

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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Marie Skłodowska-
Curie Actions

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

EURATOM

EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION



Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre



Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation
Council

European Innovation
Ecosystems

European Institute of
Innovation & Technology*

Fusion

Fission

Joint
Research
Center

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system



European
Commission

Pillar I: Excellent Science

Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base

European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

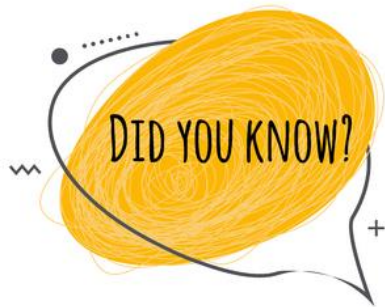
Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion



12 Nobel Prize winners either backed by or involved in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions between 2012 and 2020



Introduction to MSCA: Key features



Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)



Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)



International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility



Attractive working and employment conditions



Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes



Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

- MSCA budget under Horizon Europe: **6,6B€**
- **Excellent Science (Pillar 1)**: reinforcing and extending the excellence of the EU's science base
- **Worldwide** geographic coverage

Key figures (2014-2020)

+65,000

Researchers,
including 25,000
PhD candidates

37%

Researchers
from outside
of the EU

6.2 billion €

Under
Horizon 2020

+1,000

Doctoral
programmes

+4,500

Companies
supported

43%

Female
researchers



The MSCA Actions

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (European Researchers' Night, Researchers at School)



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: What is it?

Individual fellowships to support excellent postdoctoral researchers.

Main objectives

- **Foster excellence** through implementation of research project
- Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers holding a PhD (training on transferable skills & career development)
- Focus on **I3** (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
- Bridges and **exposure to the non-academic sector**
- **Career development** of researchers.



Next call: 12 May-14 September 2022



Dr. Priya Satalkar



“MSCA has created new opportunities for me and helped expand my professional networks in university and at a European and global level. My four-month secondment at the WHO Geneva gave me a unique vantage point to observe how scientific evidence can shape global health priorities and policies.”

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

MSCA Project: [Faminart](#)

Jan 2020-Dec 2021

(€172k funding)

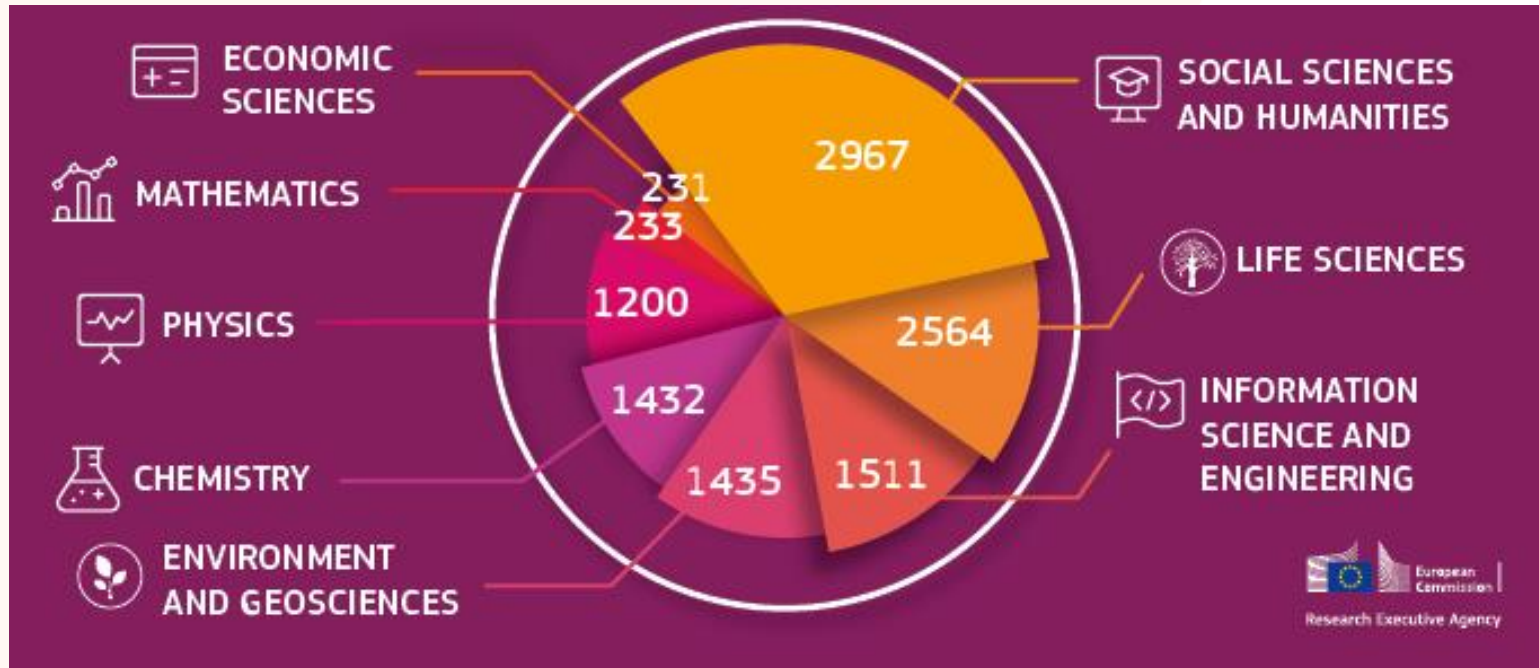
Ghent University (Belgium)



Since completing her MSCA project, she has received funding from the Flanders Research Foundation (FWO) to continue to explore the ethics of family creation and medically assisted reproduction.



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Fields of research



MSCA Individual Fellowships, 2020 submissions

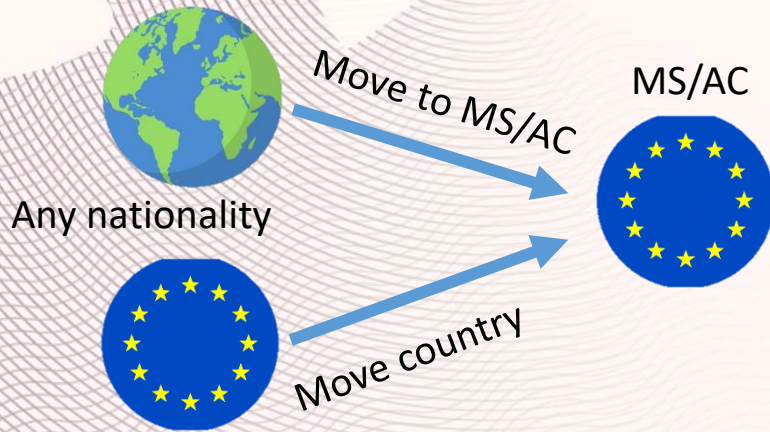
Since 2021, MSCA is open to **nuclear research** falling under the scope of the **Euratom research & training programme**. These projects will be funded through an annual financial contribution of €1M from Euratom.

Specific eligibility conditions apply.

Two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

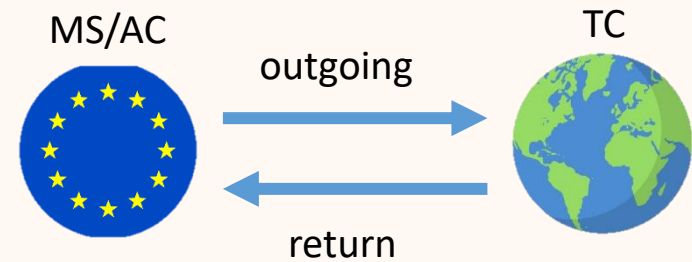
European Fellowships

(12-24 months)



Global Fellowships

(12-24 months) + (12 months return phase)



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Project

What is a project?

- **Personalised and original** research project written by the researcher
- Includes a concrete plan of **training-through-research** and clear **career development objectives**
- Implemented **with the host organisation(s)** (at their premises, unless on short visits, secondments or placements)
- Under the **direct supervision** of one or several supervisor(s)

Flexibility arrangements

- **Part-time** is possible
- **Flexible project start date**: up to 24m after call closure

Other possible collaboration & mobility during the project

- Short visits and fieldwork
- Secondments
- Non-academic placement

Typical training activities may include:

- **Training-through-research**: individual personalised action
- **Hands-on training activities** for developing scientific (new techniques, instruments) and transferable skills (proposal preparation to request funding, IPR management , task coordination, supervising & monitoring, exploitation of research results)
- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge (e.g. through **secondments and placement**)
- Organisation of **scientific/training/dissemination events**
- Communication, **outreach activities and horizontal skills**
- Training dedicated to gender issues

Etc...

Optional features: Secondments

Fellows can undertake secondments within the duration of the fellowship:

- **Worldwide** for up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration
- It can be done in a **single period** or be divided into **shorter mobility periods**
- Can be done in any sector, in **academic and/or non-academic sector** organisations
- The secondment(s) should be in **line with the project objectives**, adding significant **value and impact to the fellowship**
- For **Global Fellowships**, secondments can **only be done during the outgoing phase** in the third country. No secondment can take place during the mandatory return phase in MS or AC.

Optional features: Non-academic placements

Novelty since 2021: Placement of **up to 6 months in a non-academic European organization** at the end of the fellowship

Objectives:

- Expanding **career opportunities** for researchers and moves between sectors and organisations
- Stimulate **innovation and knowledge transfer**

How it works?

- At the end of the fellowship, an **additional period** is supported for the placement
- **Integral part of the proposal** : added-value for the project and for the career development of the researcher
- The placement host must be a **non-academic organisation in EU MS or AC**.
- The placement host must provide a **letter of commitment** at the application stage

Which sector?

Academic

Public or private **Higher Education establishment** awarding academic degrees

Public or private **non-profit research organisations**

International **European Research Organisations**

Universities

Non-profit
research
institutes

IEROs

Non-Academic

Broad definition:

Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector definition

Government

civil
society

Industry

SMEs

Other socio-
economic
actors

EU Validation Services ultimately determine the sector of each participating organisation

For already registered organisations, researchers can check the sector of the organisation here: [Participant register \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/participant-register)

Secondment	Non-academic placement
Worldwide	EU Member States or or HE Associated Countries
Any sector (academic or non-academic)	Non-academic sector ONLY
During the standard fellowship period (for European Fellowship 12-24 months; outgoing phase for Global Fellowships)	After the fellowship period (i.e. 12, 24, 36 months + 6 months)
1/3rd of standard fellowship duration (single or several mobilities)	Max 6 months, single placement
No letter of commitment needed	Letter of commitment to submit with the proposal

Eligibility conditions

Specific eligibility conditions apply for both the **individual researchers** and **participating organisations**.

One Beneficiary (for European & Global Fellowships)

- Legal entity in an **EU Member State or HE Associated Country***
- Signs the **grant agreement**
- **Recruits** the researcher
- Main host of the researcher for European Fellowships
- Host of the return phase for Global Fellowships

+ One Associated Partner for Global Fellowships

- For Global Fellowships, it is the **host organisation in the third country** (outgoing phase)
- It must be a **legal entity** outside an EU Member States and HE Associated Country
- It must submit a **letter of commitment**

* Specific eligibility conditions for Euratom fields of research

Eligibility conditions: Which countries?

EU Member States (MS)

HE Associated Countries (AC): all countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme through an association agreement.

- **Agreements in place:** Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Turkey
- **In process of association** (transitional arrangement): Albania, Faroe Islands, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom*

Third countries (TC): any other country

*based on [HE association agreements status](#) as of April 2022

Eligibility conditions: Individual researchers

Nationality of researcher*:

- **European Fellowships**: any nationality
- **Global Fellowships**: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC (see definition of long-term residents in [MSCA-PF GfA](#))

The researchers must also:

- Be in **possession of PhD** at the call deadline
- Have **up to 8 years research experience maximum** after PhD (with exceptions = career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers)
- Not have resided /carried out their main activity in the country of the beneficiary (for European Fellowships) or TC associated partner **only** (for Global Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months before call deadline (**mobility rule**)
- An individual researcher can only **submit one proposal**
- The **European Research Executive Agency** (REA) makes the final decision on whether the application meets the eligibility conditions

* Specific eligibility conditions for Euratom fields of research

Eligibility conditions: 8-years research experience

Exclude time-spent for the following:

- Maternity leave
- Paternity leave
- Long-term sick-leave
- Career break
- Time spent not working in research
- Compulsory national service
- For nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC 1) reintegrating from a third country and 2) applying for a European Fellowship **only**, the time spent doing research in third country can be excluded

All exceptions need to be documented.

How to calculate the 8-years research experience?

- REA Guidelines (MSCA-PF 2021): https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-08/Guidelines_8%20year%20rule_FINAL.pdf
- REA Self-assessment tool (MSCA-PF 2021): https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#ecl-inpage-293

Eligibility conditions: Mobility rule example

In case of **remote work** performed from country A for an employer located in country B, both countries are taken into account in the eligibility check.

Example

A researcher started a **contract with a Belgian university** in January 2020. However, the researcher has **not been able to move to Belgium** until March 2021 and worked for the Belgian university **remotely from France**.

As per the mobility rule in MSCA-PF, the researcher will be **ineligible for institutions located in both countries (Belgium and France)**.



New eligibility condition: Resubmissions

- As of 2021, new eligibility condition related to resubmissions.
- From 2022, resubmissions will **not be allowed for proposals that have scored less than 70%** in the previous call

What is a resubmission?

- Proposals involving :
 - **Same individual researcher**
 - With the **same recruiting organisation (beneficiary)**
 - And **for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, the associated partner** hosting the outgoing phase in the third country

MSCA for Euratom fields of research

- Since 2021, MSCA is open to **nuclear research** falling under the scope of the **Euratom research & training programme**.
- **Indicative budget : €1M** from Euratom programme annually
- Open for **both European and Global Fellowships**
- **Opt in at application stage**

Specific eligibility conditions:

- The following participants must be from an **EU Member State or Euratom Associated Country***:
 - Individual **researcher**
 - The **beneficiary**
 - The **non-academic placement** host (if any)

* based on association agreements status as of February 2022, only Ukraine and the United Kingdom are expected to become associated



ERA Fellowships 2022

The ERA Fellowships are open for applicants of **any nationality** with a **beneficiary from a Widening Country**.

Budget: €8M

How does it work?

- Global Fellowships are **not eligible**
- Applicants need to **opt in at application stage** (there will be no other opportunity later on)
- A number of excellent applications (i.e. on the reserve list) that cannot be funded by MSCA due to budget constraints will be offered an ERA Fellowship

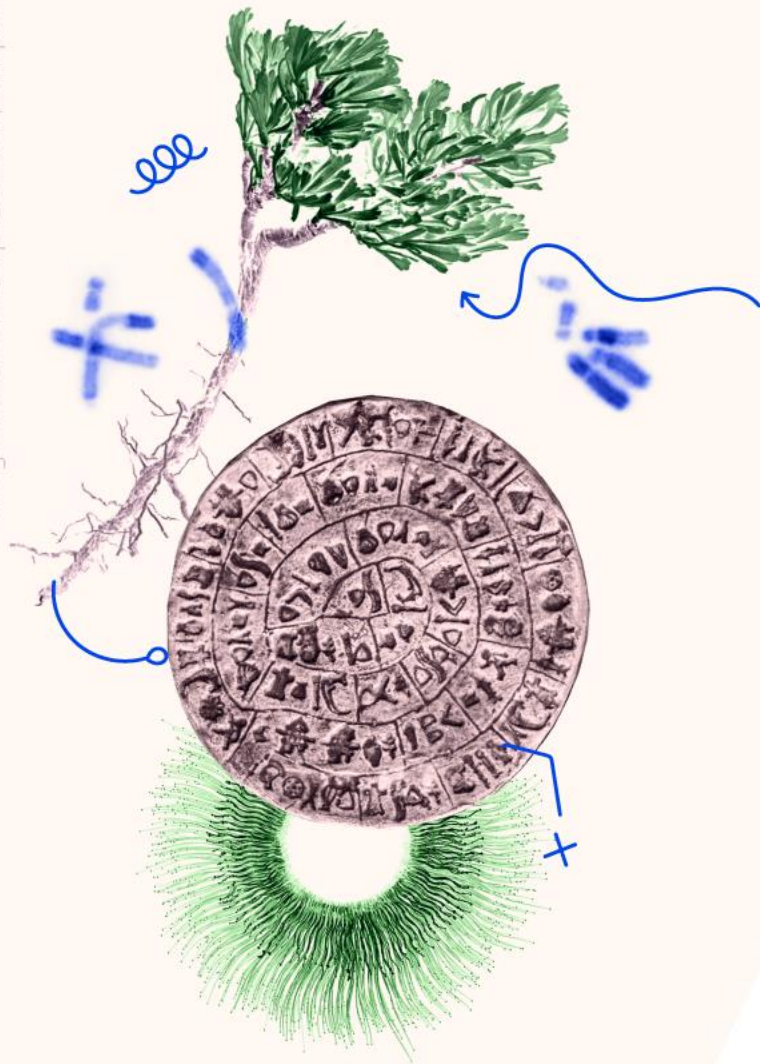
Which countries are concerned?

Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and outermost regions - Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), and the Canary Islands (Spain).

Associated Countries: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey and in process of association: Albania, Faroe Islands, Tunisia, Ukraine

Award Criteria

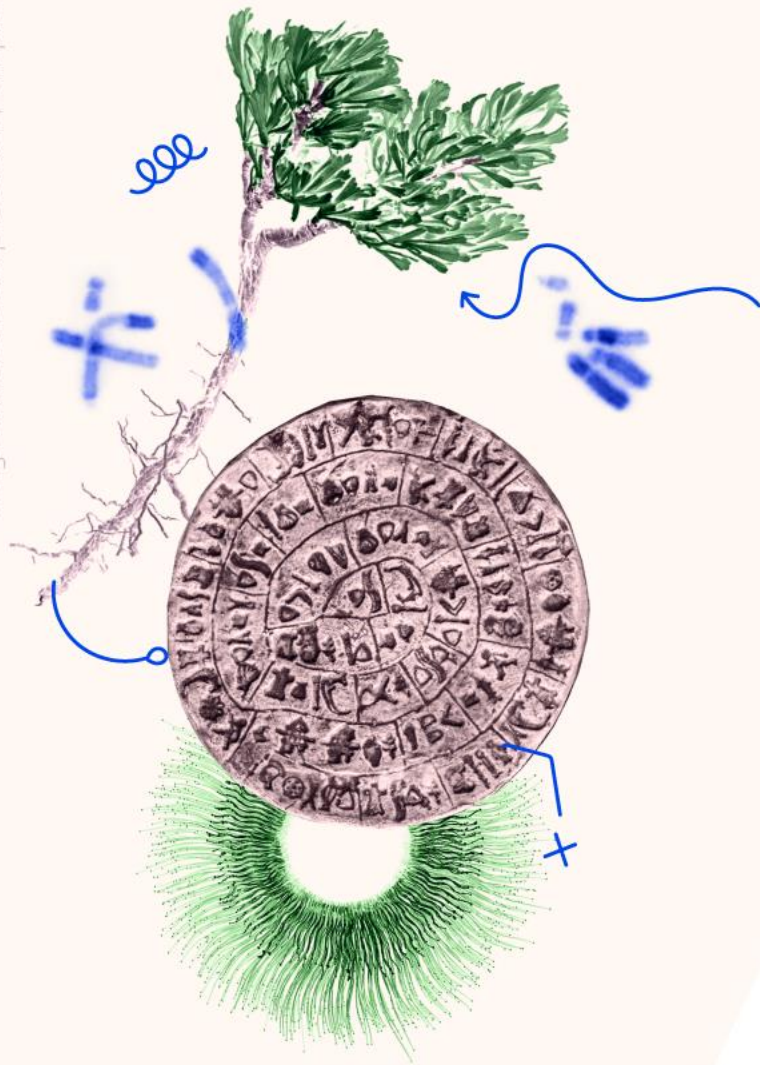
Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<p>Quality and pertinence of the project’s research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)</p>	<p>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>
<p>Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)</p>	<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	<p>Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements</p>
<p>Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host</p>	<p>The magnitude and importance of the project’s contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</p>	
<p>Quality and appropriateness of the researcher’s professional experience, competences and skills</p>		
<p>50%</p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>20%</p>



The Evaluation

- Ca **9,000-10,000 proposals** received per year
- **MSCA-PF success rate**: $\approx 14\%$
- **4,500 experts** from around the world, working remotely
- **8 Scientific Panels** (LIF, PHY, MAT, ENG, CHE, ENV, SOC, ECO)
- **Time-to-Grant**: 5m + 3m (from the call closure date)

The results for the 2022 call will **not be available before mid-February 2023**



MSCA Seal of Excellence

- The Seal of Excellence is awarded to **applications achieving a score of 85% or above** not retained for funding
- Quality label, helping recipients to attract other potential funders
- **Specific support schemes** exist for MSCA Seal of Excellence holders. You will find the complete list [here](#)
- The certificate will be **sent out automatically**

Unit contributions

Contributions for recruited researchers

Per person-month

Institutional unit contributions

Per person-month

Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5 080	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

¹ The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

Commitments for successful applications

(non-exhaustive)

- **Mobility:** the researcher must **move to the country of the beneficiary**
- **Working commitment:** in principle full-time, but requests for part-time work are possible and must be approved by REA
- **Working conditions** for fellows in accordance with the principles set out in the *European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers*
- Address the recommendations in the ***MSCA Guidelines on Supervision*** on a **best-effort basis**
- Address the principles of the ***MSCA Green Charter***, on a **best-effort basis**
- Ensure **open access** to research outcomes, including FAIR data management
- **Key deliverables** to be submitted at different stages of the project (see [MSCA Work Programme 2021-2022](#), p.90-91)

Two Novelties under Horizon Europe

The [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#) and the [MSCA Green Charter](#) are both new instruments to be implemented on a **best-effort basis**, by MSCA beneficiaries

MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

MSCA **beneficiaries must ensure adequate supervision or mentoring** and appropriate **career guidance** for the researchers.

The guidelines are a **reference and code of good practice** to ensure that researchers receive adequate supervision during their MSCA research project.

MSCA Green Charter

Code of good practice for individuals and institutions to promote the **sustainable implementation of research activities**.

At **final reporting stage**, all MSCA projects will be asked to report on the ways they have sought to **minimise the environmental impact** of their research activities and how they **applied the principles of the Green Charter**.

Next MSCA-PF call: 12 May – 14 Sept 2022

- Budget: 257 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
- Applications submitted on the **Funding & Tender Opportunities portal**:



Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼

PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT ▼

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/MSCA-PF 2022>

CLICK HERE



Check the call page on the portal for all reference documents, guidelines for applicants, templates, specific FAQs, *etc...*



Looking for a host organisation?

- [Euraxess](#) publishes **offers from host** organisations (some for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships but also other MSCA projects, i.e. COFUND postdoctoral fellowships programmes)
- [Enterprise Europe Networks](#) (for **non-academic partners**)
- “[Partner search](#)” tool on Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (already open for the 2022 call)

- Matchmaking events:
 - JRC-EAC [Linking researchers with policymakers for MSCA-PF non-academic placement](#) matchmaking event, **31st May 2022**
 - Other possible organisers: Euraxess, [MCAA](#), [MSCA-Net project](#)
- Other useful points of contact: [MSCA National Contact Points](#)

Key links and references

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en

Funding and Tenders Portal (applications, documents, partner search) <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>

Euraxess (PhD and postdoctoral vacancies, more information) <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

National Contact Points <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

Research Enquiry Service https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service-and-participant-validation_en

European Charter and Code for Researchers <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter-code-researchers>

MSCA Guidelines on Supervision <https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/msca-guidelines-on-supervision>

MSCA Green Charter <https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter>

MCAA (Marie Curie Alumni association) <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

Become an Expert <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>

CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/search?q=%2Fproject%2Frelations%2Fcategories%2FprojectFundingSchemeCategory%2Fcode%3D%27MSCA%27&p=1&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing>



Thank you!

#MSCA #HorizonEU

@MSCAactions

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

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