

**Call for application to identify projects to host  
researchers and teacher-researchers on the  
Nantes site**

**NExT Junior Talent**

**2025-2026**

**Specification document**

Opening of the call for applications : 10/15/2024

Contact : [aap-next@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:aap-next@univ-nantes.fr)  
[Website](#)

The NExT Talents program receives financial support from the French government as part of the France 2030 investment plan, from the Pays de la Loire Region and Nantes Métropole.

## 1- Context, objectives and description of the call for applications

The I-SITE (Initiative - Sciences, Innovation, Territories, Economy) NExT supports the construction of a world-class university in Nantes, by **bringing together stakeholders and implementing an innovative approach to research, training, innovation and international attractiveness**. After a four-year probation period, the Prime Minister's decision on March 22, 2022 confirmed NExT's permanent status.

The I-SITE brings together **10 members**<sup>1</sup>: the four university poles (Health, Science & Technology, Humanities, and Society), a university hospital (CHU de Nantes), a technological research institute (IRT Jules Verne), a national research organization (Inserm), and « grandes écoles » (Centrale Nantes, École des Beaux-Arts Nantes Saint-Nazaire, and the École d'Architecture de Nantes). It also has 6 partners<sup>2</sup>: CNRS, INRAE, ONIRIS, ICO, IFREMER, Ecole de Design Nantes Atlantique.

Within the framework of NExT, the Initiative has set itself the strategic objective of **discovering, attracting and fostering the development of new talent at the Nantes site**, and in particular of **strengthening the capacity to recruit new profiles with an international dimension**.

To continue this momentum, the NExT Initiative is reopening the NExT Junior Talents call for applications for the period 2025-2026 aimed at identifying researchers and teacher-researchers wishing to join one of its member or partner institutions to conduct their research and teaching activities.

The NExT Junior Talent scheme aims to support the arrival of high-potential scientific profiles on the Nantes site with a view to obtaining a statutory position in one of the NExT member or partner institutions. It gives young researchers the means to develop their own research project with a dedicated team and to gain faster access to international recognition.

The expected profiles are those of young researchers with a marked research activity with a proven international dimension. Candidates should demonstrate a dynamic start to their career, for example with a good ability to work in a team, supervise students (doctoral students and interns), coordinate and lead a team, be involved in research projects, editorial committees, etc.

The profiles must

- contribute to the excellence of the site in the two major fields of NExT, industry of the future and health of the future, linked to the new scientific roadmap<sup>3</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> [www.univ-nantes.fr](http://www.univ-nantes.fr) ; [www.chu-nantes.fr](http://www.chu-nantes.fr) ; [www.ec-nantes.fr](http://www.ec-nantes.fr) ; [www.inserm.fr](http://www.inserm.fr) ; <https://beauxartsnantes.fr> ; [www.nantes.archi.fr](http://www.nantes.archi.fr) ; [www.irt-jules-verne.fr](http://www.irt-jules-verne.fr) ;

<sup>2</sup> [www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr) ; [www.inrae.fr](http://www.inrae.fr) ; [www.oniris-nantes.fr](http://www.oniris-nantes.fr) ; [www.institut-cancerologie-ouest.com](http://www.institut-cancerologie-ouest.com) ; [www.ifremer.fr](http://www.ifremer.fr)

<sup>3</sup> [Scientific roadmap](#) - Septembre 2024

- or present the ambition to contribute to the influence of Nantes University, notably on the international scene, among others through its academic axis in the humanities and social sciences (HSS) "Making society: identity(ies) in question<sup>1</sup>".

The candidate undertakes to respect the rules of the institution in terms of ethics, integrity and professional conduct and to observe the recommendations of the CEDIS in this area. He or she also undertakes to be part of the institution's strategy in favor of open science, in compliance with national, European and international recommendations. This strategy is based on an incentive to deposit publications in the HAL open archive, with the aim of increasing the visibility of its publications and promoting their dissemination and reuse, offering a guarantee of conservation of these publications in the long term, and allowing authors to retain the rights to disseminate their publications.

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria :

• Eligibility criteria :

- Candidates must not already be working at the Nantes university site at the time of submitting the complete application
- At the time of submitting the letter of intent, the candidate must have defended his or her thesis for 2 to 7 years maximum previously (for female candidates, the eligibility period may be extended by 18 months for each child born after obtaining the doctorate)
- Candidates must have spent a period abroad for a research activity equivalent to at least one academic year or demonstrate strong research activity at the international level (recommended but not mandatory for HSS)
- The thesis must have been carried out preferably outside the Nantes site

• Selection criteria:

- Quality of the CV: quality of the research, citations, international recognition, collaborations, distinctions, potential, etc.
- Ability to lead/coordinate a team: involvement in projects, mentoring and teaching experience, involvement in editorial committees, ...
- Quality of the proposed scientific and educational project: clarity of objectives, ambition, methods proposed to address the problem, interdisciplinarity, etc.
- Contribution of the research and training theme to the priority scientific themes of NExT Industry and Health, and/or to the influence of Nantes University, particularly internationally, among others through its HSS academic axis.
- Potential for integration of the candidate in the host institution (research component and laboratory)

*Specificities for candidates in HSS:*

- *Mandatory adequacy of the application with the scientific themes of NExT Industrie and Health or the HSS axis "Making society: identity(ies) in question" of Nantes University*
- *International research activity is recommended, but not mandatory*

<sup>1</sup> Human and Social Sciences axis of Nantes University: <https://u-news.univ-nantes.fr/sciences-humaines-et-sociales-nantes-universite-definit-un-axe-academique-fort-autour-des-identites>

Means allocated to the project:

- up to €225k salary<sup>11</sup> for the young researcher over a maximum of 36 months
- €150k for the research team (doctoral student, postdoctoral student, etc.)
- €25k for equipment/investment and costs related to research

## 2- Selection process

### 2.1 Submission of a letter of intent

Project leaders are invited to submit a letter of intent, endorsed by the management of the intended host laboratory and in conjunction with the research departments of the institutions concerned.

The document template can be downloaded from the following address : [Call for applications NExT Junior Talent](#)

Letters of intent must be sent electronically only to the address [aap-next@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:aap-next@univ-nantes.fr) (subject of the email: NExT\_AAC-Attractivite\_LOI...)

They will be examined on the collection date indicated for each wave in the provisional calendar below.

#### Admissibility

The NExT operational team will check all application elements. In the event of a missing document, it will contact the candidate who will have 3 working days to complete their file. After this deadline, incomplete files will be deemed inadmissible and will not continue the selection process.

#### Eligibility

The Nantes University Research Thematic Commission will validate the eligibility of applications according to the above-mentioned criteria.

Applications deemed eligible will be invited to submit a complete file. They will then be accompanied by the intended host institution to prepare this file for the final selection.

### 2.2 Submission of the complete file and selection of winners

The selection of winners will be based on the examination of the complete application file according to the criteria mentioned above and international standards of scientific excellence.

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding to an annual salary of €75k maximum set on the basis of the pay scales of the host establishment.

They will thus be the subject of a scientific analysis by experts external to the Pays de la Loire and of international dimension, as well as an oral presentation of the file before the authorities of Nantes University, the terms of which will be specified to the candidates.

The application elements will be sent to the eligible candidates.

### 3- Calendrier

<b>OPENING OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATION : 10/15/2024</b>		
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> wave</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> wave</b>
Submission of letters of intent	11/28/2024	09/17/2025
Submission of complete application files	02/06/2025	11/20/2025
Selection phase (external scientific expertise and audition of candidates)	February 2025 → April 2025	November 2025 → March 2026
Communication of projects selected for financing	At the latest end of May 2025	At the latest end of Avril 2026
Projects start	From September 2025	From September 2026

### 4- Contacts

Candidates are invited to contact the Research Department of the proposed host institution for any questions relating to the reception conditions in connection with this Call for applications.