



Hot topics – Marie Curie Alumni Association Brazil Chapter

by Leonardo Teixeira Dall’Agnol*, Board Chair of Marie Curie Alumni Association Brazil Chapter

The [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA) are **European grants** offered to **researchers at all career stages** and encourage **transnational, intersectorial and interdisciplinary mobility**.

Brazilian individual researchers are eligible to funding.

Organisations from any sector and country can participate in MSCA projects.

To discover more about MSCA and what’s in it for Brazilian researchers and organisations, read our guide on MSCA at <http://bit.ly/FocusMSCA>.

Figures:

Between 2007 and 2014, the European Commission funded almost 1500 Brazilian researchers and staff to take part in MSCA projects, either with individual fellowships or to take part in RISE projects (then called IRSES).

Under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), the MSCA are expected to support 65 000 researchers, including 25 000 PhD candidates from all over the world.

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is an international non-profit association created in 2013 to bring together all fellow scholars and former scholarship recipients of the prestigious Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions funding programme of the European Union.

Currently, 49 Brazilian nationals are registered in the MCAA, and about 17 alumni of seven different nationalities are living in Brazil. Despite the intense exchange of students and researchers and the enormous human potential of the country, the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions are still poorly known in comparison to other funding and mobility options.

In order to fill this gap, several MCAA member researchers residing in Brazil have initiated talks in November 2016 to create a Brazilian chapter of the MCAA, resulting in its creation in April 2017. They have also set out to organise scientific outreach events and cooperation initiatives between the EU and Brazil. The creation of the chapter is crucial for fostering dissemination of the MSCA programme and the MCAA. The objectives proposed by the 2016-2017 board of the Brazilian chapter are:

- Disseminate the MCAA and the Brazilian chapter by recruiting and attracting new members;
- Encourage networking and synergies among MCAA members through meetings, digital/social media, etc;
- Promote greater knowledge of the European education and research system in Brazil with a special focus on the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions;
- Establish an interface between industry/business federations and the NGOs to disseminate the MSCA programme;
- Encourage interaction with external partners and funding agencies.

Call for current and past MSCA fellows

"I was very pleased that MCAA has a chapter in Brazil. I encourage all MSCA alumni who have a connection to Brazil to contribute to the success of our Brazilian chapter."

[Brian Cahill](#), chair of the MCAA

All MCAA members residing in Brazil, or Brazilian nationals residing elsewhere, are welcome to become members of the Brazil Chapter. More information about the MCAA Brazil Chapter and its activities can be obtained from the official website of the association <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/groups/brazil-chapter> and at the Brazilian chapter group on LinkedIn [MCAA Brazil Chapter LinkedIn Group](#). To enter the Brazilian chapter, it is mandatory to join the MCAA association first. This is free and easy to do on the [Association website](#).



First MCAA Brazil-Europe workshop

The main action of the MCAA Brazil Chapter in 2017 is the organisation of the **“1st MCAA Brazil-Europe Workshop (BREUW): Building a sustainable future based on cooperative science, technology and education”** to be held on 27-29 September at the Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA) in São Luís-MA, Brazil. Despite being a proposal for a new event, the 1st BREUW is included as a permanent event of the MCAA Brazil Chapter to be held concomitant to the annual meeting of the Brazilian chapter board.

The organisation of the event is the result of a partnership between MCAA Brazil Chapter, EURAXESS Brazil and UFMA and is supported by the Foundation for Research and Scientific and Technological Development of the state of Maranhão (FAPEMA). It is an international event and open to the participation of students, teachers, researchers and other academics and industry professionals.

This workshop is a unique opportunity to foster the integration of professionals in Maranhão with their Brazilian and European counterparts, as well as to increase the dissemination of mobility and international financing opportunities. This event also focuses on promoting a closer academia-industry approach, in order to strengthen investment opportunities and the development of products and processes of common interest to both entities. Finally, the 1st BREUW in São Luís aims to support the internationalisation process of the Higher Education Institutions in Maranhão, since all invited speakers are researchers of excellence who can share their experience in international cooperation projects financed by the European Union and its member states.

More information, such as registration fee and abstract template, can be obtained on the event's website: www.mcaaworkshop.org.

*Leonardo is assistant professor at Federal University of Maranhão. More about him [here](#).

Benefits of joining the MCAA Brazil chapter

By [Elaine Vieira](#), former MSCA fellow

Elaine was awarded an Intra European Fellowship (IEF) while she was at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. It took her to the Miguel Hernandez University in Spain: She now teaches at Catholic University of Brasília.

“The participation in the Brazilian MCAA will provide a unique possibility for scientific collaboration between researchers from Europe and Brazil. In addition, it will create an important network between the former MSCA fellows in Brazil.

The Brazilian MCAA will contribute towards Science Internationalisation, which is an essential step for those who wish to pursue academic life. For Master and PhD students the experience abroad is extremely important. They will learn new research techniques, learn a new language, and increase the visibility and impact of their scientific publications. Thus, by participating in the Brazilian MCAA chapter, our chances of raising the standard of our post-graduate course and achieving a series of benefits in research is undoubtedly considerable”

Contact Elaine Vieira [here](#).



Marie Curie Alumni Association – MCAA

Membership of the MCAA is free of charge, and open to any past or present Marie Curie researcher, regardless of the type of MSCA grant received, length of mobility periods, nationality, scientific discipline or current occupation.

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

Contact the **Brazilian Marie Curie Alumni Association** for more details.

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