The MSCA under Horizon Europe

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Pillar 1
Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe
- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the work programme
### Results 2014-2020 (Horizon 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|

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Introduction to the MSCA

EU’s reference programme for doctoral and postdoctoral training, contributing to:

- A highly skilled research-based human capital able to detect and tackle upcoming challenges, communicate scientific evidence to policy-makers and the public, and work across disciplines

- Provide researchers with skills needed in the labour market, to innovate and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit

- Develop excellent doctoral programmes enhancing the global attractiveness and visibility of institutions involved in them

- Promote the EU’s global attractiveness for talents

Budget under Horizon Europe: 6.6€ billion

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Key features of the MSCA

- 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

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Towards “greener MSCA” to promote sustainable behaviors and policies, support policy and decision making (MSCA Green Charter, Green Deal)

More gender-friendly and inclusive MSCA:

- Family allowances will be accessible to all, even if their parental status changes during the duration of the project
- Long-term leave allowance in case of the researchers’ leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave
- Broader definition of family to ensure full access to these allowances (recognised LGBTI+ couples)

Encourage inter-sectoral exposure through incentives with the aim to develop transferable skills (e.g. innovation, entrepreneurship) leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Main Objectives:

• Foster excellence through the implementation of a 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 with and exposure to the non-academic sector

Research areas:

• All scientific fields

new • Euratom areas are eligible (indicative amount EUR 1 million annually)

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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Activities

PF is a mono-beneficiary action to support post-doctoral research and careers with:

• European Postdoctoral Fellowships coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe

• Global Postdoctoral Fellowships outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe AC

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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

• **Participating organisations***
  - Legal entity in an EU Member State or HE Associated country

• **Researchers** - target groups:
  - any nationality (Global Fellowships: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC)*
  - in possession of PhD at the call deadline
  - up to 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions: career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers,...)
  - mobility rule: not resided / had main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or host organization for GF) more than 12 months in the 36 months before call deadline

*Specific eligibility criteria for PFs supported by Euratom:
  - Organisation: legal entity established in an EU Member State or Euratom AC
  - Researcher: nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a Euratom AC

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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Duration**
  - European Fellowships: 12-24 months
  - Global Fellowships: 24-36 months (12-24 outgoing phase & 12 months mandatory return phase in Europe)

- **Secondments** *worldwide* up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration (or outgoing phase of GF)

- **Optional additional placement** of up to 6 months in a non-academic European organization at the end of the regular duration of the Fellowship

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Academic and non-academic sectors

Academic sector

✅ public or private higher education establishments

✅ public or private non-profit research organisations

✅ International European Research Organisations

Non-academic sector

✅ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

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## Evaluation and award criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality and pertinence of the <em>project’s research and innovation objectives</em> (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)</td>
<td>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</td>
<td>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soundness of the proposed methodology</strong> (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)</td>
<td>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise <strong>expected outcomes and impacts</strong>, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</td>
<td>Quality and capacity of the <strong>host institutions and participating organisations</strong>, including hosting arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of the <strong>supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge</strong> between the researcher and the host</td>
<td>The magnitude and importance of the project’s contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and appropriateness of the <strong>researcher’s professional experience</strong>, competences and skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 50% | 30% | 20% |

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**Budget structure**

### Contributions for recruited researchers

**Per person-month**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living allowance</td>
<td>EUR 5 080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility allowance (if applicable)</td>
<td>EUR 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family allowance (if applicable)</td>
<td>EUR 660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)</td>
<td>EUR 5 680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special needs allowance (if applicable)</td>
<td>Requested unit ( \times \frac{1}{\text{number of months}} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Institutional unit contributions

**Per person-month**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research, training and networking contribution</td>
<td>EUR 1 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and indirect contribution</td>
<td>EUR 650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers.

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Allowances - novelties

**Family allowance** – increases from 500€ to **660€** - paid during the project life-time

**Long-term allowance** – personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of researchers’ leave, including **maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave** – during the project life-time

**Special needs allowance** – additional costs for the acquisition of **special needs items and services** for researchers with disabilities (up to 60 000€ per researcher) - during the project life-time
ERA Fellowships

• Widening activities: “ERA Fellowships”

• **No separate application or evaluation** – integral part of the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call application form

  • For specific countries – available in Work Programme

  • Only for European Fellowships, Global Fellowships do not qualify

  • **Attention**: “call specific question” to be completed in the PF submission for EF to indicate willingness to participate in this call (only if host organisation is a qualifying country)

  • Only proposals scoring over 70% in the PF call will be considered

  • Timing aligned with PF call
Next calls

- **2021**: 18 May – 15 Sept (tbc); 242 M€ [+indicative: EUR 1mln for Euratom and EUR 10mln for ERA]

- **2022**: 14 Apr – 14 Sept; 257 M€

Resubmission restrictions applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score below 70% in the previous call.
How to apply?

- All calls are published on the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
- Applications are submitted through the portal:

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How to apply?

Part A
(structured data)

Part B
(description of action)

10 page limit

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Resources and guidance

• Read all guidance documents:
  • **Guide for applicants**: overview of rules, financial aspects, etc.
  • MSCA **Work Programme** and annexes
  • Proposal **templates**
  • Model Grant Agreements
  • Online **manual** on how to submit an application
  • **Frequently Asked Questions**

• Ask for advice to your MSCA **National Contact Point** (list available on Funding and Tenders Portal)

• Submit specific queries to the **Research Enquiry Service** (funding, validation of participants, etc.)

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Resources and guidance

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

Research Enquiry Service
https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service_en

National Contact Points
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp

Funding and Tenders Portal (applications)
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen

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Thank you