

UKRO Marie Curie Individual Fellowship 2020 Webinar

Response to Q&A

This document was produced by UKRO in their role as National Contact Point (NCP) for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, in response to questions received during the webinar hosted on **8 April 2020** on the 2020 Individual Fellowships Call.

Eligibility Questions

The eligibility criteria for the individual panels are defined in the [Guide for Applicants](#), on pages 11-15 for the European Fellowship Panels, and pages 16-17 for the Global Fellowships. Further questions on individual eligibility regarding specific circumstances should be directed to the UK National Contact Point Helpdesk on mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

The **mobility rule** is a key eligibility criterion, which states that the fellow cannot have resided or carried out the main activity in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the call deadline. This is a strict criterion, verified by the Research Executive Agency and just one day over 12 months would make a candidate ineligible. For **Global Fellowships**, the mobility criteria applies to the Third Country host (for the outgoing phase). For the **Career Restart, Reintegration and S&E panels**, the criterion is that the fellow cannot have lived or worked in the country of the beneficiary for more than 3 years in the 5 years prior to the call deadline.

The individual must also be an **experienced researcher**. This means that, at the time of the deadline, they either have to hold a doctoral qualification or have 4 years full time research experience. The definition of research experience is available on page 3 of the Guide for Applicants. If at the time of the deadline, they have not submitted their PhD, or have submitted but not yet been awarded the PhD, then they are not yet eligible unless they also have the required 4 years full-time research experience.

The European Fellowship, S&E and Career Restart Panels do not have any **age or nationality requirements**, provided the other eligibility criteria are met. For the Global Fellowships or the Reintegration Panel, the fellow must either be a **national or long term resident** of a Member State or Associated Country, as defined on page 3 of the Guide for Applicants.

There are **no restrictions on resubmissions** for Individual Fellowship proposals provided that the fellow still meets the eligibility criteria. In Part A of the application, they need to indicate the resubmission and give the previous proposal number, but should not make reference to previous evaluation comments or the previous application. Evaluators will treat the submission as a new proposal, and will only see the previous Evaluation Summary Report during the consensus phase of the evaluation.

Researcher Profile

The fellowship is an opportunity for the fellow to develop their career through a research and training project, hence there is **no requirement for a specific number of publications** associated with the research topic. It is more necessary to justify the fellow's involvement in the project, explain why they are the correct person to deliver the fellowship, and demonstrate their capacity and ability to deliver.

The fellow is able to return to an institution they have previously worked, provided that the eligibility criteria are met. However, in this case, it is necessary to demonstrate why the fellowship represents a career development opportunity for the fellow, and how they will demonstrate independence from previous interactions at the institution (particularly if these were student/PhD positions).

Finances

The finances are based on **unit costs claimed per researcher month**. No additional funds can be requested for activities such as dissemination or public outreach – these have to be factored into the budget available through the unit costs defined in the Guide for Applicants.

The researcher unit costs make up the salary of the fellow and are **subject to taxation under national law**. Fellows should contact colleagues in the Human Resources department at their host institution to understand what level of taxation will apply (along with pension contributions, exchange rates and other statutory deductions) so they understand what their income will be during the fellowship.

Proposal Writing/Submission

The proposal should be **constructed collaboratively** with the researcher and supervisor so that both parties understand the expectations in terms of the research and training proposed, thereby avoiding unexpected issues if successful. The institution also needs to be involved to validate the financial arrangements and provide support for the sections defining the capacity of the host institution.

While either the fellow or the supervisor is able to submit the application, the Legal Signatory of the Institution (associated with the PIC number) will be notified of the submission and the research office of the institution should be aware that this is proceeding. Good practice is to involve contacts from the administration of the institution so that they are aware of the submission, can provide support and will ensure the verification of the submission with the Legal Signatory.

Supervisor Arrangements

Only **one supervisor** can be identified at the host institution, although other individuals who will provide training and mentorship support can be mentioned in the proposal. If you include other individuals, they must have a defined role in supporting the training or research needs of the fellow (otherwise it does not benefit the proposal). For **Global Fellowships**, a supervisor should be identified at both host organisations (for the outgoing and return phases).

The **experience level of the supervisor** should demonstrate that they have the ability to support the fellow for the full duration of the fellowship, and the capacity to dedicate sufficient time to supervision. For less experienced supervisors, it is important to explain the impact that the fellowship will have on their career and why they are the ideal supervisor. It can be a valuable experience for the supervisor in terms of gaining experience in European Funding and actively building their research group.

Time Requirements

The **process timeline** is defined in the Guide for Applicants. It is anticipated that Grant Agreements for the 2020 call will be signed between February and March 2021, but fellows are able to defer the start date of their fellowship until as late as September 2022 if required.

It is expected that the fellow work 100% of their time on the fellowship. However, **part time arrangements** can be requested for personal or professional reasons. This is not requested during the application, but if successful the fellow can contact their project officer to discuss possible part time arrangements during implementation. Part time arrangements should follow a consistent working pattern on a weekly basis, and cannot be used if a suspension would be more appropriate, or to overcome the mobility requirement.

Questions on Immigration and Visas

We are not immigration specialists so cannot give specific advice on **immigration or visa issues**. The new Global Talent Visa is available to applicants of the MSCA Individual Fellowships scheme, and more information is available here; <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

We are currently unable to comment on the [future immigration system post transition period](#) as this is still being developed.

UK Participation in future MSCA Calls beyond 2020

The future participation of the UK in the **Marie Curie Actions beyond 2020** is dependent on whether the UK becomes an Associated Country for Horizon Europe. We are unable to comment on the likelihood of this, as this is part of a broader, ongoing negotiation for the UK following the departure from the EU.