

## Mobility rule

The mobility rule is a strict eligibility criterion that applies to the **researcher at the time of application** and it dictates that the researcher must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships) or the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for **more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline**.

For the mobility criteria, both **residency and main activity** are considered. Researchers must stay under the threshold of 12 months for both in order to be eligible. The main activity is not determined by physical presence in the country (i.e. researchers can reside in country A while they work remotely (main activity) for country B, making them ineligible for both countries).

To calculate the eligibility for the mobility rule, researchers need to take into consideration the date they arrived in the country and the date they left (i.e. if they arrived in the country before the start date of their employment contract to look for an apartment).

**For the 2025 call, this mobility eligibility window is from 11th September 2022 until 10th September 2025.**

## Resubmission

A MSCA PF application is considered a resubmission if the proposal was **previously submitted** to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship call and its **score (above 70%)**, as well as the involvement of the **same researcher and host organisation**.

If a MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal scores below 70% in the previous year may be eligible for resubmission in certain circumstances such as:

- **Switching Fellowship Type:** a proposal submitted as a European Fellowship in one year can be submitted as a Global Fellowship in the subsequent year (or vice-versa) by the same individual researcher and recruiting organisation, and this is not considered a resubmission, thus making it eligible.
- **Changing Host Organisation:** a proposal can be resubmitted if it involves a different host organisation for European Fellowships or a different Associated Partner for the outgoing phase for Global Fellowships.

Please note that **changes to the scientific content/topic** of the proposal do not alter its resubmission status if the recruiting organisation and individual researcher remain the same. This is because the MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025 specifically refers to the "recruiting organisation" itself, and the "individual researcher".

## Supervision

Supervision arrangements differ for each project, from the integration of researchers to the institution, research support, and mentoring and wellbeing of researchers, to managing expectations, communication and conflict resolution, recognition, training, and career development.

The degree and form of supervision may vary according to disciplines, sectors, researcher's experience, type of programme, individual personalities, or skills. For example, supervisors can have mentors themselves if they do not have experience in supervising postdoctoral

fellows or are not familiar with the scheme, or there might be several supervisors working together to support a researcher across a project. The latest can include structures where two or more supervisors share primary supervision, such as co-supervision (intra-institutional) or joint supervision (inter-institutional), as well as a series of supervisors taking on different duties in relation to the researcher (mentor, practitioner, etc.) or have different levels of responsibility (junior, senior, assistant, etc.).

There are no restrictions on having a former PhD supervisor/co-supervisor as their supervisor in their MSCA PF application or the supervisor being employed at the host institution (beneficiary) by the call deadline.

## ***Secondments, short visits and Non-Academic Placements***

**Short Visits** imply mobility to another location outside the physical premises of the beneficiary, including internationally (e.g. **fieldwork**). However, the work done there continues to be supervised directly by the supervisor of the beneficiary. Short visits can only represent a small part of the project duration.

Organisations hosting “short visits” do not need to be listed on the tables 5.1 and 5.2 in Part B2. Short visits must not be encoded as participating organisations in Part A, so organisations hosting “short visits” do not need a Personal Identification Code (PIC) number.

Short visits should be included under sub-criterion 1.2 in Part B1 in terms of the work being carried out (e.g., use of equipment, access to data etc) and under sub-criterion 2.1 in Part B1 in terms of highlighting the importance of those on your career perspectives and employability.

**Secondments** are a temporary transfer to another entity in any sector, anywhere in the world at any time during the action, typically to perform part of the research or to gain experience. Secondments are expected to include in-house supervision, to bring a clear added value to the research proposal and should be covered by the employment contract with the beneficiary.

Secondments do not need to be added to Part A in the Funding & Tenders (F&T) Portal. However, secondments should be described in Part B-1 as the relevance and added value of the secondment periods will be assessed by the evaluators under sub-criterion 1.3 and may therefore impact the final score awarded to the proposal. The quality and capacity of the host/s will be assessed under sub-criterion 3.2. Secondments should be included in the Gantt chart.

Secondment hosts must be listed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B2 template as an associated partner.

**Non-academic placements** also involve mobility to another entity, located in an EU member state or associated country, for a maximum of 6 months. They can only take place in an organisation in the non-academic sector and after the end of the regular duration of the project.

Non-academic placements must be encoded in Part A in the F&T portal. The name of the associated partner where the non-academic placement will take place must be encoded as a participating organisation (“associated partner”). The associated partner needs to have a PIC number in a declared or validated form.

In Part B-1, the relevance and added value of the non-academic placement will be assessed by the evaluators under sub-criterion 1.3 and may impact the final score awarded to the

proposal. The quality and capacity of the host will be assessed under sub-criterion 3.2. The host for the non-academic placements must be listed in Part B-2 (Tables 5.1 and 5.2).

### ***Budget***

The EU contribution for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships takes the form of **unit contributions** as stated on page 126 of the MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025 for further information.

A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers, which for the United Kingdom is 141,7%.

### ***Family Allowance***

The family allowance aims to compensate additional costs due to family obligations. To be eligible for family allowance researchers must have a family at the date of the call deadline or acquired it during the duration of the action. Having a family means that the recruited researcher has persons linked to them by one or all the following conditions:

- (i) marriage,
- (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised;
- (iii) dependent children who are being maintained by the researcher.

If an applicant does not require the family allowance at the time of application, this shouldn't be requested. If their circumstances change, the family allowance can be requested throughout project implementation. Should the fellow's eligibility change during the action, then the beneficiaries must update the fellow's mobility declaration to reflect that change.

### ***Research, Training and Networking (RTN) contribution***

The RTN budget is designed to cover a range of costs that directly contribute to the researcher's career development and the implementation of the project. This includes expenses related to:

- **Networking activities:** This broadly encompasses interactions and joint efforts with other entities that are part of the research collaboration.
- **Participation in conferences:** Attending conferences is a key aspect of research collaboration and networking, and these costs are covered.
- **Trips related to work on the action:** Travel for collaborative research activities is included.
- **Seminars and training courses:** These can be vital for collaborative knowledge exchange and skill development.
- **Lab material, books, library records, and publication costs:** These are direct research expenses that facilitate the collaborative work.
- **Visa-related fees:** Even if incurred before recruitment, these are covered.
- **Additional costs arising from secondments, non-academic placements, and the outgoing phase of Global Fellowships:** These are specific forms of mobility and collaboration explicitly covered.

### ***List of up to 5 publications, 5 most relevant previous projects, and description of any significant infrastructure or equipment***

The guidance for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) does not specifically state that the publications and project section in Part A does not have to be filled in. This is in line with

MSCA PF calls in previous years where the same applied. However, European Research Executive Agency (REA) has again confirmed that they will not penalise any applicant who does not fill in this section and that they will also instruct evaluators accordingly. Where this section is filled in, it will be seen by the evaluators and might therefore contribute to the overall score of the proposal.

In order to give applicants, the chance to further strengthen their proposal and to be more in line with the published guidance, **we are not endorsing to leave this section blank for the 2025 call**. This should be completed with the host organisation/department/supervisor details and should align also with the content in Part B-2, Capacity of the Participating Organisations. We recommend that organisations make their own decision on this section, depending on their internal processes and preferences.

### **Evaluators**

Each proposal is evaluated by at least three independent external experts, but in some cases more experts are needed if there are a full range of disciplines and sectors that need to be assessed in the proposal. Experts work individually and often have other roles, aside of being evaluators. After carrying out their individual evaluation, the experts who have evaluated the same proposal will have to reach a consensus (i.e. they must agree on a common position, including the comments that will be part of the Evaluation Summary Report, and scores). Before notifying applicants of the final evaluation results, the European Commission staff reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the final ranking list.

The process for selecting experts to evaluate proposals is primarily guided by the information you provide in your application. The European Research Executive Agency (REA) selects the most appropriate experts (evaluators) for the proposal based on the keywords (descriptors) applicants choose in Part A of their application. The vice chairs of the evaluation panels use this information to allocate proposals to specific evaluators. Therefore, carefully selecting relevant keywords is crucial for ensuring their proposal is assessed by experts with appropriate scientific backgrounds.

The potential evaluators profile is not publicly available as evaluators are chosen based on their expertise. However, applicants can add descriptors and free keywords to help the REA to select the most suitable reviewers for their proposal.

### **Start date**

Applicants to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025 call will be notified their outcomes by February 2026, the successful projects will be signing the Grant Agreement by April 2026, and the projects will be expected to **start within 6 months from the signature of the Grant Agreement**. Sometimes it is possible to delay the actual start date, and such postponements are handled on a case-by-case basis and require discussion with your Research Executive Agency (REA) Project Officer.

Please note that the start date of the project must not be later than 1 September of the year following the signature of the grant agreement. For example, grant agreement signed in 2026, **latest start date 1 September 2027**.