

OPEN CALL

SSH Research Talent Positions

CITADELS Project – Corvinus University of Budapest

Cultivating Industry 5.0 Talents: Academia–Industry Collaboration and Empowerment through Accessible DEep technoLogieS

Application period: 1 -14 June, 2026

1. About the Call

Corvinus University of Budapest invites applications for **four SSH (Social Science and Humanities) Research Talent positions** within the Horizon Europe project *CITADELS*. The Hungarian participation is funded by the NRD Office. The project lasts four years, starting from September 2025.

These positions are linked specifically to the study of human-centricity in DeepTech and to participation in an intervention research process led by Lilla Vicsek.

We are looking for applicants who wish to contribute to research on human-centricity in DeepTech in international industrial settings and who are willing to participate in a broader programme of training, international mobility, and publication-oriented academic work.

2. Eligibility Conditions

- Applicants must be either employees of Corvinus University of Budapest or doctoral students at the university. In case of doctoral students, they must be able to enter into the required employment or equivalent direct contractual arrangement with CUB before the secondment starts.
- Applicants must be available, preferably, for two one-month SSH embedding secondments and one one-month transversal skills secondment. Limited availability must be declared in the application and will be considered during evaluation.
- Applicants must be willing to comply with project rules on confidentiality, personal data protection, ethics, host access conditions, health and safety, and dissemination clearance.

3. Background of the Position

The CITADELS project supports cross-sectoral and cross-border mobility between academia and industry in the field of DeepTech and Industry 5.0. Many participating institutions are organisations that work with DeepTech technological solutions (such as XR, VR, cobots, Human-Machine Interfaces, etc.), and one aim of the project is to further the development of human-centric Industry 5.0 technological solutions.

Academic research talents participate in secondments hosted by non-academic partner institutions in order to support concrete deployment activities, learn from practice, and strengthen their research and career development. At Corvinus University, the SSH Research Talents have a specific role: they contribute to the human-centric dimension of DeepTech design and participate in intervention research on human-centricity.



4. Intervention Research on Human-Centricity

A central part of the position is participation in an intervention research project on human-centric technology development. The aim of the study is to evaluate, follow, and improve human-centric technology development attitudes, knowledge, and practices among members of certain participating organisations.

The research will involve an initial phase of empirical data collection on current understandings and practices, followed by an intervention in the form of an online workshop designed to deepen participants' reflection on human-centricity and support practice development. The effects of the intervention will then be examined through follow-up data collection conducted in two phases, including further field-based research during the secondments.

Research talents will contribute to data collection, field experience discussions, and the development of empirical insights, while also having the opportunity to pursue an individual research topic, preferably one related to human-centricity.

5. Relevant Research Interests

Applications are particularly welcome from candidates whose research interests include:

- social aspects of human-centric technology in Industry 5.0
- technology and work
- organisations, workplaces, and technological change
- worker experience, user experience, or workplace well-being in relation to technological systems
- qualitative research on technology deployment
- social, behavioural, or organisational dimensions of AI, robotics, XR, or other DeepTech
- human-machine interaction
- empirical research on how technologies are introduced, experienced, and shaped in practice

6. What Will Be Expected from Selected Talents?

Each talent can propose a mentor, someone that is willing to comply with mentoring procedures from CITADELS from the home institution (CUB) and will be assigned a supervisor at the host institution. The talents and their mentors will be expected to follow the CITADELS Career Development Plan methodology which comprises the participation to several (~3) workshops and some associated due diligence prep work (~5 days commitment) outside of the secondment durations.

Selected candidates will be expected to:

- participate actively in the international mobility periods and related preparation meetings;
- contribute to the CUB-led intervention research on human-centricity
- collaborate with their Corvinus mentor, hosting supervisor, and with the wider project team
- optionally: formulate and develop an additional research topic related to their stay
- contribute to academic dissemination and publication efforts arising from the project
- represent Corvinus University professionally and constructively in international partner settings

- contribute, where appropriate, to project reporting, including D4.2/D4.4 inputs and the CUB intervention study

Because the project combines international mobility, field engagement, and publication-oriented research, the selected talents should be motivated not only by travel or networking, but by the opportunity to contribute to a coherent research agenda.

7. Secondments

Ideally, Research Talents will take part in **three one-month secondments**: two research-related secondments and one transversal skills secondment. Applicants who are unable to participate in all three secondments may still apply, provided that they indicate clearly in their application which periods they would be available for. Availability for all three secondments will be considered a strong advantage in candidate selection.

The first research-related secondment will take place in 2027, before September (the exact date will be coordinated with the project officer). The second research-related secondment, following the intervention research phase, is planned between July and December 2028. The transversal skills secondment will be organised with greater flexibility and can take place either from October 2026 to September 2027 or January to December 2028.

Research-Related Secondment Destinations

Partner	Location	Country
PTP	Murska Sobota (Muraszombat)	Slovenia
TECNALIA	Belgrade	Serbia
DKR	Tuzla	Bosnia and Herzegovina
xRI	Plzeň	Czech Republic

Transversal Skills Secondment Destinations

Partner	Location	Country
K&I	Rome	Italy
TECNALIA	Belgrade	Serbia

The transversal skills secondment covers Responsible Research and Innovation, business skills, and other competencies.

The final allocation of participants to host institutions will be determined with the aim of maximising overall satisfaction, taking into account both individual preferences and project needs.

8. Financial Conditions

This call does not offer a separate scholarship. The project will cover the main mobility-related expenses, including travel and accommodation, and will also provide a modest mobility allowance to help cover the main daily costs such as meals and local travel.



Research talents who are employees of the university will retain their regular Corvinus University of Budapest salary during the secondment periods, and Corvinus doctoral students will retain their regular scholarship.

9. Why Apply?

This opportunity offers selected researchers the possibility to:

- participate in a Horizon Europe project with an international network - the university's part financed by the NRD Office
- contribute to an original intervention study on human-centricity
- gain direct experience in industrial and organisational contexts linked to DeepTech
- develop their own research profile in an emerging area
- strengthen their longer-term international publication potential and academic career
- receive career planning support and mentoring

For researchers working at the intersection of technology and society, this is a rare opportunity to combine field exposure, international mobility, empirical research, and publication-oriented academic development.

10. Inclusion and Fair Access

We especially encourage applications from:

- junior researchers, including early-career academics and doctoral researchers
- applicants with a strong research interest in the social aspects of human-centricity in technology
- women researchers, given the project's aim to support more inclusive participation and to strengthen women's representation in DeepTech-related research contexts

CITADELS is committed to inclusive research participation. In line with the project's Responsible Research and Innovation framework and the ERA Policy Agenda, we actively encourage applications from underrepresented groups, including but not limited to women, researchers with disabilities, and researchers from diverse socio-economic or cultural backgrounds.

Given the persistent underrepresentation of women in DeepTech-related fields, the project places particular emphasis on strengthening women's participation among Research Talents. The selection process is designed to be free of gender bias, and candidates from all backgrounds will be assessed on the basis of the same published criteria. Where candidates are equally ranked, the project's gender balance objectives will be taken into account.

Corvinus University of Budapest is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent selection process. The following measures are in place:

- The call is published openly and disseminated through the university's website and relevant academic networks, ensuring broad accessibility.
- All applicants are assessed against the same published evaluation criteria by the same committee.
- The selection process is subject to oversight under the CITADELS Quality Management Plan, which ensures compliance with ethical, legal, and procedural standards, including the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination.
- All application data will be handled in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the university's data protection policies. Personal data submitted as part of the application will be used solely for the purposes of this selection process and will not be shared with third parties beyond the project consortium.

11. How to Apply

Submission

Applications should be submitted by sending an e-mail with the attachments to citadels@uni-corvinus.hu.

You will get an acknowledgement letter that your application has been received within 48 hours. In case of not receiving such an e-mail please contact the members of the Hungarian CITADELS team.

Application period: 1 - 14 June, 2026

Required Application Materials

Applicants must submit the following as attachments to the e-mail:

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
2. Motivation Letter (see detailed guidance below)
3. Approval Letter – from the applicant’s employer or, in the case of doctoral students, from their doctoral program director
4. Proof of work contractual relationship with the university, or for the doctoral students a document in which they acknowledge that they are willing to enter into a work contractual relationship with the university for at least the time of the secondments

Additional Information Requested at Submission

As part of the application process, applicants will also be asked to include the following information in the body of the e-mail:

- their availability for mobility (whether they can participate for the full three months or, if not, which periods they are available for)
- their secondment site preferences, ranked in order of priority, with brief reasons for the ranking
- the name of their proposed Corvinus mentor
- the languages they speak and the level of proficiency.

12. Guidance for the Motivation Letter

The motivation letter is a key element of the application. It should be structured, clear, and substantive. Applicants are asked to address **all** of the following points:

1. **Motivation for participation:** Why do you wish to participate in the CITADELS Research Talent programme? What draws you to this particular project?
2. **Contribution to the intervention research:** What kind of contribution could you make to the intervention research on human-centricity? In what ways does your background, skills, experience and research focus equip you for this work?
3. **Academic background and disciplinary fit:** How does your academic research focus relate to the intervention research and its disciplinary context (sociology - especially economic sociology, sociology of work and automation, sociology of

- knowledge -, psychology of work, Science and Technology Studies, to a smaller degree: ergonomics, value-oriented design, organizational behavior and/or critical management studies)?
4. **Empirical research experience:** Describe your experience with empirical research, and in particular any experience with qualitative methods such as interviewing. If you have experience conducting interviews in professional or fieldwork settings, please elaborate.
 5. **Additional research topic:** Would you like to pursue an additional research topic during the mobility period? If so, describe the topic and explain how strongly it is linked to human-centricity.
 6. **Communication and interpersonal skills:** Briefly reflect on your ability to conduct interviews effectively, establish rapport with research participants, and engage professionally in international fieldwork settings. If you have relevant experience (e.g., cross-cultural collaboration, working in organisational settings), mention it here.
 7. **Longer-term impact for Corvinus:** How do you see your participation generating value for Corvinus University of Budapest in the longer term? What is your probable future connection to the university, and how might you contribute to its research profile in this area?

Recommended length: 2-3 pages.

13. Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of overall fit with the project and with the role of the SSH Research Talent. The evaluation will consider the following aspects:

- Relevance of the applicant's proposed additional research topic, and especially whether it represents a substantial fit with the project's focus on social aspects of human-centricity in DeepTech (25 points)
- Disciplinary and intellectual fit with the intervention research (see disciplinary context in Section 12) (20 points)
- Empirical research profile, including prior experience with interview-based and qualitative research (10 points)
- Communication and interpersonal skills, particularly the ability to conduct interviews effectively, establish rapport with research participants, and engage professionally in international fieldwork settings (10 points)
- Publication potential, including the capacity for high-quality co-authored publications with the Corvinus mentor (10 points)
- Availability for mobility, especially willingness and ability to participate in the full three-month secondment programme (10 points)
- The extent to which the applicant's participation is likely to generate longer-term value for Corvinus University of Budapest, including their probable future connection to the university and their potential to contribute to its research profile and capacity in this area (10 points)
- Whether the applicant is a junior researcher, such as an early-career academic or doctoral researcher (junior researchers are particularly encouraged) (5 points)

The above criteria indicate evaluation priorities and are not required conditions for eligibility.



14. Evaluation committee

The evaluation committee consists of the Hungarian CITADELS team at Corvinus University of Budapest: Róbert Marciniák (chair), Lilla Vicsek, Katalin Kálai, and a representative from Knowledge and Innovation, Italy.

Evaluators will declare any conflict of interest before assessment. The selection will be documented through a restricted selection evidence pack containing the call text, publication link, applications received, COI declarations, and scoring grid with interview notes where relevant, ranking, selected candidates, and reserve candidates.

15. Selection Process

The selection process consists of the following steps:

- Administrative eligibility check
- Assessment of the written application materials (CV, motivation letter, and support letter) by the evaluation committee.
- Shortlisting of candidates on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in Section 12.
- A brief online interview with shortlisted candidates, conducted by the evaluation committee on 23rd June, in the afternoon
- Ranking of candidates and selection of four SSH Research Talents, along with the designation of reserve candidates.
- Confirmation of the final selection by the CITADELS General Assembly.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome latest by 30 September 2026.

16. Data protection

Candidate data will be used solely for this selection process and related CITADELS administrative requirements. Access will be limited to authorised CU/project staff involved in selection, confirmation and administration. Candidate files will be stored in restricted folders and retained or deleted according to the applicable CU and project data-management rules.

17. Contact

For questions about the call, please contact the Hungarian CITADELS team at citadels@uni-corvinus.hu.

Ready to apply?

Submit your application by writing to: citadels@uni-corvinus.hu.

Deadline: 14 June, 2026

The 15 minute online interviews which mainly focus on the motivational letter content will take place on 23rd of June, in the afternoon (after 15 o'clock).

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