

Guide for Applicants

This document provides information on the application process and selection procedure for prospective Doctoral Candidates (DCs) within the **Understanding and Predicting Impacts of Climate Extremes under Global Change Doctoral Network (CLIMES DN)**. CLIMES DN is funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Doctoral Networks) of the European Union's Horizon Europe programme, with a start date of 1st March 2026.

The information provided reflects the rules and principles applicable to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, applicants are advised to consult the official vacancy announcements and institutional webpages for position-specific details.

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1. Introduction

The CLIMES Doctoral Network is an international doctoral network designed to train a cohort of doctoral researchers capable of advancing the understanding of multisectoral impacts of climate extremes under global change. The network combines interdisciplinary research with structured training and international mobility, preparing doctoral candidates for careers across academia, the public sector, industry, and civil society.

Recruitment within CLIMES DN is conducted in an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial, and equitable manner, in line with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. We encourage all candidates to read the MSCA guidance documents: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>.

2. About CLIMES DN

Climate extremes such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, and compound events pose increasing risks to societies, ecosystems, and economies. CLIMES DN addresses these challenges by integrating expertise from climate science, data science, epidemiology, engineering, and the social sciences.

The network focuses on:

- improving the availability and use of climate impact data;
- advancing methods for risk assessment and impact forecasting;
- analysing the interaction between physical climate extremes, societal vulnerability, and adaptation processes.

In parallel with research excellence, CLIMES DN provides structured doctoral training, including network-wide courses, interdisciplinary supervision, and secondments to partner organisations.

3. Participating Host Organisations

Doctoral Candidates will be recruited by the CLIMES DN beneficiary institutions. Each position is hosted by a specific organisation and embedded within the wider network.

Details on participating host organisations, supervisors, and partner organisations are provided in the individual vacancy announcements.

Participating Host Organisations (Beneficiaries)

- Uppsala University — Department of Earth Sciences

- Technical University of Crete — School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering
- University of Cyprus — Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology — Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research
- The University of Manchester — School of Environment, Education and Development
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) — Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel — Department of Water and Climate
- CNRS – National Centre for Scientific Research — Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement
- Karolinska Institutet — Department of Global Public Health
- Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) — Climate, Air Pollution, Nature and Urban Health Programme

4. Why apply for a Doctoral Candidate position in CLIMES DN?

As a Doctoral Candidate in CLIMES DN, you will:

- work in an international and interdisciplinary research environment;
- receive structured doctoral training aligned with a personalised Career Development Plan;
- gain transdisciplinary experience through secondments to academic, public-sector, and non-academic partner organisations;
- develop a unique skill set combining scientific expertise with transferable skills;
- benefit from dedicated training in communication, collaboration, innovation, and professional development;
- be supervised and mentored by leading researchers and practitioners working on climate extremes and their impacts.
- receive a competitive remuneration and a family allowance if applicable.

5. Available Positions

CLIMES DN offers a set of fully-funded doctoral positions. Each position corresponds to a defined research project and is advertised individually by the recruiting host organisation.

Vacancy announcements specify:

- the research topic and objectives;
- the host institution and supervisory team;
- eligibility requirements;
- application procedures and deadlines.

Applicants must apply directly to the relevant host organisation, following the instructions provided in each vacancy announcement.

The following projects are on offer:

- Data justice for climate impacts (University of Manchester)
- Socioeconomic and environmental impacts of climate extremes from multilingual textual extraction (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research)
- A new atlas of historical flood impacts (Technical University of Crete)
- Connecting climate data with impact datasets (Uppsala University)
- Assessing future wildfire risks (Technical University of Crete)
- Future risks from recurrent drought events – from agriculture to river transport (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)
- Storyline-based assessments of local risks from future hydroclimatic extremes (Uppsala University)
- Risk assessment of climate-related health impacts on children in sub-Saharan Africa (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- The nexus between climate extremes and mosquito-borne viral diseases (Karolinska Institutet)
- A Multi-Hazard Climate Health Early Warning System (Barcelona Institute for Global Health)
- Impact forecasting for windstorm losses (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)
- Forecasting multi-sectorial and cascading impacts of floods (Uppsala University)
- Medium-range forecasts of climate-related power grid failures (University of Cyprus)
- Impacts of climate extremes on the energy sector: towards causal relationships for seasonal predictive models (National Centre for Scientific Research)

6. Who can apply?

Applicants must fulfil the eligibility criteria defined for MSCA Doctoral Networks at the date of recruitment. In particular:

- applicants may be of any nationality;
- at the date of recruitment, applicants must not hold a doctoral degree;
- applicants must comply with the MSCA mobility rule, meaning they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work or studies) in the country of the recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the recruitment date.

The recruitment date is defined as the first day of employment, as stated in the employment contract.

7. Employment conditions

Doctoral Candidates will be employed full-time by the recruiting host organisation for a period in accordance with national regulations and the Grant Agreement. MSCA funding covers up to 36 months of employment; longer contracts may be offered subject to national rules and co-funding by the host organisation.

Remuneration and allowances follow MSCA Doctoral Networks rules and include:

- a living allowance, subject to the applicable country correction coefficient;
- a mobility allowance;
- a family allowance, where applicable.

Exact salary levels and employment conditions are specified in the individual vacancy announcements and employment contracts.

8. Application and selection procedure

Applications must be submitted through the application systems of the recruiting host organisations, as specified in each vacancy announcement.

Eligible applications are assessed by selection committees based on:

1. scientific background and academic merits;
2. relevance of prior experience and motivation for the proposed research project.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interviews conducted online or in person. Interviews follow a structured format to ensure fairness and comparability. Successful candidates will receive a formal offer of employment and will be registered as doctoral candidates at the relevant host institution. Where required, registration at a partner university is arranged in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

9. Indicative timeline

The indicative recruitment timeline is as follows:

- Feb – Mar 2026 Announcements are published
- Mar – April 2026 Applications are reviewed
- April – May 2026 Finalisation of the candidate selection
- Sept 2026 Start date of the doctorates

More detailed timelines are provided in the individual vacancy announcements, and may present minor deviations from the above. Applicants should note that the exact timelines may vary between host organisations.

10. Further information

For general information on CLIMES DN, please consult the project website.

For position-specific questions, applicants should contact the recruiting host organisation as indicated in the relevant vacancy announcement.