

ASTRA PROJECT

Deliverable D5 (D1.2) Memo of the FAQ of the Counselling Service of the Applicants

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Author(s):	Anu Kettunen (JYU); anu.e.kettunen@jyu.fi
Contributor(s)	-

The call for applications for the 15 early stage researcher positions in the Astra project opened on 19th of October 2020. The day before on 18th of October the web page of the project and the contact information for the project were published. We have an e-mail address astra-project@jyu.fi, which is handled by the project manager. The counselling service of the applicants was organised through that e-mail.

In the recruitment call of the early-stage researchers we asked applicants to contact the project by e-mail if they had any questions concerning the call. We received in total 110 e-mail inquiries. In addition to these inquiries replied mainly by the project manager, many professors got e-mail inquiries concerning the call.

We added information about the frequently asked questions and replies to them at the project web page soon after we had received the first e-mail inquiries. The most frequently asked questions and replies to them were:

Question: Will you be accepting applications from outside Europe?

Answer: This opportunity IS OPEN to applicants from any country, i.e. also outside of the EU. When recruited, however, the ESR has to move to the country and work at the university, where s/he is recruited to.

Question: I'll graduate in February, so I wouldn't be able to hand in a copy of the thesis and of the certificate by December. Is it still possible to apply in that case?

Answer: Unfortunately, your application can't be taken into account if you haven't finished your degree. The Master or other relevant degree is the prerequisite for the candidates to be enrolled as a PhD student on this programme. You need to attach a certificate of your degree to your application. Unfortunately, this is the case.

Question: I graduated from an EU country and my master's thesis was submitted in English. The English was the language for instruction and it is stated in my diploma supplement. Do I need a certificate of my English skills?

Answer: A language test or Diploma Certificate in English is not required if the applicant has completed a degree of higher education in the EU/EEA country, Switzerland, Great Britain, USA, Canada, Australia or New In Zealand and the language of the education has been English.

Question: My master's thesis was written in Finnish/German/Italian etc. However, I have studied various courses in English. Do I need a proof of my English skills?

Answer: Yes, you will have to attach a certificate of your English skills if you haven't graduated from a study programme where the language of the education was English.

The most frequent questions concerned eligibility in one way or another, the demanded certificate of the proof of proficiency in English and the application process. The questions concerning eligibility often concerned the situation where an applicant had not graduated yet and wanted to know whether s/he could apply for the ESR positions. Many applicants asked about the eligibility in relation to their own education and work experience background. Numerous applicants asked in relation to their own situation and studies whether they were required to attach a certificate of proof of proficiency in English.

The project manager replied to questions concerning the application process, attachments and the eligibility if the applicant had not graduated yet. Professor Holger Ziegler replied to questions concerning the eligibility of applicants with different education backgrounds. We encouraged applicants to apply and were happy about the result 178 applications altogether for the ASTRA ESR positions.