Horizon Europe
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) -2022

Global Fellowships

Postdoctoral Fellowship (Call ID (HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01)
Call Opening Date: 12 May 2022
Closing date for submission: 14 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

1. Horizon Europe and MSCA programme

'Horizon Europe' (2021-2027) is the research and innovation framework programme of the European Union and, it offers opportunities for both collaborative research and mobility of researchers.

The mobility actions are under Pillar 1 of Horizon Europe, under the well-known **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** (MSCA) programme.

This flyer outlines the scope and modalities to participate in the **MSCA -** Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA-PF) **for Global Fellowships** (e.g. **Europeans interested in pursuing research in the world/India**). It aims at helping postdoctoral aspirants in applying for the grant, providing guidance on the formalities to comply with and facilitating project preparation. It is without prejudice to the call text itself, which remains the basis for applying and should always be consulted in full.

2. Main Objectives of a Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

- Foster excellence through implementation of an original and personalised research
- Enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD (training on research + transferable skills) + support to career development
- Focus on i3 (international, inter sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
- Build bridges and lead to exposure to the non-academic sector

3. Research areas

The MSCA-PF will continue to support Postdoctoral research in all domains of research and innovation (bottom up principle). The novelty in MSCA in Horizon Europe (compared to MSCA-Horizon 2020) is that Euratom[1] areas of research are included in the range of supported topics within the 8 existing scientific panels.

The 8 scientific panels are:
- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)

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[1] Indian Host Institutes are, however, not eligible to host a global fellow for Euratom research.

- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)

Applicants must indicate at the submission stage in which of eight different scientific areas their proposal fits best.

4. Type of fellowships

There are two types of Postdoctoral Fellowships:

(1) **European Fellowships:** open to all researchers (including Indian nationals) currently within or outside Europe and who want to work in an EU Member State (MS) and country associated to Horizon Europe[2]. This fellowship is to be done in Europe.

(2) **Global Fellowships**: open to European nationals or long-term residents who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside the EU Member States and country associated to Horizon Europe. These fellowships require an <u>outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country (e.g. India),</u> and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation based in an EU Member State or a country associated to Horizon Europe.

This flyer focuses on the **Global Fellowships** for postdoctoral researchers. A separate flyer for the European Fellowship is also posted on the EU Delegation to India website.

With both these actions, the EU is promoting the two way mobility, which is an important element to strengthen the EU-India Strategic Partnership and the Connectivity Partnership.

5. Eligibility
- No age limit.
- The postdoctoral candidate must be a **national or long-term resident** of an EU Member State or country associated to Horizon Europe (long-term resident period of legal and continuous residence of at least 5 consecutive years)[3].
- **Mobility Rule**: the postdoctoral candidate cannot have resided or carried out its main activity (work, studies, research etc.) in the Third Country (e.g. India), where the outgoing phase takes place, for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline.
- Fellows must be postdoctoral researchers at the date of the call deadline, i.e. in a **possession of a doctoral degree**. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis, but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree, will be considered eligible to apply.

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[2] Please see the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the Portal for up-to-date information on the current list and on the position for country associated to Horizon Europe.

[3] [HE Main Work Programme 2021–2022 – 2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](HE Main Work Programme 2021-2022) page 87

- **No more/up to 8 years** of full time equivalent (FTE) research experience at the time of application. The eight year period is measured[4] from the date of award of the doctoral degree. Years of experience outside research like teaching, working in industry on non-research areas and career breaks like parental leave, medical leave, national service, and long term sick leave (period of more than 30 days) will not count for the number of years. More details click here.
- Only one proposal per individual researcher can be submitted. In case of several proposals involving the same individual researcher, only the last submitted one will be considered eligible.
- If proposals with the same research objectives and work plan are submitted by host organisation or different researchers, only the first submitted one will be considered eligible.

6. Who and Where can your host institute be?

- MSCA fellow can be hosted by public or private sector research actors (universities, research institutes, private companies). Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector, in any industry or business partnership, is considered as private company.
- One host organisation in the EU 27 Member States or in any of the countries associated to Horizon Europe.

27 EU Members States:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

Associated countries to Horizon Europe[5]:

The association agreements with the following countries have now started to produce legal effects (either through provisional application or their entry into force:

Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo[6], Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey

Following countries and legal entities established in these countries, with which association negotiations are being processed or where association is imminent:

Albania, Faroe Islands, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine and United Kingdom[7]

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[4] Maternity leave (18 months – i.e. 548 days) per child born after the PhD award date, or exact duration of leave taken, whichever is longest); Paternity leave (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date);Research in a non-associated TC (only for nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC, wishing to reintegrate in Europe); Compulsory national service; Time spent not working in research (also applies to part-time contracts); Long-term sick leave (periods longer than 30 days).

[5] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

[6] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independen

[7] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq/16432

NOTE: Only legal entities established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country are eligible for funding under the MSCA-PF action. Under Horizon Europe, the UK is treated as an Associated Country subject to the entry into force of the association agreement.

Association to Horizon Europe takes place through the conclusion of an international agreement between the EU and the non-EU country. Association agreement negotiations are currently ongoing with 18 countries including the United Kingdom. While negotiations are taking place, transitional arrangements apply under which the legal entities established in these countries are eligible to participate in the call for proposals. Therefore, institutions in the United Kingdom shall be treated in the evaluations as if they were based in an Associated Country from the launch date of the programme (subject to the entry into force of the association agreement with the United Kingdom by the time of signature of the grant agreement).

Please see the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) on the Portal for up-to-date information on the current list and on the position for country associated to Horizon Europe.

- One Associated Partner organisation (private or public) in a **Third Country (e.g. India)**.

7. Who is involved in the application?
- **Applicant** (called 'Fellow'): the postdoctoral researcher who is preparing the fellowship application.

- **Supervisor** (or 'Primary Coordinator Contact'): person who will be supervising the fellow and the project. The fellow should develop the project proposal in liaison with the supervisor. To ensure that supervisor fulfils supervision in compliance with highest standards and that researcher can benefit from best environment to work in, the European Commission has issued some guidelines[8] to that effect.

- **Beneficiary** (also called 'Host Institution'): this is the entity in an EU MS or AC, validated by the EC as a 'legal entity' with [Participant Identification Code (PIC).](#) That entity will sign the grant agreement.

- **Associated Partner** is an entity based in the Third Country (e.g. India) which participates in the action, but without direct funding or the possibility to charge costs or claim contributions. They contribute to the implementation of the action, but do not sign the grant agreement. Associated partners may not employ the researchers under the action[9].

- **Administrative Coordinator Contact**: the administrative person from the European host institute responsible on behalf of the beneficiary.

Opportunity for India: a university or research institute or industry in India can be a host entity for a Global Fellowship and can **host postdoctoral aspirant (European national or Indian national long-term resident in Europe) coming from Europe**. The Indian entity must for this purpose have a partnership agreement with the European beneficiary/host institute.

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[8] MSCA guidelines on supervision https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bb02d56e-9b3c-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search

[9] For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships outgoing phase, this restriction does not apply. The associated partner hosting the outgoing phase can conclude an additional employment contract with the researcher to ensure adequate medical/social insurance in the outgoing country

8. How does it work?

- Global Fellowships are based on a **secondment** to a Third Country (e.g. India) for a period between 12 and 24 months, followed by a **mandatory 12 month return period** to the European host organisation located in an EU Member State or country associated to Horizon Europe.

- For Global Fellowships, **optional secondments** are permitted for up to **one third of the outgoing phase**. A maximum of three months can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary (or any other organisation mentioned in the description of the action), allowing the researcher to spend time there before going to the associated partner in the Third Country. Secondments cannot take place during the mandatory twelve-month return period to the host organisation in an EU Member State or country associated to Horizon Europe.

- The European host organisation <u>must be located</u> in an EU Member State or country associated to Horizon Europe, and, the associated partner organisation for the outgoing phase must be located in a Third Country and is the entity where the outgoing phase takes place.

- The project proposal will be written jointly by the postdoctoral candidate along with the supervisors: one from the European host organisation and one from associated partner organisation.

- Candidate, together with the host organisation in Europe, apply to the call: the MSCA-PF proposals <u>must </u>be submitted electronically using the electronic submission system of the [Funding and Tender Portal](). Only the European host supervisor should press the "submit" button and take any other actions in the name of the organisation.

- Successful proposal receives funding for up to two years for initial outgoing phase and a mandatory return phase of 12 months.

- European host organisation receives the funding and recruits the awarded researcher.

9. Duration: 24 to 36 months

10. Funding

Contributions for recruited researchers 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[1] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

* Living allowance is adapted with the country correction coefficient listed in the WP

GF= 1 coefficient for the country of the beneficiary + 1 coefficient for the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase

11. **Three Evaluation Criteria**
   - **Excellence** (which accounts for 50% of the score): quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives; soundness of the proposed methodology; quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host; and quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills. Gender dimension and open science to be addressed.
   - **Impact** (30%): credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher; suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts; and magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.
   - **Implementation** (20%): quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and quality and capacity of the host institutions.

   Seal of Excellence: it will be awarded to applications with a total score **equal to or higher than 85%**. The seal is awarded to proposals that exceed in all of the three evaluation thresholds (listed above) set out in this work programme, but cannot be funded due to lack of budget. The EU seal adds weight to researcher's application, when they seek to apply to other funding sources offered by EU Member States.

12. **Result and starting date**

   The proposals will be evaluated in October-December 2022 and the results will be communicated at the earliest by February/March 2023. The approximate date for signing the Grant Agreement and **starting the project** will be around **May-September 2023.**

13. **Proposal structure**

   - The proposal is divided into two parts: **Part A** and **Part B.**
   - **Part A** includes administrative and financial information of the host institution (beneficiary) and the researcher
   - **Part B** includes the description of scientific and training activities. **Part B-1**, which introduces the beneficiary and partner organisations and describes the **excellence**, **impact** and **implementation** aspects of the proposal can **be maximum 10 pages** long. **Part B-2**, which contains the researcher's CV, **letter of commitment** from associate partner from Third Country, a description of the participating organisations, an ethical self-assessment

14. **Some Hints for preparation of proposal**

   Excellence
   - Be precise about objectives. Explain the contribution that your project is expected to make.
   - What is the applicant's methodology?
   - Describe originality & innovative aspects of the applicant's research –Why is your project worth funding?
   - Explain how the high-quality, novel research is the most likely to open up the best career possibilities for the applicant.
   - How will the project allow you to move towards research independence?

- Why are the host institution and supervisor ideal for the research project you aim to conduct?
- Describe how this project will contribute to your own research career development. Clearly describe which new competencies you will acquire through the fellowship.
- What type of skills and knowledge will you transfer on the host institution?

Impact
- Impact of training on career development of the applicant and the host institution (be precise)
- List expected publications expected to result from the research project (be precise i.e. concrete journal names)
- What is your IPR strategy?
- Be precise about your outreach activities

Implementation
- Add a realistic GANTT Chart
- Work packages, deliverables, milestones
- Describe experimental risks and your contingency plan

15. Useful Links
- Guide for Applicants – MSCA-PF – click here
- MSCA- Postdoctoral Fellowships - click here
- MSCA-PF Call 2022: Get your application ready for Europe's most prestigious postdoctoral fellowship – video
- Euraxess Portal (PhD and post-doctorate vacancies, more information) – click here
- List of National Contact Points – click here
- Research Inquiry Service – click here
- Funding and Tenders Portal (calls, applications, etc.) – click here
- MCAA (Alumni association)- click here

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