



European
Commission



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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Marie Skłodowska-
Curie Actions

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

EURATOM

EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION



Fusion

Fission

Joint
Research
Center

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

Budget: €95.5 billion

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

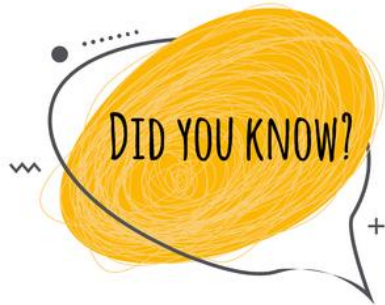
Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€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



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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

42%

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)*



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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.



Current call: 12th April-13th Sept. 2023



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Dr. Priya Sataalkar



“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

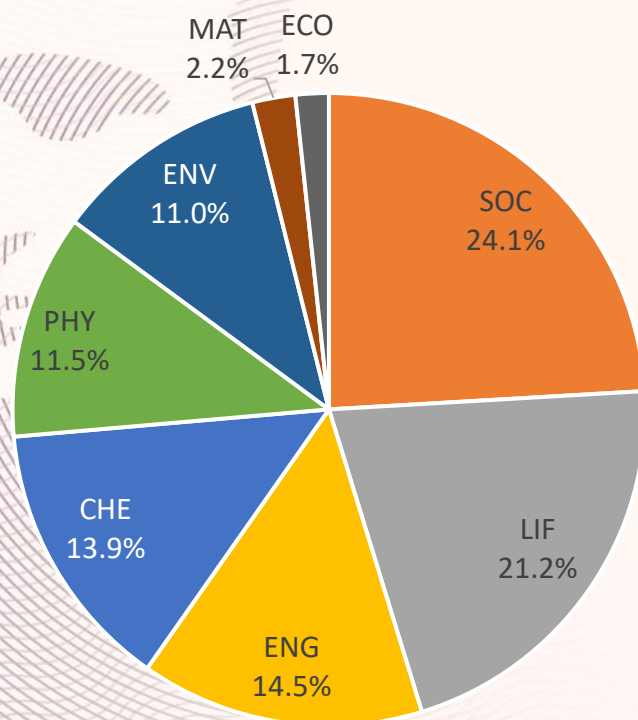
(€172k funding)

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 Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022 submissions

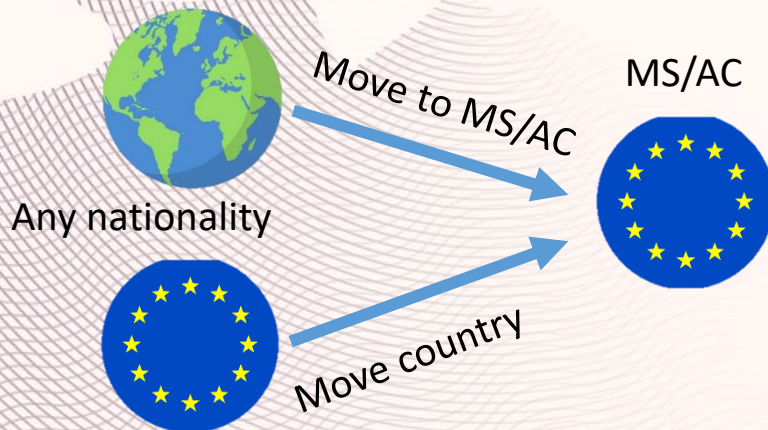
The MSCA are **open to all fields of research.**

Since 2021, the call is also 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

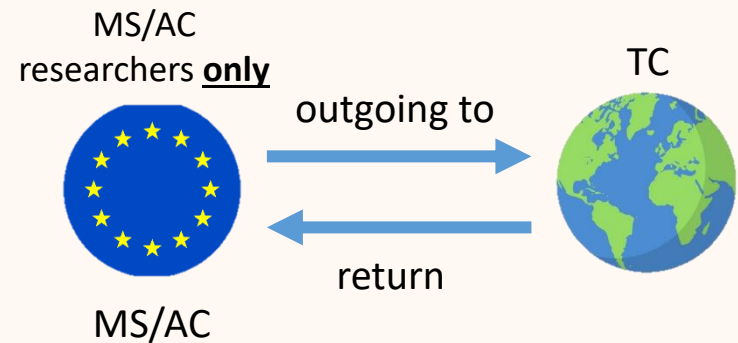
(12-24 months)



Budget: 221.40M€

Global Fellowships

(12-24 months in Third Country) + (12 months compulsory return phase)



Budget: 39.07M€

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 (1/3rd of outgoing phase for Global Fellowship)
- 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 organisation** 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**.

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://participant-register.europa.eu)

Secondment	Non-academic placement
Worldwide	EU MS or AC
Any sector (academic or non-academic)	Non-academic ONLY
Anytime during the fellowship; For Global Fellowships, during outgoing phase ONLY	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

Eligibility conditions

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

One Beneficiary (for European & Global Fellowships)

- The beneficiary is the organisation that signs the grant agreement
- The beneficiary must be a **legal entity in an EU Member State or HE Associated country***
- **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, the associated partner is the **host organisation in the third country**
- 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:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine
- **In process of association** (transitional arrangement): Morocco, United Kingdom*

Third countries (TC): any other country

*based on [HE association agreements status](#) as of 1st April 2023

Eligibility conditions: Individual researchers

Nationality of researcher:

- **European Fellowships**: any nationality
 - **Global Fellowships**: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC
 - **Euratom**: nationals or long-term residents of MS or Euratom AC
- (see definition of long-term residents in [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024](#), p. 94)

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

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 reintegrating from a third country 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?

- Guidelines: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/Guidelines_8%20year%20rule_2023.pdf
- Self-assessment tool: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f6ea42a3-6558-4e2b-8494-bf21e75f7004_en?filename=EXT_eligibility_support%20tool%20for%208%20years_2023_final.xlsx



New eligibility condition: Resubmissions

- Since 2021, there has been a new eligibility condition related to resubmissions.
- From 2022, resubmissions will **not be allowed for proposals that have scored less than 70%** in the previous year's 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

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**

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 2023

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

Budget: €8M (~50 projects)

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, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, 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: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine; and in process of association: Morocco

Award Criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
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)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
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)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts , as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations , including hosting arrangements
Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project’s contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	
Quality and appropriateness of the researcher’s professional experience , competences and skills		
50%	30%	20%

Evaluation

- **~7,000-8,000 proposals received per year**
- **MSCA-PF success rate:** $\approx 15,8\%$
- **~4,000 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)
i.e. for MSCA PF 2023 call, results will not be expected before mid-February

** Interested to work as an expert for Horizon Europe calls?*

You can register here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>

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](#)

Unit contributions

Contributions for recruited researchers

Per person-month

Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)
EUR 5 080	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)

Institutional unit contributions

Per person-month

Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
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 2023-2024](#), p.97)

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.

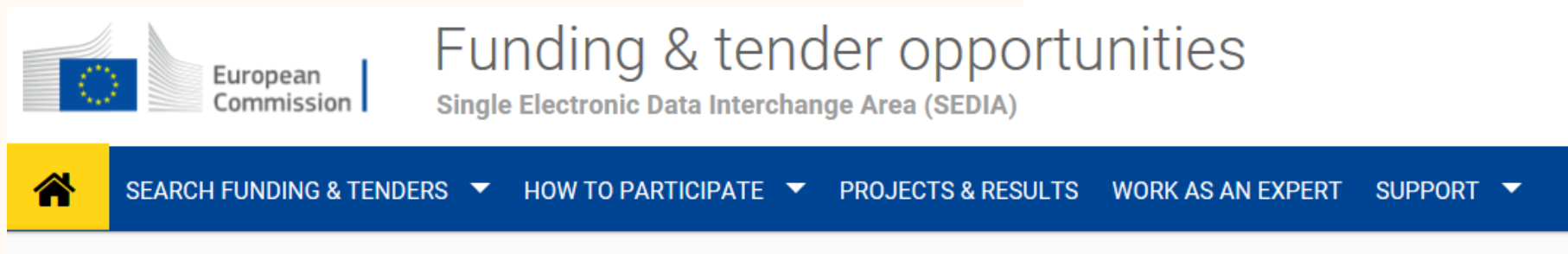
MSCA Green Charter

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 April – 13 Sept 2023

- Budget: 260,47 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
- Applications submitted on the **Funding & Tender Opportunities portal**:



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/MSCA-PF 2023>

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 (for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships but also other MSCA projects)
- [Enterprise Europe Networks](#) (for non-academic partners)
- “[Partner search](#)” tool on Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal
- **NEW !** : MSCA-Net’s [MSCA Matchmaking platform](#)
- **Forthcoming event:** *MSCA/JRC Science-policy matchmaking event*, 20th June, online (for more information and to register, see the link [here](#))
- Other useful contacts:
 - [MSCA National Contact Points](#)
 - [MCAA](#)
 - [Euraxess](#)
- Check our [Tips & tricks to prepare your PF application](#) on the MSCA website

Key links and references

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

MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

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>

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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