

UNLIMITED – Marie Curie Doctoral Network

Understanding Lipid ImmunoMetabolism To Treat Disease (Horizon Europe)

15 PhD Positions

Doctoral Candidate (DC) (f/m/d) - 36 months, full-time,
Earliest Start: 01 Aug 2026.

Training across 15 beneficiaries (14 academic, 1 non-academic).



Find more information: unimedizin-mainz.de/unlimited-msca/home.html

Apply by: 15 March 2026 23:00 GMT | Interviews: 15-17 Apr 2026 (onsite or online)

Project overview

The UNLIMITED Doctoral Network trains 15 PhD candidates at the interface of immunology, metabolism, and advanced technologies to uncover how lipid pathways regulate immune responses and disease.

Research focus

We investigate how lipid metabolism regulates immune cell function and contributes to immune-related diseases (e.g., cancer and autoimmunity).
Methods: multi-omics, single-cell and spatial technologies, advanced lipidomics.

Our Goal

To gain mechanistic insight at the lipid-immune interface to guide precision immunotherapy.

Individual Projects

- DC 1-5: Single-cell/spatial tool development
- DC 6-10: Molecular pathways of immune activation/differentiation
- DC 11-13: Tissue/systemic metabolic regulation of immunity
- DC14-15: Therapeutic target discovery in lipid metabolism

Recruiting Institutions

- CNRS, France (DC1)
- AUMC, Netherlands (DC2)
- University Medical Center Mainz, Germany (DC3, DC6, DC15)
- University of Padua, Italy (DC4)
- Vugene UAB, Lithuania (DC5)
- University of Milan, Italy (DC7)
- CNIC, Spain (DC8)

Benefits and training

- Interdisciplinary training across Europe and industry partners.
- 36-month contract
- Secondments with UNLIMITED partners
- Salary according to MSCA regulations

Eligibility (MSCA rules)

- No doctoral degree at recruitment
- Must not have lived/worked/studied in Germany >12 months in the past 36 months
- Any nationality eligible
- Background

Application (single PDF, max 5 MB)

- UNLIMITED application form (choose 1-3 topics, ranked)
- CV (+ publications if applicable).
- Cover letter (max 1 page) outlining fit to topic(s).
- Reference letter(s) + two referees' contacts.
- BSc/MSc transcripts (final MSc certificate upon hiring).
- Additional certificates (optional).
- No photos.
- **Only complete applications will be considered.**
- GDPR applies.