



## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships

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# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- Part of EU's Horizon Europe funding programme
- Postdoctoral Fellowships (previously Individual Fellowships) include:
  - **European Fellowships**
    - Researchers moving within/to Europe\*
    - 1-2 years
  - **Global Fellowships**
    - Researchers moving outside Europe\*
    - 1-2 years in 3<sup>rd</sup> country plus 1 year in Europe\*
  - Both can include secondments/non-academic placements
  - Fixed funding amount (salary, institutional costs, research expenses)
- \* = or associated countries, inc. the UK

# Eligibility

- PhD awarded by application deadline (or complete but formal award not yet taken place)
- Max. 8 years' research experience since PhD award
  - not counting non-research work or career breaks
- Must not have lived in country (EF) or studied/worked at host organisation (GF) for more than 1 year out of 3 immediately before application deadline
- European Fellowships: any nationality
- Global Fellowships: nationals/residents of EU/associated countries

# The application: first steps

- Key elements of proposal:
  - mobility – why move to that location/host?
  - skills acquisition – concrete (e.g. training course) and/or more ‘nebulous’ (e.g. learning new methodologies)
  - longer-term career benefits
- Fit with host institution & supervisor very important
  - formally, the application is a joint one between researcher and host
  - each should confer benefits on the other
  - contact them early in the process!
  - NB many institutions will have internal selection processes before MCSA submission

# The application: the admin parts

- Part A: essential details
  - your details and supervisor's details
  - project title/acronym/abstract
  - ethics questionnaire
  - research field keywords (v. general, to help selecting assessors)
- Part B2: supporting information
  - your CV (c. 5 pages)
  - “capacity of participating organisations”: supervisor's credentials, org's facilities, involvement in other EU-funded projects
  - letters of commitment from partner organisations (hosts of GFs or of non-academic placements)

# The application: research proposal

- Part B1: research proposal, max. 10 pages
- Use the headings & sub-headings provided in the template
- Sections:
  - 1) Excellence – quality and innovation of research, methodology, training & 2-way knowledge transfer, researcher's experience
  - 2) Impact – enhancing researcher's career/developing skills, dissemination & communication, scientific/economic/societal impacts (“creating new knowledge” counts!; NB not AHRC-style “impact”)
  - 3) Implementation – work plan (inc. Gantt chart), risk assessment/mitigation, hosting arrangements
- Be specific in details; cross-refer between sections; bullet points are your friends!

# Sources of information/help

- For links and more info, see [www.cutt.ly/mariecurie](http://www.cutt.ly/mariecurie)
- EU MSCA website (application docs & templates, guide for applicants, etc)
- Host institution's Research Support team (technical advice on applications)
- National Contact Point for host country (ditto)
- Net4Mobility+ (FAQs about programme/applications)
- Supervisors/colleagues who have supervised MSCA projects/assessed applications
- Previous/current MSCA fellows – feel free to get in touch!  
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