*: Alignment of the project with AMU's strategic priorities and the candidate's career objectives.
- *Proficiency in French*: Ability to work and communicate in French, though this is not a deal-breaker.

3) Project implementation arrangements, marked out of 5 (Weighting: 3)

- *Technical and logistical feasibility*: Alignment between resources (budget, equipment, facilities) and the project's requirements.
- *Planning and timetable*: Realistic timetable, with clear milestones and a balanced distribution of tasks.
- *Alignment with local resources*: Optimal use of existing infrastructure and partnerships at AMU to minimise costs.
- *Consideration of specific needs*: Explicit integration of the necessary disability-related adaptations (equipment, organisation, budget).

Marking scale:

Each evaluation criterion is scored out of 5 according to the following scale:

Mark	Meaning of the marks
0	Criterion not addressed or cannot be assessed based on the information provided
1	Inadequate: criterion addressed in a superficial and unsatisfactory manner
2	Poor: criterion addressed in a relatively satisfactory manner but there are weaknesses
3	Good: criterion well addressed, but improvements are needed
4	Very good: criterion very well addressed, though some improvements are still possible
5	Excellent: criterion perfectly addressed; any shortcomings are minor

General recommendation:

In addition to the score, the experts assign the project a letter grade (A, B or C) which reflects their overall recommendation as to whether or not it should be funded:

Recommendation scale:

- A: project to be prioritised
- B: good project but with reservations; *projects rated B have a low probability of being selected*
- C: inadequate project; projects requiring further work

The recommendation plays a central role in the assessment system, as it is used for the initial selection (prior to the numerical score) and for invitations to the auditions.

Each project undergoes a double assessment; only AA projects, or exceptionally AB projects, will be invited to the auditions in order to ensure the excellence of the winning projects.

3.4. Auditions

A specific committee for each shortlisted application will interview the shortlisted candidates. Candidates will be ranked according to the results of the interviews and the shortlisting process.

3.5. Approval of winning projects by the Amidex Steering Committee

The Amidex Steering Committee will approve the successful applicants for the Call for Applications based on the assessments provided by the experts, whilst taking into account the administrative analyses supplied by the foundation.

4. Indicative timetable

26 October 2026: Call for Applications opens

29 November 2026: Deadline for expressions of interest (Stage 1)

31 December 2026: Deadline for submission of project proposals (Stage 2)

January–February 2027: Project selection (eligibility and administrative checks, scientific evaluation, interviews)

March 2027: Approval by the Amidex Steering Committee (provisional date)

April 2027: Announcement of results (provisional date)

June 2027: Projects to commence, subject to prior agreement (provisional date)

5. Application procedures and contact details

5.1. How to submit applications

The AAC application pack can be downloaded from <https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/appel-projets-post-doc-handicap-2026>. Applications must be submitted online in two stages.

- **STEP 1: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Online form: <https://columbo.univ-amu.fr/index.php/323875?lang=en>

The declaration of intent is a **MANDATORY** stage in the process. **You will be asked to provide key details and a very brief statement of intent for the project.** However, this stage does not form part of the selection process.

To confirm your expression of interest, you must click on 'SUBMIT'.

- **STEP 2: FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Online form: <https://columbo.univ-amu.fr/index.php/921561?lang=en>

At this stage, applicants must provide a complete application package setting out their project (activities and budget). It is this application package that will be analysed and assessed. The assessment will be carried out by two external experts.

From the start date of Stage 2, applicants who have submitted an initial expression of interest are then invited to submit their full application by the end of Stage 2 at the latest, by completing the online form and uploading, **as a single PDF file**, the completed application form, the project budget and the annexes. Please note: certain annexes are mandatory.

To submit the application, you must click on the 'SUBMIT' button at the bottom right of the submission form.

5.2. Points of contact

Applicants are invited to contact laboratory management, administrative managers and/or EPST representatives as soon as the project is being set up.

Until the call for applications closes, applicants may contact the following individuals:

- For any questions regarding the call for applications' terms of reference:
Jean-Baptiste Fargettas, Project Officer for Attractiveness and International Affairs
Amidex Foundation
Jean-baptiste.fargettas@univ-amu.fr

6. Conditions for the implementation of successful projects

6.1. Key roles in successful projects

The project's scientific and technical lead must ensure that their research unit or department has the capacity to oversee and manage the administrative aspects of the project. The following roles and responsibilities must be defined:

- **Scientific and Technical Lead (STL), the successful applicant:** each project must be led by a researcher or tenured lecturer-researcher based at the Aix-Marseille site, who will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring its implementation;
- **Authorising Officer:** a natural person will bear legal responsibility for the use of the project funding. This will be the director of the research unit or department to which the project's Scientific and Technical Manager is attached;
- **Financial manager:** an administrative manager within the research unit or department to which the scientific and technical lead is attached will be responsible for financial and/or administrative operations (recruitment, etc.);
- **Administrative contact:** it is strongly recommended that a person be appointed to support the scientific and technical lead with the administrative management of the project (recruitment, agreements, etc.). Within the research unit or department to which the scientific and technical lead is attached, this person could, for example, be the administrative manager, the management controller or the financial assistant.

6.2. Key stages in the implementation of the winning projects

Successful applicants will receive funding from the Amidex Foundation in the form of a grant. A grant agreement must be signed before any funding is released. This agreement will be signed by the project's scientific and technical lead, the project authorising officer (director of the research unit), and the Chair of the Excellence Initiative (or their delegate from the Amidex Foundation's management).

Furthermore, the research unit manager designated to oversee the project's financial management must be authorised to do so.

A kick-off meeting for the successful projects will be organised following approval by the Steering Committee and will provide all the necessary information regarding the implementation of the projects (agreements, financial statements, financial and HR procedures, etc.).

For further information on the financial and HR implementation arrangements for the projects, please refer to the documents listed in Chapter 7.

The scientific and technical leads and their administrative support team will be bound by commitments to the Amidex Foundation, as set out in the grant agreement, particularly regarding annual project reports, expenditure statements, compliance with the Aix-Marseille University publication charter, acknowledgement of Amidex in acknowledgements and communication materials, etc.

The submitted project proposal must include a strategy for assessing the project's impact in relation to the objectives of the call for proposals. Indicators must be provided when submitting the annual project reports.

As part of the Aix-Marseille campus's Open Science strategy, the Amidex Foundation is committed to the structuring and open access of research data. In this context, successful projects involving research activities will be required to draw up a Data Management Plan (DMP) within six months of the project's commencement. The ANR defines a DMP as a document that "describes how data are produced, documented, (re)used, managed and shared during and after the project. It is a tool to facilitate reflection on research data with a view to making them FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)."

7. Useful documents and links

- General information on Amidex: <https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/fondation-universitaire-amidex>
- Amidex procedures⁴ (Financial Regulations, Finance, HR and Training Handbook): <https://procedures.univ-amu.fr/amidex> (or via email for staff outside AMU)
- Current Amidex calls for proposals: <https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/appels-projets-amidex-cours-venir-0>