

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and How to Apply

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European Commission

Education and Culture

MSCA key features

- **Support the training and career development** of researchers from **all over the world** through excellent doctorates, postdoctoral fellowships and collaborative projects
- Stimulating **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary** cooperation. Participation of **non-academic sector**, especially industry and SMEs
- For researchers at **every stage** of their career
- Support research in all domains (**bottom-up approach**)
- Promotion of attractive working and **employment conditions**
- Impacting **researcher careers, organisations, structures.**



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H2020 MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



ITN
Innovative Training Networks

What does it offer?
High-quality research training delivered through international and interdisciplinary networks, industrial doctorates or joint doctorates

Who applies?
International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral level (less than four years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)

Multi-beneficiary 50% of MSCA budget



IF
Individual Fellowships

What does it offer?
Opportunities to work on personal research projects by moving between countries and possibly sectors to acquire new skills

Who applies?
Individual researchers together with the host organisation

Who is funded?
Postdoctoral researchers

Mono-beneficiary 30% of MSCA budget



RISE
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

What does it offer?
The exchange of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and the transfer of knowledge

Who applies?
International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

Who is funded?
Researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff of any nationality and at all career levels

Multi-beneficiary 10% of MSCA budget



COFUND
Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

What does it offer?
Regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

Who applies?
Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level

Mono-beneficiary 10% of MSCA budget

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Aeronautica e Astronautica, in MSCA

- **NITROS**: Network for Innovative Training on ROtorcraft Safety, Politecnico di Milano, MSCA-ITN

- **DNSVCFA**: Development of a novel servovalve concept for aircraft. University of Bath (UK) and Moog Controls Ltd, MSCA-IF

- **CRADLE**: Collecting Asteroid-Orbiting Samples: enabling a safer, sustainable, and autonomous exploration of asteroids. Politecnico di Milano and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, MSCA-IF.

Applying to MSCA in H2020

ITN/COFUND

- Application to **host institution**
- Vacancies advertised on **EurAxess** jobs portal
- Project-specific requirements

IF

- Application **directly to EC**
- Must be **submitted with proposed host** in EU/AC
- Use your network!

RISE

- Application **by consortium**
- Researchers must **already be employed** at host institution
- Use your network!

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Horizon Europe

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)

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Evolution in the MSCA's implementation

- **Streamlined actions**, clearer identity
- **Simpler** rules, **fine-tuned** definitions, **harmonised** conditions
- **Reinforced synergies** within Horizon Europe and between programmes: Erasmus+, ERC, EIT, COST, EIC, Research Infrastructures, …
- More guidance on **supervision** and **exposure beyond academia**
- Strengthen structuring **effects on host institutions**
- Towards **greener MSCA** in Horizon Europe.

The information in this presentation is still subject to change

MSCA 2021-2027: Evolution, not revolution!



1. MSCA Doctoral Networks → *networks training doctoral candidates*
2. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships → *postdoctoral researchers*
3. MSCA Staff Exchanges → *any type of research(-related) staff*
4. MSCA COFUND → *co-funding training programmes*

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1. MSCA Doctoral Networks

Goal: support excellent doctoral programmes, equip researchers with the right combination of competences to enhance their career perspectives

Significant changes

- Doctoral researchers only (mandatory enrolment in doctoral programme)
- Maximum of 360 person months + incentives for Industrial or Joint Doctorates
- Resubmission restrictions applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score below 80%

2. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Goal: enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers with a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training and 3i mobility

Significant changes

- Doctoral degree: eligibility requirement
- Limit to applicants with max 8 years postdoctoral research experience*.
- Restrict resubmissions (where score <70%, as of 2022)
- Additional 6 month placements in non-academic sector
- Encourage secondments worldwide

3. MSCA Staff Exchanges

Goal: promote innovative 3i collaboration in R&I through exchanging any type of staff and sharing knowledge and ideas at all stages of the innovation chain

Significant changes

- Reduced size (max 360 person months)
- Inter-disciplinary secondments possible within Europe (max 1/3 of project's person-months)

4. MSCA COFUND

Goal: spread best practices of the MSCA by promoting high standards in the recruitment and working conditions, introduce sustainable structuring effects

Significant changes

- The European Union's contribution increases to cover minimum remuneration and can be used more flexibly.
- Introduction of an MSCA Cofund Seal of Excellence

HE next calls

2021 Call	Preliminary planning*
MSCA Doctoral Networks	04 May 2021 - 16 Nov 2021
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	15 Apr 2021 - 15 Sep 2021
MSCA Staff Exchanges	07 Oct 2021 - 09 Mar 2022
MSCA COFUND	12 Oct 2021-10 Feb 2022

* *To be confirmed. Formal adoption of WP 2021-2022 and opening of first calls possibly for mid-April 2021*

** *ITN and COFUND projects selected in Horizon 2020 can publish vacancies during next months/years!!*

*Consult the **European Commission's Funding & Tenders Portal***
for call documentation and to submit your proposal

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The Evaluation process

- Specific **evaluation criteria** differ per action; structured around **Excellence** (50%), **Impact** (30%) and **Implementation** (20%)
- Quality, credibility and innovative aspects of proposal are key (see Work Prog)
- Proposals allocated to one of **8 Scientific Panels** (LIF, MAT, PHY, ENG, CHE, ENV, SOC, ECO); funding distributed according to no. of proposals received
- **Key words** chosen during application procedure
- **Single-stage evaluation**: each proposal evaluated by **at least 3 experts -> Large numbers!**

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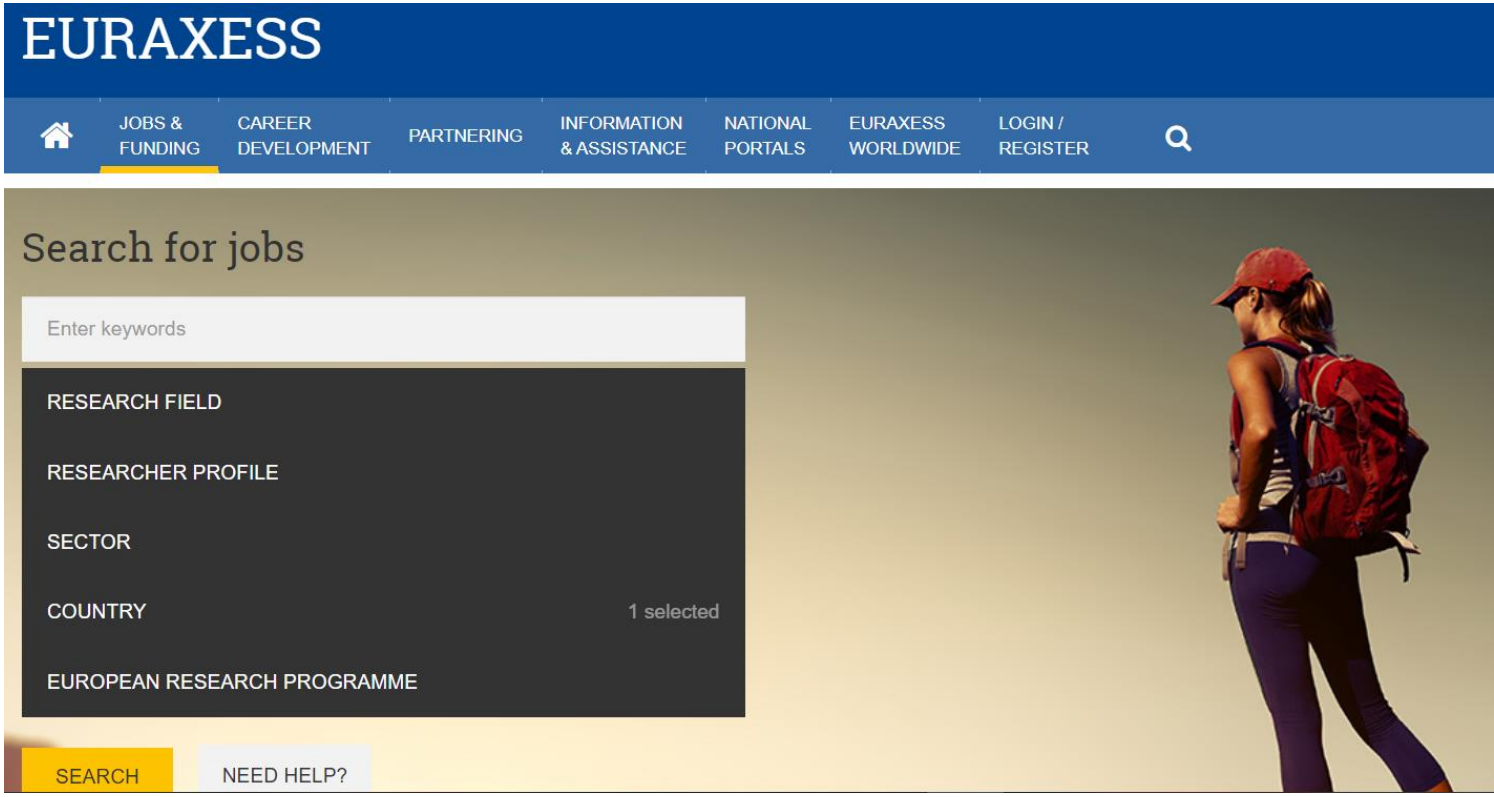
Applying to MSCA in HE

- *Evolution, not revolution*
- *Check the call deadlines, use your network*
- *EurAxess job portal*



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MSCA Career in Science…





"I love to be a scientist."

"If I hadn't gotten [the MSCA IF funding] *I would probably have dropped out."*

Stefan W. Hell
Photo: Wikimedia Commons © Nobel Media AB.

Nobelprize.org
The Official Web Site of the Nobel Prize

Professor Stefan W. HELL
Nobel Prize Winner, Chemistry 2014
MSCA-IF Fellow (Uni. Turku, 1996-1997)

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MSCA Career outside Science…



"[MSCA-IF] *allowed me to choose my ideal research group, explore my own ideas and acquire and develop the skills and tools for my career as an independent scientist*."

Dr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues
Minister of Education of Portugal
MSCA-IF Fellow (2010-12)

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Links



Funding & Tenders Portal

For the Work Programme, Guides for Applicants, proposal templates, Evaluation Criteria, FAQs, Proposal Submission, etc.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

MSCA Website

Guide to different MSCA, Testimonials, Contact details

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/

MSCA Pocket Guide

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/758a6af6-82ad-11ea-bf12-01aa75ed71a1

MSCA National Contact Points

For national-level advice, guidance and assistance on applications

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

Research Enquiry Service

For all Horizon 2020-related questions

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service-and-participant-validation_en

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

MCAA (Marie Curie Alumni association) // Italy Chapter

https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu // **https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/groups/italy-chapter**

Italy Horizon 2020 country profile

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/extensions/CountryProfile/CountryProfile.html?Country=Italy

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“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

Marie Skłodowska Curie



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