

## General Questions

**Have there been any changes in MSCA PD since last year that are important to know?**

*There have been no significant changes compared to last year.*

**Is the call announced every year?**

*It is expected that the call will continue to be announced on an annual basis. The work programme for 2026-27 is expected to be published later this year.*

**What are the typically success rates for the scheme?**

*This is a very competitive scheme. For 2023, the overall success rate was at 16% and 17% for 2024, respectively.*

**Can you explain the difference between the Global and the European Fellowship?**

*The European Fellowship is open to all nationalities and requires movement of the fellow to either an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country. The Global Fellowship is open to nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and consists of an outgoing phase in a Third Country, followed by a mandatory return phase in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.*

**What is the earliest and latest starting date of the project?**

*The projects selected for funding in the 2025 MSCA PF call are expected to start from April 2026. The [Guidance for Fellows](#) states that the latest start date is 1 September the year following the signature of the Grant Agreement. For Grant Agreements signed in 2026, this means 1 September 2027. Further delays must be discussed with the Project Officer and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.*

**What will be the reporting date?**

*The reporting dates will be set out in the [Grant Agreement](#) and the continuous reporting process is described in the [Guidance for Fellows](#).*

**Can the research be carried out remotely from a different country if it's agreed upon by the hosting organisation?**

*International mobility is key for all MSCA schemes. Therefore, tele- or remote working from abroad is not allowed for the fellowships. Details can be found in the [Guidance for Fellows](#).*

**If I get accepted for funding with an institution in the UK for example, is it strict that I move to the UK or is it possible to visit the institution in UK once a week?**

*International mobility is key for all MSCA schemes. Therefore, tele- or remote working from abroad is not allowed for the fellowships. Details can be found in the [Guidance for Fellows](#).*

**Global application: can I go to a third country, associated to Horizon Europe?**

*For Horizon Europe, a country can either be a Third Country or an Associated Country. The outgoing phase of the Global Fellowship must be spent in a Third Country not associated to Horizon Europe. Associated Countries are not eligible partners for the outgoing phase.*

**For the global scheme, must the order be outgoing first then returning, can you do the return part first then outgoing?**

*For the Global Fellowship, the outgoing phase to a Third Country must happen first. The mandatory return phase must follow the outgoing phase.*

## Eligibility – PhD awards

### **Is there any maximum requirement period from the date of PhD graduation?**

*The prospective fellow must have a maximum of 8 years of research experience since the date of their PhD award. Periods of e.g. parental leave, career breaks or time spent not working in research can be deducted. For further details [see the guidance](#). All PhD degrees awarded after 10 September 2017 are automatically eligible for the 2025 call.*

### **If you were on furlough during COVID does that count as career break and can it be deducted from the 8 years research experience?**

*The exemption for the period of organisation closures due to COVID can only be applied if the fellow was not under contract with the organisation during that time. If the fellow continued to be paid, that period must be counted as research time. Ultimately, it is up to the hosting organisation to verify the eligibility of the fellow. For details please see this [FAQ](#).*

### **I finished my PhD in April 2024 in another country and am working as a research fellow in the UK. Will I be eligible to apply for this fellowship?**

*You must fulfil all eligibility criteria, including the mobility rule. Depending on the type of fellowship you would like to apply to, your eligibility therefore depends on your nationality, residency status and length of residency in the UK.*

### **If you are already senior research fellow, can you still apply for the fellowship, given that you have <8 years research experience after finishing your PhD? Can you keep the level of the academic title when you go to the host institute or is that depending on the agreement with the host institute?**

*As long as you fulfil all eligibility criteria, including the 8-year limit since your PhD award, you are eligible for this call. The continued use of your academic title should be discussed with your host organisation.*

### **If you had your viva, but not your award yet before the deadline, is the viva date the one that should be entered as date for "PhD award date" in Part A?**

*You must have been awarded your PhD degree unconditionally by the time of the call deadline. Please use the date of the unconditional award in the application. Your degree awarding organisation will be able to let you know if your degree is being considered unconditional and the relevant date.*

### **Does working in teaching-only position extend the 8 years post-PhD limit?**

*There are periods that can be deducted from the 8 years period since being awarded a doctoral degree and the details are specified in the guidance.*

*These include:*

- *Maternity or paternity leave*
- *Career breaks*
- *Compulsory national service*
- *Time spent not working in research, including teaching*
- *Long term sick-leave*

### **Does the applicant have to hold a doctoral degree (or successfully defended their thesis) by the time the postdoctoral position begins, or by the application deadline?**

*The researcher must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before call deadline. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline.*

**I have done a PhD alongside working as a researcher full time. Will the maximum 8-years experience start from the date of the end of the PhD or from all the researcher experience?**  
*The period of the research experience will start from the date of award of the (first) doctoral degree.*

## **Eligibility – Mobility & Nationality**

**Does the call apply to participants with dual nationalities? (e.g. EU country + UK)?**  
*There are no restrictions or additional rules for dual nationals.*

**If I have resided in the UK but have not carried out any research/other work (stayed unemployed) for more than a year. Am I eligible to apply?**  
*The guidance states that “the researcher cannot have resided **or** carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the call deadline.” This means that even if you did not have your main activity in the UK, you still resided in the UK and are therefore not eligible.*

**If I am a UK national and resident and have completed my PhD in the UK and intend to remain in the UK for the next few years, does this mean I am not eligible to apply?**  
*As a UK national, who has been living in the UK for more than 12 months between 11 September 2022 and 10 September 2025, you are not meeting the eligibility criteria for the MSCA European Fellowship with a host in the UK. You will be able to apply to the MSCA Global Fellowship and spend your mandatory return phase in the UK.*

**Can you give examples of the types of documentary evidence the beneficiary should obtain from the researcher (European Fellowship) to prove that the mobility requirement is satisfied/what the REA might look at in an audit?**

*This is dependent on the individual case but as a general rule, any documents accepted by a local or national authority would be sufficient. This could include rental agreements, passport stamps or employment contracts.*

## **Supervision**

**For the Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, would it need two supervisors - one at the third country host organization, and the other one for the return phase?**

*The Guidance for Applicants states that “for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, an additional supervisor must be appointed at the associated partner for the time spent during the outgoing phase. However, the beneficiary is responsible towards the granting authority for the correct implementation of the proposed project for the full duration of the project.”*

**Can the return phase be based on the PF's current organisation, or would it have to be a different one?**

*The researcher can return to their current organisation for the return phase of a Global Fellowship.*

**Can supervisors be on fixed term contracts, as long as the end date of the contract is after the end of the MSCA fellowship?**

*The Guide for Applicants states that “the supervisor is the senior researcher appointed by the host institution (beneficiary) to supervise the postdoctoral researcher throughout the whole duration of the action.” There are no restrictions on the type of contract the supervisor must hold.*

**How can a novice supervisor be motivated to applying as a supervisor (or mentor) in terms of their own professional development?**

*The MSCA schemes are very prestigious and add to the career development of researchers and the standing of the research organisation. Less experienced supervisors can include mentoring arrangements in the proposal to gain experience while developing their skills.*

**Can a former PhD supervisor be the same for the MSCA fellow?**

*Yes, this is possible but the relationship and the added value of choosing a previous supervisor should be explained in the proposal.*

**Can the proposals have more than one supervisor from different institutions, or can other people be involved as external advisors? If yes, is there a rule on where these people are located (e.g. same country of host institution, different country, country of previous residence of the fellow)?**

*The supervision can be shared by more than one individual. Supervision can be intra- or interinstitutional. Details can be found in the [Guidelines for Supervision](#).*

**Can the supervisor submit more than one application?**

*Yes, the supervisor can submit multiple applications. Only the researcher is restricted to one application. The capacity of the supervisor should be explained in the proposal.*

**If the supervisor is a senior lecturer and not a full professor, can this affect the application?**

*The supervisor must be able to provide sufficient support to the researcher in all aspects of the project. The capacity of the supervisor should be explained in the proposal. Any gaps in their ability to supervise should be covered e.g. by additional supervisors or mentoring for the supervisor. [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision are available](#).*

## **The Project**

**Who writes the proposal - the fellow or the supervisor?**

*This should be a joint endeavour between the fellow and the supervisor.*

**Do the proposals need to be structured in work packages explicitly differentiating between objectives, activities, and outputs?**

*Each research objective should correspond to a research work package. In addition, a work package each on Management, Training & Transfer of Knowledge, and Dissemination/Exploitation, Communication/Public Engagement is recommended. More details on work packages can be found on the [MSCA handbook](#).*

**Can the proposed project build on a previously funded project?**

*Yes, this is possible and the connection to any previously funded work should be outlined in the proposal.*

**How much preliminary data is expected in the proposal?**

*This depends on your proposal the amount of preliminary data that is available and necessary to meet the evaluation criteria outlined in the [work programme](#).*

**How much of an overlap can there be between our proposal and an already funded project?**

*Any connection or overlap with previous or current projects should be outlined, and justified where necessary, in the proposal. Researchers can only receive funding from one MSCA grant at a time. Projects must not be double funded.*

**Application & Evaluation Process**

**Is the supervisor responsible for submitting the application or the researcher?**

*The application should be submitted by the supervisor as the representative of the beneficiary who will sign the Grant Agreement. As all legal responsibilities lie with the beneficiary, a submission by the fellow (technically possible) should be discussed during the preparatory phase.*

**Is the Part A be filled by the candidate or the supervisor?**

*Part A can be filled in by the researcher, supervisor or the contact person. The application is a joint endeavour.*

**Is it the researcher applicant who registers on the system, or the supervisor, or both?**

*Both need to register on the submission system. The proposal preparation should be done jointly by the researcher, the supervisor and the research office.*

**Can we submit and modify the application ("x" times) before the deadline?**

*Yes, you can submit and subsequently modify and resubmit your proposal up to the deadline. The EC will collect the version that has been submitted by the deadline.*

**Last year it was possible to shorten the headings, but you said we should not alter the headings. Is it still allowed to shorten them?**

*It is not recommended to adjust the headings as they match the evaluation template and helps to put the right information in the right place for the evaluators to find it.*

**The letter of commitment is mandatory for the Global Fellowship, but it is required for the European Fellowship?**

*There is no letter of commitment required for the European Fellowship.*

**So, for the candidate the most important part is B-1 which is used for elevation?**

*All sections of the proposal will be included in the evaluation and therefore all parts should be prepared diligently and with care.*

**For the GF letter of commitment what is meant by between the beneficiary and associated partner? That it should not be addressed to the researcher but to the beneficiary?**

*The letter of commitment does need to be addressed to the beneficiary as they will sign the grant Agreement and hold all legal and financial responsibilities.*

**Are researchers with less research experience (e.g. just finished PhD) judged with exactly the same expectations as those with more experience (e.g. just under 8-year post-PhD experience)?**

*The researchers are assessed under the Excellence criteria outlined in the [Work Programme](#) with the focus on quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills in relation to the proposed research. Further details can be found in the [FAQ](#).*

**Funding**

**Is it possible for you to give an approximation of the monthly salary paid out after tax for someone employed as MSCA postdoc fellow in the UK?**

*The monthly salary paid to the fellow depends on variables such as pension contributions, National Insurance and the exchange rate used by the beneficiary. In general, MSCA salaries are considered more generous compared to other funding sources.*

**Can any fabrication/equipment cost be claimed in the proposal?**

*The [MSCA Financial Guidance](#) states that “the research, training and networking contribution covers costs related to the training and research expenses of researchers/staff members as well as costs related to the transfer of knowledge and networking activities (e.g. costs for participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training or language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs, visa-related fees, even if incurred before the recruitment date).”*

**How detailed does the budgeting need to be? As I understand the salary part is fixed, as well as the budget for research expenses. So how detailed do the research expenses have to be in the proposal?**

*The MSCA budgets are based on unit costs, which are triggered by the relevant person months. The budgets are therefore quite simple and need to be declared in [Part A of the application](#).*

**The budget slide says the RTN is used for relocation costs. I had understood that was what the 710EUR/month mobility allowance was meant to cover?**

*The [MSCA Financial Guidance](#) states that “the research, training and networking contribution covers costs related to the training and research expenses of researchers/staff members as well as costs related to the transfer of knowledge and networking activities (e.g. costs for participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training or language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs, visa-related fees, even if incurred before the recruitment date).” This also covers NHS surcharge costs. The “The mobility allowance covers, on a monthly basis, the costs related to the mobility of the recruited researcher, such as travel and accommodation. This allowance covers only personal costs incurred by the researcher (as opposed to costs linked to professional activities which are covered under the contribution for research, training and networking).”*

**Will there be assistance in visa, accommodation and flights provided before moving to the UK or will it be reimbursed later?**

*The [MSCA Financial Guidance](#) states that “the research, training and networking contribution covers costs related to the training and research expenses of researchers/staff members as well as costs related to the transfer of knowledge and networking activities (e.g. costs for participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training or language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs, visa-related fees, even if incurred before the recruitment date).” The payment modalities and payment dates will be discussed with the Project Officer and set out in the Grant Agreement.*

## **Resubmission**

**If a proposal is evaluated less than 70%, can someone apply with a different proposal in the future?**

*The researcher is able to apply to a future call with a different host organisation. The researcher must still fulfil all eligibility criteria.*



**In case of a score <70%, you mention “proposals involving the same recruiting organisation and individual researcher must not be resubmitted”. If the proposal is substantially different there can be a resubmission with the same organisation, though, is that correct?**

*The proposal would still be counted as ineligible. The resubmission rules are based on the individual researcher and host organisation and not on the scientific content. More information can be found in the [FAQ](#).*

**Since the same recruiting organisation and individual researcher cannot resubmit a proposal, do we have to find a different hosting organisation to resubmit our proposal next year?**

*Applicants will be allowed to re-submit a proposal that was rejected under the previous Horizon Europe MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship call, unless the proposal scored below 70%. If the score is below 70%, the researcher must apply with a different host organisation.*

**Would a project submitted previously and scored above threshold but not received a seal of excellence count as resubmission if the host organisation and supervisor is new and project implementation is completely changed?**

*The resubmission threshold is at 70%. If a proposal scores less than 70%, it must not be submitted by the same researcher and host organisation. If it scored more than 70% it is eligible for resubmission. A proposal by the same researcher and host organisation counts as a resubmission independent of the scientific content.*

## **Secondments, short stays & placements**

**Can the short stays, secondments or non-academic placements take place in the previous country of residency or main activity?**

*Short stays, secondments or non-academic placements can take part in a former country or residence or main activity. The choice of location needs to be in line with the aims and objectives of the project and needs to be justified in the proposal.*

**Should the placement host for a NAP not exist anymore at month 25 of the project (e.g. it has gone out of business), and hence it not be possible until well into the fellowship to know whether the NAP can indeed be accomplished, does the REA allow the HI to enter into a 24 month contract of employment with the researcher with the possibility to extend the contract closer to the start of the NAP, to manage this risk and avoid any redundancy mandates, for which the HI will not have grant funding to fulfil?**

*The beneficiary can claim up to 6 person months for the non-academic placement after the end of the regular fellowship. The fellow must be employed on a full-time basis for the full time of the fellowship. The addition of the non-academic placement must add value to the project and will be subject to the evaluation. It is therefore recommended to choose the non-academic partner with care and regards to their capacity and capability to add value to the project. A partner that is already at risk of having gone out of business at the time of the project start might not be the right partner in the first place.*

**For a secondment, the slides said that the organisation does not need to be named but that supervisory arrangements should be clear. How is this possible in the actual proposal without naming the organisation or supervisor?**

*If the secondment host is not yet known, you will still be able to describe how you envisage the supervisory arrangements to look like, e.g. that the supervision will stay with your host supervisor or*

*that the expectation is for the secondment host to be a supervisor for the time; this description also includes how the host and the secondment host will work together in terms of secondment.*