

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline March 24th 2019

**Are you a young scientist who has already produced excellent research, is ready to work independently and shows potential to be a research leader? The Young Scientists Acceleration Program could be for you.**

Our main goal is to strengthen the basis for scientific research in the Albanian higher education system that makes use of the brightest young scientists and scientific excellence, contributing to the overall development of innovative scientific and technological outputs.

YSAP supports talented early-career scientists who have a demonstrated track record of outstanding scientific work in applied sciences, to carry out/develop a concrete research proposal related to the scientific field. The program abides by a 'scientist-driven' scheme. It is designed as a bottom up acceleration fund that allows young scientists to identify novel solutions, ideas and opportunities in their respective fields of research.

We have launched the YSAP program because we are convinced that the development of science and its practical applications are the way to fostering sustainable economic and social development in Albania.

### Who can apply to YSAP?

Researchers from Albania already enrolled in a PhD or Post Doc program in a public higher-education institution in Albania or abroad, with an ongoing scientific track record, showing commitment and an excellent research proposal.

### What proposals are accepted?

The YSAP scholarship operates without predetermined priorities. Applications can be made in all applied sciences fields of research that fall under the following categories:

- natural sciences
- medicine
- agriculture
- engineering
- computer science
- communication technology

Applications in the YSAP program shall be submitted by a single Researcher, in conjunction with and on behalf of their higher education institution. The scholarship is awarded to the single Researcher, provided that the applicant conducts research and manages the funding for the duration of the project in compliance with the PhD program requirements applicable to that Researcher.

### **How does the grant scheme work?**

YSAP scholarships may be awarded up to three (3) Researchers with a monthly bursary of 300 USD for a period of 12 months. The YSAP scholarship is designed to cover up eligible direct costs of the research proposals, which may include:

- chemicals and other required material
- small equipment
- professional literature
- registration fee for scientific meetings
- airline tickets for the needs of participation in expert meeting

### **How to apply?**

The YSAP applications can only be submitted in response to the Call for Proposals. For an YSAP application to be complete, it needs to include the administrative forms, the research proposal and the supplementary documents. The completed proposal should be submitted by the specified closing date. In order to apply for YSAP, interested applicants shall fill in and submit the following documents:

1. Filled application form with budget form
2. Filled recommendation form (mentor, professor, head of scientific institution, etc.) for the project
3. Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum
4. Scanned copy of undergraduate and graduate certifications (diplomas)
5. Scanned copy of completed doctorates of candidates who have completed their doctorate
6. Scanned certificates of employment for all candidates (Employer's declaration on form and time period of employment)
7. Scanned consent of the scientific institution in which the research will be carried out
8. Scanned copy of ID card of candidates (or residence certificates)

### How does the selection occur?

The selection is done by an expert Scientific Selection Committee composed of distinguished professors of the University of Tirana, whose expertise in the field of innovation, biomedical, and natural sciences.

**The first round** comprises an administrative screening of all received applications with an assessment of the fulfillment of the defined criteria. On this basis, the commission will long-list selected candidates.

**The second round** involves the assessment and scoring of proposals according to the following:

1. clarity of purpose;
2. innovation potential;
3. quality of proposal;
4. academic track record of the candidate;
5. sustainability of the project proposal
6. financial feasibility of the project
7. Impact of the project for the economy and society

**The third round** involves interviewing short-listed candidate with the Scientific Selection Committee. After the interview, the commission adopts a unanimous final decision on grant winners, based on the overall assessment from all rounds of selection.

### Instructions for submission:

- Applications shall be submitted not later than **March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019**
- All documents shall be submitted in a **pdf**. format.
- You must name the email subject as per the following: YSAP [candidate name surname]
- The application folder must be named: YSAP\_[candidate name surname] (YSAP\_ermiragjoka).
- All applications shall be sent to the following e-mail address: [info@ddaer.org](mailto:info@ddaer.org)
- All applications that do not meet the above conditions will not be taken into consideration.

Upon receipt of the application, applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt. If you have additional questions regarding the call for application and the application, the consultations will be held every Mondays from 10:00 to 16:00 at the premises of the Social Service Center DDAER.



Contact person: Ms. Sueda Guri , Rr.Brigada e VIII, Tirane (mbi 'Fresh Garden') You can also ask questions directly by email to: [info@ddaer.org](mailto:info@ddaer.org) or by phone at +355 (0) 6924272004 from 10.00 to 15.00