



2026 Fellows cohort - Call for applicants!

We are excited to announce the call for the 2026 ADVANCE Fellows, a mentoring programme that provides support and guidance for researchers in Luxembourg.

ADVANCE is deeply rooted in the best practices in mentoring across Europe. It takes a person-centred approach, recognising the value of each individual's potential and encouraging positive relationships and personal growth. In particular, the fellows' strand – ADVANCE Fellows – seeks to support and guide early-career researchers in advancing in their careers. ADVANCE will connect fellows with experienced mentors in Luxembourg, aiming to inspire and empower them to reach their goals.

The 2026 call for ADVANCE Fellows targets **women working in a participating research institution in Luxembourg**¹. This focus derives from the evident gender imbalance among the research staff in Luxembourg². Mentoring is a proven instrument to promote talented women throughout their career path, hence fostering an inclusive and equitable research environment.

The programme has a duration of **6 months (January-July 2026)**, and there are **up to 12 positions available**.

¹ Participating institutions: University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), and Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH).

² SHE Figures 2024 <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/knowledge-publications-tools-and-data/interactive-reports/she-figures-2024>

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- ♣ Engage in One-on-One Mentorship Conversations: Each selected participant will be paired with a mentor, creating a personalised and tailored mentoring experience. Mentors will provide guidance, share their experiences, and offer advice on various aspects of an academic career, including research, publishing, networking, and career development.
- ♣ Connect with other researchers: The programme will facilitate “meet-ups” and networking events to connect participants and foster a community.
- ♣ Develop key skills to prepare you for the next career steps: In addition to the mentorship and networking components, the programme will offer skill development workshops, such as leadership, as well as promote action-learning via mentoring circles.

Important dates

- ♣ 16 December 2025, 10-12h Onboarding fellows (online)
- ♣ 16 January 2026, 13.00-14.30: Matching event online
- ♣ 28 January 2026, 13.00-16.00: Kickoff event
- ♣ 29-30 January 2026, 9.00-17.00: Leadership workshop
- ♣ 25 March Speed mentoring event (to be confirmed)
- ♣ 1 July 2026, 11-14h Closing event (to be confirmed)

- ♣ Peer-coaching (13.00-15.00): 11 February; 4 March; 15 April; 6 May; 3 June
- ♣ Meet-ups (8:45-9h30) (OPTIONAL) : 19 January; 19 February; 19 March; 20 April; 19 May; 19 June
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Eligibility Criteria

- ♣ Postdoctoral fellows, senior doctoral candidates, or other researchers in equivalent positions (R2 career stage profiles). This call particularly encourages applications from women researchers.
- ♣ Currently engaged in research activities in one of the participating institutions 1 (valid work contract for the duration of the programme, i.e., until 30.06.2026).
- ♣ Evidenced dedication to academic excellence, along with a profound drive for continuous learning, personal growth, and professional development. Commit to participate in the scheduled activities.

Application Process

To apply for the 2026 ADVANCE Fellows cohort, please visit the [dedicated webpage](#).

The application includes:

- An [online application form](#) (Name, institution, position, potential mentors).
- A motivation letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining your reasons for wanting to participate in the programme and your expectations from the mentoring experience. The letter should also detail your career development plans.
- Letter of support from your supervisor (template available [here](#)).

Application deadline: **30 November 2025**

We encourage you to seize this opportunity to gain valuable insights, guidance, and support to further develop your research career. Together, we can build a vibrant community and contribute to the advancement of equal opportunities.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to the programme coordinator: ines.crisostomo@uni.lu.

Sincerely,

ADVANCE Fellows Team