

YOUNG ACADEMICS – FAQ

1. Is there an age limit to submit a Young Academics project?

No, the selection criteria are the excellence of the candidate and the quality of their interdisciplinary project.

2. Can two Research Groups in an IC collaborate together?

Yes, the interdisciplinary doctoral project runs under the formal responsibility of 2 UL-ADR-holders from distinct disciplines (distinct departments in faculties or distinct research groups in Interdisciplinary Centres, or from two distinct entities). During the selection process, the Scientific Council will use interdisciplinarity as key selection criteria.

3. Is it required that the candidate has not yet been enrolled for a PhD at a university?

Doctoral candidates already enrolled at a university with an ongoing doctoral thesis are technically eligible. However, the Young Academics call has the spirit and priority objective to attract new outstanding doctoral candidates.

4. Can a post-doctoral researcher who already holds a PhD be eligible for a Young Academics grant?

No, the Young Academics call has the objective to attract outstanding doctoral candidates. Candidates who already hold a doctoral degree are thus not eligible for a Young Academics grant.

5. Are Graduates that have not yet been awarded their Master degree at the time of application eligible to the Young Academics call? (is it required to upload in the system any letter from the current supervisor?)

Yes, Graduates that are about to complete their Masters are eligible applicants. Their application should contain a support letter from the main supervisor assessing that the Master degree will be awarded to the applicant before the thesis is initiated. The letter should include the target date of the delivery of the Master degree. Keep in mind that the candidate and the project must start between the 1st of January and the 1st of June of 2022.

6. Is there a plan to open the call to Post-Doctoral candidates?

In 2021, the Young Academics programme is exclusively targeting doctoral candidates. However, the next 2022 Young Academics call will also welcome applications for postdoctoral applicants.

7. If ADR-holder(s) of UL was (were) already granted an Audacity project, can he/she (they) participate as supervisor(s) of a Young Academics applicant?

Yes, the four IAS funding instruments can be combined in well-argued cases. The Young Academics thesis must be complementary to the Audacity project(s) and should not replace the activities already scheduled in the work plan of the Audacity project(s). Double funding for the same activity is not accepted. Furthermore, if duly argued, two co-PIs of ongoing Audacity projects are eligible supervisors for a Young Academics applicant, for instance to address a third discipline not covered in the Audacity project(s).

8. Is there any formal guidelines concerning the Joint letter of support to the candidate?

There are no guidelines for the support letter. This letter should help the evaluators to address the first selection criteria on Academic excellence encompassing:

- (1) the competencies of the Young Researchers for the position (the supervisors who are the only one at this stage to have interact with the candidate are best positioned to provide an opinion), and
- (2) how the complementary supervision of the candidate will be organized between the two ADR-holders.