



Institut
eXposUM
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTPELLIER

ExposUM **FELLOWSHIPS** 2023



ExposUM is an initiative of the University of Montpellier and its partners¹ aiming to establish an off-site and decompartmentalized reference institute for the study, training and science-society interface of the **environmental determinants of human health**. Laureate of the ExcellenceS call (PIA4) and supported by the Occitanie Region, ExposUM has a budget of 46.4M€ over the 2022-2030 period.

SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

The **exposome** is the set of environmental and social factors the effects of which, combined with the intrinsic characteristics of individuals, underlie the onset, the evolution, and the severity of infectious or non-communicable human diseases. In this sense, it is the environmental counterpart of the genome, with which it interacts throughout the life of individuals.

OBJECTIVES

The Research axis of the ExposUM Institute aims to accelerate the acquisition of fundamental knowledge in an interdisciplinary, coordinated and non-segmented manner on the fields of study of the exposome under the four pillars:

- 1.Strengthen the monitoring of environmental exposures,
- 2.refining the understanding of the ecology of hosts, pathogens, reservoirs, and vectors in a One Health approach,
- 3.Improve fundamental knowledge of biological mechanisms,
- 4.Study the consequences for human health.

Data science (in its broadest sense) constitutes a bridge linking all the pillars, both in terms of methodology, exploitation and highlighting of the results. Based on one or more of the pillars, research oriented towards the study and development of new exposure control strategies also falls within the scope of this axis, in coordination with the Interfaces axis.

To this end, the ExposUM Institute is proposing two ExposUM Fellowships for the start of the 2023 academic year. They are a complement to the regular research project call, and are a continuation of the MUSE I-SITE attractiveness programme, the terms of which they follow.

The ExposUM Fellowships programme supports the consolidation and development of local skills and the scientific potential of the site on the themes of the Institute. The expected profiles are:

- i) young scientists with strong research potential, able to quickly take on scientific responsibilities and to project themselves according to the strategic interests of the ExposUM consortium partners (in particular on an international level), with a view to obtaining a permanent position, or
- ii) confirmed researchers and professors who wish to join one of the research units within the ExposUM Institute's perimeter in order to develop ambitious and original research projects.

These two-year grants are renewable once for two additional years. They cover, if necessary, the salary of the laureates and a research budget of 200 k€/year² including the salary related to the recruitment of at least one post-doctoral fellow (employer's cost from 46 k€/year per contract, adjusted according to experience and expertise) and additional project expenses (recruitment of an engineer or technician³, operating and equipment costs), contributing to the implementation of an original research project on the exposome.

¹ Occitanie Region, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, CIRAD, INSERM, CHU Montpellier, ICM, Institut Agro Montpellier, ENSCM, Ifremer, INRIA

² From ANR and *Région Occitanie* funds.

³ Recruited within the scientific project of the laureate, according to the salary scales in force at the University of Montpellier.

ELIGIBILITY

The following two categories of candidates are eligible for application:

- Case #1: **PhD holders for at most 7 years**, non-tenured professor or researcher, on or off the site, and committed to a proactive approach of obtaining a permanent position as a researcher or professor,
- Case #2 : **PhD holders for more than 7 years**, professor or researcher currently off-site, non-tenured or tenured (with possible modulation of the teaching duty within the cost of the project).

Nationality and country of residence are not eligibility criteria.

The affiliation laboratory (research unit of the ExposUM consortium) is left to the choice of the candidate, who must have identified it at the time of application, with the approval of the director of the laboratory concerned (see below). The research project must fall within the field of the exposome, i.e. the study of **human health determinants of environmental origin** in the broad sense.

APPLICATION FORMALITIES

Applications will be evaluated on the sole basis of a French or English written material, which must include

- **a letter from the director of the host laboratory**, presenting the interest of the project and its inclusion in a long-term vision for the development of the research unit, the potential for the sustainability of the position and the team at the end of the project: maximum 2 pages,
- an **introduction of the candidate** including a full CV and a justification of her/his ability to develop a specific theme and possibly to take charge of a young team of the future (e.g. ATIP-Avenir), the potential to obtain international recognition (e.g. ERC Starting Grant), the capacity to carry out a structuring project and his/her career prospects: maximum 3 pages,
- a description of the **research project** (state of the art, progress, potential impacts), a provisional timetable and budget (while indicating other funding already available or expected): maximum 7 pages,
- for non-permanent candidates, a **commitment to apply to the French competitive exams** to become a tenured teacher-researcher or researcher.

These four elements should be merged in this order (no template is provided) in a PDF file named **EUMF_NameFirstname.pdf** to be sent by email to exposum-aap@umontpellier.fr mentioning **[ExposUM Fellowship Application]** in the subject line before:

30 April 2023 14:00 (UTC+2).

EVALUATION

The evaluation and selection of applications will be carried out by the **Scientific and Strategic Orientation Council** (SSOC) of the ExposUM Institute, on the basis of the quality and scientific potential of the applicant and the project, the appropriateness of the project with the themes of the Institute and the coherence of the project with the strategy of the partners of the consortium, with the goal of reinforcing attractiveness and the scientific influence on an international level.

Applications with one or more of the following qualities will be valued, given equivalent scientific level:

- a highly interdisciplinary project (especially if it includes a Social Sciences component),
- initiation of new partnerships (academic or not),
- research oriented towards *One Health*, Global Health and the South,

CALENDAR

- Publication of the *ExposUM* Fellowships call: 15 March 2023
- Deadline for receipt of applications: 30 April 2023
- Evaluation and selection of applications: during May 2023
- Announcement of results: 14 June 2023
- Start date: September to November 2023.

COMMITMENTS

The selected candidates commit to:

- initiate their research activities in the identified research unit between September and November 2023,
- provide an annual report to the Institute on the activities carried out,
- include the France 2030, University of Montpellier and *Région Occitanie* logos in all communications resulting from the project, and to abide by the University of Montpellier's publication signature chart,
- for non-tenured laureates, apply for competitive exams to become a permanent researcher or professor.

Contact

For further information, please contact :

exposum-aap@umontpellier.fr with the subject **[Contact ExposUM Fellowship]**.

Governance of the ExposUM Institute

Executive Committee (EC) :

Éric Delaporte (dir.),
Aurélié Binot, Charlotte Boullé, Mircea Sofonea.

Project manager:

Élodie Suttling

Scientific and Strategic Orientation Council (SSOC) :

Jacques Mercier (prés.),
Amaria Baghdadli, Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, Pascal Demoly, Delphine Destoumieux-Garzon,
Didier Fontenille, Sylvain Gandon, Julie Pannequin, Denis Pesche, Éric Servat, Coumba Toure Kane,
Muriel Vayssier-Taussat, Laurent Visier.

Research Orientation and Evaluation Council (ROEC) :

Charlotte Boullé, Anca Mirela Chiriac, Constance Delaby, Jacques Gardon, Alexandre Hobeika, Clément Jonquet,
Antonio Maraver, Mircea Sofonea, Annelise Tran.



UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTPELLIER

