Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships

Information For Applicants: Further Points for Consideration in Proposal Development

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29 April 2022

Ethics & Security questions

UK applicants should answer 'yes' on questions about non-European activity

Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: 'How to complete your ethics self-assessment'

This will not affect eligibility.

Answering 'yes' on certain questions may require a brief text response from the applicant.

Applicants may be requested to upload documents related to particular questions.

Page references to relevant sections of proposal for each issue if you answer 'Yes'

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Evaluated under Excellence

Points to Consider

Gender and Intersectionality

Renewed emphasis on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Every cell is sexed, everyone has a gender

Adds a valuable dimension to research and can take it in a new direction

Aims to eliminate gender inequalities and intersecting socio-economic inequalities

Makes research more responsive to social needs

Enhances societal relevance research and outputs

Ensures excellence and quality in outcomes and enhancing sustainability

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Addressing Gender In Your Proposal

Does your research involve Humans?

Yes

No

Include gender dimensions in your research project

Will the results ever be used in humans?

Yes

No

Include gender dimensions in your research project

Explain that gender does not relate to your project
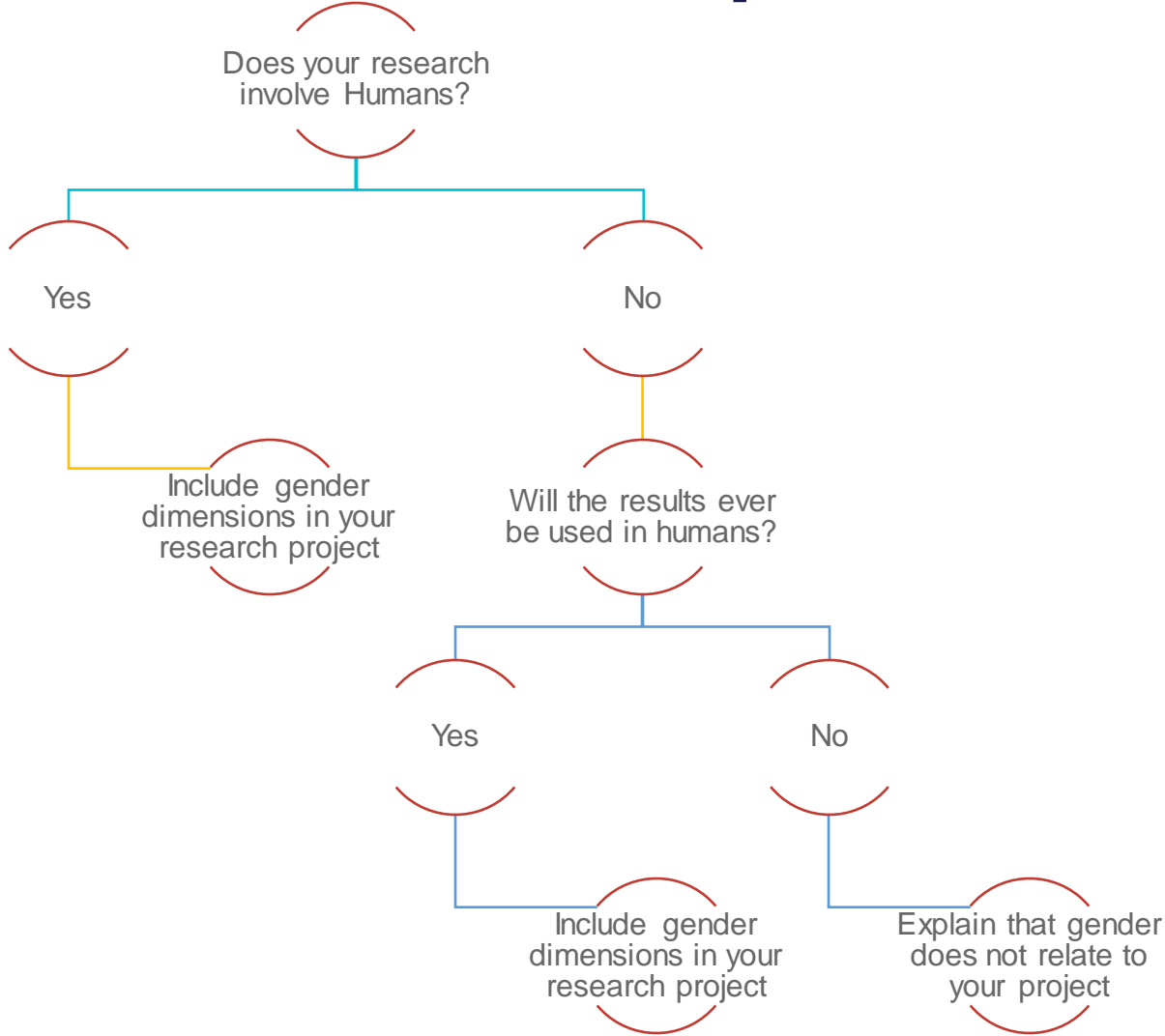
Genderaction.eu

Gendered Innovations

Gender in Research

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The gender dimension of the research project will be evaluated

Open Access

Encouraging uptake of Open Science Practices

Enhance researcher skills in Open Science and support reward systems

Open access to scientific publications as well as to data

Immediate open access via repository at the latest upon publication under open licence

All research data must be managed in line with FAIR principles, with data management plan as a standard deliverable

Open access to research data via repository under principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'

The use of and quality of open science practises is evaluated.

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Research Data

- **No opting out of research data management plan**

- Open access to research data 'as open as possible as closed as necessary'

- Establish and regularly update a Data Management Plan

- Deposit data in a trusted repository and provide open access through it

- **Costs for RDM (for example data storage, processing and preservation) are eligible**

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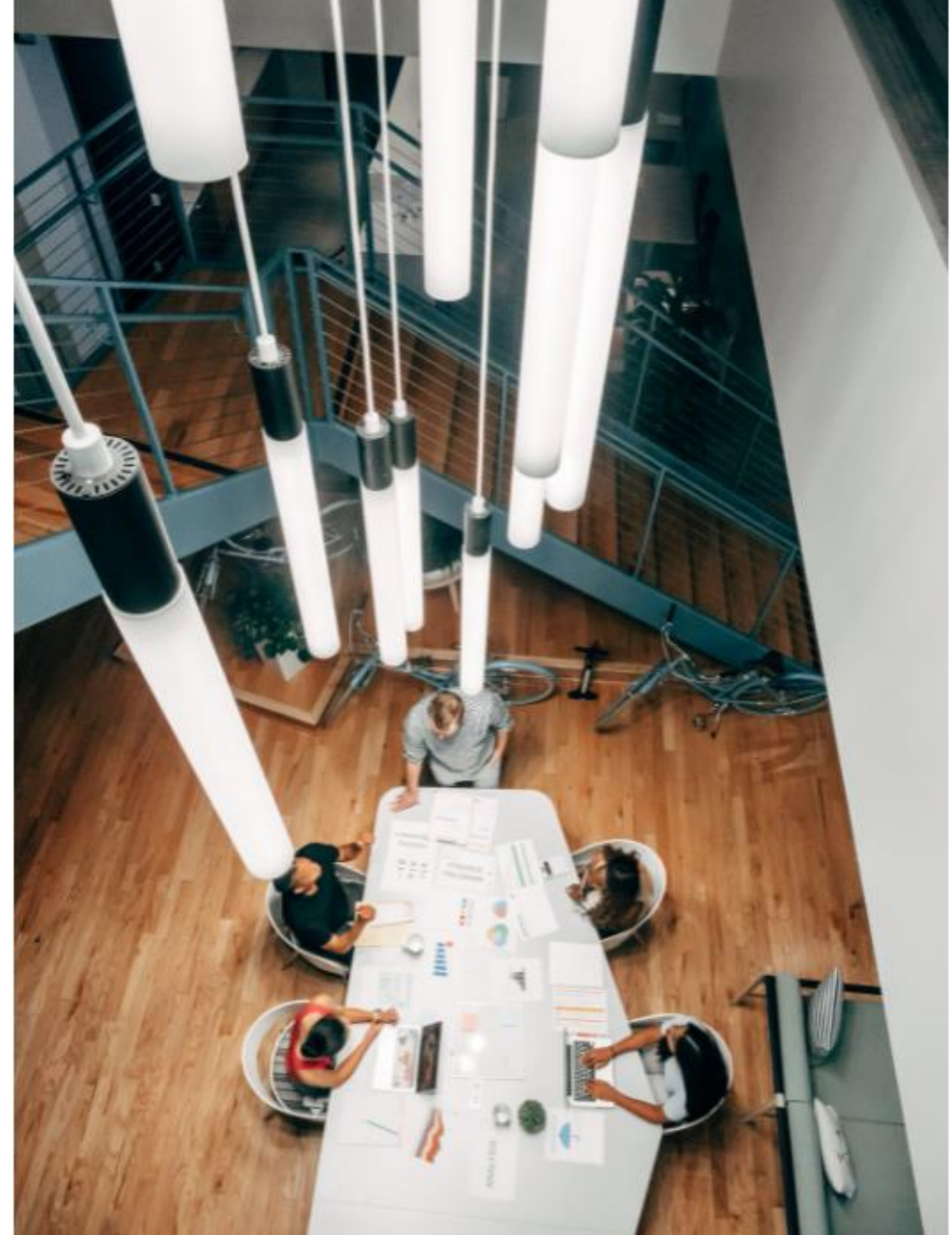
Evaluated under Impact

Points to Consider

Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

What do you do with your results…

Dissemination

Promotion and raising awareness of project results

Exploitation

Using the results, such as for commercial purposes or in public policymaking

Communication

Making your research activities known to society throughout project life span

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Institutions often have teams that can help/support these activities

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Things to Think About

How do you Address D,E & C

Be creative and consider all options

Can be linked to training & research objectives and activities

Describe the target audiences and key stakeholders: *e.g. university students, schools, end users, media , community groups, charities general public, scientific community, industry, professional organisations, policy makers, etc.*

Why does the target audience need to know about the action/results

Think about the key messages you wish to communicate and why

Detail the activities you will use *: e.g. conferences, industry events, journal publications, workshops, social media, tradeshows, book chapter, collaborative research, produce development, spinoff , social media, going into schools, institutional organised public* engagement events

One way vs two way communication

Achievements, expectations, project activities, lessons learned,

Activities occur throughout the entire project's lifetime – not just at the end

Document the outreach activities (with short articles, blogs, photos, tweets, etc)

Addressing D,E & C

	Objective	Focus	Target Audience
Communication	Researching out to society Demonstrating impact and benefits	Informing about and promoting the project and the results/successes	Multiple audiences
Dissemination	Transfer of knowledge and results Aim to enable others to use and take up results	Ensure results are available and able to be used by others	Those that are interested in the potential use of the results
Exploitation	Use of project results through scientific, economical, political or societal exploitations Turn R&I actions into concrete value and impact for society	Make concrete use of results	People/organisations, including project partners that can make concrete use of the results User groups

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Expected Impact

Steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts of the project over time

Scientific impact
- Creating high-quality new knowledge
- Strengthen human capital in R&I
- Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

Societal impact
- Addressing EU policy priorities and global challenges
- Delivering benefits and impacts via R&I missions
- Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society

Economic impact
- Generating innovation-based growth
- Creating more and better jobs
- Leveraging investments in R&I

- Begins with the results, through to dissemination, exploitation and communication

- Maps the contribution to the expected outcomes in the destination and wider work programme

- Depending on the project may address only 1 or more of the three expected impacts

Proposal Advice

Proposal Advice

Read all call documentation and the evaluation criteria

Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information

Use clear and concise language

Explain country/research area specific jargon

Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate

Research previous and current projects

Find colleagues to proof read drafts with the evaluation criteria

Will take time to write

Consider any relevant EU policy documents

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Proposal Development Reminders

Scientific Element

- completely bottom up
- Realistic and well-defined research objectives
- Novelty
- Cross cutting issues

Researcher (Fellow)

- Must demonstrate the potential to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship
- Transfer of knowledge
- Future career prospects

Training Element

- 'Training-through-research'
- Realistic and well-defined training objectives
- Develop and significantly widen the competences of the researcher, incl. multi-interdisciplinary expertise, inter-sectoral experience and transferable skills
- Public engagement activities

Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution

- At all levels (team, unit, department, school, centre, organisations etc.)
- At partner organisation(s)

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Pitfalls To Avoid

Progress beyond the state of the art poorly explained	Highly complex proposal	Unclear research objective	Proposals not easy to read and no consistent	IPR, Impact and Risk neglected
Lack of interdisciplinarity	Gender Aspects ignored	Non-academic sector ignored	Transferable skills neglected	Training programme unfocused, or not clearly presented
	Training project is not integrated with the research project	Lack of thought to future career prospects of the research	Lack of detail with regards to integration into host organisation (s)	Knowledge exchange is clearly presented

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Evaluators feedback

Strengths

- The proposal is ambitious and clearly goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- The proposal foresees articulated strategy and methodology which are convincing and appropriate.
- The proposed open science practices are suitable for this kind of project and go beyond the mandatory
- Good interdisciplinarity of the proposal
- The hosting arrangements appear very strong and the high quality and capacity of the host are clear
- The impact of the new competencies and skills acquired during the fellowship for the future career of the researcher is adequately identified
- The measures to enhance career possibilities and employability are credible

Weakness

- The proposal fails to properly address aspects such as transferable or innovation skills
- Risk assessment is not properly addressed and the contingency plans are very generic.
- The proposal provides very limited and generic details about specific arrangements at the host institution
- The track record of the supervisor is not adequately described
- The expected broader scientific, societal and economic impacts and the overall impact of the results beyond the scope and duration of the
- The timing of the planned activities is not convincing
- The work plan is too broadly described and shows several inconsistencies

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The Call Timeline

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022 (HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01)

Action	Date
Invitation to Submit Proposal	12 May 2022
Deadline for Submission	14 September 2022 17:00 Brussels Time
Evaluation of Proposals	October - December 2022
Information on Outcome of Evaluations	February/March 2023
Indicative Date for Signing the Grant Agreement	April –May 2023
Prospective Start Date	May 2023 - September 2024

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Submit Early, Submit Often

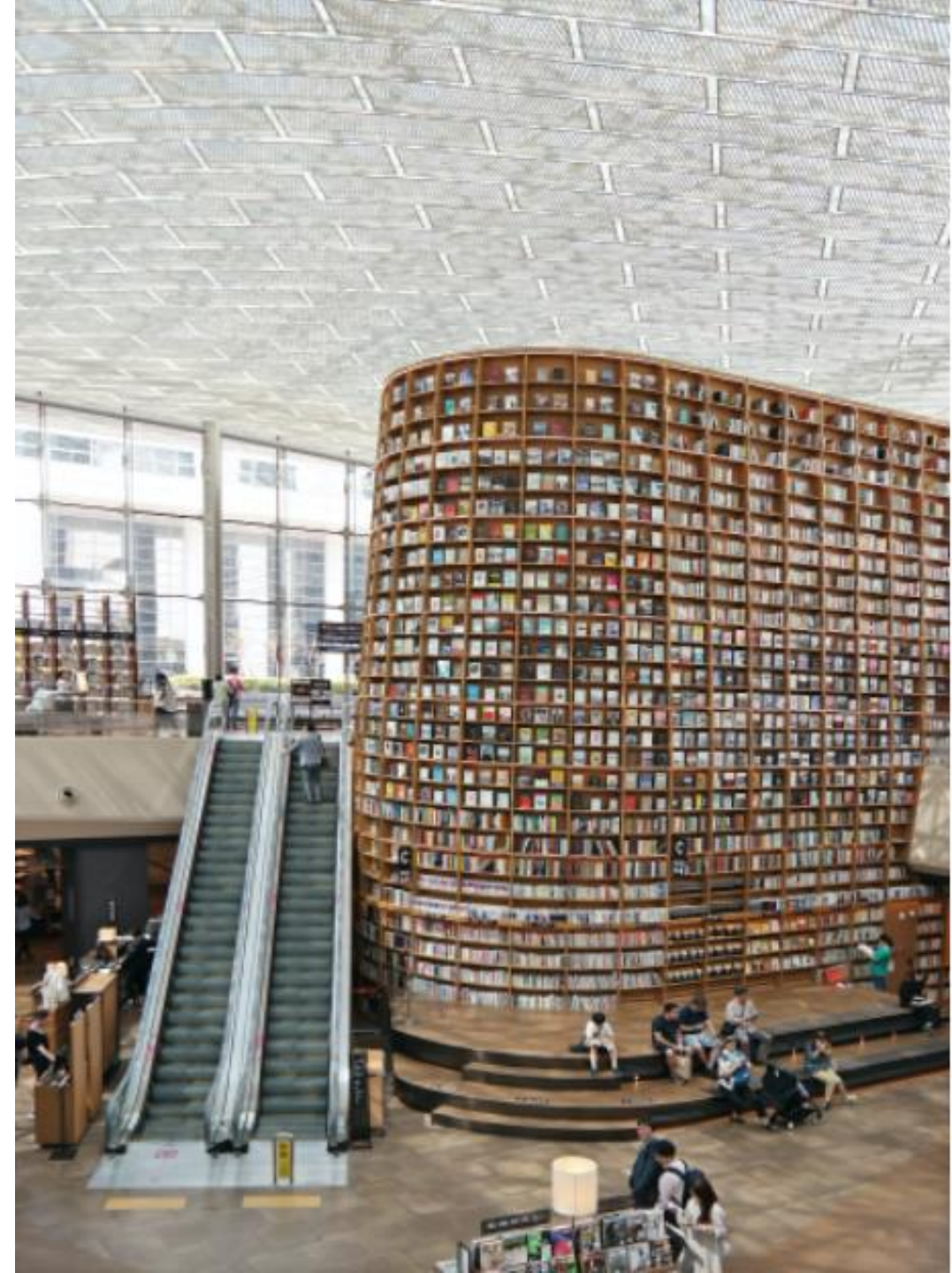*Commission collects proposals at Deadline*

Events

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship drop-in Q&A

Date to be confirmed

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Additional Resources

UKRO Portal https://www.ukro.ac.uk/

MSCA – How to Apply

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#ecl-inpage-291

Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/3c6ffd74-8ac3-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1

Horizon Europe Programme Guide https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

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