



How to do a funded PhD or Postdoc in Europe





Today's Agenda:

What are MSCA-funded training networks and how can you benefit?

Past and present PhD students share their tips & advice

What is the MSCA IF and how can you benefit?

What does MSCA mean?



MSCA stands for **Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions**

→ focus on career development of researchers



Marie Curie
Actions



(ending in 2020)



(starting in 2021)

MSCA are **mobility training programmes** for **scientists**

Doctoral level → **MSCA-Innovative Training Networks (ITN)**

PhD & Postdoctoral level → **MSCA-COFUND**

Postdoctoral level → **MSCA – Individual Fellowships**

Staff Exchange → **MSCA – Research & Staff Exchanges**

What are MSCA ITN?



MSCA - ITN are:

- **Interdisciplinary & international doctoral training networks**
- ➔ PhD programmes made up of partner organisations from different sectors such as universities, public and private research centres, companies, non-profit organisations etc.
- ➔ **international PhD networks** with partners based in different countries
- **Dedicated to training early-stage researchers** to become leaders in their field
- **Unique doctoral training and research opportunities** in a specific area

What types of MSCA ITN are there?



3 types of ITN

→ All offer unique opportunities to work with academic and non-academic partners in an international setting

European Training Networks (ETN)

- Placements are based in Europe (though short periods of training may take place at centres in other parts of the world).
- Aim to encourage creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- **Projects focus on interdisciplinary training and a combination of academic and industry expertise.**
- Supervision between network partners usually shared equally, allowing for a well-rounded training experience

European Industrial Networks (EID)

- EID networks **combine training from academic and non-academic partners**. This allows them to offer specific training that addresses the needs of business and industry.
- PhD students spend **at least 50% of their time on an EID undertaking training in the non-academic sector**. This is likely to involve placements with specific organisations that have partnered with your university.
- PhD students normally have two supervisors – one each from the academic and non-academic sectors.

European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

The objective of the EJD is to promote international training and non-academic partnerships, through multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations.

They award either **joint**, **double**, or **multiple** doctorate degrees.

A **joint** degree is a single PhD issued by two higher education institutions offering an integrated programme.

European Joint Doctorates (EJD) (cont.)

Double or **multiple** degrees are two or more separate national PhD diplomas, issued by two or more higher education institutions.

Time spent in different sectors varies, and supervision will be tailored to this.

Where in Europe can I find MSCA ITN?



A Europe-wide network

27 EU Members

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

16 Associated Countries

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia &
Herzegovina, Faroe Islands,
FYROM, Georgia, Iceland, Israel,
Liechtenstein, Moldova,
Montenegro, Norway, Serbia,
Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

(UK)

2000 new openings coming up in 2021!

147 new projects were selected under the 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (MSCA-ITN) action in 2020.

Around 2000 early-stage researchers will be recruited.

Plan ahead! List of all new ITNs

What about funding?



MSCA funding is open to PhD students of all disciplines, and **all nationalities**, for up to four years.

Living allowance

A monthly allowance is paid to the MSCA ITN Fellow in monthly instalments by his/her host institution. The amount varies depending on the country in which he/she will work and study. The average payment is €3,110 per month.

Mobility allowance

The Mobility Allowance contributes costs related to travel, accommodation, and related expenses while undertaking projects through an ITN. The allowance is around €600 per month.

Family allowance

A Family Allowance of €500 per month is available to MSCA ITN Fellows that are classed as having family, regardless of whether the family will move with the Fellow to Europe or not.

How do I apply?



Applying for an MSCA position is very much like applying for a job role.

Projects have already been set by the ITN network members - all you have to do is apply to one that interests you.

Types of documents to provide usually include:

- Proof that you are qualified to undertake a PhD (relevant Masters Degree or equivalent qualification)
- A transcript of your grades
- A CV detailing prior experiences of projects, and any publications
- A personal statement detailing why you are suitable for the project
- Contact details for two or more individuals that can provide a reference/ letter of recommendation
- Certificate of language proficiency (if required)

I am really excited! Where do I find open PhD positions?



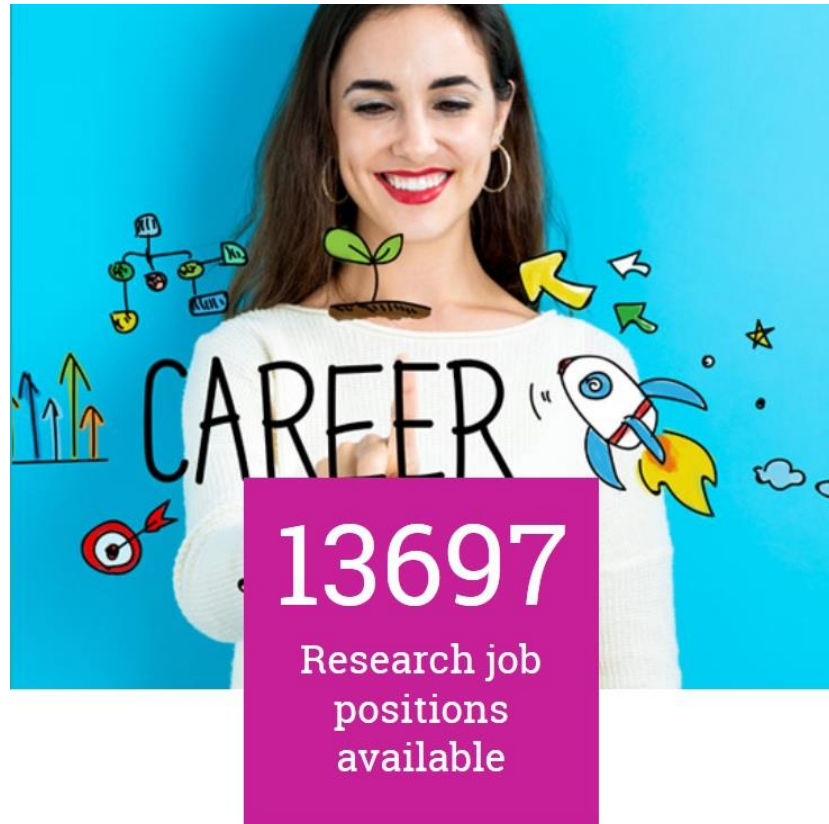
EURAXESS: RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

- **Free information & support for researchers wishing to pursue their research careers in Europe or looking for European research partners;**
- **Get connected to a growing global network of researchers of all disciplines!**



Job & funding portal

- Daily listing of **THOUSANDS** of **research jobs, fellowships & funding** offers in Europe;



EURAXESS



JOBS & FUNDING

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

PARTNERING

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

NATIONAL PORTALS

EURAXESS WORLDWIDE

MY EURAXESS

EXTRANET



Search for jobs

Enter keywords

RESEARCH FIELD

RESEARCHER PROFILE

SECTOR

COUNTRY

EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME

1 selected

- FP7 (4)
- FP7 / Ideas-ERC (4)
- FP7 / People-Marie Curie Actions (1)
- FP7 / People-Marie Curie Actions COFUND (2)
- H2020 (214)
- H2020 / EIT (2)
- H2020 / ERC (77)
- H2020 / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (258)

SEARCH

NEED HELP?



Meet our MSCA Fellows!



euraxess
HELPS YOU SUCCEED!

What is the MSCA IF and how can you benefit?



Marie Curie
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euraxess
HELPS YOU SUCCEED!



MSCA - Individual Fellowships

- **Annual Call for proposals**
- Opening date to be confirmed
- most likely in April with closing date in September 2021
- Preparation time: 4-6 months!

MSCA - Individual Fellowships are:

- Personal postdoctoral fellowships to support a period of mobility
- Fully-funded for 1 to 2 years
- Academic or non-academic host
- A comprehensive career development tool

Which research topics are funded?



MSCA - Individual Fellowships are:

- Open to all domains of research and innovation chosen freely by the researcher
- Bottom-up principle

Who can apply for a MSCA - Individual Fellowship?



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MSCA - Individual Fellowships are:

- Open to all nationalities!
- Open to all academic disciplines!
- No age or experience limit!

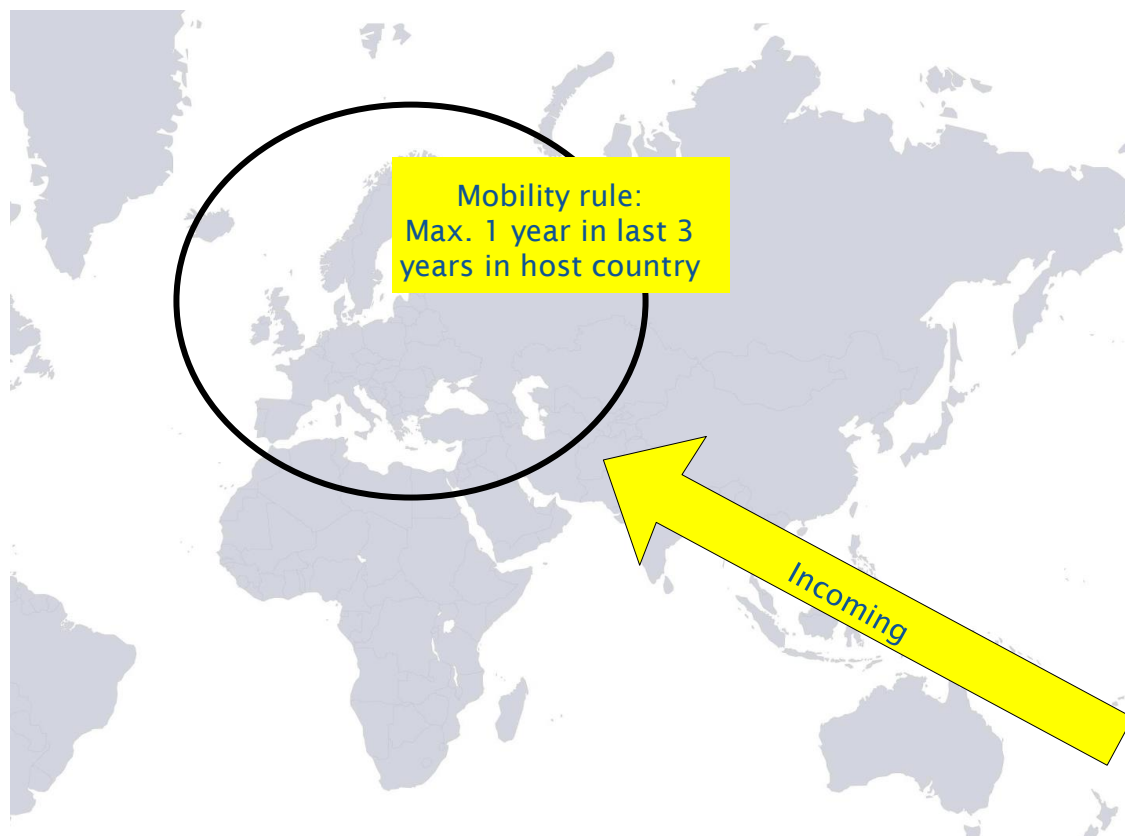
Eligibility Criterion 1 - Qualifications

Experienced Researchers (ER):

PhD or at least 4 years of research experience at the relevant deadline for submission of proposals

- Open to experienced researchers
- No upper age or experience limit
- However ... must demonstrate career progression

Eligibility criterion 2 – Mobility



European
Fellowships –
Moving to Europe

12-24 months

Mobility rule
applies

Where can I go to with a European Fellowship?



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Mobility to ...

27 EU Members

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

16 Associated Countries

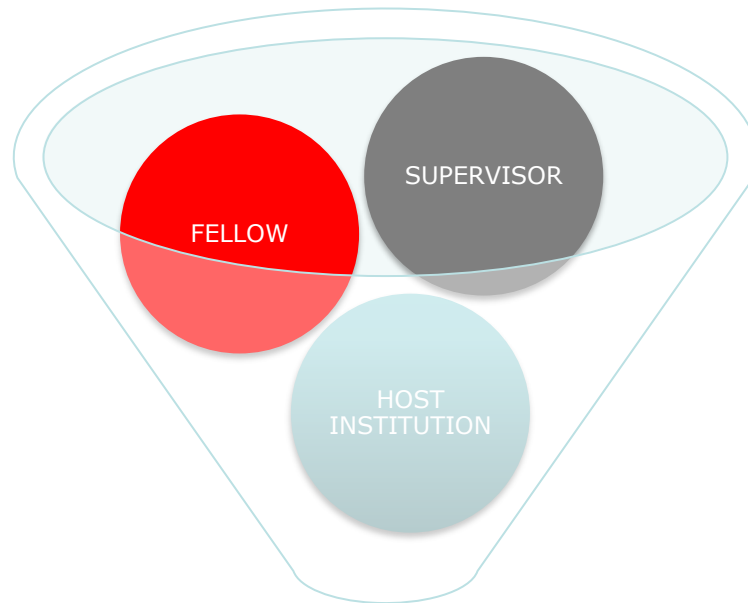
Albania, Armenia, Bosnia &
Herzegovina, Faroe Islands,
FYROM, Georgia, Iceland, Israel,
Liechtenstein, Moldova,
Montenegro, Norway, Serbia,
Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

*(Involvement of UK in 2021 call
to be decided)*

What else is unique about the MSCA - Individual Fellowship?



MSCA IF are a joint effort!



MSCA IF proposals
are a **joint effort**
between **Fellow**
and the **Host**
(supervisor)

**INDIVIDUAL
FELLOWSHIP**

What type of host institution can you chose?



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MSCA Fellows can be hosted by public or private sector research actors

- universities
- research institutes
- private companies

- Secondments are possible to and from the non-academic sector: 3 – 6 months
 - Can spend up to 6 months (in total) working in another organisation (ideally in another sector) in Europe.
 - Opportunity to link with industry, NGO, public sector, national archive etc.

What are the evaluation criteria for an MSCA Individual Fellowship?



1

• **Excellence**

2

• **Impact**

3

• **Implementation**

4

• Researcher's CV (5 pages max)

5

• Capacities of the host(s) - Tables

6

• Ethics issues

7

• Letters of Commitment (GF only)



10 pages
max

What is funded by the MSCA Individual Fellowship?



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Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researcher PER MONTH			Institutional costs PER MONTH	
	Living allowance (a)	Mobility allowance (b)	Family allowance (c)	Research, training and networking costs (a)	Management and indirect costs (b)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action					
IF (100%)	4 650	600	500	800	650

- Fellow's Salary = Living Allowance + Mobility Allowance (+ Family Allowance)
- Estimated Gross Salary (prior to employee's tax, social security and pension deductions)
 - €55,000 p.a. (no family allowance)
 - €60,000 p.a. (with family allowance)

* Budget for 2021 call to be decided



Wait!

Did you know that
there are other MSCA-
funded Postdoc
opportunities
available?

Apply for a PhD or Postdoctoral Fellowship in a MSCA-funded Research Consortium

- ***EC-funded research consortia in various scientific disciplines***
- ***Dedicated to training next generation of scientific experts in specific fields***
- ***PhD opportunities and Postdoctoral Fellowships on offer***

Application

MSCA Individual Fellowships (MSCA-IF)

*1 Call per year
Budget per call ~500 million EUR*

*Application via online application
tool (Participant Portal)*

MSCA Funded PhD and Postdoc Fellowships

Several Calls throughout the year

*Application directly with the
research consortium*

*All open calls advertised on
EURAXESS Jobs*

Where do I find more information?



MSCA website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/msca>

Participant Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>

EURAXESS ASEAN Portal



<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/asean>

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