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A faint, stylized background image of Marie Skłodowska-Curie, showing her profile and a grid-like pattern over her face.

An introduction to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships

UKRO MSCA Webinar Series

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12 May 2025

About UKRO

We support UK based organisations involved in EU R&I

Our Mission: Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe

UKRO Portal

- dedicated news articles, events and factsheets to support participation
- alerts to upcoming opportunities and call updates

UK National Contact Point for

- [European Research Council](#)
- [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programmes](#)
- [Widening Participation](#)
- [COST](#)
- [New European Bauhaus](#)

We are part of UKRI's International team



Horizon Europe: UK Participation

The UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus took effect on 1 January 2024.

This means UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, with the exception of the EIC Accelerator Investment Fund.

As of 2025 even [more opportunities will be available](#) to UK researchers & innovators.

The [UKRO website provides information](#) on upcoming European funding opportunities.



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Introduction to MSCA



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA sets out to:

- support researcher training and career development
- create impact on researchers, institutions and systems
- contribute to EU priorities
 - European Green Deal objectives
 - The Climate Action target of Horizon Europe
 - The European Research Area (ERA)
 - The European Education Area (EEA)



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It does this through...

- encouraging people to become researchers and innovators
- equipping researchers with necessary skills and international experience - mobility is key (international, intersectoral & interdisciplinary)
- supporting long term employability
- developing attractive career opportunities & employment conditions
- fostering an innovation and develop entrepreneurial mindset – strong collaboration with non-academic sector
- fostering an R&I environment based on excellence in research (researchers & organisations)
- promoting the EU's global attractiveness for talents



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MSC Actions

Doctoral Networks

Supports doctoral programmes developed by universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Enhances the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD.

Staff Exchanges

Promotes innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation.

COFUND

Co-finances new or existing national, regional or international doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes.

MSCA and Citizens

Aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education.



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships



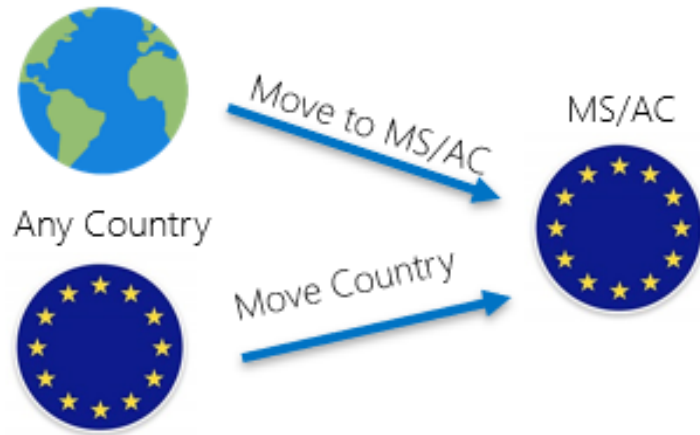
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships – the basics

- enhance the **creative** and **innovative potential** of postdoctoral researchers
- fund **all research areas**
- **fellowships** last **between 12-36 months** depending on the **type of fellowship**
- all fellowships can include **short stays, research trips, field work, secondments** and **placements in the non-academic sector** - all are **optional**
- fellows can be recruited to either the **academic or non-academic sector**



2 types of MSCA Fellowships

European Fellowships (12-24 months)



Mobility rule applies to the host organisation (the beneficiary)

Global Fellowships

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



Mobility rule applies to the organisation hosting the **outgoing phase** (the associated partner)

Eligibility Criteria



Eligibility Criteria – the Fellow (aka researcher)

- must be **in possession of a doctoral degree** (or successfully defended their doctoral thesis)
- **maximum of 8 years** full-time equivalent **research experience**
- **European Fellowship: any nationality**
- **Global Fellowship: EU nationals or long-term residents** (> 5 years) of MS or AC
- **Mobility rule: cannot** have **resided or** carried out their **main activity** (work, studies, etc.) in the **country** of the **host institution** (European Fellowship), or **host of the outgoing phase** (Global Fellowship) for **more than 12 months** in the **3 years** immediately before the call deadline

Do you have the potential to reach maturity/independence during the fellowship?

Are you able to clearly demonstrate their experience, competences & skills?

What are your future career prospects?

Do you have clear scientific and training goals?

What do you bring, what do you gain?

You will need to document eligibility!



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Eligibility Criteria – the host organisation(s)

Beneficiary


- host of the European Fellowship and return phase of Global Fellowship
- must be located in a MS/AC
- any legal entity within or outside academia
- recruits the postdoctoral researcher

Associated Partner


- host of the outgoing phase of the Global Fellowship
- secondment and placement host
- any legal entity within or outside academia
- located anywhere in the world



How will you be integrated into the host institution?



Do they have the skills & experience to help you meet your project objectives (research & training)?



Is the host organisation aware of your submission?




Have you been in contact with the host organisations for support?




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The Supervisor

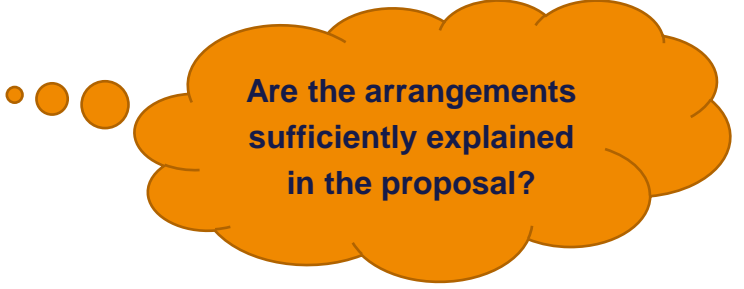
- must provide appropriate level of supervision
- should have an active role in the proposal development
- can be built on an existing collaborative relationship (justify in application)
- can consider mentorship/ support for themselves
- additional individuals can take on a mentor or co-supervisor role
- supervisor needs to be committed and involved for the full duration of the fellowship
- check the [Guidelines for Supervision](#)



What is appropriate for your career stage and project objectives?



How will supervision work day-to-day?



Are the arrangements sufficiently explained in the proposal?

What's included?

Budget



Monthly Unit Contributions

Details can be found in the [Work Programme](#)

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month					Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Living Allowance*	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance**	Long-term Leave Allowance**	Special Needs Allowance**	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650
↓ constitutes the gross salary of the recruited MSCA PF					↓ covers costs related to the training, career development & research of the PF	↓ covers general costs of the host institution(s), connected to organising & implementing the fellowship



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*multiplied by the country correction coefficient (CCC)
** can be applied at any time (as and when needed)

Finances – things to keep in mind

- finances managed by host institution according to usual internal policies
- institutions strongly advised to explain how the salary will be calculated
- Family, Long-Term Leave & Special Needs Allowance requested when/if the need arises
- Living Allowance, Mobility Allowance & Family Allowance contribute to the annual salary and are subject to **all** national deductions (both employees and employers)
- Research, Training & Networking costs (RTN) - costs related to professional activities including visas costs, NHS surcharge and relocation costs related to starting the fellowship
- Management & Indirect Costs - general costs of the host institution, connected to organising and implementing the fellowship
- redistribution of funds to associated partners (secondment, placement & research visit hosts) requires an agreement between partners
- UK institutions can optionally apply a conservative exchange rate - protects the institution and fellow from exchange rate fluctuations (payments must be adjusted eventually)



**What's
included?**

Activities



Secondments, short stays & placements

(all are optional, and proposals will not be penalised for not including a secondment or non-academic placement)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship Project

MSCA European Fellowship: 12-24 months
MSCA Global Fellowship: 36 months

Non-academic Placement:

Up to 6 months at the end of the fellowship at a **non-academic institution**



Secondments (academic or non-academic)	Short Stays (academic or non-academic)	Non-academic Placements (NAPs)
Integral part of the proposal - must add significant value/impact to the fellowship. Will be assessed during evaluation, but organisation does not need to be named in the proposal <i>EF: up to 1/3 of duration of fellowship</i> <i>GF: up to 1/3 of duration of outgoing phase</i>	Can be planned in advance, or in line with the research and training needs of the fellow	Must be an integral part of the proposal and will be assessed during evaluation. <i>If not eligible, proposal will still be evaluated!</i>
Must be in line with the project objectives and training needs of the research	Must be in line with the project objectives and training needs of the research	Must have added-value for the project and career development of the researcher
Must have clear supervisory arrangements	No defined supervisor arrangements	Must have clear supervisory arrangements

Other key Elements

Excellence, Impact and Implementation

Think about how to incorporate...

- Gender, and the gender dimension of your research
- Open science and open science practices
- Dissemination, exploitation and communication plans
- Public engagement
- Impact (scientific, societal and economic)
- Quality of the supervision
- Integration in the team/institution and knowledge exchange



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The Submission Process



The Submission process

1. Register & create an account on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
2. Familiarise yourself with all the available guidance documents
3. Contact your host institution(s) and discuss the proposal writing & submission process
4. Start the application on the system
5. Develop your application & proposal
6. Submit early & often (the version submitted by the deadline will be accepted)



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**Updated version expected to be available later this summer.*

Step 1: EU Funding & Tenders Portal

2025 MSCA PF call page: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal | EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Register
here

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Sign in EN

Home Funding Procurement Projects & results News & events Work as an expert Guidance & documents

Search...

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025

HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01

Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Mission
- Destination
- Conditions and documents
- Budget overview
- Partner search announcements
- Start submission

General information	
Programme Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	
Call MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 (HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF)	
Type of action HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships	Type of MGA HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
Deadline model single-stage	Planned opening date 09 April 2025
Type of action HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships	Type of MGA HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
Deadline model	Planned opening date

Find all information
here
Step 2!

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and the **type of model grant agreement** that you want to submit. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

Please select the type of your submission:

☐ HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF], HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Start submission

☐ HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF], HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Start submission



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Choose the
right type
Only 1!

Step 3: Contact your host & discuss the submission

- contact your host's research office as soon as possible for support and submission processes
- submission should be finalised by the supervisor on behalf of the host (beneficiary)
- legal responsibility lies with the beneficiary, including signing of grant agreement

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Find your organisation" and "Your role".

Find your organisation section:

- There are two input fields: "PIC" (with a red asterisk and a small "9" character count) and "Short name" (with a small "250" character count). A red error message "This field is required" is shown below the PIC field.
- A "Search" button is located to the right of the "Short name" field.
- Below the input fields, it says "Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)".
- A dropdown menu is open, showing details for "UKRI":
PIC: 906446474
UKRI
POLARIS HOUSE NORTH STAR AVENUE
SWINDON, UK
VAT: GB287461957

Your role section:

- The heading is "Your role".
- The instruction is "Please indicate your role in this proposal *".
- There are three radio button options:
 - ☒ Supervisor (Main contact person)
 - ☐ Researcher
 - ☐ Contact person

Callouts (blue boxes with arrows):

- A callout points to the "Short name" field with the text: "Ensure you have the details of your host".
- A callout points to the "Supervisor (Main contact person)" radio button with the text: "Supervisor & Researcher are not the same person".
- A callout points to the "Contact person" radio button with the text: "Contact person = Research Office".



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Step 4: Start your application

- **Part A:** complete online
- **Part B:** prepare offline & submit as pdf

European Commission | Funding: Submission Service

Anne Ni

Login Topic selection Create proposal Participants Proposal forms Submit

Create proposal

Deadline
11 September 2024 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time
121 days left until closure

Call data
Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01
Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01
Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-UN
⚠ Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Download Part B templates
Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk
Online Manual IT How To
IT Helpdesk FAQ

Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 29 92222

Find your organisation
PIC * Short name * Search
Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)
PIC: 906446474
UKRI
POLARIS HOUSE NORTH STAR AVENUE
SWINDON, UK
VAT: GB287461957

Your role
Please indicate your role in this proposal *
☒ Supervisor (Main contact person)
☐ Researcher
☐ Contact person

Your proposal
It will appear also in the "General Information" section of the Application Form Part A and can also be updated there.

Template
Part B

Support
available





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Step 5: Develop your application & proposal

- support is available: [Most common mistakes in MSCA PF proposal submissions](#)

Number of participants: 1 ⓘ Reorder ↕



 Applicant (FUTURE BENEFICIARY)
UKRI

1  UKRI

UNITED KINGDOM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
SWINDON, UK
PIC: 906446474

Change organisation Contact organisation

Contacts ⓘ Add contact +

Supervisor (Main contact person)
Anne Nierobisch  

Add Partner + Add Associated partner +

SAVE SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP NEXT



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Associated Partners are:
GF: host for outgoing phase (list first)
Host for non-academic placement (if applicable)
DO NOT encode secondment hosts!

Step 5: Part A Administrative Forms

- filled on online – often prepopulated
- in form guidance available
- **Beneficiary:** Participant Information Code (PIC); outgoing host for GF; non-academic placement host (if applicable)
- **Researcher Information:** PhD award date; 8-year experience documentation (if applicable); countries of residence for past 5 years
- **Budget Table:** ensure that it is filled correctly
- **other information:** related publications; research projects & infrastructure; gender equality plan; ethics self-assessment



Step 5: Budget Table

- funding based on unit costs multiplied by requested person months

< Participants & contacts

Budget

Ethics >

Table of contents

Validate form

Save form

Save & exit form

Application forms

Proposal ID

SEP-211053804

Acronym

Test_msca_pf_anne

3 - Budget

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Duration of fellowship *	Country in which fellowship will take place
21	United Kingdom

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Fellowship	1.417	21	178244.43	14910.00	13860.00	21000.00	13650.00	241664.43
Total			178244.43	14910.00	13860.00	21000.00	13650.00	241664.43

Country coefficient applies

Non-academic placement & outgoing phase would be additional rows

Includes funding for secondments and short stays

Can be requested at any time when applicable



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Step 5: The Scientific Panel

- proposal must be assigned to one of 8 panels: Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY)
- budget per panel will be determined by number of proposals
- select by best fit to [keywords](#) only (up to 5 descriptors) – DO NOT select by previous success rates or popularity
- keywords will determine the evaluators

Your proposal

It will appear also in the "General Information" section of the Application Form Part A and can also be updated there.

Acronym * 3

Short Summary * 1995

Scientific Panel *

This field is required

SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP

Step 5: Ethics & Security questions

- this section does not affect eligibility
- follow the guidance on [How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#)
- “yes” might require a brief statement and/or upload of documents

Application forms Table Of Contents Validate Form Save Save&Close

Proposal ID SEP-210732071
Acronym FAD

4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table ?

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos	Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
2. Humans	Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)	Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
4. Personal Data	Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

UK applicants tick
“yes” to non-EU
activity



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Step 5: Part B

- Consists of two parts
 - Part B1: basic application details and declarations in sections 1-3 – follow the instructions
 - Part B2: sections 4-9 with no page limit – follow the instructions
- must be uploaded as pdf file – you won't be able to submit otherwise
- complete all mandatory tables
- use the required sub-headings – (additional ones can be added)
- divide Deliverables into Scientific Deliverables and Management, Training, Recruitment and Dissemination Deliverables
- Define Milestones to chart progress (can be linked to Deliverables)

Strict 10-page limit!

Do not alter headings!

List references in footnotes

Information in hyperlinks will not be considered!

Do not alter, move or delete tags!

Do not attempt to outsmart the formatting rules!

Stick to the formatting rules!



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Step 5: Letter of Commitment

- mandatory for the Global Fellowship!
- between the Beneficiary and the Associated Partner for the outgoing phase
- minimum requirements:
 - official heading or stamp from the institution
 - up to date - not dated prior call opening date
 - demonstrating the will to participate in this specific project
 - explanation of the precise role

Missing information may negatively affect the evaluation!

What are the career development aspects of this phase?

What are the policies (gender, open science etc.) of the host and how do they align with the requirements?

How will supervision work day-to-day?

How will the integration in the team work?



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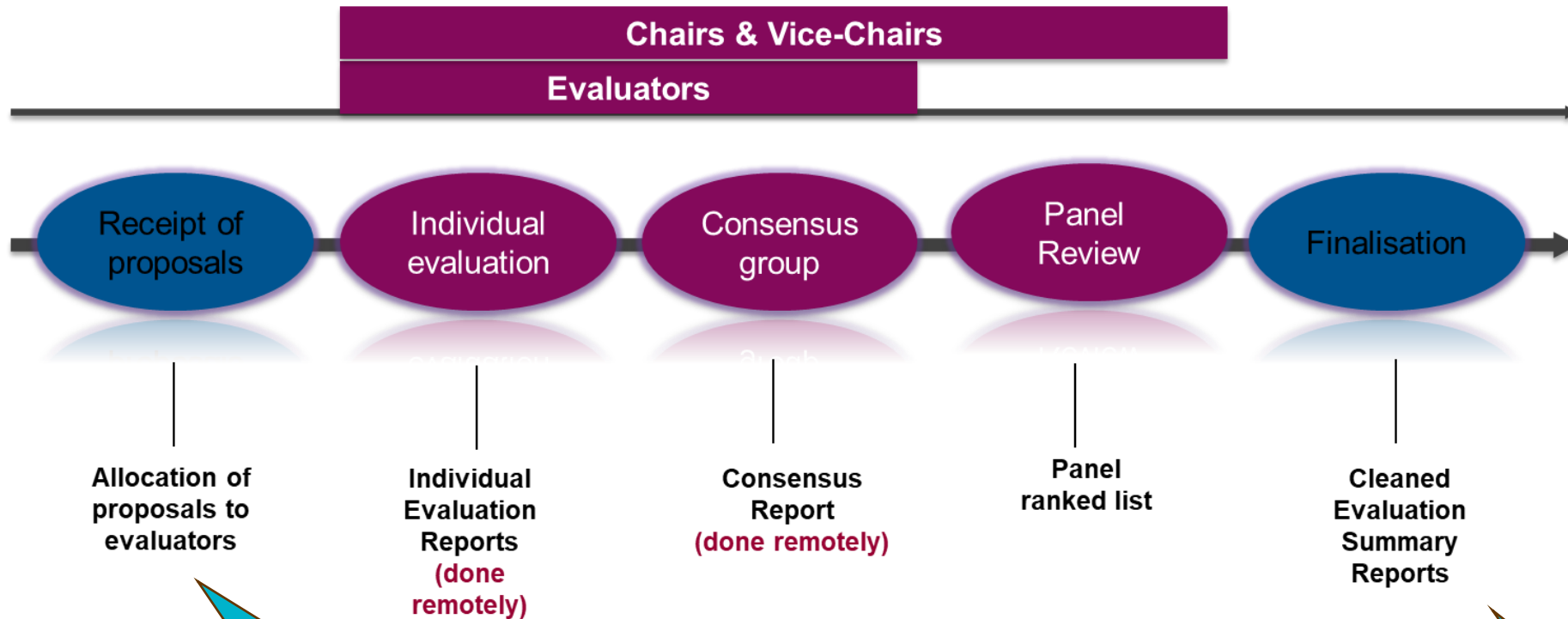
The Evaluation



Evaluation Workflow

- automatic pre-allocation of 3 evaluators by REA based on MSCA keywords
- Scores range from 5 (excellent) to 0 (fails) – scores & comments are based on consensus of evaluators
- additional evaluators can be involved if required

Evaluators can reject allocation if outside their expertise or conflicts exist



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Evaluators will be
from 3 different
nationalities

Rapporteur is an
experienced
evaluator

Evaluation Criteria

- outlined in the [Work Programme](#)
- criteria correspond to sections in the call template Part B1
- use the [MSCA PF Handbook](#)

Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information


Read all relevant guidance documents & policies

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Quality & efficiency of the implementation (20%)
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		

Invest time in writing & proof-reading

Use clear language & explain jargon

Scoring & Ranking



We cannot give out
the ranking of
individual proposals

- proposals are funded in ranking order per panel
- final ranking is approved by panel vice-chairs
- equal scores: prioritisation decided by panel, based on scores for award criteria
- distribution of the indicative budget is proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each panel
- highly competitive and cut-off scores are > 90-95 (depending on the panel)
- distribution of scores and cut-offs published on call page




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If things don't go as planned...

Reserve List

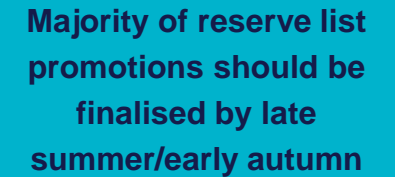
- for proposals above threshold but outside of available funding
- proposals in the reserve list can be promoted to the main list until the end of the year following the call deadline (for the 2025 call – until 31 December 2026)



We cannot give out the position on the reserve list

Redress

- process for redress outlined in decision letter
- scores can decrease during the additional evaluation



Majority of reserve list promotions should be finalised by late summer/early autumn

Resubmission

- proposals with a score of <70% must not be resubmitted
- proposals involving the same recruiting organisation (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships also the associated partner hosting outgoing phase) and individual researcher must not be resubmitted
- must meet all eligibility criteria



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Resources & Timelines



The 2025 Call Timeline

The call page is hosted on
[EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Action	Date
Invitation to submit proposal	8 May 2025
Deadline for submission	10 September 2025 (17:00 Brussels Time)
Information on outcome of evaluations	February/March 2026
Indicative date for signing the grant agreement	April 2026
Prospective start date	from May 2026



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Submit Early, Submit Often!

Commission collects proposals at the deadline

Additional Resources

[Horizon Europe MSCA - How to apply - European Commission](#)

[Postdoctoral Fellowships - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

[MSCA Financial Guide](#)

[MSCA-NET](#)

2026 MSCA Work Programme – expected April 2025

[Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

[Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#)

[Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#)



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A faint, stylized background image of a person's head and shoulders, rendered in a light blue, wireframe-like pattern. The person appears to be looking slightly to the right.

Thank you!

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marlecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk