



Eesti Teadusagentuur  
Estonian Research Council

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

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# Estonian Research Council

- Research funding agency:
  - Institutional Grants
  - Personal Grants
  - Multiple smaller programs
- Analysis and evaluation
- Estonian Research Information System ETIS
- Science communication
- International collaboration
  - National contact Point for Horizon 2020: consultants for each part of H2020

# H2020 NCP services

- Advice and support in all aspects of H2020 participation:
  - Dissemination of H2020 information
  - Consultation and training of applicants
  - Grant preparation support scheme
  - Consultation and training of successful participants
  - Mediating information
  - Feedback to the European Commission
- [www.etag.ee](http://www.etag.ee)

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie specific services

- Information days
  - target group based & instrument-specific
- Training sessions
  - how to write a proposal: individual actions, host actions
  - project negotiation, consortium agreement
  - reporting
- Individual consultations
  - By e-mail, phone, skype, or in person
  - throughout the lifetime of the project
- Proposal pre-screening
  - confidentiality!
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# MSC Individual Fellowships

- Goals
- Definitions
- Conditions
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- Application
- Evaluation and evaluation criteria
- Timeline
- Statistics

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- The goal of the MSCA is to support the **career development and training** of researchers through international and inter-sector mobility.
- Support is given to researchers in all stages of their career, from PhD candidates to experienced researchers, via different schemes:
  - Innovative Training Networks
  - Research and Innovation Staff Exchange
  - Individual Fellowships
  - Co-funding of national etc PhD and post-doctoral programmes
- To apply for an **individual fellowship**, the researcher must be in possession of a **PhD** or have at least 4 years of research experience; there are no restrictions on age, etc.

# MSC Individual Fellowships

- Meant for researchers with a PhD degree who wish to acquire new knowledge and skills
  - by undertaking international mobility, to work either in **another European country, or outside Europe**
  - or to **restart research career** after a break
  - or to **reintegrate** after a mobility period outside Europe
- The Fellowship aims at acting as a catalyst to the researchers' careers, enabling them to maximise their contribution to economy and society
- IF are open to researchers of all fields and disciplines.

# MSC IF Expected Impact

- Individual Fellowships are expected to add significantly to the development of the best and most promising researchers active in Europe, in order to enhance and maximise their contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society.
- The action will also strengthen the contact network of both the researcher and the host organisation.
- The fellowship will contribute to realising the full potential of researchers and to catalysing significant development in their careers in both the academic and non-academic sectors.
- Some researchers will be resuming a research career in Europe after a break, or reintegrating within Europe after living abroad.



# How does it work?

- Every year, the EC publishes a Call for Proposals, with a deadline in September
- The researcher writes a project proposal in liaison with the host organisation in Europe according to the call conditions
- At least 3 experts of the same research field evaluate the proposal
- Their grades are the basis for a priority list, where the best proposals will be funded
- The Grant Agreement will be concluded between the EC and the host organisation, which then concludes a contract with the researcher
  - In case of Global Fellowships, the European host organisation concludes a partnership agreement with the host outside Europe.

# Definitions

- **Experienced researcher:** in possession of a PhD or at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience
- **Europe:** Member States and countries that are associated to Horizon 2020 (the list changes and expands)
- **Long-term resident:** at least 5 consecutive years of research in a MS or AC
- **Mobility rule:** the researcher will not have worked or resided more than **12 months** in the last 3 years in the country of the host organisation (career restart or reintegration: no more than **36 months** in the last 5 years)
- **Supervisor:** the researcher appointed at the host organisation to supervise the applicant, and is the main contact person for the EC

# Conditions of the fellowship

- The Fellowship will be given to carry out a research project either
  - in Europe (1 to 2 years): *European Fellowships*
  - or outside Europe (1-2 yrs + mandatory return phase 1 yr): *Global Fellowships*
    - Only nationals or long-term residents can apply for the Global Fellowship to go outside Europe
- The host organisation can be from either academic or non-academic sector
  - The Fellowship may include a secondment to another European organisation (up to 3 or 6 months), especially to a non-academic institution

# Have you had a career break?

- Then you might be eligible for the Career restart panel:
  - Support to researchers who want to resume research in Europe after a career break (e.g. after parental leave, working outside research etc.).
  - Eligibility criterion: the researcher must not have been active in research for at least **12 months immediately prior to the deadline** for submission of proposals
  - Extended mobility criterion (36 months)

## Have you returned from a stay outside Europe?

- Then you might be eligible for the Reintegration Panel:
  - Support for researchers who want to return and reintegrate in a longer term research position in Europe **after a stay outside Europe.**
  - Eligibility criterion: a national or long-term resident of a MS/AC
  - Extended mobility criterion (36 months)

# Main activities of the IF

- **Carrying out the research project:** training-through-research at the host organisation's premises
  - Gaining experience from non-academic sector
- Acquiring of **scientific skills:** new methods, techniques, instruments, etc.
- Developing **transferable skills:** entrepreneurship, proposal preparation, patent applications, IPR, supervising, etc.
- Taking part in the research and financial **management of the project**
- **Communication** and outreach activities, incl organisation of scientific/training/dissemination events
- I.e. acquisition of a variety of experiences needed for career development

# Financial aspects

- Funding is based on unit costs
  - almost non-existent financial reporting
  - no required co-financing (in some research fields de facto co-financing may be necessary)
- Unit costs per month:
  - Basic gross amount (incl employer contributions): **4650 €** x correction coefficient of the host country
  - Mobility allowance: **600 €**
  - Family allowance: **500 €**
  - Research, training and networking costs: **800 €**
  - Management and overhead: **650 €**

# Application

- Via the Research Participant Portal :
  - <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
    - Funding Opportunities
    - Horizon 2020 Calls
    - Excellent Science - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
    - Individual Fellowships (IF)
- Direct link to the call:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-msca-if-2014.html#tab1>



# Application (2)

- First, read carefully the Guide for Applicants:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-msca-if-2014/1600147-guide\\_for\\_applicants\\_if\\_2014\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-msca-if-2014/1600147-guide_for_applicants_if_2014_en.pdf)
- Proposal submission is electronic:
  - Administrative forms: Part A
  - Content of the proposal: Part B
- Deadline: **11 September 2014** at 17:00 Brussels time
- Budget: **240,5 Million €**, out of this 29 million for Global Fellowships

# Administrative forms

- Part A:
  - Section 1: General information about the proposal (including the abstract);
  - Section 2: Data on participants and contacts;
  - Section 3: Budget;
  - Section 4: Ethics issues table;
  - Section 5: Information on Partner organisations (Global Fellowships and secondments)

# Content of the proposal

- Part B
    - List of Participants
    - **Summary**
    - **Excellence**
    - **Impact**
    - **Implementation**
    - CV of the researcher
    - Capacities of the organisation(s)
    - Ethical aspects
    - Letters of commitment of partner organisations
- 10 pages

# Evaluation criteria 1

- **Excellence**
  - Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)
  - Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/ training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives
  - Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements
  - Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research
- 50% of the final score

# Evaluation criteria 2

- **Impact**
  - Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives
  - Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination
- 30% of the final score

# Evaluation criteria 3

- **Implementation)**
  - Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
  - Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management
  - Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
  - Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and institutional commitment
- 20% of the final score

# Evaluation

- Proposals are evaluated in 8 panels:
  - Chemistry (CHE);
  - Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC);
  - Economic Sciences (ECO),
  - Information Science and Engineering (ENG);
  - Environmental and Geosciences (ENV);
  - Life Sciences (LIF);
  - Mathematics (MAT);
  - Physics (PHY)
- Every researcher selects the panel by themselves
- For the CAR and Reintegration panels, one multidisciplinary ranking list each will be made.
- The budget of the call will be distributed proportionally according to the number of applications submitted to each panel.
- Each application will be evaluated by at least 3 experts.

# Timetable

- The call was opened on 12 March 2014
- Deadline for submission: **11 September 2014** at 17:00 Brussels time
- Evaluation of proposals in October-November 2014
- Information about results in February 2015
- Grant agreements signed in May 2015
  
- **April-May**: training sessions
- **10 June 2014**: web-streamed info day of the EC



# Additional information

- Horizon 2020:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

- **Participant Portal:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal>

- **MSCA:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>