

« Rising stars » call for applications

Principles of the « Rising stars » call for applications

Human resources strategy, especially talents management, is one of the drivers for transformation to activate through the A*MIDEX project of Aix-Marseille University (AMU) and its partners. We must be attractive and competitive in order to improve our ability to settle new external young talents on the site, or to secure young promising scientists already detected in Aix-Marseille, by granting them an adequate environment and enabling them to fulfill their potential.

The means A*MIDEX devotes to this pro-active recruitment strategy constitute the “Rising stars” Fund which is the subject of this first call for applications (CFA). This CFA is in the same vein as CNRS and Inserm ATIP-Avenir programs, ANR Young Researchers calls as well as ERC starting grants.

The objectives of the “Rising stars” Fund are the following:

- Settling young scientific talents (5 to 10 years after PhD), belonging to AMU or external, through A*MIDEX « Rising stars » packaged chairs
- Developing a peculiar research theme thanks to the laureate’s scientific project, surrounded (if possible) by a young promising team within AMU’s and its partners’ research units
- Increasing the laboratories’ research capacities: strengthening existing themes, bringing new abilities
- Preparing the replacement of the life blood of AMU and its partners on the site.

Targets of the « Rising stars » call for applications:

- Profile of the applicants : young promising academics (5 to 10 years after PhD), belonging to AMU or external, having been awarded an ERC starting grant or proving ability and required characteristics to reach ERC recognition
- Field of the projects: all scientific domains and fields in the process of being developed on the site, especially in A*MIDEX 5 priority themes: Energy; Environment, planet and universe; Health and life sciences; Sciences and technologies; Societies, cultures and exchanges.

The applicant and his/her project should be backed up by at least one host research unit of AMU and its partners, through the sponsorship of one or more manager(s) of this (these) research unit(s).

Grant:

1.2 M€ funding 3 Rising stars packaged chairs.

Wages (PhDs, Postdocs, “goldies”...), operating costs, complementary facilities and administrative and technical support are eligible expenses.

Term of the chair: 2 years that may be renewed once with the same term.

Selection process:

An international selection committee will be called upon to assess and rank the applications.

The A*MIDEX Steering Committee will make the final decision taking into account the jury's evaluation and AMU's and its partners' wider strategic objectives.

Selection criteria:

- Profile of the applicant and match with the scientific project
- Ability to develop an own research theme and to nucleate a young promising team
- Potential to reach international recognition (having been awarded an ERC starting grant or proving ability to reach this level for the applicants without an ERC starting grant – for the latter, being eligible to ERC starting grants within the 2 following years and making a commitment to apply for it)
- Coherence of the project with the site's strategy and support from a labeled research unit to ensure the project's feasibility
- Scientific and technical quality of the project
- Impact of the project : in terms of knowledge progress and importance of the results targeted
- Pulling effect expected on the perimeter of excellence and over the site of Aix-Marseille
- Sustainability of the project, potential to secure the applicant and of the team at the end of the project.

Deadline to submit an application: January 15th, 2013 at 24.00 (midnight), Paris time.

For more information: amidex-direction@univ-amu.fr

Model of application
A*MIDEX – Rising stars CFA

Important: This document should not exceed 25 pages (the text must be in size 11 font, with single spacing), and should be written in English for the international experts (if the application is submitted in French, an English version should be provided within 15 days).

Content of the application file:

I/ Complete CV of the applicant

II/ Scientific file

1. Title and abstract of the scientific project (2 A4 pages maximum)

2. Description of the research project (12 A4 pages maximum)

- International background of the applicant in the field of the research project (backed up by references that include finished projects and major relevant publications)

- Theoretical and/or experimental approaches to be used

- Originality and feasibility of the project

- Expected results particularly in A*MIDEX 5 priority themes

- Expected collaborations, particularly with the host research unit

- Work plan, deliverables, and milestones

- Scientific justification of the requested “Rising stars” grant

III/ Applicant’s ERC starting grant or commitment to apply for an ERC starting grant within the next 2 years

IV/ Host research unit letter of support, recommending the funding of the applicant through the “Rising stars” CFA

V/ Three letters of recommendation (paper or scanned originals)