



Call for Applications: *Mawjaat Action-Research – Creative Hubs for Cultural Transitions in the Mediterranean* — Friche la Belle de Mai / Iméra, 2025-2027

For the 2026-27 year, Iméra, the Institute for Advanced Study (IEA) of Aix-Marseille University, is partnering with Friche la Belle de Mai as part of a Mediterranean cooperation programme. It is opening one action-research position from November 2025 to June 2027, which includes a 5-month residency at Iméra, dedicated to academic researchers, artist-researchers, and/or intellectuals. This "Mawjaat Action-Research – Creative Hubs for Cultural Transitions in the Mediterranean — Friche la Belle de Mai / Iméra" programme has a separate format and schedule from Iméra's general call for applications for 2026-27.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates who have previously been in residence at Iméra may submit a new application a minimum of 5 years after their last research stay.

Candidates who meet these 6 conditions are eligible:

- 1. The selected candidate must be able, particularly in administrative and consular terms, to travel to the six countries concerned (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and France).**
2. Have proven scientific excellence in a research field related to creative hubs, their hybrid forms, narratives, and functions.
3. Have not resided in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to this call for applications.
4. Hold a doctorate or Ph.D., or have 6 years of research experience after obtaining a master's degree.
- 5. The candidate must have a legal status that allows them to contract for the provision of services.**
- 6. Language skills: English, French (full professional proficiency in writing and full oral comprehension), and literary Arabic (spoken) or, failing that, a spoken Arabic dialect from one of the project countries.**

Timeline

- **Application Deadline:** Monday, 22 September 2025, at 1:00 PM (UTC + 2)
- **Action-Research Duration:** November 2025 to June 2027
 - **Field Research:** January 2026 to January 2027
 - **Research Residency at Iméra:** 4 February 2027 to 30 June 2027

Provisional Date for Publication of Selection Results: 15 October 2025

Application

The texts included in the file may be written in English or French.

To apply, candidates must:

- **Fill in the application form** (including mandatory fields), accessible via the "apply" button on each chair's dedicated page.
- **Upload through the application form :**
 - **A curriculum vitae** including a list of publications (maximum 10 pages).
 - **A presentation of the research project** to be conducted during the residency (maximum 5 pages), followed by a selective bibliography.
 - **(Optional) A letter of reference** from a prominent figure who has played a decisive role in the candidate's scientific career.



Residency conditions at Iméra 2026-27

Taking part in an intercultural, international, and interdisciplinary context

Residing at Iméra means immersing oneself in a bilingual environment open to Francophone culture and, more broadly, to interculturality within the unique context of Marseille—a long-standing melting pot but also a "city of refuge," "port city," "city of transit," and "Mediterranean city," among other things. It also means taking the time to discover the research of other residents and possibly experimenting with new forms of collective intelligence that intersect methods, subjects, and disciplines.

Scientific activities are led by the programme directors who make up the scientific team. Most are teacher-researchers who support the residents throughout their stay and facilitate interactions with the local scientific ecosystem.

To this end:

- **Active knowledge of French and/or English (written and spoken) is essential. Basic language skills in both languages are desirable due to the bilingual context at Iméra; for example, the weekly seminars are held in both languages.** Laureates who are not fluent in French are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the language during their stay, or even beforehand.
- Candidates commit to participating in activities planned with other residents and the Iméra scientific team. **The Community Building Seminar (CBS) is a central activity in this regard, held every Thursday for 3 hours.**
- **In the interest of research internationalisation**, just as the local scientific and cultural community should be able to benefit from other methodological traditions brought by the residents, the residents should be able to take advantage of the numerous expertises that shape a site where most disciplines are represented. For these reasons, candidates must be based abroad and submit a project that makes the most of the resources offered on-site (around a hundred laboratories, various archives, a very lively cultural and associative life, etc.). **It is therefore strongly recommended to identify key local contacts related to the research topic in advance, indicate them in the project, and explain the planned collaboration methods.**

Below are links to online resources for identifying and locating expertise and scientific contacts at the Aix-Marseille site. These are not exhaustive but are what is currently available:

- **CESAM** – The mapping of Scientific Skills & Equipment of Aix-Marseille: [click here](#)

- List of the 115 research units at Aix-Marseille University: [click here](#)
- List of the interdisciplinary Establishment Institutes of Aix-Marseille University: [click here](#)



Hosting Conditions for Residents

For information on remuneration, candidates should refer to the content available on the presentation page for the “Mawjaat Action-Research – Cultural Hubs for Cultural Transitions in the Mediterranean - Friche la Belle de Mai / Iméra”.

Housing

Barring exceptions, residents will be housed in one of Iméra's 14 flats, located in Parc Longchamp in the centre of Marseille.

The allocation of housing is at the sole discretion of Iméra, which endeavours to accommodate all residents as best as possible. To this end, candidates must indicate their family configuration from the moment of application ("type of hosting"), which concerns only permanent presences for the entire duration of the residency (and not occasional visits).

Pets are not allowed.

Transportation

Iméra covers one round-trip journey for the resident only, between Marseille and their usual place of residence.

Research Resources

Residents are provided with a desk in an open co-working space, not a private, closed office. Iméra is unable to offer workspaces for families outside of the flat. For artist-researchers, Iméra provides a modular studio space, which is intended to be shared and whose walls can be fully used for various hangings.

All residents benefit from the support of the Iméra team, which facilitates their stay and the organisation of their activities within the limits of available financial resources. These activities are normally related to their programme themes but can also be cross-cutting with other

programmes. In this context, Iméra helps residents establish new contacts within the scientific and cultural environment of the Aix-Marseille region.

As part of this Mawjaat Action-Research programme in partnership with Friche la Belle de Mai, Iméra will support the researcher before the residency period, from their selection and throughout the field survey period. Iméra will participate in internal seminars and meetings between partners for the total duration of the project.

Resident's Commitments

The Iméra resident agrees to accept all the principles and rules of conduct set out in [the institute's charter](#).

