

MSH Val de Loire

VISITING RESEARCHERS Programme

Guidelines: call for applications 2026

Wednesday 25th March to Thursday 4th June 2026 (17:00 – CET Paris time)

PREAMBLE

Founded in 1996, inspired by the Loire Valley historical, geographical and human cultures, the mission of LE STUDIUM Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies is **to create a dynamic outwards-looking international scientific community** in the Centre-Val de Loire region (France) covering all research disciplines and involving public and private research institutions.

We **welcome experienced international researchers** to the research institutes and laboratories of the Centre-Val de Loire region and offer them an inspiring multidisciplinary environment to conduct their research work and open up to a variety of scientific projects.

LE STUDIUM proposes innovative **scientific exchange initiatives, networking activities and animation** of the international faculty of LE STUDIUM fellows, in order to favour cross-disciplinary exchanges with regional and international scientific communities to **build human capacity for research, development and innovation**.

The institute operates in **the Centre-Val de Loire region of France with the higher education institutions and research centres** present on the territory (University of Orleans, University of Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, ESAD Orléans, AgroParisTech Orléans, BRGM, CEA Le Ripault, CNRS Centre Limousin Poitou-Charente, Centre INRAE Val-de-Loire, Inserm and CHU hospitals).

The **MSH Val de Loire** (The Loire Valley House of Social Sciences and Humanities - *Maison des Sciences sociales et des Humanités Val de Loire*) is a multidisciplinary research centre that brings together scholars in the humanities and social sciences across the Centre-Val de Loire region. It supports collaborative projects, fosters international partnerships, and provides a dynamic environment for innovative research. The MSH also plays a key role in structuring regional research networks and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue.

For the third edition of this call for applications, LE STUDIUM offers a **VISITING RESEARCHERS Programme in partnership with the Maison des Sciences sociales et des Humanités Val de Loire**. This programme brings along a new opportunity to welcome international scientists at the House of Social Sciences and Humanities Val de Loire in direct connection with one of the current or future research areas <https://www.msh-vdl.fr/axes-de-recherche/>: Cities and urban studies; Money, economy and finance; Environmental Humanities; Transmission(s), transfer(s), re-appropriation(s); Human interaction and Data Science; Health in all its forms.

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1 - CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS & PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

1 - 1 Context and objectives

The **MSH Val de Loire Visiting Researchers Programme** offers **residency awards** with mutual obligations between the awardee, the MSH Val de Loire and LE STUDIUM. Beyond supporting the international mobility of researchers, the programme aims to create sustainable collaborative projects and links between international researchers and regional laboratories **in social sciences and humanities from the MSH Val de Loire**.

1 - 2 Presentation of the programme

This call for applications does not target any specific research themes. It is open to international experienced researchers across the **six research axes of the MSH Val de Loire**, favouring an **interdisciplinary approach: Cities and urban studies; Money, economy and finance; Environmental Humanities; Transmission(s), transfer(s), re-appropriation(s); Human interaction and Data Science; Health in all its forms**.

The programme targets **international experienced researchers** who have to embody, through their profile, the key words that capture the research values of LE STUDIUM: **Curiosity, Imagination and Intuition**. These values help to create an outwards-looking international scientific community that recognises the benefits of international, multi- or interdisciplinary and intersectoral research approaches.

The awards' package creates conditions that catalyse the development of scientific and human interactions with LE STUDIUM members' research structures in the Centre-Val de Loire region, and the development of a wider Loire Valley research community.

A minimum of 24 months of residency are available in this 2026 call for applications.

Award	Duration	Candidate	Award's Benefits
Visiting Researcher	3 to 10 consecutive months	Experienced international researcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Financial support to travel costs- Furnished accommodation- Administrative support- Invitation to participate in international scientific events- Integration in the Le Studium scientific community

OBJECTIVES

- **3 to 10 consecutive months residency** at the MSH Val de Loire to lead a **collaborative scientific research project**;
- Sustainable collaboration between the international visiting researcher and regional laboratories.

BENEFITS

- Fully furnished housing adapted to the family size of the visiting scientist
- Reimbursement of travel expenses (one return trip) capped to 800 EUR (based on receipts)
- Dedicated relocation administrative support
- Full integration into the international research faculty in the Centre-Val de Loire region;
- Training opportunities;
- Involvement in the scientific exchanges, networking activities and animation led by LE STUDIUM to favour transdisciplinary exchanges;
- Invitation to international scientific events (conferences/workshops, seminars....) organised by LE STUDIUM.
- Integration in the activities of the axis of the MSH Val de Loire

This award supports the installation of the visiting researcher and her/his family in the region (accommodation, logistics, administrative support).

This programme is also well suited to researchers holding an Individual Fellowship (such as Full Bright, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, ERC, etc...) willing to complete their fellowship in the region.

This award allows a residency between September 2026 and July 2027.

2 - CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS

International researchers applying to the scheme are expected to propose an innovative project and to select one of the proposed scientific research areas:

- **Cities and urban studies**
- **Money, economy and finance**
- **Environmental Humanities**
- **Transmission(s), transfer(s), re-appropriation(s)**
- **Human interaction and Data Science**
- **Health in all its forms**

Applicants are advised to carefully detail their application in a manner that substantiates any claims made by them. Particular attention, but not exclusively, must be given to the following dimensions: **proposal background, research plan, data analysis and risk management, interdisciplinary dimension, significance and innovation of the project, background and record of accomplishments** of the applicant researcher and of the host scientist.

The applications have to be **written in English** in order to allow evaluations by international experts. A **resume in French is required**.

One of the objectives of the MSH Val de Loire Visiting Researchers Programme is the development of an enduring scientific relationship between the visiting research fellow and regional research teams.

3 - REVIEW OF THE APPLICATIONS

3 - 1 Eligibility criteria

This programme aims to attract **experienced international researchers or willing to conduct a high quality and innovative project in collaboration with the MSH Val de Loire**.

Candidates are eligible if they meet the following conditions:

- Be national or **long-term resident of a country other than France** that is not to have resided in France for more than 12 months in the three years preceding the closing date of the call for applications. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.
- To be in possession of a **doctoral degree and have at least five years of full-time equivalent research** experience after their doctorate.
- **Hold a work contract (permanent or not) in a foreign university or research institution** during the residency.

3 - 2 Evaluation criteria

External peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members follow three categorical criteria to review applications: the scientific quality, the impact of the proposed research and records of accomplishment of the applicant as well as the career development plan through the LE STUDIUM award:

- **Scientific Quality (50%)** – This includes the clarity of the stated research objectives, the quality of the methodology, the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research project, feasibility, and risk management.
- **Impact of the proposed research (25%)** – This includes the interdisciplinary dimension of the proposed research, the demonstrated skill and ability of the researcher and his/her proposal to increase knowledge. In addition, it includes the application of new ideas, procedures, technologies, programmes or policy settings

to important topics that will impact the proposed field of study. The impact for the activities of the axis of the MSH Val de Loire is also evaluated under this criterion.

- **Career and Track Record of the Applicant (25%)** – The track record evaluates whether the applicant’s previous research activities demonstrate her/his capacity to achieve the proposed scientific objectives. This includes the applicant’s ability to contribute to the research, especially in terms of having the appropriate mix of research skills and experience, to work with research teams and private partners. Experience of inter-sectorial and/or transnational mobility, as well as experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, management and team building experience, experience in transfer of technology and training competences will also be considered. An interruption to the applicant’s career path should be documented. Interruptions may include pregnancy and childcare, escaping regions of conflict, unexpected illness etc.

3 - 3 Evaluation process

After the campaign closing date, the LE STUDIUM team will perform an administrative check to ensure each application conforms to the submission format guidelines and that all necessary documents are complete and signed. Only eligible applications will be considered for review and selection.

To ensure a fair transparent evaluation and selection process, the following occurs:

- **LE STUDIUM** ensures that the global administration and management of the evaluation process respects set criteria for the scientific review, including rules related to non-discrimination and conflict of interest.
- **External peer-reviewers** are invited to provide an independent, expert assessment of the scientific content of each eligible application based on the selection criteria. A minimum of three reviewers, screened for conflict of interest, are invited to evaluate each submitted application.
- **The Social Sciences & Humanities members of LE STUDIUM Scientific Council** will undertake the final ranking and selection of applications. This sub-committee, with the assistance of external peer-reviews, will provide an independent, impartial and fair scientific assessment of applications.
- **Ranking and selection:** the scores and comments of external peer-reviewers and Scientific Committee members will allow the LE STUDIUM team to build the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each application and to establish the final ranking list.

3 - 4 Appeal - Redress procedure

- Should an applicant feel that there has been a shortcoming in the process for the evaluation of her/his proposal, s/he may call upon this procedure. The appeal can be filed after each step of the evaluation process.
- A candidate willing to appeal is invited to send an email to the General Secretary of LE STUDIUM (general.secretary@lestudium-ias.fr). The message should mention: the title of the application, the elements in the evaluation procedure perceived as unfair or inappropriate by the applicant and the correction measures that the candidate deems necessary.
- The General Secretary will share these elements with the President of LE STUDIUM and Chairman of the Scientific Committee for review. Corrective actions will be undertaken if necessary.
- In the ten days following the redress request message, the candidate will receive a feedback giving conclusion to the redress request.

4 - NOTIFICATION - DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The Scientific Committee meeting will take place on June 29th, 2026

Final results will be communicated in the two weeks following the meeting of the Scientific Committee: a letter from the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will notify all applicants.

All applicants, awarded or not, will receive an official notification and an evaluation summary report (ESR) listing the strengths and weaknesses of their proposal. For non-award applicants, the evaluation summary report may be helpful to improve the application and apply again for the following campaign.

After notification, the awarded applicants will have two weeks to confirm their acceptance of the award.

If an applicant does not accept the award, it will be given to the following candidate placed in the final ranking list, on a reserve list.

5 - GENERAL PROVISION AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF VISITING & FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

5 - 1 Preparing the fellows' arrival

After an applicant has accepted an award, the LE STUDIUM/MSH Val de Loire awardee/fellow is invited for a videoconference meeting with LE STUDIUM and the MSH Val de Loire to review the award details, clear up administrative questions and to precisely define the time window for the residency. Following this meeting, a formal letter of offer is sent to the fellow summarizing the residency and contract conditions. Awarded candidates will have to submit copies of their diplomas.

Following acceptance of the offer by the candidate, the LE STUDIUM staff process administrative duties to prepare the awardee's arrival (visa, residence permit, travel and/or private medical coverage, professional liability insurance, children's schooling, French class, other activities...). The accommodation is prepared to welcome the awarded fellow and her/his family in the best conditions.

The residency will take place between September 2026 and July 2027.

5 - 2 Welcoming the fellow

Upon her/his arrival, a member of the LE STUDIUM team welcomes the awardee and her/his family, introduces them to their apartment and answers any practical questions s/he may have. The next day the fellow is invited to attend a meeting to review and finalise all contractual documents.

In the couple of weeks following the arrival, the fellow and host scientist are invited to a scientific discussion with the Director of the Maison des Sciences sociales et des Humanités Val de Loire, the General Secretary and the Scientific Manager of LE STUDIUM to review the research project and discuss opportunities linked to the award.

5 - 3 Contractual obligations during residency

The MSH Val de Loire Visiting Researchers Programme's awards are partnership awards with mutual obligations between the researcher/artist in residence, the MSH Val de Loire and LE STUDIUM. The awarded researcher is invited to participate in the scientific life of the LE STUDIUM international research faculty across a variety of scientific events. The attendance to the LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS monthly seminars is mandatory for the awarded researcher.

At the end of their residency, the LE STUDIUM researcher is asked to produce a final report explaining the outcomes of her/his project in the context of the original proposal. This report is due at the scheduled exit meeting with the MSH Val de Loire Director and the Scientific Manager of LE STUDIUM. The report will be made publicly available with a DOI # on the LE STUDIUM website on the dedicated LE STUDIUM Journal section.

The MSH Val de Loire will sign a collaborative agreement "convention de mise à disposition", through which mutual rights and obligations are detailed. The MSH Val de Loire commits to respect European procedures regarding ethics procedures, researchers' rights and researchers' involvement in research projects. They commit to welcome the researcher and to offer excellent working conditions including work office space and research resources. LE STUDIUM does not acquire any intellectual property rights.

Other contractual obligations, such as open access publications, credits, or mention of LE STUDIUM affiliation in the communication are mentioned in the collaborative agreement.

6 - SCIENTIFIC EVENTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH FELLOWS, REGIONAL RESEARCHERS & LABORATORIES

The MSH Visiting Researcher award includes scientific animation led by LE STUDIUM and the Maison des Sciences sociales et des Humanités Val de Loire, to provide interdisciplinary exchanges and establishment of new international collaborations.

6 - 1 LE STUDIUM CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

LE STUDIUM organises a series of LE STUDIUM CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS that consist in one or two-day international events co-organised by the researchers in residence in partnership with their host laboratories.

Awardeed MSH Val de Loire Visiting Researchers will have the possibility to attend all these events organised by LE STUDIUM across its different programmes according their own interests. Registration is free but mandatory.

6- 2 LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS

LE STUDIUM animates an international community of researchers through regular monthly interdisciplinary seminars called **LE STUDIUM THURSDAYS**. Each seminars addresses a research topic. It consists in one afternoon taking place every first Thursday of the month, gathering the research fellows and professors in residence, their laboratory hosts and guests from the scientific, industrial and institutional sectors around scientific presentations with a time for discussions and informal interactions. These meetings encourage interdisciplinary exchanges. They help the fellows deepen their scientific horizon and knowledge. LE STUDIUM encourages its faculty of fellows to look at the "universal" scientific man, as spoken of during the Renaissance period. This concept was especially present in the Loire Valley, where attracting international "talents" was highlighted and typified by Leonardo da Vinci.

The attendance to this monthly seminar is mandatory for all awardees.

7 - APPLICATION FORMAT AND ONLINE SUBMISSION

1 - 1 Process

Proposals must be submitted online through the LE STUDIUM website **by Thursday 4 June 2026** (17:00 – CET Paris time)

- Go to <https://www.lestudium-ias.com/>

From the top menu, click on **Apply**

- Select the recruitment type: Click on **MSH Val de Loire Visiting Researchers Programme**.
- Complete the candidate online form to request a candidate account
- After reception of the applicant account ID, start your application online to complete the candidacy and upload your application documents.
- The candidate will receive a confirmation email after the final submission.

7 - 2 Application – Content and Rules

The online application form is divided into 4 parts:

- **Part A: General information (online form) about the candidate and the project;**
- **Part B: Scientific proposal (document to upload on the platform)**
- **Part C: CV (document to upload on the platform)**
- **Part D: Commitment letter signed by the Maison des Sciences sociales et des Humanités Val de Loire scientific research areas' coordinator (document to upload on the platform)**

Part A – Check the indicative format document to see the different fields to be completed online.

Part B – Scientific proposal

It must respect the following minimum standards:

- ✓ A minimum font size of 11 points, except for Gantt chart and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- ✓ Single line spacing
- ✓ A4 page size
- ✓ Margins (top, bottom, left, right) of 25 mm
- ✓ A clearly readable font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman) on a printed copy

The Part B should be composed as follows (see indicative format and template)

- ✓ Section 1: Scientific project
- ✓ Section 2: Impact of the proposed research
- ✓ Section 3: Career and Track record of the Applicant

Within the maximum pages quota applying to the whole document, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between sections 1, 2 and 3.

Part C - CV (8 pages maximum) and support letters (If relevant, upload support letters from, for example, a home institution representative, a company, an academic partner, etc.)

Part D – It consists in a 2-page (maximum) signed letter by the MSH Val de Loire scientific research area coordinator supporting the application.

Applicants will receive a **confirmation email** once they have submitted the application.