

The SOUND.AI programme, run by Sorbonne Université as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) COFUND actions of the Horizon Europe programme, offers **19 co-funding grants for doctoral theses, open to doctoral students recruited internationally.**

This programme aims to support fundamental and applied projects dedicated to the definition and implementation of artificial intelligence, as well as digital humanities, in three key interdisciplinary areas: changing societies, languages and cultures (Humanities), a global approach to health (Health), and resources for a sustainable planet (Environment). You can find a detailed presentation of the programme [here](#).

Candidates will be selected in the form of a **call for applications, starting at the beginning of October 2023 and ending in May 2024.** At the end of this call, 19 students will be selected to receive co-funding for a 3-year thesis.

WHY TAKE PART IN THE SOUND.AI PROGRAMME

- A dynamic and stimulating institutional environment
- Research excellence with interdisciplinary research options
- Exposure to industry and other employment sectors such as NGOs and cultural institutions
- Participation in the activities of an international collaborative network
- Further training in transferable skills

IN BRIEF

Proposals for thesis topics and candidate applications can be made on a dedicated platform, accessible via this link: <https://soundai.sorbonne-universite.fr>

Upcoming dates to remember:

- 01/10/2023 – 30/11/2023: submission of thesis topics (<https://soundai.sorbonne-universite.fr>)
- 01/12/2023 – 31/01/2024: candidate applications and initial contacts for candidates/doctoral project leaders
- 01/02/2024 – 31/03/2024: eligibility of candidates, pre-selection stage (based on applications)
- 01/04/2024 – 30/04/2024: discussion of shortlisted candidates with doctoral project leaders
- 01/05/2024 – 30/05/2024: winner selection stage (auditions + questions to the jury)

Please do not hesitate to contact the SOUND.AI team if you have any questions: soundai@sorbonne-universite.fr. More information can be found on the [SOUND.AI](https://soundai.sorbonne-universite.fr) website.

IN DETAILS

HOW TO PROPOSE A THESIS TOPIC AS A FUTURE SUPERVISOR

- 01/10/2023 - 31/11/2023: The future thesis director (doctoral project leader) registers on the SOUND.AI website, along with the other co-directors and co-supervisors, and forms the supervising team.
- Submission of the doctoral project file on the [website](#) by the project leader. The application must include:
 - a summary and a PDF version of the complete project, which must include secondments as part of the thesis and suggestions for modules to be chosen from the specific training programme for scientific and technical knowledge and skills
 - a European Ethics evaluation form to be completed carefully online. A web page will guide supervisors through the submission process. Only the submitting project leader may modify the application before the 30/11 deadline.
- Only one submission per project leader is authorised.
- The project leader can add other members of the supervisory team to the project on the dedicated platform.
- The thesis project must include at least one HDR holder in the supervising team.
- SOUND.AI will systematically notify the Doctoral School of the submission of the subject, as it must validate the project before the successful candidate can finalise his/her registration.
- Once the thesis subjects have been submitted, they will be published on the site after validation by the SOUND.AI team, rapidly after submission. Future candidates are then able to select their target subject(s).

HOW TO APPLY AS A FUTURE DOCTORAL STUDENT

- Eligibility criteria for applicants:
 - MSCA mobility rule: Must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in France for more than 12 months during the 36 months immediately preceding the call deadline (31/01/24).
 - Hold a Master's degree or equivalent at the time of registration for the doctorate.
 - English proficiency test results: TOEIC 800 or TOEFL 79 or CEFR C1 or IELTS 6.5
 - No restrictions concerning nationality, age, gender, ethnic origin, disability/special needs or social status (such as migrant/refugee) will be implemented during the selection process.
- 01/12/2023 - 31/01/2024: Interested candidates apply for subjects and contact the doctoral project leaders. Upon contact, candidate's files become available to project leaders. Quickly after the end of the call (January 31st), the supervisors must send the Management Team a reasoned opinion for each application they receive, together with a loose ranking of all the applications received on their subject. This opinion will then be included in the application files sent to the pre-selection and selection committees. This feedback will consist of 3-4 questions with simple scoring in order to minimise the amount of work required. Under no circumstances may this opinion prevent a candidate from applying.
- 01/02/2024 and 31/03/2024: Verification of the eligibility of candidates and the pre-selection stage (on the basis of applications).
- 01/04/2024 and 30/04/2024: In-depth discussion between pre-selected candidates and doctoral project leaders. Candidates choose the subject(s) to defend during the interview and tell the Management Team. Candidates and supervisors can prepare the interview together. The supervisors agree not to favour one or more candidates in relation to the information or assistance provided during the step.
- May 2024: Final selection of the 19 fellows (hearings + questions before the jury)

ALLOCATED FUNDINGS

- The successful applications will be co-financed by the European Commission under the SOUND.AI project.
 - 70k€ allocated by SOUND.AI to cover salary costs
 - 14 544€ budget provided by SOUND.AI to cover operating expenses (Mobility, Travel/missions, research activities), and 9072€ provided for Training, in addition to the training offered by SCAI and Sorbonne University's Doctoral College.
- 50k€ of CO-FINANCING must be provided, in whole or in part, by the promoter of the doctoral project (supervising team through public and/or private funding).