



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: How to prepare a successful application

Katrin Schaarschmidt, DLR Project Management Agency, 22 May 2024



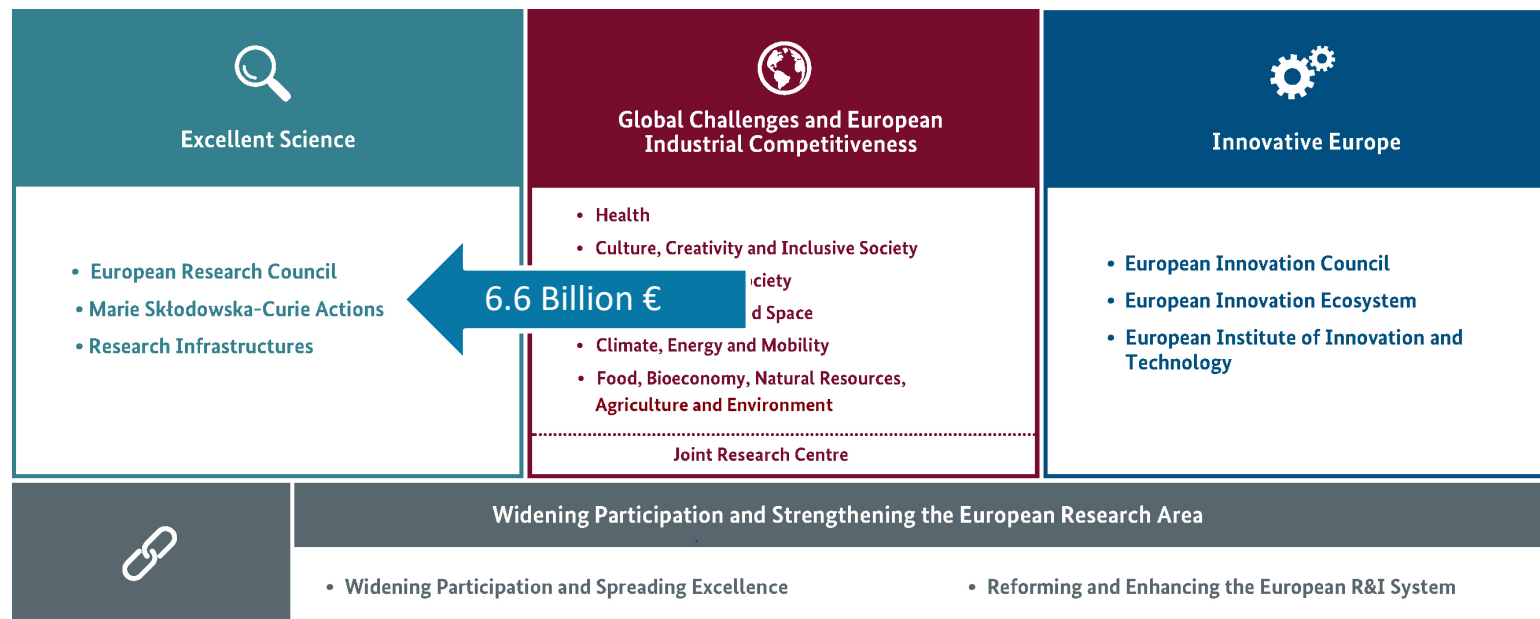
Table of Contents:

- General Information on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) Call 2024
- European Fellowship and Global Fellowship
- Secondments/Placements
- Funding
- Success Rates
- Application/Submission
- Doctoral Networks/COFUND





Horizon Europe Budget – 95.5 Billion €





Overview of MSC Actions



MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)

Research training of doctoral candidates

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Career development of postdocs

MSCA Staff Exchanges (SE)

Cooperation by means of staff exchange

MSCA COFUND: Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes

Co-funding of doctoral or fellowship programmes

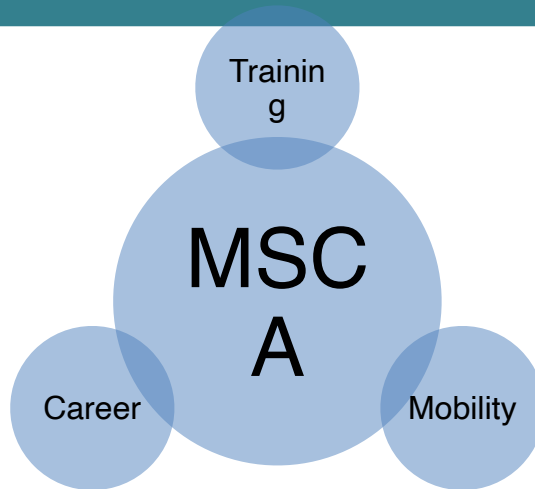
MSCA and Citizens

Pan-European researchers' night to promote research careers





MSCA: Basic Principles



- Excellent research project
- Career development and innovative research training
- Bottom-up: all disciplines
- Transnational/Intersectoral Mobility required
- Open to hosts from academic and non-academic sector
- Employability in academia and industry as a goal





Postdoctoral Fellowships – Objectives

- Scientific excellence
- Career development of postdocs
- Development of researchers' skills -
international, interdisciplinary, intersectoral
- Knowledge transfer to the host institution





General Information PF Call 2024

Budget: EUR 417.18 Mio. €

European Fellowships: 354.60 Mio. €

Global Fellowships: 62.58 Mio. €

Open from: → 23.04.2024 – 11.09.2024

Research areas: No pre-defined research topics (»**bottom-up**«)





General Information PF Call

- **Eligible:** Postdocs: At the call deadline researchers must have a maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research
- **Working conditions:** Full-time employment contract including social security – no scholarships
- **Application:** the host institution with the researcher





PF Programme Lines: an Overview



+ Possibility for additional period of up to six months to support researchers seeking a placement at the end of the project to work on R&I projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.





European Fellowship

- 1 to 2-year **research stay in Europe** (MS/AC) + optional additional placement in non-academic sector (MS/AC; max. 6 months)
- **Postdocs** of **any nationality** (→ mobility rule)
- **Host institution:**
must be active in Research & Development,
e.g. university, research organisation, company
(incl. SMEs), NGO, ...





EF: Participating Countries



Eligible hosting countries:

- EU Member States (MS)
- Associated Countries (AC): list in [Programme Guide](#)

Mobility Rule: Researchers **must not** have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than **12 months in the previous 3 years** before the call deadline.





Global Fellowships

- One to two-year **research stay outside of Europe** (→ mobility rule) + **mandatory** one-year **return phase in Europe** (MS/AC) + optional additional placement in non-academic sector (MS/AC; max. 6 months)
- **Postdocs** with **MS/AC nationality or MS/AC long-term residents** (at least five consecutive years; absence: max. 6 consecutive months + 10 months in total)
- **Two host institutions:**
 - One in a Third Country (associated partner): letter of commitment required
 - One in MS/AC (return phase), contractual partner of the EU (employer for the whole time)





Postdoctoral Fellowships – Secondments & Placements

- Optional **secondment** phase in **any country worldwide**, preferably **inter-sectoral**
- Cannot exceed **1/3 of the fellowship duration**; for GF up to 1/3 of the outgoing phase, no secondments during GF return phase
- Optional **non-academic placement** in MS/AC
- Additional period (**up to six months**) after the standard duration of the fellowship
- Both have to be justified in the proposal





Postdoctoral Fellowships – Funding

Only unit costs; Allowances are **employer's gross** amount

Living Allowance is multiplied by correction coefficient of the host country

Researcher unit contributions [person/month]				Institutional unit contributions [person/month]	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Long-term leave allowance	Research, Training and Networking	Management and indirect contributions
5990 €*CCC	710 €	660 €	6700 € x % covered by the beneficiary	1000 €	650 €

Family Allowance: Can be adapted if the researcher acquires family obligations during the action duration.



Success Rates PF Call 2023

	Submitted	Evaluated	Selected for funding	Success rate in %
EF	7.181	7.084	1.110	15,7%
GF	858	834	139	16,7 %
Total	8.039	7.918	1.249	15,8%





Application Procedure

Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal: Search funding & tenders
→ Programming period 2021- 2027 → Programme “Horizon Europe”

Call: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024: All necessary information and manuals: (WP, Guide for Applicants, proposal template, Model Grant Agreement)

EU Login account required to download the templates and submit your application





Submission

- Closing date: 11 September 2024, 5 pm (Brussels local time)
- Proposals submitted to the previous call of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe and having received a score of less than 70% must not be resubmitted the following year





Evaluation Panels

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)





Part A (Topics to be addressed in online)

1. General information (about project, including the abstract)
2. Participants / Gender Equality Plan (GEP)
3. Budget
4. Ethics and security
5. Other questions (e.g. planned secondments)





Part B: Proposal Documents (to be uploaded as PDF files)

Part B – Document 1: Your proposal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

1. Excellence (Weighting: 50%)
2. Impact (Weighting: 30%)
3. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation (Weighting: 20%)



max. 10
pages





Part B: Proposal Documents (to be uploaded as PDF files)

Part B – Document 2: Supporting documents

- CV of the researcher (indic. length: 5 pages)
- Capacities of the participating organisations
- New: Environmental considerations in light of the [MSCA Green Charter](#)
- Letters of commitment of associated partners (only for Global Fellowships outgoing hosts)





General Hints

- Write the proposal **in cooperation** with the supervisor/host institution
- Let **others (non-experts as well)** read your proposal
- **Adhere closely** to the given format
- Do not use only super special language (experts are not necessarily from your exact field of research)
- Do not write a technical report – **tell a story, sell a story**
- Do not hesitate to contact your **EU Liaison Office** and the **National Contact Point of your target country**: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>





Doctoral Networks: what's in for me?

- Resulting jobs are published on the **EURAXESS portal**
PhD apply directly at the future employer/host organisation.
- Employment within the **network** for up to a maximum of 3 years.
- Working conditions: Generally **full-time employment contract**
including **social security – no scholarships!**



Doctoral Networks: what's in for me?

- **Secondments** to other partners including industry up to 30 % of the employment period
- Individual supervision of the PhD projects, structured training: courses, summer schools, transferable skills





MSCA COFUND

Two different funding lines:

Doctoral Programme (for PhD)

Fellowship Programme (for Postdocs)

Requirements:

Project proposals are submitted by host organisations.

Researchers apply directly at the selected organisations

Resulting jobs are published on the **EURAXESS portal**





Important Documents and Links

- [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#)
- [MSCA Green Charter](#)
- [The Commission's gender equality strategy](#)
- [Online Manual](#)
- [MSCA-NET project](#)
- [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#)
- [MSCA Green Charter](#)
- [The Commission's gender equality strategy](#)
- [Online Manual](#)





MSCA-NET

<https://msca-net.eu/>

- Handbooks on proposal writing
- FAQs
- Statistics
- Policy Briefs

