

# NODE Urban Impact Fellowship

## Research & Innovation Fellowship

Programa Annexa't | CITY SCIENCE LAB @Andorra a cooperation with the MIT Media Lab

Andorra Research + Innovation | Andorra Telecom | MIT City Science Lab

## Annexa't Program

**Annexa't Program** is a strategic talent initiative led by Andorra Research + Innovation (AR+I) to attract, develop, connect, and retain Andorran talent through research, innovation, and international opportunities.

The program strengthens the link between Andorra and its students, graduates, and professionals by creating high-value academic and career pathways aligned with the country's future priorities.

Through collaborations with leading institutions, real-world projects, and a global network of Andorran talent, Annexa't positions talent as a key driver of Andorra's innovation, competitiveness, and economic diversification.

## About the initiative

**Andorra Research + Innovation (AR+I)**, in collaboration with **Andorra Telecom** and **MIT City Science**, is launching a **research fellowship** focused on analysing the urban and socio-economic impact of the new NODE building in Andorra la Vella.

This fellowship is intended for highly motivated candidates currently pursuing an undergraduate, Master's, or PhD degree who are interested in cities, innovation, data, and applied research.

The NODE Building, the future headquarters of Andorra Telecom, will combine corporate offices with public-facing spaces including the future Carmen Thyssen Andorra Museum, the Center for Digital Wellbeing and Competences, retail space, and new public spaces. As such, it represents a unique opportunity to study how a single infrastructure project can shape urban dynamics in a small and highly connected city.

The fellowship offers a distinctive opportunity to combine urban analysis, data science, and real-world experimentation within Andorra as a living laboratory for innovation. The project is embedded within the collaboration between AR+I, Andorra Telecom, and the City Science group at the MIT Media Lab, exploring how data-driven approaches can support better decision-making for cities and institutions.

## The Challenge – About the NODE Building

The selected fellow will conduct an applied research study assessing the potential impacts of the NODE Building while identifying opportunities and proposing innovative solutions to maximize its urban, social, and organizational value.

**Key areas of analysis may include:**

- Urban mobility and pedestrian flows
- Economic activity in the surrounding area
- Employee commuting patterns and work dynamics
- Organizational performance across NODE
- Tourism attractiveness and city image
- Customer experience and public interaction with the building
- Sustainability performance and environmental value
- Interaction between citizens, visitors, and the built environment
- Contribution to placemaking and downtown revitalization

**Research objectives:**

The research will aim to translate these impacts into measurable indicators (KPIs) that can support decision-making for Andorra Telecom and potentially inform broader urban strategies for Andorra la Vella and Andorra as a whole.

The fellow will also be encouraged to develop forward-looking recommendations and innovative interventions that can enhance the building's contribution to urban life, accessibility, sustainability, productivity, and community engagement.

The project may combine:

- Urban data analysis
- Telecom-based mobility data
- Surveys and qualitative interviews
- Spatial and behavioral analysis
- Organizational diagnostics
- Benchmarking of international best practices
- Policy and strategic recommendations

Expected outputs may include:

- Research report on NODE's urban, socioeconomic, and organizational impacts
- Proposed KPI framework for Andorra Telecom
- Recommendations for the optimal relationship between NODE and NEXUS headquarters
- Proposals for innovative solutions to maximize NODE's positive impact
- Public presentations or stakeholder workshops
- Potential academic publications or policy-oriented outputs

## Fellowship Structure

**Duration:** 12 months

**Primary location:**

The fellow will be based at Andorra Research + Innovation (AR+I), where they will lead the core research activities of the project, including data analysis, fieldwork, and stakeholder engagement.

**Collaboration:**

The fellowship includes close collaboration with Andorra Telecom, providing the fellow with direct exposure to the operational context of the NODE building and access to relevant data sources to support the research.

### International research stay:

A key component of the fellowship is a three-month research stay\* at MIT City Science (Cambridge, USA), where the fellow will further develop the project within a leading international research and innovation environment.

### Indicative timeline:

- Phase 1 (AR+I & Andorra Telecom – Andorra): Project design, initial data analysis, fieldwork, data integration, and applied research.
- Phase 2 (MIT City Science – Cambridge, USA): Advanced modeling and validation. The stay at MIT will last 3 months.
- Phase 3 (AR+I & Andorra Telecom – Andorra): Final synthesis, delivery of outputs, and presentation to stakeholders.

*\*The detailed allocation of months across each phase will be defined once the selected candidate has been appointed.*

## Candidate Profile

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate who is:

- currently pursuing an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree,
- currently pursuing a master's or PhD degree,

with a strong interest in urban systems, data science, mobility, innovation, or digital cities.

### Relevant academic backgrounds include:

- Data Science
- Engineering
- Urban Studies / Urban Planning
- Geography / Spatial Analysis
- Economics
- Computer Science
- Computational Social Science
- Art and Design

### **Candidates should demonstrate:**

- Strong analytical and problem-solving capabilities.
- Ability to develop rigorous and structured approaches to complex challenges.
- Curiosity, initiative, and creativity.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Interest in innovation, city labs, and applied research.
- Ability to work effectively in interdisciplinary and international environments.
- High levels of autonomy, responsibility, and organizational skills.
- Capacity to collaborate across multiple stakeholders and timelines.

### **Preference may be given to candidates who are:**

- Andorran nationals or residents.
- Enrolled in programs related to Data Science, Engineering, Urban Innovation, or similar fields.
- Comfortable working in English within an international environment.
- Previous experience with coding, analytics, GIS, or research projects.

### **Additional assets (considered a plus):**

- Experience working with mobility or telecom data.
- Knowledge of urban analytics or city modeling.
- Programming skills (e.g., Python, R, SQL, and GIS tools).
- Experience in applied or stakeholder-driven research projects.
- Public speaking or presentation experience in academic or professional settings.
- An interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving.
- Involvement in university clubs or student organizations related to innovation, urbanism, technology, entrepreneurship, or similar fields.
- Being a student or alumni of University of Andorra.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Ability to travel to the United States during the fellowship period.

The candidate's maturity will be assessed in terms of their ability to collaborate, show initiative, and engage critically within a research and innovation environment.

## The Offer

- **Contract duration:** 12 months (full-time)
- **Expected joining date:** September 2026
- **Host institution:** Andorra Research + Innovation (AR+I)
- **Collaboration:** Andorra Telecom
- **International research stay:** MIT City Science, MIT Media Lab (Cambridge, USA)

### The fellowship offers:

- A fully funded one-year research contract with AR+I.
- Salary commensurate with qualifications and aligned with AR+I salary scales.
- International research experience between Andorra and Cambridge (USA).
- Mentorship from AR+I, Andorra Telecom, and MIT researchers.
- Funding travel and accommodation for the MIT research stay will be covered.

## Application Process

- **Opening date:** Tuesday, 28 April 2026
- **Application deadline:** Tuesday, 9 June 2026 (23:59 CET)
- **Pre-selection:** 10–16 June 2026. Applications will be assessed based on qualifications, experience, and expertise reflected in the CVs and submitted documentation.

- **Interviews:** Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview during the week of 29 June 2026 with representatives from AR+I, Andorra Telecom, and the MIT City Science Lab.
- **Final selection and offer letter:** The selected candidate will receive a formal offer following the completion of the evaluation process.
- **Expected joining date:** September 2026.

Applications should be submitted to the AR+I Human Resources team. As several members of the evaluation jury are from MIT, all application materials must be submitted in English.

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Motivation letter
- Short video presentation (maximum 3 minutes)
- Brief statement of interest (maximum 3 pages), outlining the candidate's proposed approach to the challenge, including:
  - Proposed methodological and strategic approach
  - Data sources and integration strategy
  - Relevant analytical or conceptual frameworks

Any informal enquiries may also be sent to: [recursos-humans@ari.ad](mailto:recursos-humans@ari.ad)

*\* Subject to final approval by the Principal Investigator of the MIT City Science Lab and relevant MIT administrative processes*