

# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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# Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

EURATOM

## EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION



### Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures



### Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre



### Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation  
Council

European Innovation  
Ecosystems

European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology\*

Fusion

Fission

Joint  
Research  
Center

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

Budget: €95.5 billion



European  
Commission

# Introduction to MSCA: Key features



**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**

- MSCA budget under Horizon Europe: **6,6B€**
- **Excellent Science (Pillar 1)**: reinforcing and extending the excellence of the EU's science base
- **Worldwide** geographic coverage

## Key figures (2014-2020)

**+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



# The MSCA Actions

## Doctoral Networks

*Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates*

## Postdoctoral Fellowships

*Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers*

## Staff Exchanges

*Support for research and innovation staff exchanges*

## COFUND

*Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes*

## MSCA and Citizens

*Public outreach events (European Researchers' Night, Researchers at School)*



# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: What is it?

**Individual fellowships** to support excellent postdoctoral researchers in all scientific fields.

## Main objectives

- **Foster excellence** through implementation of 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 and **exposure to the non-academic sector**
- **Career development** of researchers.



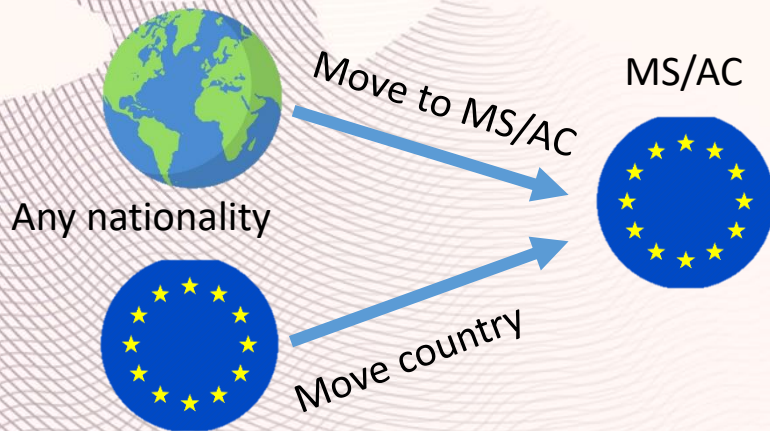
**Current call: 12<sup>th</sup> April-13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2023**



# Two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

## European Fellowships

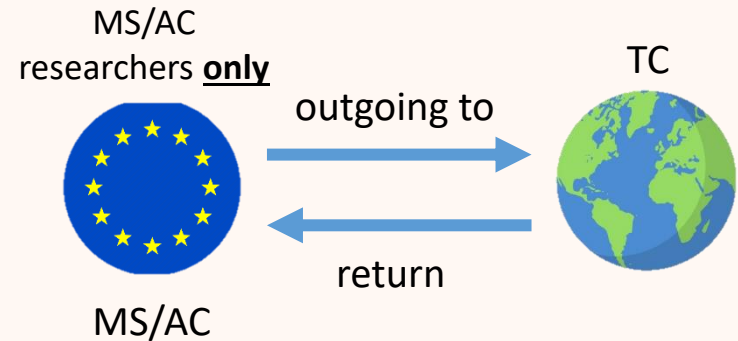
(12-24 months)



Budget: 221.40M€

## Global Fellowships

(12-24 months in Third Country) + (12 months compulsory return phase)



Budget: 39.07M€

# Optional features: Secondments

Fellows can undertake secondments within the duration of the fellowship:

- **Worldwide** for up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration (1/3<sup>rd</sup> of outgoing phase for Global Fellowship)
- It can be done in a **single period** or be divided into **shorter mobility periods**
- Can be done in any sector, in **academic and/or non-academic sector** organisations
- The secondment(s) should be in **line with the project objectives**, adding significant **value and impact to the fellowship**
- For **Global Fellowships**, secondments can **only be done during the outgoing phase** in the third country. No secondment can take place during the mandatory return phase in MS or AC.



# Optional features: Non-academic placements

**Novelty since 2021:** Placement of **up to 6 months in a non-academic European organisation** at the end of the fellowship

## Objectives:

- Expanding **career opportunities** for researchers and moves between sectors and organisations
- Stimulate **innovation and knowledge transfer**

## How it works?

- At the end of the fellowship, an **additional period** is supported for the placement
- **Integral part of the proposal** : added-value for the project and for the career development of the researcher
- The placement host must be a **non-academic organisation in EU MS or AC**.

# Which sector?

## Academic

Public or private **Higher Education establishment** awarding academic degrees

Public or private **non-profit research organisations**

International **European Research Organisations**

Universities

Non-profit  
research  
institutes

IEROs

## Non-Academic

### Broad definition:

Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector definition

Government

civil  
society

Industry

SMEs

Other socio-  
economic  
actors

EU Validation Services ultimately determine the sector of each participating organisation  
For already registered organisations, researchers can check the sector of the organisation here: [Participant register \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/participant-register)

Secondment	Non-academic placement
Worldwide	EU MS or AC
Any sector (academic or non-academic)	Non-academic ONLY
Anytime during the fellowship; For Global Fellowships, during <b>outgoing phase ONLY</b>	After the fellowship period (i.e. 12, 24, 36 months + 6 months)
1/3rd of standard fellowship duration (single or several mobilities)	Max 6 months, single placement

# Eligibility conditions

Specific eligibility conditions apply for both the **individual researchers** and **participating organisations**

## One Beneficiary (for European & Global Fellowships)

- The beneficiary is the organisation that signs the grant agreement
- The beneficiary must be a **legal entity in an EU Member State or HE Associated country\***

## + One Associated Partner for Global Fellowships

- For Global Fellowships, the associated partner is the **host organisation in the third country**
- It must be a **legal entity** outside an EU Member States and HE Associated Country
- It must submit a **letter of committment**

\* Specific eligibility conditions for Euratom fields of research

# Eligibility conditions: Which countries?

## EU Member States (MS)

**HE Associated Countries (AC):** all countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme through an association agreement.

- **Agreements in place:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine
- **In process of association** (transitional arrangement): Morocco, United Kingdom\*

## Third countries (TC): any other country

\*based on [HE association agreements status](#) as of 1st April 2023

# Eligibility conditions: Individual researchers

## Nationality of researcher:

- **European Fellowships:** any nationality
- **Global Fellowships:** nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC
- **Euratom:** nationals or long-term residents of MS or Euratom AC

(see definition of long-term residents in [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024](#), p. 94)

## The researchers must also:

- Be in **possession of PhD** at the call deadline
- Have up to **8 years research experience maximum** after PhD (with exceptions = career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers)
- Not have resided /carried out their main activity in the country of the beneficiary for European Fellowships or TC associated partner only for Global Fellowships for more than 12 months in the 36 months before call deadline (**mobility rule**)
- An individual researcher can only **submit one proposal**

# Eligibility conditions: 8-years research experience

## Exclude time-spent for the following:

- Maternity leave
- Paternity leave
- Long-term sick-leave
- Career break
- Time spent not working in research
- Compulsory national service
- For nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC reintegrating from a third country applying for a European Fellowship **only**, the time spent doing research in third country can be excluded

## All exceptions need to be documented

## How to calculate the 8-years research experience?

- Guidelines: [https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/Guidelines\\_8%20year%20rule\\_2023.pdf](https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/Guidelines_8%20year%20rule_2023.pdf)
- Self-assessment tool: [https://rea.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f6ea42a3-6558-4e2b-8494-bf21e75f7004\\_en?filename=EXT\\_eligibility\\_support%20tool%20for%208%20years\\_2023\\_final.xlsx](https://rea.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f6ea42a3-6558-4e2b-8494-bf21e75f7004_en?filename=EXT_eligibility_support%20tool%20for%208%20years_2023_final.xlsx)



## New eligibility condition: Resubmissions

- Since 2021, there has been a new eligibility condition related to resubmissions.
- From 2022, resubmissions will **not be allowed for proposals that have scored less than 70%** in the previous year's call.

### What is a resubmission?

- Proposals involving :
  - **Same individual researcher**
  - With the **same recruiting organisation (beneficiary)**
  - And, **for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, the associated partner** hosting the outgoing phase



# ERA Fellowships 2023

The ERA Fellowships are open for applicants of **any nationality** with a **beneficiary from a Widening Country**.

Budget: €8M (~50 projects)

## How does it work?

- Global Fellowships are not eligible
- Applicants need to **opt in at application stage** (there will be no other opportunity later on)
- A number of excellent applications (i.e. on the reserve list) that cannot be funded by MSCA due to budget constraints will be offered an ERA Fellowship

## Which countries are concerned?

**Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and outermost regions - Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France) and the Canary Islands (Spain).

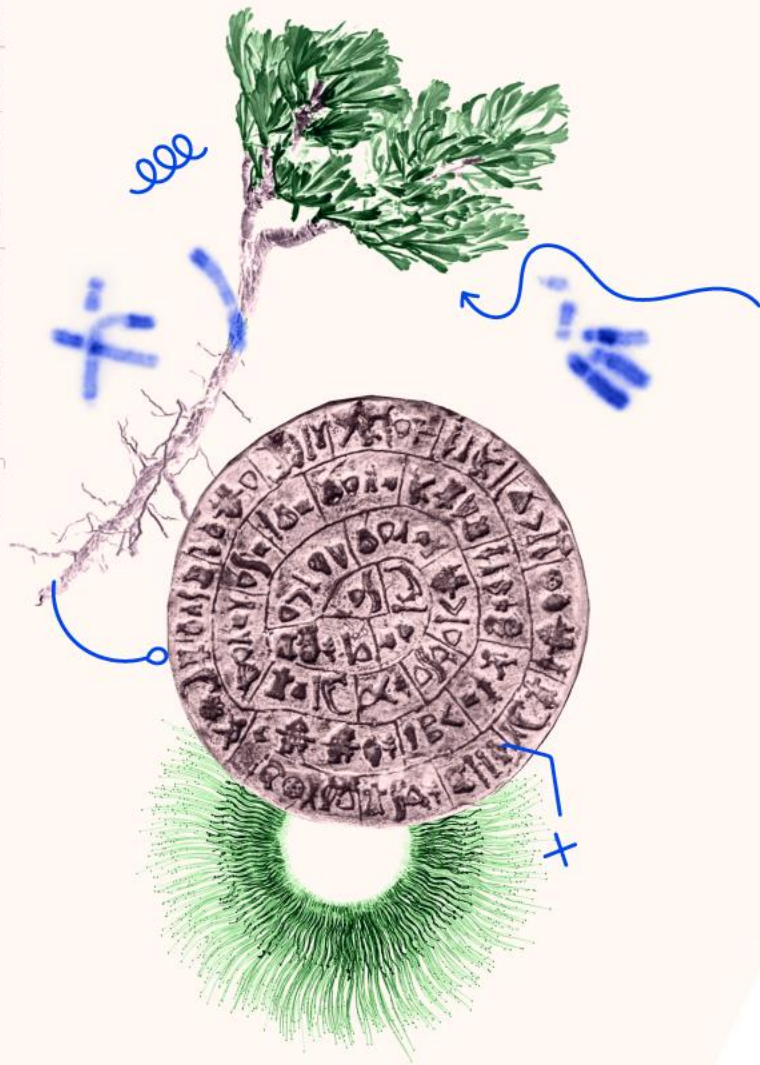
**Associated Countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine; and in process of association: Morocco

# Award Criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<p>Quality and pertinence of <b>the project’s research and innovation objectives</b> (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)</p>	<p>Credibility of the measures to <b>enhance the career perspectives and employability</b> of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness <b>of the work plan</b>, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>
<p><b>Soundness of the proposed methodology</b> (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)</p>	<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise <b>expected outcomes and impacts</b>, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	<p>Quality and capacity of <b>the host institutions and participating organisations</b>, including hosting arrangements</p>
<p>Quality of the <b>supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge</b> between the researcher and the host</p>	<p>The magnitude and importance of the project’s contribution to the <b>expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</b></p>	
<p>Quality and appropriateness of the <b>researcher’s professional experience</b>, competences and skills</p>		
<p>50%</p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>20%</p>

# Evaluation

- **~7,000-8,000 proposals received per year**
- **MSCA-PF success rate:  $\approx 15,8\%$**
- **~4,000 experts** from around the world, working remotely
- **8 Scientific Panels** (LIF, PHY, MAT, ENG, CHE, ENV, SOC, ECO)
- **Time-to-Grant:** 5m + 3m (from the call closure date)



## MSCA Seal of Excellence

- The Seal of Excellence is awarded to **applications achieving a score of 85% or above** not retained for funding
- Quality label, helping recipients to attract other potential funders
- **Specific support schemes** exist for MSCA Seal of Excellence holders. You will find the complete list [here](#)

# Unit contributions

## Contributions for recruited researchers

Per person-month

## Institutional unit contributions

Per person-month

Living allowance<sup>1</sup>

Mobility allowance

Family allowance  
(if applicable)

Long-term leave allowance  
(if applicable)

Special needs allowance  
(if applicable)

Research, training and networking contribution

Management and indirect contribution

EUR 5 080

EUR 600

EUR 660

EUR 5 680  
x  
% covered by the beneficiary

Requested unit<sup>2</sup>  
x  
(1/number of months)

EUR 1 000

EUR 650

<sup>1</sup> The living allowance is a **gross amount**. A **country correction coefficient** will apply.

<sup>2</sup> The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.



# Commitments for successful applications

(non-exhaustive)

- **Mobility:** the researcher must **move to the country of the beneficiary**
- **Working commitment:** in principle full-time, but requests for part-time work are possible and must be approved by REA
- **Working conditions** for fellows in accordance with the principles set out in the *European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers*
- Address the recommendations in the [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#) on a **best-effort basis**
- Address the principles of the [MSCA Green Charter](#), on a **best-effort basis**
- Ensure **open access** to research outcomes, including FAIR data management
- **Key deliverables** to be submitted at different stages of the project (see [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024](#), p.97)

# Next MSCA-PF call: 12 April – 13 Sept 2023

- Budget: 260,47 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
- Applications submitted on the **Funding & Tender Opportunities portal**:



Funding & tender opportunities  
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼

PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT ▼

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/MSCA-PF 2023>

CLICK HERE



- Check the call page on the portal for all reference documents, guidelines for applicants, templates, specific FAQs, etc.



# Looking for a host organisation?

- [Euraxess](#) publishes offers from host organisations (for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships but also other MSCA projects)
- [Enterprise Europe Networks](#) (for non-academic partners)
- “[Partner search](#)” tool on Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal
- **NEW !** : MSCA-Net’s [MSCA Matchmaking platform](#)
- Other useful contacts:
  - [MSCA National Contact Points](#)
  - [MCAA](#)
  - [Euraxess](#)
- Check our [Tips & tricks to prepare your PF application](#) on the MSCA website



# Key links and references

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en)

MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions\\_horizon-2023-2024\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf)

Funding and Tenders Portal (applications, documents, partner search) <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>

Euraxess (PhD and postdoctoral vacancies, more information) <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

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

Research Enquiry Service [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service-and-participant-validation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service-and-participant-validation_en)

European Charter and Code for Researchers <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter-code-researchers>

MCAA (Marie Curie Alumni association) <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

Become an Expert <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>

CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/search?q=%2Fproject%2Frelations%2Fcategories%2FprojectFundingSchemeCategory%2Fcode%3D%27MSCA%27&p=1&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing>



# Thank you!

**#MSCA #HorizonEU**

**@MSCAactions**

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions>

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Contact: [EAC-MARIE-SKLODOWSKA-CURIE-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-MARIE-SKLODOWSKA-CURIE-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu)



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