

# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

Anouk Lafortune

Policy Officer, C2, Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
Actions, DG EAC, European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-  
Curie Actions

# 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 the non-academic sector**

- 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

# 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

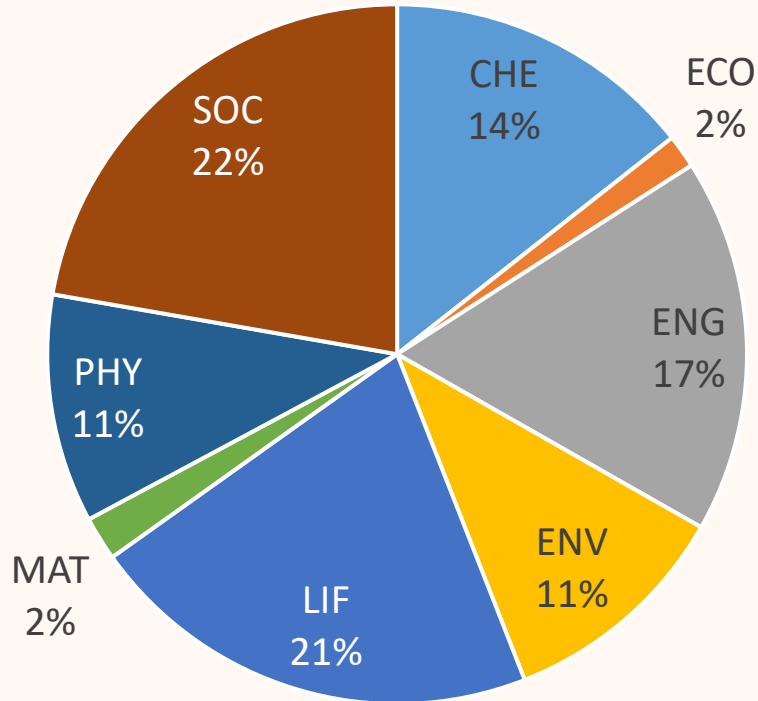
*Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes*

## MSCA and Citizens

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



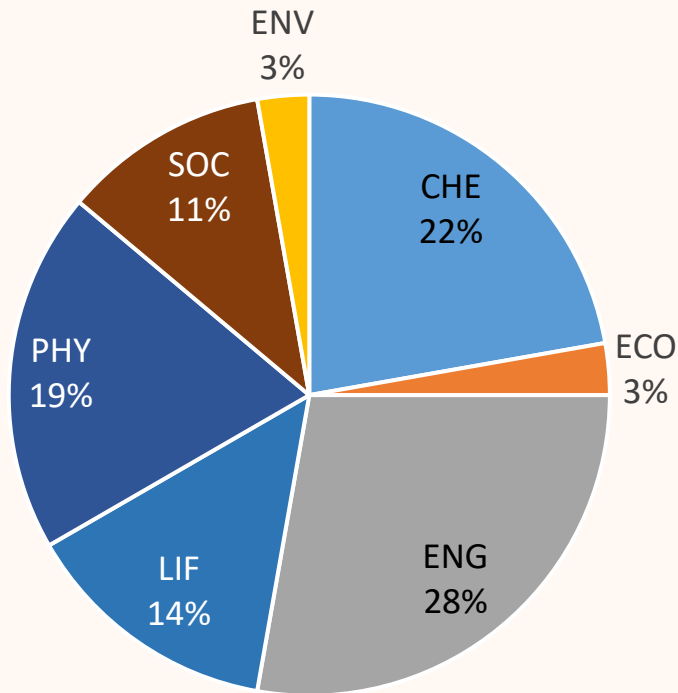
# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships  
2025 submissions

- Competitive call – **over 17,000 proposals submitted in 2025** for just over 1600 projects funded
- Success rate in 2025 call **~9.6%**
- So far, over 7100 projects funded under the 2021-2025 calls including:
  - Researchers from over 110 different nationalities
  - 43.4% women

# South Korea participation in MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (2021-2025)



*Scientific fields of Korean researchers postdoctoral fellowships (2021-2025)*

- **36 Korean researchers** awarded a postdoctoral fellowship
- For a **success rate of ~14%**
- Only one **European researcher hosted in South Korea** as part of a Global Fellowship
- And only 20 applications involving a South Korean organisation

# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: What is it?

**Individual fellowships** to support excellent postdoctoral researchers.

## 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.

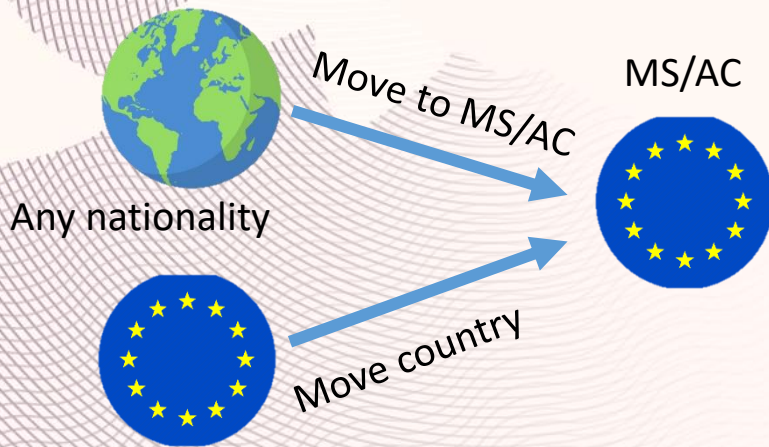


**Current call: 9 April - 9 Sept. 2026**

# Two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

## European Fellowships

(12-24 months)

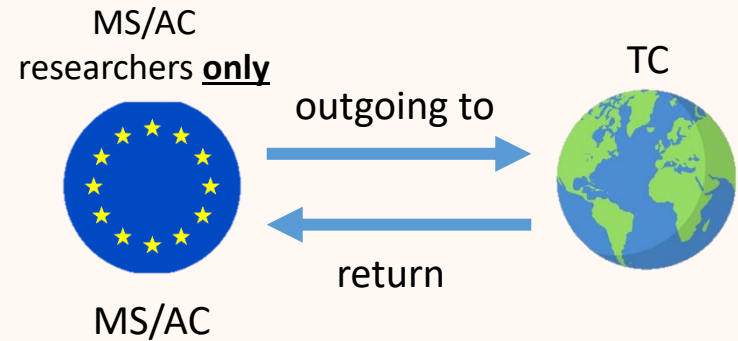


2026 call budget:  
339.19M€

+ Optional 6 months non-academic placement in Europe

## Global Fellowships

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



2026 call budget:  
59.86M€

# Optional Features

<b>Secondment</b>	<b>Non-academic placement</b>
Worldwide	EU MS or AC
Any sector (academic or non-academic)	Non-academic ONLY
Anytime during the European Fellowship; For Global Fellowships, during outgoing phase ONLY	Additional funded period after the standard fellowship duration
Half of the European Fellowship duration OR half of outgoing phase duration for Global Fellowships 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 commitment**

# 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, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- **In process of association** (transitional arrangement): Morocco

**Third countries (TC):** any other country

\*based on [HE association agreements status](#) as of 1st April 2026

# Eligibility conditions: Individual researchers

## Nationality of researcher:

- **European Fellowships**: any nationality
- **Global Fellowships**: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC (see definition of long-term residents in MSCA Programme 2026-2027)

## 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**)
- **Resubmission restriction** for proposals that scored below 80% in previous call
- An individual researcher can only **submit one proposal**

# 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>

# 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 6 350	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 7 060 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.

# ERA Fellowships 2026

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

Budget: €8M (~40 projects)

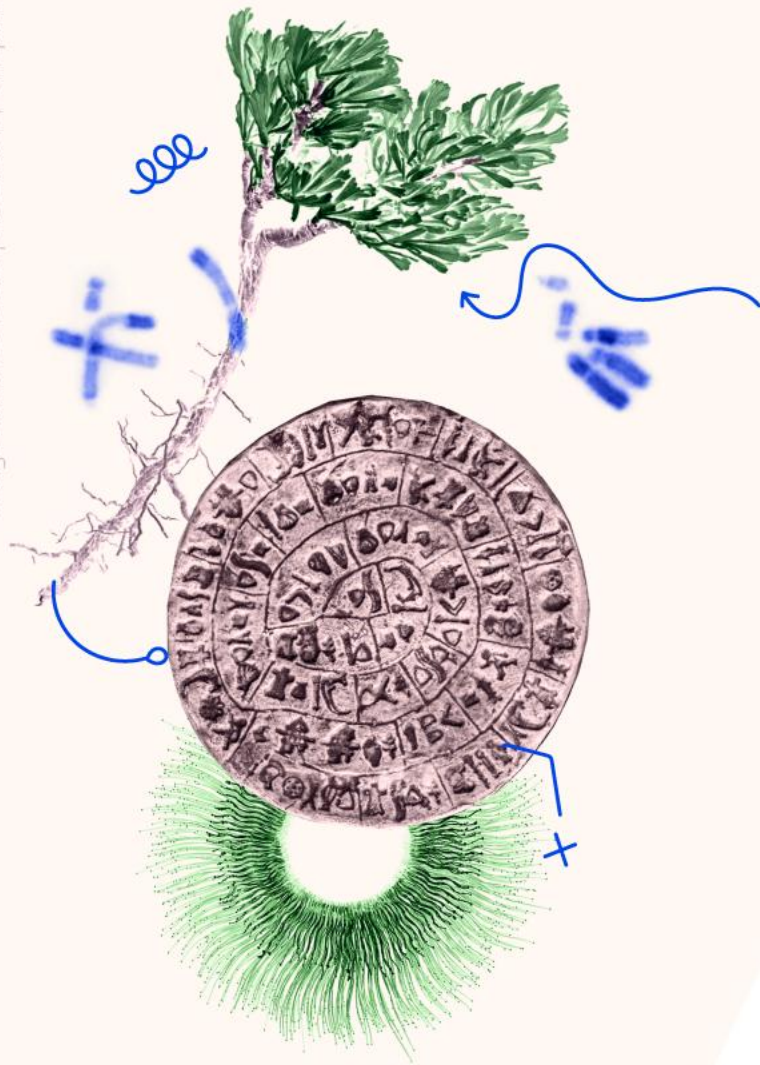
## How does it work?

- 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, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine; and in process of association: Morocco



## 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](#)

# Commitments for successful applications

(non-exhaustive)

- **Rights and obligations** of all MSCA fellows are summarised in the [MSCA Information Package](#)
- **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](#)
- 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 the [Information Note for Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) for details)

# Next MSCA-PF call: 09 April – 09 Sept 2026

Indicative budget: 399.05 M€

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>

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?

- [MSCA matchmaking platform](#)
- [Enterprise Europe Networks](#) (for non-academic partners)
- “[Partner search](#)” tool on Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal
  
- Other useful contacts:
  - [MSCA National Contact Points](#)
  - [MCAA](#)
  - [Euraxess](#)

Find more tips and tricks to prepare you application here: [Postdoctoral Fellowships call: 6 steps to prepare your application - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

# 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 2026-2027 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-2-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions\\_horizon-2026-2027\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-2-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_horizon-2026-2027_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 [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Research Enquiry Service [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/contact-us/research-enquiry-service\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/contact-us/research-enquiry-service_en)

European Charter for Researchers <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1160d397-d63e-11f0-8da2-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

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>

*Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.*

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Website



LinkedIn



Thank you!



© European Union 2021

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders. Image sources: [iStockphoto.com/Unsplash](https://www.istockphoto.com/Unsplash)



European  
Commission