

Junior Professor / Tenure-Track Position in Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

Tenure-Track Junior Professor in **AI & Robotics**

Centrale Lyon – LIRIS, Lyon, France



€200k Research Package



5-year tenure-track → Full Professor



Embodied AI & Robot Learning



Continual Learning



Foundation Models / VLA
for Robotics



Human–Robot Interaction



Multimodal Perception



Safe & Trustworthy
Robotics



Robotic Manipulation



Founded in 1857, Centrale Lyon is one of France's leading
Grandes Écoles of Engineering, combining research excellence,
highly selected engineering students, and strong industry links.



Live and work in Lyon — a vibrant European city,
close to the Alps and within easy reach of the Mediterranean.

International applications
strongly encouraged



Informal contact:
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Embodied AI, Robot Learning and Intelligent Autonomous Systems

Centrale Lyon – LIRIS, Lyon, France

Centrale Lyon, one of France's leading Grandes Écoles of Engineering, is recruiting an outstanding researcher for a five-year Junior Professor / tenure-track position in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, leading to a Full Professor position.

The successful candidate will join the **LIRIS CNRS laboratory (UMR 5205)** and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Centrale Lyon, and will benefit from a **€200,000 dedicated research package** to develop an ambitious and internationally visible research programme.

The position is aimed at researchers working at the intersection of **Artificial Intelligence, Robot Learning and Embodied Intelligence**, with substantial scientific freedom to develop their own original research agenda and progressively build an independent research team.

Research opportunity

We are looking for an excellent early-career researcher with strong potential for scientific leadership and a desire to develop internationally recognized research in AI and robotics.

Topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- **Embodied AI and robot learning**
- **Foundation models and Vision-Language-Action models for robotics**
- **Multimodal perception and sensorimotor learning**
- **Robot manipulation and generalist robotic skills**
- **Reinforcement learning, imitation learning and self-supervised learning**
- **Continual and lifelong robot learning**
- **World models and learning-based planning**
- **Simulation, scalable robot learning and sim-to-real transfer**
- **Human-robot interaction, shared autonomy and human-AI shared control**
- **Safe, robust and trustworthy learning-based robotic systems**
- **Adaptive and generalizable autonomous systems**

We particularly welcome research aimed at developing intelligent embodied agents capable of **perceiving, reasoning, learning and acting robustly in complex, dynamic and partially unknown real-world environments**.

Potential application domains include advanced manufacturing, collaborative and assistive robotics, healthcare, logistics, autonomous systems, sustainable industry, waste sorting and other emerging areas of **Physical AI**.

Candidates proposing ambitious research directions extending beyond the topics explicitly listed above are strongly encouraged to apply. **Scientific excellence, originality,**

independence and the potential to establish an internationally visible research programme will be central to the selection.

A strong environment in AI and robotics

The successful candidate will join a rapidly developing ecosystem in **Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Embodied Intelligence** at Centrale Lyon and LIRIS.

The position is connected with major national and international research initiatives in robot learning, embodied AI and foundation models for robotics, including activities supported within the French **France 2030 / PEPR Robotics programme**. This environment provides opportunities for collaboration with leading academic laboratories and industrial partners in France and internationally.

The candidate will have access to experimental robotic platforms and research facilities supporting work in areas such as:

- robot learning and foundation models,
- intelligent and dexterous manipulation,
- multimodal perception,
- simulation and digital environments,
- continual adaptation,
- human–robot collaboration,
- and trustworthy AI for physical systems.

The successful candidate will be encouraged to develop **their own scientific identity, research programme, team and international network**, while benefiting from the existing expertise and collaborative environment of Centrale Lyon and LIRIS.

About Centrale Lyon

Founded in **1857**, Centrale Lyon is one of France's historic **Grandes Écoles of Engineering** and today stands among the country's leading research-intensive engineering institutions.

For more than a century and a half, the School has combined excellence in engineering education with high-level scientific research across a broad range of engineering disciplines.

Centrale Lyon is **regularly ranked among the top engineering schools in France**, including among the top ten in major national rankings. It has developed internationally recognized research excellence in engineering, computer science and the physical sciences, with research organized around several laboratories closely associated with the **CNRS**, France's national research organization.

A distinctive strength of Centrale Lyon is the close integration of **research, engineering and education**.

Its flagship engineering programme attracts some of the strongest students in France. A large proportion of students are recruited through the highly selective national competitive

examinations following the French **classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles (CPGE)**, an intensive two-year curriculum with a particularly strong emphasis on mathematics, physics and engineering sciences.

For faculty members, this provides access to an outstanding pool of talented and highly motivated students for:

- advanced research projects,
- research internships,
- engineering projects,
- Master's-level research,
- and subsequent doctoral recruitment.

The successful candidate will therefore work in an environment combining **research excellence, a strong engineering culture, highly selected students and close relationships with industry**.

Teaching

The candidate will contribute to teaching in **Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Robotics** within Centrale Lyon's engineering curriculum and Master's programmes, including international programmes in Artificial Intelligence.

The development of new courses connected with the candidate's research interests is encouraged, particularly those combining theoretical foundations with hands-on experimentation on robotic platforms.

Possible teaching topics include:

- machine learning and deep learning,
- reinforcement learning,
- computer vision,
- robotics,
- embodied AI,
- multimodal learning,
- foundation models,
- autonomous systems.

Teaching may initially be carried out partly in English. The successful candidate will progressively develop the ability to teach in both **French and English** during the tenure-track period.

Why Lyon?

Beyond the scientific environment, **Lyon is itself a major asset of the position**.

Lyon is one of France's leading academic, technological and economic centres and hosts a dense ecosystem of universities, engineering schools, research laboratories, hospitals, start-ups and major industrial companies.

It combines the opportunities of a large European metropolitan area with an excellent quality of life and is very well connected to the rest of France and Europe through high-speed rail and international air links.

For those who enjoy nature and outdoor activities, Lyon offers an exceptional location.

The city lies **close to the French Alps**, providing easy access throughout the year to a remarkable range of mountain activities, including:

- hiking and trail running,
- skiing and ski touring,
- mountaineering,
- climbing,
- mountain biking,
- and many other outdoor sports.

Many renowned Alpine destinations can be reached within a few hours.

At the same time, Lyon is **within easy reach of the Mediterranean**, making weekend trips to **Provence, the Côte d'Azur and the Mediterranean coast** entirely feasible.

Lyon is also internationally renowned for its architecture, cultural life and gastronomy.

This unusual combination of a vibrant European city, proximity to the Alps and easy access to the Mediterranean makes Lyon an especially attractive place to live and work for researchers and their families.

Live and work in Lyon, at the crossroads of a vibrant European city, the Alps and the Mediterranean.

Why France?

France offers an attractive environment for researchers wishing to combine an ambitious academic career with a high quality of life.

Researchers employed within the French public higher-education and research system benefit from a comprehensive social framework that includes **public healthcare coverage, retirement benefits, paid leave and family-related support**.

France also offers high-quality public services, extensive transport infrastructure, a strong education system and a rich cultural environment. For researchers relocating with their families, this provides a comparatively secure and supportive setting for long-term professional and personal development.

International researchers can therefore pursue ambitious scientific careers within an environment that also facilitates **healthcare, education, family life and work–life balance**.

France additionally maintains a strong tradition of public investment in higher education and scientific research through universities, Grandes Écoles, national organizations such as the **CNRS**, competitive national research programmes and major strategic initiatives in areas including **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics**.

For international candidates considering a long-term move, the combination of **scientific opportunity, social protection, healthcare, education, cultural life and quality of life** represents an important part of France's attractiveness.

Position

- **Institution:** Centrale Lyon – École Centrale de Lyon
- **Laboratory:** LIRIS – CNRS UMR 5205
- **Department:** Mathematics and Computer Science
- **Location:** Écully / Lyon, France
- **Position:** Junior Professor Chair / tenure-track
- **Duration:** 5 years
- **Tenure perspective:** Full Professor position at Centrale Lyon
- **Dedicated research package:** €200,000
- **Research area:** Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- **Expected starting date:** before 31 December 2026
- **Official call:** expected in autumn 2026
- **Interviews:** expected in late 2026

Candidates must hold a **PhD or equivalent doctoral degree**.

Detailed eligibility requirements, employment conditions and the formal recruitment procedure will be specified in the official national call.

Who should apply?

We encourage applications from researchers with:

- an excellent research record in AI, machine learning, robotics or related fields;
- strong publications in internationally recognized conferences and journals;
- evidence of scientific creativity and independence;
- the capacity to develop an ambitious long-term research programme;
- an interest in building collaborations across AI, robotics and engineering;
- and strong potential for international scientific leadership.

Experience in obtaining research funding, supervising students, developing robotic systems, releasing datasets or software, establishing international collaborations or transferring research results toward applications will be considered valuable.

International applications are strongly encouraged.

Researchers interested in the position are welcome to make informal contact before the official application in order to discuss the scientific environment, possible research directions and the preparation of their research project.

Scientific contacts

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Formal applications will be submitted through the French national **ODYSSEE / GALAXIE** recruitment platform following publication of the official call.

Tenure-Track Junior Professor in AI & Robotics — Centrale Lyon, France

We are looking for an outstanding researcher to join **Centrale Lyon** and **LIRIS (CNRS UMR 5205)** for a **5-year tenure-track position leading to a Full Professor position**, with a **€200,000 dedicated research package**.

We particularly welcome ambitious research in:

-  Embodied AI & Robot Learning
-  Foundation Models / Vision-Language-Action models for robotics
-  Generalist robotic manipulation
-  World models, simulation & sim-to-real
-  Continual and lifelong learning
-  Human–Robot Interaction & shared autonomy
-  Safe and trustworthy robotics

The successful candidate will have substantial freedom to build an **independent, internationally visible research programme** within a strong and rapidly growing ecosystem in AI and robotics.

Founded in **1857**, Centrale Lyon is one of France's historic **Grandes Écoles of Engineering**, combining research excellence, close links with industry and access to highly selected engineering students.

📌 **Lyon is also a fantastic place to live:** a major European academic and technological hub, close to the **French Alps** for hiking, skiing and mountain sports, and within easy reach of **Provence and the Mediterranean**.

France offers a highly supportive environment for researchers and families, with strong public healthcare, education, social protection and quality of life.

💰 **€200k research package**

🎓 **Tenure-track → Full Professor**

🌐 **International applications strongly encouraged**

Interested candidates are welcome to contact me informally:

✉️ liming.chen@ec-lyon.fr

Please share widely with excellent researchers who may be interested.

#AI #Robotics #EmbodiedAI #RobotLearning #PhysicalAI #FoundationModels #VLA
#MachineLearning #TenureTrack #AcademicJobs #CentraleLyon #LIRIS #CNRS