Applicant guide

Post-doctoral fellowship programme 2013
Context

The University of Bordeaux is opening positions for two-year post-doctoral fellowships. These opportunities are provided within the framework of IdEx Bordeaux, the excellence initiative of the University of Bordeaux financed by the French government.

High profile international candidates of any scientific field willing to achieve a further step of their career in the outstanding research environment of the University of Bordeaux are welcome to apply. Candidates promoting an original and innovative research project in one of the scientific priorities of IdEx Bordeaux will be considered with a particular attention. This includes the following domains: Materials sciences, Neurosciences, Environment and Ecosystem, Numerical certification and reliability, Archeology, Lasers and Photonics, Global health, Translational Imaging, Cardiology.

This programme is expected to:
- attract high-profile candidates who will bring an innovative insight into a mature research topic, which fits into the site’s scientific priorities;
- strengthen the international network of the University of Bordeaux, providing young promising researchers quality professional development conditions.

The University of Bordeaux is leading the IdEx Bordeaux programme, an initiative gathering major actors of research and higher education implanted in the Bordeaux area. This project aims to develop a “Campus of Excellence” associated with an enhanced international exposure and visibility. It focuses on the development of scientific priorities in the Clusters of Excellence, which deal with the following fields: material sciences, neurosciences, environment and ecosystem, numerical certification and reliability, archaeology, lasers and photonics, global health, translational imaging and cardiology. The University of Bordeaux is thus piloting a number of programmes, or actions, focusing on specific development objectives such as, excellence in research, attracting and nurturing talents, strengthening the international dimension of the University of Bordeaux, etc.

Eligibility criteria

The applicants must fulfill the following criteria in order to submit an application to the programme. Intended applicants are promising postdoctoral fellows willing to achieve a further step of their career at the University of Bordeaux within an incoming mobility scheme. The applicants must promote their own research project for a maximum period of two years, and demonstrate its expertise with the scientific environment of the University of Bordeaux and its originality with regards to the international state of the art in the relevant domain.
They should be doctorate holder (not later awarded than two months after the application deadline) with publication record (at least one original accepted first author publication in press or published in a peer-reviewed journal).

Two profiles are targeted:

- fellows whose doctorate / Ph.D was awarded by a university located outside France;
- fellows whose doctorate / Ph.D was awarded by a French University, having carried out a research project for at least 2 years in a foreign country.

Applicants will have to get the agreement of a local scientist (called a “mentor”) sponsoring their application to this fellowship programme.

**Funding**

The funding includes a maximum two-year post-doctoral contract (salary) and operating funds (for travels, consumables...). Recruited candidates will be eligible to apply to other IdEx programmes/fundings in order to perform their scientific project.

**Application**

In order to submit your application, please follow these steps:

1) Identify the proper local scientific environment for your project
   As a starting point, applicants must identify the proper local scientific environment in which they can develop their research project, then get the agreement of a local scientist within this environment to act as a “mentor” for their application. Any local scientist is entitled to act as a mentor, and all the scientific areas developed in Bordeaux are opened for application. Nevertheless, candidates promoting an original and innovative research project in one of the scientific priorities of IdEx Bordeaux will be considered with a particular attention.
   Applicants looking for details on the local scientific environment are invited to consult the information about laboratories and persons to contact (points of contact available on the web page) for a first orientation.

2) Get the agreement of a “mentor”.
   Once the relevance of the project is settled, applicants will have to get the agreement of a “mentor” for their application to this fellowship programme. Any local scientist can be a mentor (amongst identified points of contact, or others local scientists). The role of the mentor is to accompany the recruited fellow in his/her integration into the local scientific environment, notably when available resources, partnerships and instrumentation or professional network building are concerned.

3) Fill in the online application form.

4) Attach the following documents in PDF format
   - the proposal project (see the “application forms” section) in order to present your project
(including the agreement of your mentor);

- a CV including a list of your publications and the lectures you delivered during symposiums;
- a letter of motivation;
- signed letters from the referees mentioned in your CV;
- a copy of your PhD certificate;
- a report on ethical issues.

Submit your application online.

The application deadline is 25th June 2013.

### Evaluation process

The selection procedure comprises the four steps hereunder described:

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<th>Steps of the selection procedure</th>
<th>Frame for the evaluation</th>
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<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Criteria</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Checked by the Idex Bordeaux central management unit</td>
<td>Incoming mobility conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Delay:</strong> two weeks after the deadline for application</td>
<td>• fellows whose doctorate was awarded by a university located outside France;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• fellows whose doctorate was awarded by a French University, having conducted a research project for at least 2 years in a foreign country.</td>
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<td><strong>Educational background</strong></td>
<td>Educational background</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Doctorate (no later awarded than 2 months after the call deadline – mandatory to be interviewed)</td>
<td>• Research track record</td>
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<td>• Research track record</td>
<td>Agreement of a mentor</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<td>Performed by a committee (local and external scientists)</td>
<td>1) Proposal including i) CV and track record; ii) scientific description of the proposed research project and impacts; iii) report on ethical issues, iv) Reference letters</td>
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<td><strong>Delay:</strong> 1 month after the deadline for application</td>
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Evaluation criteria

The evaluation is done by a dedicated panel, including external personalities and authoritative researchers of the site. The excellence of the fellowship candidate is the primary recruitment criteria. Nevertheless, this criteria has to be assessed keeping in mind that the programme is addressing early career development. The other equally important issue addressed by the programme is to ensure a good integration of the fellow into the proper scientific environment, the second essential criteria for judging merit is thus related to the scientific project presented by the candidate, including the coherence between the proposed activities during the fellowship and the research priorities of the University of Bordeaux as well as the further career ambition of the candidate: perspectives for teaching in the case of candidates envisioning an academic career, leadership skill development for candidates envisioning a research team management career, etc.

Each examiner (within the dedicated panel) will be provided with the same frame and clear instructions to perform the notation:

- 60% for the excellence of the candidate evaluated on three criteria:
  - track record presented, and its adequacy to the research project presented;
  - reference letters;
  - coherence between the proposed activities during the fellowship and the envisioned career;

- 40% for the research project and its relevance with the scientific roadmap in the targeted scientific environment, evaluated on three criteria:
  - mentor support to the project;
  - scientific objectives and skill development targeted;
  - quality of the implementation plan, showing a good knowledge of the scientific environment.

The evaluation may include both:
- qualitative assessment: research implementation and teamwork skills; multidisciplinary and knowledge dissemination experiences; mobility experience; teaching, management and knowledge transfer experiences.

and
• quantitative assessment: publications and bibliometric indices (international indices).

**Important dates**

May 2013: call for application

25th June 2013: application deadline

July 2013: results of written application evaluation and interviews

September 2013: final results and attribution of the fellowships

From September 2013 to January 2014: beginning of the post-doctoral contracts

**Contact**

If you have any question or need help to submit your application, feel free to contact mission-ia@univ-bordeaux.fr.