



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: *A Tool for International Mobility of Researchers*

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Irish National Contact Points for the
MSCA

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Irish MSCA National Contact Points

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4419371> 

www.iua.ie/mariecurie 

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MarieCurieActionsIre/>  YouTube

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



- EU funding mechanism for excellent research and training activities which support the mobility of researchers between countries, sectors and disciplines to acquire new knowledge, skills and competences.
- Key source of European funding for research in Ireland across all disciplines.
- EU's flagship programme for **doctoral education** and **postdoctoral training**.
- Support researchers from all over the world with a focus on their training, skills and career development.



Excellent research in
all domains (bottom-
up approach)



International,
cross-sectoral &
interdisciplinary
mobility



Attractive working &
employment
conditions



Strong collaboration
with industry, SMEs,
CSOs

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Budget (2023): ~€260m (85% European Fellowships, 15% Global Fellowships)
Call deadline: 13 September 2023

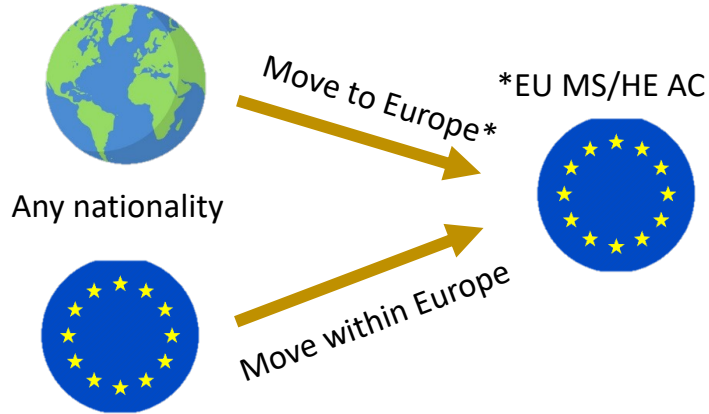
Objective:

Enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

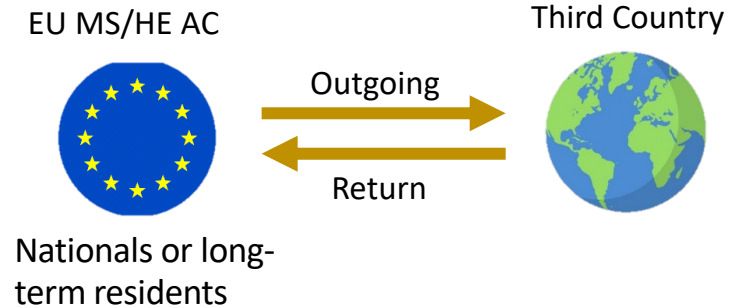
- ❑ **Two types: European and Global Fellowships**
- ❑ **Mono-beneficiary:** One researcher, one host organization
- ❑ Host organizations in **EU or HE Associated Countries**
- ❑ **8 scientific panels:** CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC
- ❑ **Developing skills for academia and beyond** – building bridges with non-academic organisations

Two Types of Fellowships

European (*incoming*) Fellowships (12-24 months duration)



Global (*outgoing*) Fellowships (12-24 months duration) + (12 months return phase)



+ Non-Academic
Placement
Max. 6 months

Secondments and Placements - Optional

- Optional **Secondment(s)** to any sector and any country worldwide up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration (or outgoing phase of GF)
 - **EF:** at any time during project
 - **GF: Outgoing phase** (not permitted in mandatory return phase)
 - Up to **3 months** at European host allowed at **start** of project
- Optional **Placement**, for up to **6 months**, in a **non-academic European** organisation at the end of the project (EF and GF)

Evaluated!

Must align with objectives, add significant value and impact and be described in proposal!

Eligibility Criteria: Researchers

Criteria	European Fellowships	Global Fellowships
Nationality*	Any	Nationals or long-term residents of EU MS or HE AC
Mobility	The researcher must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for EF), or the country of the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for GF) for more than 12 months in the 36 months before the call deadline.	
Qualifications	Doctoral degree (or date of successful defence**) by call deadline	
Research Experience (FTE) (not calendar years)	Maximum 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions = career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers**, long-term sick leave, maternity/paternity leave, compulsory national service). ** More guidelines and self-assessment tool available here: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en	
Resubmission	Researchers who received a score of <70% in the previous PF call cannot resubmit the same proposal with the same host organisation to the following year's call.	

* **Euratom**: nationals or long-term residents of MS or Euratom AC

** **Successful defence**: must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed)

Eligibility Examples

European Fellowship

- Irish researcher awarded a PhD in 2019 in the US, remains resident there. Applies for a European Fellowship in the field of nanotechnology together with a host institution in Ireland.
- **ELIGIBLE?** *Awarded a PhD before the call deadline; less than 8 years research experience since award of PhD; has not resided in Ireland for more than 12 months in previous 3 years.*



Global Fellowship

- Canadian researcher living in Ireland for previous 3 years, PhD in 2022, applies for a Global Fellowship in the field of psychology with a host in France, and outgoing phase in Japan.
- **ELIGIBLE?** *Awarded a PhD before the call deadline; less than 8 years research experience since award of PhD; not more than 12 months in the Japan in previous 3 years...but do they meet the criteria for a “long-term resident” in EU/AC?*



Postdoctoral Fellowships Funding

Prescriptive budgeting:
based on unit costs!

Funding details for
each MSCA call are
available in the
MSCA Work
Programme

Contributions for the recruited researcher per person-month					Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Living allowance	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 ⁸³ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

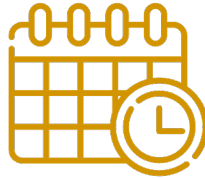
- Researcher allowances are **gross amounts** and are subject to **employer and employee** statutory deductions
- Country correction coefficient applies to Living Allowance (e.g., IE = 119.5%)
 - EF = **1 coefficient** (beneficiary country)
 - GF = **2 coefficients** (beneficiary and Associated Partner country for outgoing phase)

How to Apply & Evaluation

The background features a series of overlapping circles in various shades of purple and pink. On the right side, there is a large white circle that overlaps with the other shapes. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 Call: Key Dates

Call Open
12 April 2023



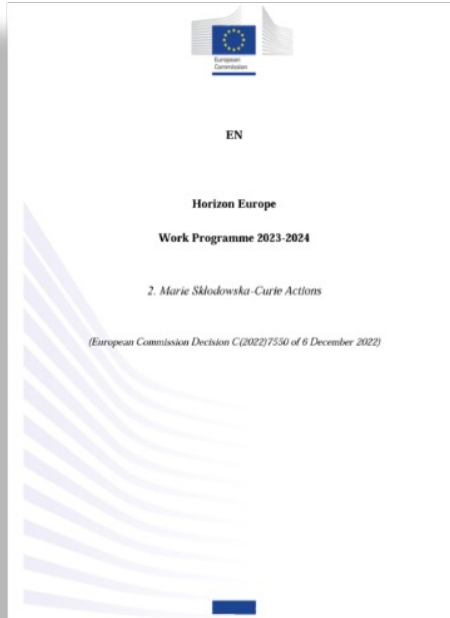
Call Deadline
13 September 2023

Proposal Preparation...



Latest starting date for a successful project: 01 September 2025

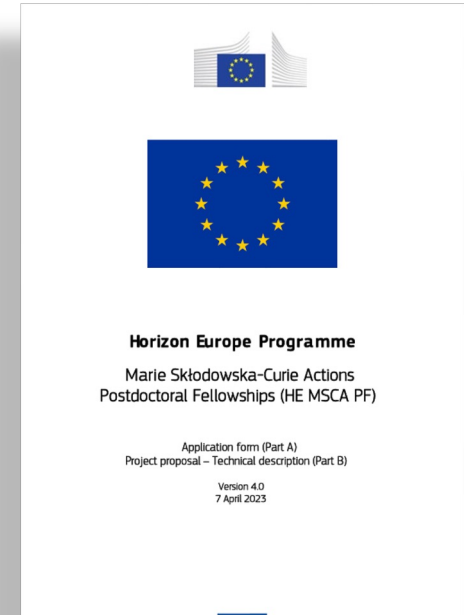
Resources Needed to Create a Proposal



✓ [Work Programme 2023-2024](#)



✓ [Guide for Applicants](#)



✓ [Proposal Template](#)

MSCA WP 2023-24 (published 06.12.2022)

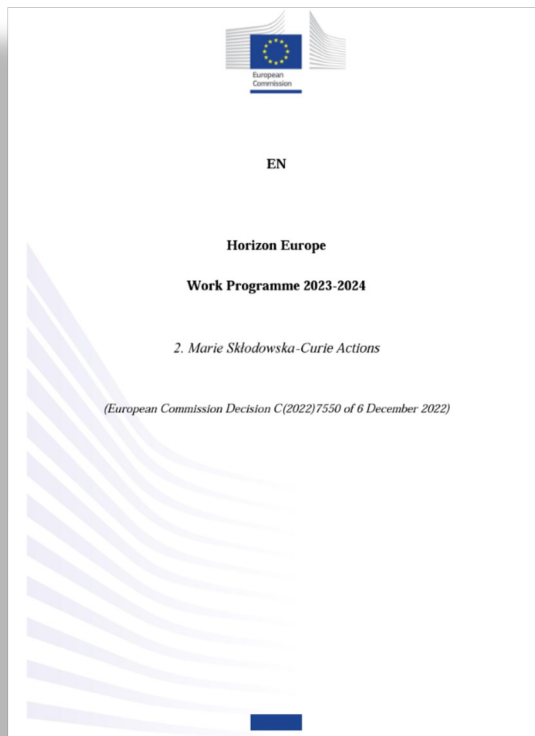


Table of contents	
Introduction	6
MSCA Doctoral Networks	11
Call - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023	12
Conditions for the Call	12
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023	13
Call - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024	16
Conditions for the Call	16
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024	17
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	21
Call - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023	23
Conditions for the Call	23
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01-01: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023	24
Call - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024	27
Conditions for the Call	27
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024	29
MSCA Staff Exchanges	33
Call - MSCA Staff Exchanges 2023	34
Conditions for the Call	34
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-SE-01-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges 2023	35
Call - MSCA Staff Exchanges 2024	36
Conditions for the Call	37
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges 2024	38
MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes	40
Call - MSCA COFUND 2023	42
Conditions for the Call	42
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01-01: MSCA COFUND 2023	43
Call - MSCA COFUND 2024	45
Conditions for the Call	46
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-COFUND-01-01: MSCA COFUND 2024	47

Page 2 of 113

DEFINITIONS	80
1. MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS	81
1.1. Applicable unit contributions	81
1.2. Admissibility	83
1.3. Eligibility	83
1.4. Award criteria	85
1.5. Procedure	87
1.6. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	88
2. MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	89
2.1. Applicable unit contributions	89
2.2. Admissibility	91
2.3. Eligibility	91
2.4. Award criteria	94
2.5. Procedure	95
2.6. Legal and Financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	96
3. MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES	97
3.1. Applicable unit contributions	97
3.2. Admissibility	98
3.3. Eligibility	98
3.4. Award criteria	100
3.5. Procedure	101
3.6. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	102
4. MSCA COFUND	103
4.1. Applicable unit contributions	103

Page 4 of 113

Other Useful Documents and Guidance

- **MSCA-NET Handbook for 2023 PF Applicants** (*forthcoming*)
- **MSCA Guidelines on Supervision**
(<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/msca-guidelines-supervision>)
- **MSCA Green Charter**
(<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter>)
- **EC's Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal**
(<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>)

How to Apply: Application Submission

- Single-stage application through the EC Funding & Tenders Portal
- Calls for proposals are published on the European Commission Funding and Tenders Portal
- Sign into the portal and find your host organisation (need the Participant Identification Code (PIC))
- Fill in the administrative forms (Part A) – seek help from your host research supports
- Upload your completed Part B in PDF and submit before the deadline!

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

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

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT

General information

Topic description

Destination

Conditions and documents

Partner search announcements

Submission service

Topic related FAQ

Get support

Call updates

Go back

LEARs, Account Administrators or self-registrants can publish partner requests for open and forthcoming topics after logging into this Portal, as well as any

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 asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. 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]

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

Start submission

Need help?

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

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT

Part A (structured data)

General information
Participants & contacts
Budget
Ethics
Call-specific questions

Part B (description of action)

10 page limit

Submission

Part A (structured data)

General information

Participants & contacts

Budget

Ethics

Call-specific questions

1. General Information
2. Participants
3. Budget
4. Ethics and Security
5. Other Questions

Part B (description of action)



Part B1:

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

Part B2:

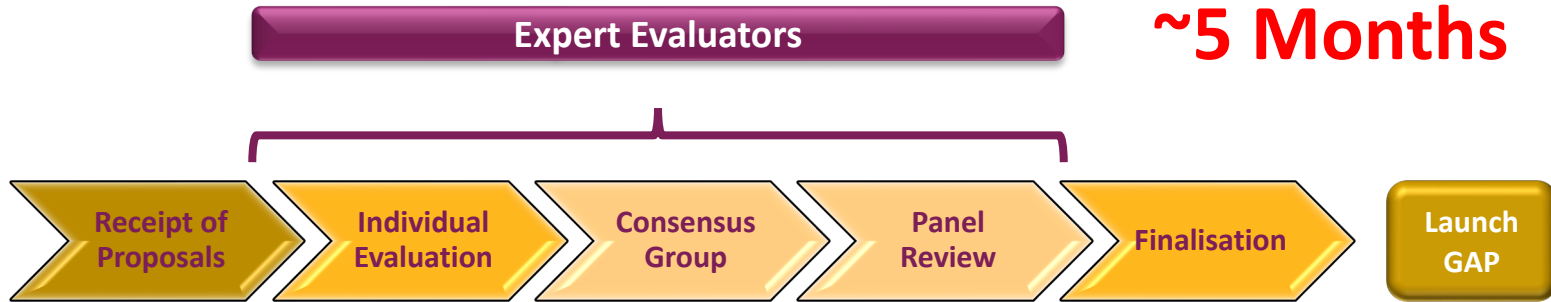
- CV of the Researcher
- Capacity of the Participating Organisations
- Additional Ethics
- Additional Security
- Environmental Aspects
- Letter of Commitment

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence (1 - 5)	Impact (1 - 5)	Quality and efficiency of the implementation (1 - 5)
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		
50%	30%	20%

Funding threshold is $\geq 70\%$

Evaluation Procedure



ALLOCATION OF PROPOSALS TO EXPERTS?

- *DESCRIPTORS AND KEYWORDS*

Eligibility check

Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Individual Evaluation Reports

Consensus Reports

Panel Report
Evaluation Summary Report
Panel Ranked List

Ethics/Security Screening
Final Ranked List

❖ The list of MSCA keywords can be found in [at this link](#).

Tips on Writing a Proposal



How to succeed



More than simply a research project! Approach the fellowship as an opportunity to...

Gain new knowledge by working on your own research project

- need a suitable host and supervisor(s)

Learn new skills for your future career:

- additional scientific skills
- transferable skills

Grow your networks for future collaborations

... scientific networking + public engagement

Disseminate your results to expert audiences

Exploit your research for further use

Communicate your research among the general public

Engage in mobility and transfer of knowledge

- two-way knowledge transfer between researcher and host

- interdisciplinary and intersectoral knowledge

Practical Tips

- Lead in time! You need to start early! Several months before the deadline.
 - Be succinct! Get straight to the point. Focus on bold key points. Figures and schematics can be useful!
- Be clear on why your research is important!
 - Think about why the EU should fund this. What challenge are you trying to solve in the context of EU priorities (if applicable)?
- Early and frequent engagement with the supervisor and host organisation.
 - You will need information from them for certain parts of the proposal.
- Pay attention to the evaluation criteria.
 - Make a checklist and don't ignore any points!
- Use the call-specific proposal template - available in the Submission System.
 - Use the correct year and version!
- Ask other people to read your proposal (both within and outside your area).
 - They should be able to follow what your proposal is all about.
 - Test your proposal with different audiences.

How to Find a Host/Researcher



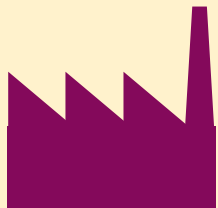
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Host Organisations

Which organisations?



Academic sector

- Higher education establishments (awarding academic degrees)
- Non-profit research organisations (primary mission is research)
- International European interest organisations (e.g., CERN, EMBL)

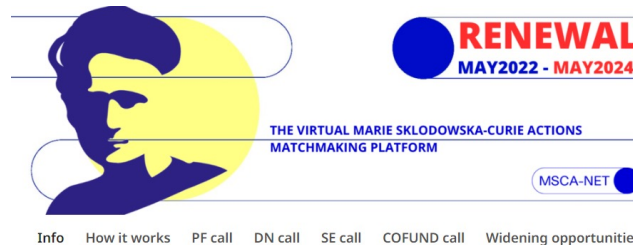
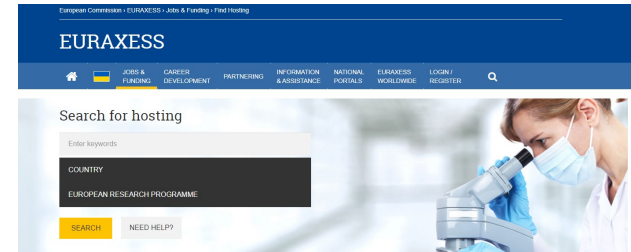


Non-academic sector

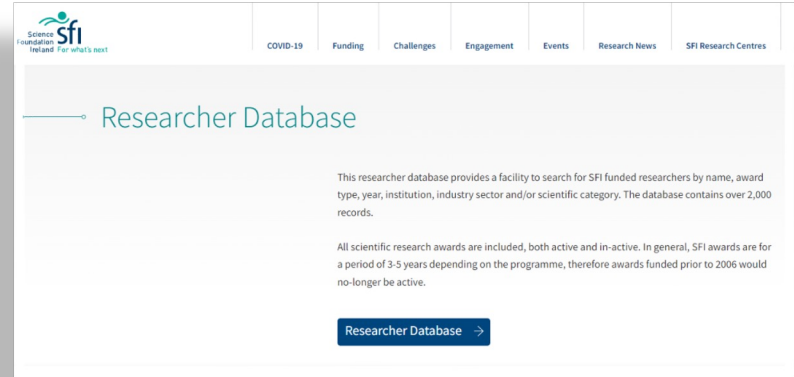
- Any socio-economic entity not included in the academic sector:
 - E.g., large companies, SMEs, NGOs, museums, hospitals, international organisations

PF Candidate: How to Find a Host Institution

- ✓ Tip 1: Activate your professional networks and existing collaborations.
- ✓ Tip 2: Check publications in your research area. Who is the specialist/the lab you would like to work with?
- ✓ Tip 3: Search though hosting offers on EURAXESS Jobs portal:
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting/search>
- ✓ Tip 4: Register on the MSCA-NET B2Match platform:
<https://msca.b2match.io/>

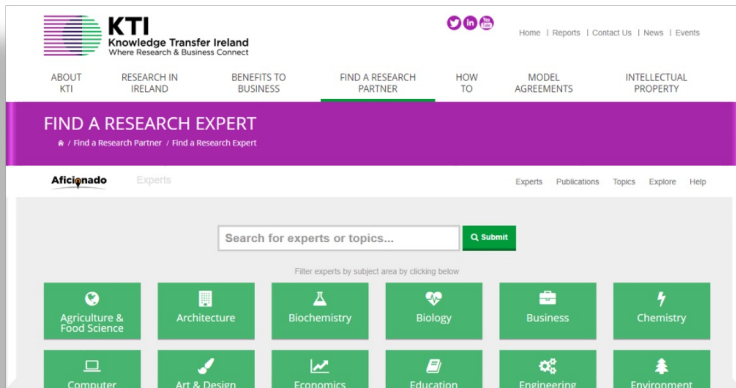


Search engines for Irish Research & Innovation



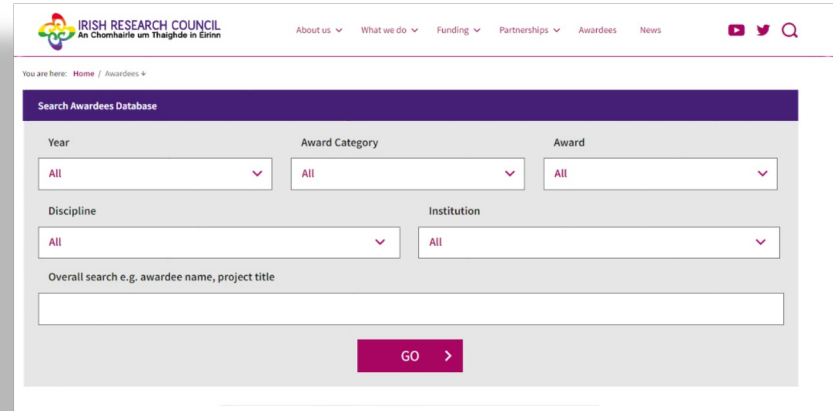
The screenshot shows the SFI Researcher Database page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for COVID-19, Funding, Challenges, Engagement, Events, Research News, and SFI Research Centres. The main heading is "Researcher Database". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining that the database provides a facility to search for SFI funded researchers by name, award type, year, institution, industry sector and/or scientific category, containing over 2,000 records. Another paragraph states that all scientific research awards are included, both active and in-active, with a note that awards funded prior to 2006 would no longer be active. A blue button labeled "Researcher Database" with a right-pointing arrow is located at the bottom right of the main content area.

<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/researcher-database/>



The screenshot shows the KTI Find a Research Expert page. The header includes the KTI logo and navigation links for Home, Reports, Contact Us, News, and Events. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT KTI, RESEARCH IN IRELAND, BENEFITS TO BUSINESS, FIND A RESEARCH PARTNER (highlighted), HOW TO, MODEL AGREEMENTS, and INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. The main heading is "FIND A RESEARCH EXPERT". Below this, there is a search bar with the text "Search for experts or topics..." and a "Submit" button. Below the search bar, there is a section titled "Filter experts by subject area by clicking below" with a grid of 12 green buttons representing different subject areas: Agriculture & Food Science, Architecture, Biochemistry, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer, Art & Design, Economics, Education, Engineering, and Environment.

<https://www.knowledgetransferireland.com/Research in Ireland/>



The screenshot shows the IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL Search Awardees Database page. The header includes the IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL logo and navigation links for About us, What we do, Funding, Partnerships, Awardees, and News. Below the header, there is a search bar with the text "Search for experts or topics..." and a "Submit" button. Below the search bar, there is a section titled "Search Awardees Database" with a grid of 12 green buttons representing different subject areas: Agriculture & Food Science, Architecture, Biochemistry, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer, Art & Design, Economics, Education, Engineering, and Environment. Below the grid, there is a search bar with the text "Search for experts or topics..." and a "Submit" button. Below the search bar, there is a section titled "Filter experts by subject area by clicking below" with a grid of 12 green buttons representing different subject areas: Agriculture & Food Science, Architecture, Biochemistry, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer, Art & Design, Economics, Education, Engineering, and Environment.

<https://research.ie/awardees/>

Research Landscape in Ireland



Ireland's HE & Research Landscape



Ireland's population = 5.1 million

Top 1% of research institutions globally!

- ❖ 7 Universities (publicly funded)
- ❖ 1 University (private)
- ❖ 5 Technological Universities
- ❖ 2 Institutes of Technology, 1 Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS), Several Colleges of Education
- ❖ Research organisations (e.g., Teagasc, Marine Institute) and industry-facing EI/IDA and SFI centres of excellence
- ❖ 10,000 PhD students



<https://hea.ie/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5088c-list-of-publicly-funded-higher-education-institutions/>

A Research & Innovation Driven Culture



6th

**Most innovative
country in the EU**

1st

**...in the world for
knowledge diffusion**

5th

**...in the world for
knowledge absorption**

10th

**...in the world for
knowledge impact**

14th

**Global Scientific
Ranking**

Ireland's 2030 Vision for Research



- Research talent supported at all career stages and both excellence and impact are rewarded
- Supporting strong European & global collaborations
- R&I for societal, economic & environmental impact
- Research excellence enabled by a world class, accessible environment
- Increasing investment in R&I
- Strong enterprise performance

Source: Impact 2030 (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/27c78-impact-2030-irelands-new-research-and-innovation-strategy/>)

2030 Vision

In 2030, Ireland will be a country where:



Research and innovation make a real and positive impact across society, the economy and the environment, both domestically and internationally.



Research excellence is enabled by a world class, accessible environment supported by a clear Strategy architecture and institutional landscape.



Enterprises, particularly SMEs, start, succeed and transform through innovation, knowledge exchange, research commercialisation and access to highly skilled people.



Research talent is supported at all career stages, and excellence and impact are rewarded.



Research and innovation contribute to a shared island and an innovative Europe through strong North-South, European and global R&I collaborations.



Investment in research and innovation is increasing, with investment rising to at least 2.5% of the domestic economy before end 2030.

Why Choose Ireland?



The power
of a small
nation!



Ambitions to
be a global
leader!



Attracting
and retaining
talent*



Strong
innovator!



International memberships
(ESO, ESA, ELIXIR, LOFAR, EMBL, etc.)



Quality of life**

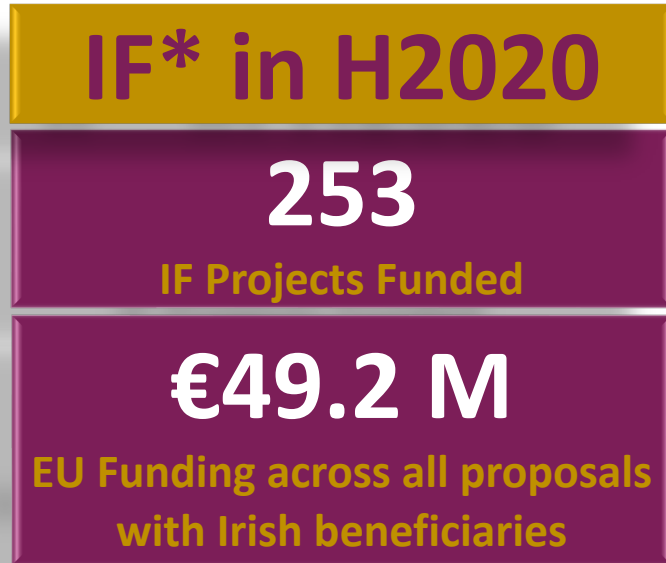


MSCA drawdown
per capita

* Source: IMD World Talent Ranking 2022

**Source: UN Human Development Index (<https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2020>)

Ireland's Previous Success: Postdoctoral Fellowships



PF 2021

Horizon Europe

14.1% IE Success Rate
14.0% Overall Success Rate

PF 2022

20.1% IE Success Rate
17.9% Overall Success Rate

* Now known as the Postdoctoral Fellowships

EURAXESS Ireland

- EURAXESS Ireland operates the free **FastTrack immigration 'Hosting Agreement'** scheme allowing for employment of non-EEA MSCA fellows in Irish academia and industry:
 - No need to apply for work permit
 - Quicker visa processing time
 - Spouses and children can join immediately*, and spouses can work in Ireland
 - Free, professional immigration advice from EURAXESS Ireland

Get in touch by e-mail/phone if you:

- Need information about the Hosting Agreement scheme for non-EEA researchers working in Ireland
- Have a query concerning employment of a foreign researcher in Ireland on a Hosting Agreement scheme
- Have a query related to mobility/employment of researchers with refugee background
- Need advice regarding visa or a working permission guidelines
- Want to learn about immigration rules in other European countries
- Are looking for a job in research
- Join the EURAXESS LinkedIn forum 'Researchers Beyond Academia by EURAXESS'
<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/researchers-beyond-academia-by-euraxess>



Contact Details for EURAXESS Ireland

EURAXESS Ireland/ National Coordination Point and Service Centre

Irish Universities Association
48 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
Ireland

Contact:

Dr Magda Wislocka
Head of EURAXESS Ireland
Email: magda@iua.ie
Phone: +353 1 6764948

Visit our website: www.euraxess.ie



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

iua | IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION

euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

NCP Supports



Irish MSCA Office: Supports for PF Applicants – All Disciplines



**Webinars and
information sessions**



**Proposal writing
handbooks**



**PF Proposal Writing
workshops for applicants**



**Proposal pre-review service
(Irish host organisations)**

<https://www.iaa.ie/for-researchers/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/resources-events-training/>



Thank you!