

CALL n°2 FOR POST-DOCTORAL CANDIDATES 2020

The Sorbonne University Institute for Environmental Transition (SU-ITE) is inviting candidates to apply for a post-doctoral position starting in the fall of 2020, on **one of these thematic**s.

- The biomass sustainability
- The modelling of socio-ecological systems ("socioecosystems")
- Tools and concepts for a frugal society
- The relationships between urban and rural territories

The call is open **until Friday, 30th of October 2020, 18:00 CET**.
The applicants will be auditioned during the September-October period,
in Paris or by video-meeting, in French or English.

1. What is SU-ITE?

The Sorbonne University Institute for Environmental Transition (SU-ITE, www.su-ite.eu) was created in 2017 by the Sorbonne University Alliance, which brings together Sorbonne University, the National Museum for Natural History (MNHN), The Technological University of Compiègne (UTC), and the INSEAD Business School. This transversal institute gathers researchers from all disciplines in order to produce up-to-date knowledge that contributes to the ecological transition.

2. Profile of the applicants

The candidates need to hold a doctorate degree **at the end of October 2020 at the latest**. Applicants should have their dissertation in any discipline linked to the above thematic

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To be eligible, there is no age or nationality criteria.

3. Post-doctoral position

The post-doctorate research fellow will be hosted, with a two years contract (with possibility of extension), at one of the laboratories associated to SU-ITE. The position will start at **the fall of 2020**. The post-doctorate research fellow will receive a personalized assistance from a collegial management team organized by SU-ITE.

The post-doctorate research fellow will have a contract. It opens rights to social security, paid holidays and sick leaves. The post-doctoral contract will cover **only the salary (around 35 k€ gross annual amount)**. The possible extra-costs will be given by SU-ITE for a guaranteed minimum level. An intern and a doctoral student could complement the post-doctoral mission.

4. Applying proposal

The applicants must send a well-argued proposal detailing a research topic (*maximum 15,000 characters and spaces, French or English*).

The proposal will have to make clear the original qualities of the envisioned research. The jury will pay special attention to the interdisciplinary dimension of the project and to its applied nature, for instance regarding the operational innovations that could emerge.

The proposal would have also to mention one of the applicant's scientific articles connected to the proposed topic and a short bibliography.

5. How to apply?

The submissions have to be sent by email at the latest on

Friday 30th October 2020, 18:00 CET, to: communication@su-ite.eu

They must contain:

- A letter of intent (*maximum 2,000 characters and spaces*).
- CV (scientific resume).
- One publication (*full text, pdf version*) linked to the chosen topic.
- A research proposal (*maximum 15,000 characters and spaces, in French or English*).

6. Targeted thematics

A. The biomass sustainability

The uses of biomass can reduce the exploitation of fossil resources as they provide energy, materials and carbon storage. However they can be non sustainable if they induce competition with the food and feed productions. Moreover, the conditions of the biomass production can generate massive negative effects on biodiversity. The criteria and indicators for a strong sustainability of biomass uses need to be established rigorously according to different aims and to the specificities of the concerned territories.

B. The modelling of socio-ecological systems ("socioecosystems")

The concept of socio-ecological systems ("socioecosystems") hides multiples interactions between ecological and social systems which make uneasy political decisions for the ecological transition. The modelling of socio-ecological systems and its use as a scenario planning tool could be a strong operating lever by exploring the possible futures. The post-doctoral researcher would have to deepen the socioecosystem concept, draw up an inventory of the available modelling methods and conceive appropriation approaches for the concerned communities. The territorial scale should be emphasized.

C. Tools and concepts for a frugal society

The frugality and simplicity of the ways of life seem unavoidable so as to keep the world inside the planetary boundaries. But this slogan is not obvious and at least implies resources reallocations that challenge some cultural, social and economic foundations. What is a frugal and happy society? What are the scientific basis that warrant such a society? Can we, and how, make it attractive and achievable?

D. The relationships between urban and rural territories

While the urban territories concentrate the main part of human populations and richnesses, the rebalancing of the socio-economic dynamics with the rural territories appears as a prerequisite for the ecological transition. What are the analysis and models for this rebalancing in Europe and elsewhere? What are the initiatives that work in its favour? How can the thinkings regarding the big metropolitan areas integrate these initiatives in order to reinvent the city?