**Call for Proposals for the** **Individual Fellowship Training Scheme for Incoming Postdocs to Malta (IF2MT)**

**1.0 Introduction**

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) is receiving proposals under the Individual Fellowship Training Scheme for Incoming Postdocs to Malta (IF2MT). The Scheme supports travel and accommodation expenses for experienced researchers willing to submit a proposal with Maltese entity host (Beneficiary) for the MSCA Individual Fellowship call with deadline the 9th September 2020 (MSCA-IF-2020). The support will be in the form of a lump sum grant and it is for the participation of the researchers in the one-day MSCA Individual Fellowship training that will be held on 24th April 2020 in Malta. All experienced researchers, from any nationality and any age, that meet the eligibility and mobility conditions, may apply through this scheme.

It is recommended that applicants should have already identified local supervisors prior to the training which will support their application for the September 2020 call.

Eligible applicants residing in Malta will not receive a lump sum grant however they may participate in the training free of charge, following confirmation of registration.

**2.0 Eligibility and administrative check**

In order to be considered eligible, the applicant has to to comply with the Individual Fellowship eligibility and mobility rules of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions of the Horizon 2020 programme.

The Experienced Researcher (ER) must be, at the date of the MSCA IF call deadline (9th September 2020), in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

The selected beneficiary/host organisation must be a legal entity established in Malta and must employ and supervise the researcher during the action. This is a mono-beneficiary action. Only proposals foreseeing one single beneficiary are eligible.

In addition to the above, for the IF European Fellowship (EF) Society and Enterprise Panel, the beneficiary must be an entity from the non-academic sector.

Mobility requirements:

General mobility rule (Standard Fellowships ST) applicants cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where they have lived or carried out their main activity for >12 months in the 3 years preceding the call deadline (09/09/2020).

Relaxed mobility rule (Reintegration [RI], Career Restart [CAR], Society & Enterprise [SE]) applicants cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where they have lived or carried out their main activity for >36 months in the 5 years preceding the call deadline (09/09/2020).



Administrative check

MCST will be performing an administrative check in order to select the eligible applicants based on the following:

➢ Proposed project idea (project’s brief);

➢ Applicant’s full updated CV;

➢ Details of the host entity/beneficiary and the supervisor;

➢ Priority will be given to well-defined proposals which demonstrate increased odds of success for securing funding from the Individual Fellowship action of Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions (MSCA – IF).

Applications will be processed on first come first served basis, until funds are exhausted. Applicants are invited to submit their application by latest noon on 31st March 2020.

An application will only be considered eligible if it complies with the eligibility conditions set out in this document.

**3.0 Financing**

The support will be in the form of lump sum grant to cover travel and accommodation expenses for the participation in the training on 24th April 2020.

Participants will receive 50% of the lump sum grant following their participation in the training while the remaining 50% will be sent following submitting application with Maltese beneficiary/Maltese entity as a host. The applicants are to forward to MCST the email received from the European Commission, which email confirms the participant’s submission. This email will include a number/identifier in order to proof that the application has been successfully sent to the EC through the [Funding and Tenders portal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-if-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=31047830;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=openingDate;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState).

Selected applicants will receive the lump sum grant to cover their travel and accommodation expenses as follows:

• Participants residing in Europe, EU Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Country (AC): Eur 800

• Participants residing in a third country (not in Europe, EU or AC): Eur 1,300

**4.0 Important informative links**

Applicants are advised to check the following links and read the relevant information and documentation:

[Link to the IF call](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-if-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=31047824;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=openingDate;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState)

[Link to the MSCA website](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/msca-actions_en)

[Link to the MSCA work programme](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf)

[Link to the Guide for Applicants](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-if-2018-20_en.pdf) (the guide for the 2020 call will be updated and published in April 2020.)

[Research & Innovation landscape of Malta (video)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3h5FNQ-G5k&t=46s)

**5.0 Submission of Application Form**

Scanned signed and dated application form, as well as an updated CV of the applicant, are to be submitted by email to lili.vasileva@gov.mt by not later than 31st March 2020.

**6.0 Correspondence**

Successful applicants are required to attend the one-day training on 24th April 2020 and sign the attendance sheet. Furthermore, the participants are also required to provide a copy of their boarding passes. Participants may provide their boarding passes to MCST either during the training or via email as scanned copies on the following email address: lili.vasileva@gov.mt .

Once the IF proposal is submitted to the European Commission, the applicants are also required to forward the confirmation email.

**7.0 Further Information**

For further information on the Individual Fellowship Training Scheme for Incoming Postdocs to Malta (IF2MT), kindly contact Lili Vasileva as per details below:

Lili Vasileva

Framework Programme - Horizon 2020 Unit

The Malta Council for Science and Technology

Tel: +356 2360 2133 or 2360 2000

Email: lili.vasileva@gov.mt

**8.0 Definitions**

Europe: EU Member States (MS), including their outermost regions, the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to MS and Associated Countries (AC).

Associated Country (AC) is a third country which is party to an international agreement with the Union, as identified in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013. The full list is available [here](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf).

Non-associated Third Countries (TC) are countries which are neither EU Member States (MS), nor associated to Horizon 2020 (AC).

Action refers to the individual research project proposed for funding.

The Academic Sector refers to public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations for whom one of the main objectives is to pursue research or technological development, and international European interest organisations.

The Non-Academic Sector refers to any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No. 1290/2013. This includes all fields of future workplaces of researchers, from industry to business, government, civil society organisations, cultural institutions, hospitals, etc.

The Beneficiary is the legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and has the complete responsibility for the proper implementation of the action. It contributes directly to the implementation of the research, transfer of knowledge and training activities by recruiting, supervising, hosting or training a MSCA-funded researcher.

The **Experienced Researcher (ER)** must be, at the date of the call deadline (9th September 2020), in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited), even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.

The Supervisor is the scientist appointed at the beneficiary to supervise the researcher throughout the whole duration of the action.

Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within one or more EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries of at least 5 consecutive years. Periods of absence from the territory of the Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Country shall be taken into account for the calculation of this period where they are shorter than 6 consecutive months and do not exceed in total ten months within this period of five years.