

CHORAL

CALL FOR INTEREST for PhD Topics on CULTURAL HERITAGE MSCA Jointly supervised Doctoral Thesis

- ✓ **CHORAL (Cultural Heritage Outreach in RomAnce Languages)** is a **Horizon Europe Marie Curie programme**, i.e. very demanding and oriented towards mobility and excellence, with strong **rules to follow**.
- ✓ The Beneficiary of CHORAL is the **University de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, UPPA**, located in the SW of **France**, with the implementing partners: **Universidad Publica de Navarra and Universidad de Zaragoza**, Spain, **Università degli Studi di Brescia and Università di Torino**, Italy, **Université Savoie Mont Blanc**, France, and the **Transilvania University of Brasov**, Romania. Furthermore, associated partners are **University of Beira Interior**, Portugal and the **University of Timisoara**, Romania.
- ✓ CHORAL is participating to research projects in the field of **Cultural Heritage**. Each PhD thesis is a **cotutelle project**, with a **PhD student, PhD co-supervisors, potential partners, and places for secondments encouraged**.
- ✓ **Dedicated training programme on Cultural Heritage (CH)**

The **objectives of the CHORAL programme** are to **train high-quality international researchers and have them develop interdisciplinary research that addresses any aspect of cultural heritage** (as defined by UNESCO) that are particularly resonant with the interests of the local communities involved with the UNITA Alliance territories.

CHORAL will focus on the subjects studied on the **Cultural Heritage Hub (CHH)** comprised in the following themes:

- **Study and preservation of tangible CH**: visual arts, monuments and buildings, archaeological sites, palaeontology, industrial archaeology, places of memory, museums and collections, art conservation and restoration, legislation for the protection of cultural and natural heritage
- **Intangible CH and identity narratives**: oral traditions, romance languages and literature, performing arts (music, dance, drama), rituals, travels, cultural identity, religion, collective and individual memory, migrations, vulnerable communities, gender studies, transnational history, values, human rights
- **Enhancement and dissemination of cultural and natural heritage**: tourism and valorisation, education, communication, heritage management, digitisation/digital tools, storytelling, institutions and heritage
- **Innovation policies for the development of marginalised areas**: natural heritage and cultural landscapes, climate impact on mountain/rural areas, flora, agriculture, and landscape, culture and food, fauna, livestock farming and biodiversity sectors to ensure the economic strength of mountain regions and cross-border communities.

Research topics must highly encourage interdisciplinarity (together with a joint supervision within the Alliance).

Potential supervisors are invited to use the [UNITA R&I cartography](#) to identify possible collaboration teams and contact them to set up a joint supervision and define a PhD topic to answer to the call.

All the eligible projects¹ (that may exceed the number of doctoral positions) will be pooled and constitute the pre-determined set of PhD topics offered to applicants within a call for applicants. Each project is required to present a secondment of at least 9 months outside the recruiting university. Of the 9 months, at least 6 months will be in the co-supervising university in the UNITA Alliance. The other 3 months can also be spent in another University, increasing the international exposure of the doctoral candidates (DCs).

- ✓ The official starting date of the CHORAL programme is **September 1st, 2024**
- ✓ The official ending date of the CHORAL programme is **August 31st, 2029**
- ✓ **TOTAL DURATION: 60 months**

AGENDA of CHORAL third call for Expression of Interest

- ✓ **Opening of CHORAL EOI #2: June 2nd, 2025**
- ✓ **Closure of CHORAL EOI #2: September 30th, 2025**
- ✓ **CHORAL EOI #2 is for 14 PhD topics in cotutelle starting on Sept 1st 2026**

Applications **in English** must be submitted on the [UPPA platform](#).

We will be holding **a webinar on June 26nd at 11h00** (CET) to present the programme and answer any questions you may have.

ELIGIBILITY RULES for SUPERVISORS:

Throughout the PhD, CHORAL will pay attention to the quality of the supervision of candidates, and particularly in the **selection of potential Supervisors**. Indeed, in order to participate in the programme and offer to supervise a PhD candidate, potential Supervisors will be selected on their adequate experience to provide the PhD researchers with academic support and a career development plan. In order to be appointed as academic Supervisors, either a *Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (HDR, mandatory in France)* or a

¹ The Cultural Heritage Hub will verify that research topics fit the CHORAL program.

national equivalent will be required from researchers, or their official commitment to engage in the process to get this accreditation during the first year of the PhD.

FINANCIAL RULES for the PhD candidates:

The minimum **Gross Salary** of a CHORAL PhD student **must be above € 2 800 per month**. Living allowance: each Doctoral Candidates will receive a gross salary of 2 800 €/month, except for the DC hired in France where the final gross salary for DCs hired in France is fixed following yearly national standards (always above 2 800/month).

- **Mobility allowance:** a **mobility allowance** of 4 500 € to partially cover travels, accommodation, etc. linked to secondments for the project duration
- **Travel allowance** of 3500 € over the 3-year period of the PhD, to cover expenses related to the travel for attendance or participation to conferences, workshops, etc
- The **Research Costs** for a Social Sciences and Humanities PhD will be 5 000€ over the 3 years. This budget will cover the costs to purchase a computer to each DC, publications and other research related costs.
- **Mandatory Trainings** will be proposed by the CHORAL programme in the form of courses, annual schools, Doctoral symposia, etc. Further trainings will be available for the DCs in their local Doctoral Schools, financed by the coordinator and the partners.

Targeted candidates: Graduate students holding a **Master's degree in Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities or Architecture and whose topics are related to any aspect of Cultural Heritage**. Candidates must comply with the mobility rule in MSCA programmes (they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting entity for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call.

More information: choral@univ-pau.fr

Full details of the project, its objectives, proposed topics, eligibility criteria, application procedures are posted in the dedicated CHORAL tab on the Re-UNITA website, accessible via <https://research.univ-unita.eu/en/choral-project.html>.