# Call for PhD 1 fellowship (DC10)

## MSCA – Doctoral Network

### *Lectin LIgands for Modulation of ImmuniTy = LLiMiT*

LLIMIT is a European doctoral training network dedicated to advancing immunomodulatory glycoscience. Its aim is to empower a new generation of researchers with the skills to design and develop ligands/antagonists targeting immune-related lectins—an innovative but underexplored therapeutic strategy against immune disorders such as allergy, cancer and autoimmunity, one of today's major global health challenges. The consortium unites 7 academic institutions with accredited PhD programs in organic and medicinal chemistry, molecular biology, structural biology, immunology and pharmacology, each with strong expertise in glycoscience. They are joined by 7 non-academic partners and a graduate and research academy, ensuring comprehensive, cross-sector training that spans fundamental science, translational research, and entrepreneurship. Key objectives of LLIMIT include: a) recruiting and training 14 doctoral candidates in a joint, research-based program supported by expert supervision and specialized training events, b) advancing innovative research on immune lectins and carbohydrate ligands, covering the full early drug discovery pipeline: from target identification and validation, through advanced glycochemistry and drug design, to hit and lead discovery; c) establishing a sustainable foundation for European excellence in glycodrug and immunomodulatory research; d) developing a common glycodrug curriculum across participating institutions to standardize and strengthen education in this field; e) building and maintaining long-term partnerships that ensure continuity in training, research, and innovation well beyond the project's duration.

**DC10 PROJECT TITLE.** ***Modulation of antitumour immunity by glycomimetics.***

*Host Institution*: Institute for Advanced Biosciences (IAB), Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA), France, https://iab-grenoble.fr/

*Duration*: 36 months, May 2027 - April 2030

*Supervisor:* Dr. Caroline ASPORD

*Co-supervisors*: Prof. Philipp LANG (UDUS), Prof. Franck FIESCHI (Université Grenoble Alpes – UGA, FR).
*Progress Committee Members*: Prof. Franck FIESCHI (UGA), Prof. Philip LANG (UDUS)

**DC10 PROJECT.** The research programme of DC10 aims to assess the impact of glycomimetics on human dendritic cells to identify glycomimetics with an anti-tumour potential and explore new therapeutic opportunities in cancer immunotherapy. The objectives are : 1/ evaluate the binding capacity of glycomimetics on human DC subsets in vitro by flow cytometry, and depict the lectin receptor involved using blocking antibodies. 2) assess the functional impact of glycomimetics on human DC subsets through evaluation of their activation status, immune checkpoint profile, cytokine secretion profile, ability to respond to stimulation in vitro by flow cytometry and ProcartaPLEX Luminex dosages, 3) determine the subsequent orientation of antitumour immunity through cocultures of DCs and effectors (DC pre-conditioned by glycomimetics cocultured with NK cells, γδT cells or conventional CD4+ or CD8+ T cells) and subsequently analyse cytokine secretion profiles and cytotoxic capacity of effectors towards tumour cells, and 4) explore the therapeutic potential of selected glycomimetics in vivo in tumour-bearing humanized mice.

**PLANNED SECONDMENTS.** 1. UDUS (Prof. Dr. Philipp Lang), DC10 will evaluate the impact of Man-/Fuc-based glycomimetics on macrophages; 2. GlycoDiag (Dr. Ludovic Landemarre) DC10 will performed fluorescent labelling of glycomimetics.

LLIMIT is to date under the condition that the Grant Agreement is signed

**PhD School enrolment:** Doctoral School Chemistry and Life Sciences (ED CSV) at the University of Grenoble, https://edcsv.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE.

The position is open to candidates of any nationality, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for Doctoral Candidates (DCs) funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), as defined in Section 1.3.2, "Recruited researchers", of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027.

Applicants must complete the **LLIMIT Application Form** (provided as a separate document, available at https://llimit.eu/) and submit it, together with all the required supporting documents listed in the form, to llimit@ffa.uni-lj.si by **15 January 2027**. The application for the first round of candidate assessment should consist of the following documents:

- Completed LLIMIT application form;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) in the Europass format: https://europass.europa.eu/en/create-europass-cv including the details of education and qualifications, work experience, language skills and other relevant skills;
- Motivation Letter;
- Transcript of record (academic studies) and master's degree certificate (when available);
- Two letters of recommendation from academics or research professionals;
- A summary of the master's degree thesis or a brief description of the past scientific activity;
- A short critical summary of a selected paper: https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1120434,
- Copy of the valid ID card or Passport.

Please use the subject line "*Application for DC10 position*". The five highest-ranked applicants following the first round of candidate assessment will be invited for an interview.

The salary of the DCs will be paid according to the MSCA rules. See: https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/funding/msca-doctoral-networks-2026

## CANDIDATE PROFILE

- 5-years degree (Master) in Immunology, Cell Biology, Glycobiology, Cancer Biology or related fields,
- Good knowledge in Tumor Immunology and/ or Glyco-Immunology
- Experience in flow cytometry, cell culture and animal models is welcome
- Interest in glycobiology, glycan-mediated immune modulation and glycomimetics.
- Good level of English proficiency (understood, spoken and written),
- Team spirit and proactive attitude.

Information also available at: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/ and https://llimit.eu/.