

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – DOCTORAL CONTRACTS 2026–2029

Doctoral School No. 513 DESPEG

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The DESPEG Doctoral School is launching its call for applications for 3-year doctoral contracts (institution-funded) starting Monday, May 11, 2026. The contract is scheduled to begin in October 2026 (with the possibility to start in September or postpone to November upon justified request by the candidate).

The number of doctoral contracts available will be announced at a later date on the Doctoral School <https://www.ed-despeg-univ-cotedazur.fr/>

Applications are open to students holding a Master's degree or currently completing a Master's degree during the 2025–2026 academic year. Students who have already been enrolled in a PhD program at Université Côte d'Azur for more than 12 months are not eligible.

The application process consists of **three steps**:

Step 1: Pre-application to a Research Laboratory

Each candidate must submit a pre-application file to the research laboratory where they intend to conduct their doctoral research. **The deadline for submission is set individually by each laboratory**, which also defines its own evaluation procedures (required documents, possible pre-interviews, etc.).

You **must** consult the **specific deadlines and procedures for each laboratory** via the following links: [CERDCAFF](#), [CERDP](#), [ERMES](#), [GREDEG](#), [GRM](#), [LADIE](#).

Step 2: Submission of the Full Application on ADUM

Each candidate must submit a complete application file via the ADUM platform no later than Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 11:59 PM.

Application link: <https://adum.fr/candidature/>

This file will necessarily include:

1. A CV including the following mandatory information:

- A summary of your academic background with the following details:

Bachelor's degree (3rd year), Title: Institution: Academic year: Average grade: Honors: Ranking (if available):	Master's Year 1, Title: Institution: Academic year: Average grade: Honors:	Master's Year 2, Title: Institution: Academic year: Average grade: Honors: Ranking (if available): Thesis/Internship report grade:
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- A description of your previous academic activities and/or professional experience
 - A brief presentation of your career objectives
2. **Copies of official transcripts for Bachelor's (3rd year), Master's Year 1 and Year 2, including class ranking.** If ranking is not available, a certificate from the academic office or program director indicating the number of students enrolled may be provided.
 3. **A copy of your master's thesis** (or a download link), or alternatively your Master's Year 1 dissertation.
 4. **A five-page research proposal (excluding bibliographic references)** intended for an interdisciplinary panel, detailing the research theme, and providing a literature review that culminates in a formal problem statement and a working hypothesis. While the methodological framework may be tailored to subject-matter experts, the overall project must remain accessible to a broader academic audience. Furthermore, the proposal must include a provisional timeline demonstrating the project's feasibility over a three-year duration.
 5. **A letter of support from the PhD supervisor**, confirming approval of the research project and its alignment with the laboratory's research themes. Any co-supervision or joint supervision must be specified.
 6. **For candidates applying for a Teaching Assignment (DCME) in addition to the doctoral contract: a motivation letter** specifying the academic department in which you wish to teach. Note that this option can also be requested in the second year if not obtained in the first year.

The **DESPEG Doctoral School selection committee** will meet on **Friday, July 3, 2026**, to establish a list of candidates invited to the interview stage (Step 3).

The selection criteria at this stage are as follows:

- 1) **Eligibility:** Only candidates who have submitted a **complete application** on ADUM before the deadline and **completed the pre-application** with a laboratory will be considered.
- 2) **Candidate quality:** Academic performance must be satisfactory throughout the curriculum. Particular attention will be paid to **Master's grades**, especially in the thesis specialization and for the research dissertation or internship report. **Distinctions and a good class ranking** (top half) will be considered.
- 3) **Research Unit assessment:** The Research Unit assesses each application with a **Favourable/ Not Favourable assessment** based on an evaluation of the candidate/project/supervision combination. When multiple applications from a same discipline receive a favourable assessment, Research Units **rank these candidates** in order of priority.

- 4) **Balance across laboratories and disciplines:** The committee will ensure a balanced representation across laboratories and disciplines in the list of candidates invited for interviews.

Step 3: Interviews for candidates shortlisted by the doctoral contract selection committee (ED DESPEG).

Candidates selected in Step 2 will be interviewed by the selection committee on **Friday, July 10, 2026**, between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Interviews are mandatory and may be conducted remotely (via videoconference) in case of medical reasons or if the candidate resides outside the PACA region.

The committee will assess in particular:

- The candidate's ability to present their research field to an interdisciplinary panel
- Their ability to demonstrate their capacity to conduct research based on prior training, master relevant methods, and align their work with their career goals
- The relevance of the project to the laboratory's research priorities and available resources (e.g., equipment), as well as its potential alignment with broader research themes at Université Côte d'Azur

Each candidate will present their project in 5 minutes, without PowerPoint. Notes on paper are allowed. This will be followed by a **10-minute Q&A session** with the committee.

Following the interviews, the committee will rank candidates through a secret ballot. A main (unranked) list will be established, including as many candidates as available doctoral contracts. A ranked waiting list will also be established in case of withdrawals. Candidates on the main list must confirm acceptance of the doctoral contract offer no later than **Monday, July 20, 2026**. If any contracts are declined, they will be offered to candidates on the waiting list in order of ranking.