



Horizon 2020 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): Individual Fellowships (IF)



Individual Fellowships (Post-Doc) ([H2020-MSCA-IF-2020](#))

Call Opening Date: 8 April 2020

Closing date for submission: 9 September 2020 (17:00:00 Brussels time)

Indicative Budget for this call: €328 million

Horizon 2020 and MSCA programme

The European Union funding programme 'Horizon 2020' (2014-2020), offers funding opportunities for both the mobility of researchers and for collaborative research. The mobility actions are funded through the well-known **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** ([MSCA](#)) programme, which is an integral part of Horizon 2020. This flyer outlines the scope and modalities to participate in the **MSCA - Individual Fellowship**, for which there is currently a call for proposals open (8 April 2020 - 9 September 2020). It is the last call of the MSCA programme under the Horizon 2020 programme.

Horizon 2020 will be succeeded by [Horizon Europe](#) for the period 2021-2027. The programme will largely be a continuation of Horizon 2020 and include MSCAs. The dates for calls under Horizon Europe are not yet known.

Flyer on MSCA- IF- 2020 call for proposals

This flyer helps at decoding the main conditions and provide some guidance in the formalities to comply with and facilitate project preparation. It is without prejudice to the call text itself which remains the basis for this call and should always be consulted in full: see enclosed link: [MSCA-IF-2020](#)

The MSCA - Individual Fellowship's, is the action for experienced researchers, mainly postdoctoral researchers, of any nationality and age, who want to give their career a boost by working abroad. This fellowship helps in advancing the career by gaining new skills through training under guidance of a supervisor in an international environment on a large variety of subjects and multi-disciplinary approach. The programme is **bottom-up** which means that applicant can freely choose the field of research in which to pursue further research work. All domains of research and technological development are eligible for funding (except areas of research covered by the EURATOM Treaty¹).

There are two types of Individual Fellowships:

- (1) **European Fellowships:** open to researchers from any country in the world (India) - going to Europe or moving within Europe. This fellowship is to be done in Europe.
- (2) **Global Fellowships:** open to researchers from EU Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC), giving them the opportunity to conduct a research project in a host institution located in a Third Country (e.g. India).

With both these actions, the EU is promoting the two way mobility, which is an important element to strengthen the R&I cooperation and capacity between the EU and India.

(1) European Fellowships: Indian researcher to Europe

European Fellowships are open to Indian researchers, currently within or outside Europe, who want to pursue their research career and who have already a doctoral degree or at least four years full - time research experience (hence also called a postdoc fellowship) in a research institute, university or company in Europe (EU Member State ² (MS) or Associated Country ³ (AC)).

The **mobility rule** applies to the hosting organisation in the MS or AC, which means that the researcher must not have lived, worked or studied in the hosting MS or AC for more than 12 months during the 3 years prior to the call deadline.

The standard duration of the fellowship is 12 to 24 months.

The financial support to the researcher covers living allowance/salary, mobility allowance and family allowance, as the case may be.

Opportunity for India: for experienced Indian researchers interested in postdoc research and in moving from India to a country in Europe or moving within Europe (from one Member State or Associated country to another).

(2) Global Fellowships: Europe based researcher to India

¹ [EURATOM is a complementary research programme for nuclear research and training.](#)

² https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries_en

³ As of 1 May 2018, the following countries are associated to Horizon 2020: Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia.

Global Fellowships are open to a national or long term resident in Europe (MS or AC) who wants to move to a country outside Europe, called Third Country (TC), for example to India, in the outgoing phase and then go back to Europe (MS or AC) during the return phase. To be eligible, fellows must be experienced researchers with either a doctoral degree or at least four years full- time research experience.

Also for the Global Fellowships, the **mobility rule** applies, which means that the researcher must not have lived, worked or studied in the t TC for more than 12 months, during the 3 years prior to call deadline. .

The total duration of the fellowship is 36 months as follows: an initial period of 12 to 24 month at a partner organization in the third country (e.g. India), followed by a mandatory 12 month training period at an European host organisation in Europe (MS or AC).

The financial support to the researcher covers living allowance/salary; mobility allowance and family allowance, as the case may be.

Opportunity for India: a leading university or research institute in India can be a host university for a Global Fellowship and host an Indian or European experienced scientists coming from Europe. The Indian host universities or research institutes or university must for this purpose have a partnership agreement with a leading university or institute in Europe.

Europe and Horizon 2020 post Brexit

Following the entry into force on 1 February 2020 of the EU-UK ‘Withdrawal Agreement’, the UK is no longer a member country of the European Union but a Third Country. The EU consists as from 1 February of 27 member states.

For the participation in Horizon 2020, however, it was agreed that during the transition period, entities from the UK can continue to participate and get funding under Horizon 2020 until the end of the Horizon 2020 projects, unless specified differently.

For this action this means that researchers can select a university, institute or company as their host institute.

How will Brexit impact the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions?

The Withdrawal Agreement foresees that the UK will continue to participate in the current 2014-2020 EU programmes, including Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, as if the UK was an EU Member State until the closure of the programmes.

This means that UK beneficiaries can continue to take part in grants awarded under the current Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) until their end date, even if it is after 2020.

The possible participation of the UK in future programmes after 2020 will depend on the outcome of the overall negotiations on the future relationship between the two parties.

ATTENTION

Widening Fellowships 2020

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Individual European Fellowship (MSCA-IF-EF)

Widening Fellowship (WF) is an additional option within MSCA-IF for those applicants opting for an Individual European Fellowship under the above call (MSCA-IF-EF) and having made a proposal with a host institute/university located in a ‘widening country’.

For modalities of this call, see explanations hereunder.

- MSCA-IF-EF-ST Standard European Fellowships, MSCA-IF-EF-SE Society and Enterprise panel, MSCA-IF-EF-RI Reintegration panel, MSCA-IF-EF-CAR Career Restart panel.
- Deadline Model: single-stage
- **Call ID:** [WF-03-2020](#)
- **ID:** [MSCA-IF-2020](#)
- Opening: 08 April 2020
- Deadline: 09 September 2020 17:00:00 Brussels time

What is MSCA-IF Widening Fellowship?

The Widening Fellowship (WF) aims at providing support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a so-called ‘**Widening Country**’. The purpose of that scheme, focusing on a number of countries in Europe, is to help spreading scientific excellence and close the research and innovation gap within Europe.

A budget of EUR 7 million has been earmarked under the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2020 "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation", to fund proposals with a host organisation located in a Widening Country, among the proposals submitted in a widening host country under the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual Fellowships - MSCA-IF-2020 call](#) but which failed to receive funding. It is in other words, a second chance to be selected with a host institute in one of the widening countries.

Only **European Fellowships** (EF) can qualify for the Widening call (thus the Global Fellowships are excluded).

Which are the Widening Countries?

The EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes are aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. In order to use effectively the whole potential of the European Research Area, which consists of the 27 EU Member States and the 16 countries associated to EU's research programme Horizon 2020, an effort is made to increase participation of low R&I performing countries, called for this purpose ‘Widening countries’. These are:

- **The Member States currently eligible for Widening support:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **The Associated Countries currently eligible for Widening support:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Republic of North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Who can benefit from the Widening Fellowship?

Researchers applying for an MSCA Individual European Fellowship ([MSCA-IF-EF](#)) in above listed 'widening countries', be it a Standard, Society & Enterprise, Career Restart or Reintegration Fellowship. Proposals above quality threshold with a host institution in a Widening country, but not retained for funding in the MCSA Individual Fellowship call, will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call, provided applicants indicate at the time of submission that they want to be considered for widening fellowship opportunity ('yes' option).

How to apply?

As such there is no application to be made: possibility to be selected under the Widening Fellowship call is by reassignment.

The proposals submitted to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual European Fellowships ([MSCA-IF-EF](#)) call, which did not reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded and where the host organisation is located in an eligible 'Widening country', will be reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call upon the agreement of the applicant.

In order to be reassigned and considered for a second chance in the Widening Fellowship call, it is important, however, that the applicant **ticks "YES"** to the question: *"Do you wish to participate to the Widening Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?"* in the application form. Applicants who do not reply, or tick "NO" to the above question, will not be considered for the WF call (but will be evaluated and ranked under the IF call, if eligible).

4 - Ethics

5 - Call-specific questions

Validation result

2. Some national and regional public research funding authorities run schemes to fund MSCA applicants that score highly in the MSCA evaluation but which cannot be funded by the MSCA due to their limited budget. In case this proposal could not be selected for funding by the MSCA, do the researcher and supervisor consent to the European Commission disclosing to such authorities the results of its evaluation (score and ranking range) together with their names and contact details, non-confidential proposal title and abstract, proposal acronym, and host organisation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Do you wish to participate to the Widening Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If you don't reply or if you maintain 'No' as your answer, be aware that your proposal will not benefit from an extra chance of being funded under the Widening Fellowships call in case it cannot be funded under the MSCA-Individual Fellowships call.

The country of the selected PIC belongs to the list of widening countries. A dedicated budget (EUR 6 million) has been set aside under the Work Programme "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" to fund EF proposals submitted to the MSCA-IF-2019 call but which cannot be funded under the EF lists of the MSCA-IF-2019 call due to a lack of budget. EF proposals where the host organisation is located in an eligible widening country will be automatically duplicated into the Widening call only if you express your wish to do so. Your decision not to participate in the Widening call will not affect your chances of being funded directly under the MSCA-IF-2019 call.

How does evaluation under WF call takes place?

The proposals submitted under the Widening Fellowships (WF) must fulfil all the admissibility and eligibility conditions of the MSCA-IF-EF and pass all the thresholds for that call. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for MSCA-IF apply to eligible proposals. Proposals will be ranked according to the MSCA-IF-EF call scores and evaluation procedure and will retain scores and comments included in the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of the regular MSCA-IF-EF call. The MSCA-IF-EF model grant agreement and the unit costs applicable to MSCA-IF-EF will also apply to the Widening Fellowships. Summarized:

- Implemented within the frame of the MSCA Individual European Fellowships (MSCA-IF-EF). In other words, same procedure as the MSCA-IF-EF, with the same

panels, but **host organisation (beneficiary) must be in a “Widening country”** with following features:

- ✓ Single centralised evaluation review procedure for both IF and WF;
 - ✓ Normal award criteria, scoring and thresholds for MSCA-IF –EF will apply;
 - ✓ All scientific areas which cannot be funded under MSCA-IF European Fellowships and can be funded under the WF budget will therefore be ranked in one single list according to the scores and evaluation procedure of the MSCA-IF-EF call;
 - ✓ If applications that are not funded in the MSCA IF call (“below available budget”) and receive at least 70% in the evaluation, will automatically be submitted in the WF call;
- Applicants who wish to be considered for this funding opportunity should have clicked for ‘Yes’ option in section 5 in Part A (online submission form) at the application stage;
 - The MSCA-IF model Grant Agreement will apply to all Widening Fellowships;
 - Only implementation difference to MSCA-IF-EF is that researchers supported by the Widening Fellowships, will not formally be considered/called as MSCA fellows;
 - Host organisations from Widening Countries will be informed simultaneously about the results of the evaluation for both MSCA-IF-EF-2020 and the Widening Fellowships call, i.e. all applicants eligible for transfer to the WF call will receive a standard IF evaluation result letter and an attached WF evaluation result letter. There will be a single centralised evaluation review procedure for both IF and WF.

FAQ

WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

You can diversify your competences and acquire new skills at a multi- or interdisciplinary level through advanced training and mobility.

WHO CAN APPLY?

European Fellowships are open to experienced researchers from any country.

Global fellowships are open to experienced researchers in Europe (MS or AC), who want to benefit from training abroad.

In both cases, applicants either hold a PhD degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

There is no age restriction for the researcher to apply.

WHO CAN HOST?

Any legal organisation from MS/AC (university, research centre or a company in Europe) could host *European Fellowships*.

Any legal organisation (university, research centre or a company in Europe) from Third Country (e.g. India) could act as "partner organization" to host *European Global fellow* during outgoing phase.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

All scientific disciplines (including social sciences and humanities) are eligible for funding. The calls are bottom-up i.e.: the field is freely chosen by the applicant.

WHAT THE FUNDING COVERS?

The grant provides an allowance to cover living, travel and family costs. In addition, the EU contributes to the training, networking and research costs of the fellow, as well as to the management and indirect costs of the project.

To be noted that the grant is awarded to the host organisation (beneficiary), usually a university, research centre or a company in Europe which then distributes the allowances to the researcher as agreed in the grant agreement/partnership agreement.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

European Fellowship proposals are submitted jointly with a "host" organisation in Europe and you as the researcher. You, the researcher, develop the proposal in cooperation with a European organisation that would be willing to host you. Host organizations can be universities, research institutes or a company.

European *Global fellow* must submit proposal jointly with a "host" organisation in Europe and "partner organisation" from Third Country. At the proposal stage of a *Global fellowship*, an Indian institution must submit a "letter of commitment" and an Indian 'host' researcher must provide information regarding their expertise, research and the training they will provide. Following the signature of a Grant Agreement, the Indian institution must negotiate a "partnership agreement," detailing financial and training provisions, with the European "host" institution.

HOW DO I APPLY?

You submit a research proposal, including your CV, in response to the call. The proposal is written in English, jointly with your chosen host organisation(s). In order to validly apply you need to have a PIC (Personal Identification Code) allowing to upload the proposal on the Horizon 2020 portal.

For all formalities and call conditions, always check the full text of the 2020 call below:

MSCA-IF-2020

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/india/2020-call-msca-individual-fellowship-open-apply-europes-most-prestigious>

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

The 2020-MSCA-IF call opened on **08 April 2020** with a deadline on **09 September 2020** (17:00 Brussels time).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Horizon 2020 Programme Guide for Applicants Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships (IF):

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-if-2018-20_en.pdf

- Guide on "How to Write a Winning Proposal for Individual Fellowships (IF)":

<https://www.luxinnovation.lu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/How-to-write-a-winning-proposal-for-Individual-Fellowships.pdf>

- Individual Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 2015:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-msca-if-2015/1650133-if-2015-faq_en.pdf

HOW TO FIND A HOST IN EUROPE

- EURAXESS search for host <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting/search>
- Net4Mobility - Expressions of Interest <https://www.net4mobility.eu/eoi.html>

- Marie Curie Alumni Association : <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/jobs>

FURTHER ENQUIRY

In principle, further information should be obtained from the National Contact Point (NCP) but since India has not appointed a NCP, it is recommended to contact the NCP of the host country of interest to you.

See for list of NCPs:

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

Information can also be obtained from:

EU DEL India | delegation-india-ri@eeas.europa.eu

EURAXESS India | india@euraxess.net