

General Questions

The eligibility table (with 1/3 rule) is unclear. Can you please give specific examples?

Secondments within EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries must be between different sectors (i.e. academic to non-academic), except for interdisciplinary secondments (i.e. Physics to Computer Sciences), which must be limited to a maximum of one third of the total months spent under the action. All secondments must be international.

Is each secondment evaluated separately for interdisciplinarity? Or does the entire application need to be interdisciplinary, and individual secondments are not evaluated for this criterion?

Interdisciplinarity should be addressed in the strategies, concepts, approaches, methodologies, technologies as well as in the training programmes. Secondments can be international, intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary, and the selections need to be fully justified in the proposal. Each secondment is evaluated for the mobility criteria.

Is there a clear definition of disciplines that we can refer to?

The term discipline refers to the first level of [MSCA keywords](#). You may refer to a few examples in the [FAQ](#).

Do you have a good example of a strong *Impact* section? Are any guidelines or best practices?

The [MSCA-NET SE handbook](#) contains valuable advice, including excerpts from the summary evaluation reports divided in strengths and weaknesses.

Why are there fields in Part A which are not mandatory? Why are they not just removed?

The European Commission uses the same Part A (Administrative form) for all schemes within Horizon Europe, but the MSCA Information for Applicants specifies that in Part A, neither the beneficiaries nor the associated partners need to fill in the list of up to five publications, relevant previous projects, or significant infrastructure. This information however will need to be described in the relevant sections of part B2.

Eligibility – Organisations

Can companies (e.g. large ones or SMEs) receive funding?

Yes, they can. Any public or private organisation from EU Member States or Associated Countries can participate in Horizon Europe, as long as they have the operational and financial capacity to carry out the proposed tasks. This includes a wide range of entities such as businesses (small, medium, or large), public bodies, research institutes, educational institutions, non-profits, and organizations involved in social, economic, or cultural activities.

Eligibility – Nationality

Is Ukraine an Associated Country?

Yes, it is. Ukraine is an Associated Country to Horizon Europe. A list of Associated Countries is [available online](#).

The call states that the consortium must have at least one participant outside of the EU. If the consortium has a US institution, do they get funding?

Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three independent legal entities in three different countries, two of which must be established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. Above this minimum, the consortium may include other legal entities, including International European Research Organisation (IERO) and entities from Third Countries (TC), such as US entities but it is not a mandatory requirement. Associated partners from Third Countries do not generally receive funding.

Is Canada considered an Associated Country for MSCA?

No, Canada is only associated to Pillar 2 in Horizon Europe, so Canadian institutions can participate in MSCA Staff Exchange actions but cannot receive funding from the European Commission.

Do organisations based in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) participate as full or associated partners given that they are eligible for funding as secondment senders?

Only secondments from associated partners located in low to middle-income third countries included in the [List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#) are eligible for funding, and they participate in the action as associated partners.

Eligibility – Seconded staff members

Do the researchers/staff need to be employed in the organisation prior to the start of the MSCA Staff Exchange project?

Yes, they do. Supported staff members must be actively engaged in or linked to R&I activities for at least one month (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution before the first period of secondment.

Can the secondees be on fixed term contract?

Yes, they can. The type of relationship between the seconded staff member and the sending organisation (i.e. employment contract, fellowship or other) is NOT relevant as long as:

- it complies with national law*
- it complies with internal practices and*
- during the secondment it confers legal authority on the sending beneficiary (or associated partner) that enables them to ensure the compliance with the Grant Agreement obligations.*

Do staff who are going on secondment need to be named individuals (given that there could be new staff / PhDs in post towards the end of the implementation period)?

No, they don't. As long as the seconded staff members have the relevant expertise to participate in the action and are seconded on a full-time basis for minimum one month and up to 12 months.

The Project

As part of the hosting activities how much of it can it encompass research activity? What would be considered realistic?

This depends on your project as there is not one size fits all. Please refer to the detailed evaluation criteria in the [work programme](#) for what is expected from your project.

Funding

What will be funded, apart from secondments and travel etc?

- **Staff member unit cost of 2710€** which contributes to travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related to the secondment.
- **Research, Training and networking cost of 1300€** that should cover costs for training, transfer of knowledge and networking activities, as well as research expenses.
- **Management and indirect cost of 1000€** that should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management/coordination, indirect costs).

Total: 5010€ unit cost per person month.

Will the SENDING organisation receive funding for the training activities of the person who goes elsewhere?

Funding is given to the sending institution. Institutional unit contributions - Research, Training and networking and Management and indirect costs - may (and should normally) be shared with associated partners linked to a beneficiary AND associated partner that incurred costs for hosting secondments

Can the project support salary of researchers in addition to secondment or only the secondment?

No, staff member unit cost can only contribute to travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related to the secondment. Additional support for researcher salaries can be provided in-kind by the partners.

Success rates

What are the success rates for the MSCA SE calls?

The success rate for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Staff Exchanges (SE) 2024 call was 26%. A total of 83 projects were selected for funding from the submitted proposals. The call received 329 proposals.