

International Mentoring Programme for students in ATHENA – Boost Your Research Skills and Publish Internationally

Are you interested in developing your own research project, building International teams and gaining experience in international collaboration? We invite you to apply for the mentoring programme implemented under the project "**UMCS 4 ATHENA PLUS – Strengthening the International Cooperation of UMCS within the ATHENA Consortium**" (ATHENAWORKS), coordinated by Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to students of ATHENA Partner Universities:

1. University of Orléans – <https://www.univ-orleans.fr/en>
2. Polytechnic Institute of Porto – <https://www.ipp.pt/international/international>
3. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University – <https://vilniustech.lt/index.php?lang=2>
4. University of Maribor – <https://www.um.si/en/home-page/>
5. University of Siegen – <https://www.uni-siegen.de/en>
6. University of Vigo – <https://www.uvigo.gal/en>
7. University of Salento – <https://international.unisalento.it/>
8. Hellenic Mediterranean University – <https://hmu.gr/en/home/>
9. Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin – <https://www.umcs.pl/en/>.

A total of **20 participants** will be selected from the whole consortium.

The Mentoring Programme will run from **July 2026 to May 2027**.

Why join the programme?

By participating, you will:

- develop your research and academic publishing skills under the guidance of mentors from across Europe;
- receive individual support in developing your own research project;
- collaborate with students from ATHENA partner universities;
- gain experience working in an international academic environment;
- participate in seminars, mentoring sessions, and the "**Academic Skills Boost-Up**" Summer School;
- prepare a chapter for a peer-reviewed scientific monograph;
- expand your academic and intercultural network.

What does the programme offer?

Participants will take part in the following activities:

1. Group mentoring – thematic seminars

Participants will be divided into four thematic groups according to their chosen field of interest:

- **Regional Policy and International Affairs**
- **Economics**
- **Data Science**
- **Humanities**

Each group will participate in a series of seminars and mentoring sessions (a total of **5 teaching hours**) delivered online or in a hybrid format.

2. Individual publication mentoring

Each participant will have the opportunity to work individually with a mentor to further develop her/his research topic.

The support includes:

- refining the research problem and research questions;
- methodological consultations;
- developing the structure of the publication;
- strengthening academic research and writing skills.

Each participant will receive **10 teaching hours** of individual mentoring, delivered either online or on campus.

3. "Academic Skills Boost-Up" Summer School

Following the mentoring phase, all participants will be invited to attend a **five-day Summer School** organised at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland.

The programme will include:

- methodological workshops;
- presentation sessions;
- lectures by experts and invited guests;
- networking and integration activities within the ATHENA academic community.

4. Scientific publication

The final outcome of the programme will be the preparation of a **book chapter** for a **peer-reviewed scientific monograph**, developed under the supervision of an assigned mentor.

Recruitment process

The recruitment process is open and will take place **from 1 to 31 July 2026**.

Application documents should be signed and submitted to: athena@mail.umcs.pl.

Applicants are required to submit the **Project Participation Form** together with the required attachments. The application documents are available in attachments.

Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- preliminary research proposal;
- publication records;
- participation in academic conferences;
- involvement in student research clubs and academic organisations;
- participation in research or development projects;
- international experience (e.g. summer schools, mobility programmes, international projects).

Contact

We are ready to help you in filling the Project participation form and other required documents. You can contact us:

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We warmly encourage you to apply and develop your academic career through international collaboration.