Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Individual Fellowships Workshop

Research Service - UPF
16th May 2017
Overview

Excellent Science
- European Research Council (ERC)
- Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
- Research Infrastructures

Industrial Leadership
- Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) - ICT, KETs, Space
- Access to Risk Finance
- Innovation in SMEs

Societal Challenges
- Health and Wellbeing
- Food security
- Transport
- Energy
- Climate action
- Societies
- Security

Widening Participation; Science with and for Society
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- EURATOM
- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
MSCA objectives

• Support of the best researchers’ career path at all stages
• **Mobility**: triple “I” dimension (Intersectoral, International & Interdisciplinary)
• Acquisition of new and **complementary skills**
• Strong **industry participation**
• Excellent **working conditions**, **gender balance** and open recruitment
• Communication and public engagement activities
• **Bottom-up approach**
IF Overview

Goal
Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of experienced researchers by providing them with opportunities to acquire new knowledge, work on research projects in a European context or outside Europe.

Scope
Awarded to the **best researchers** or those who are the **most promising**. Focused on **career development**, not on experience.

Expected impact
Extracting the full potential from researchers and **achieve a significant leap** in their careers to broaden or deepen their competences.
Transversal concepts

- Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI);

- Open Access: as open as possible, as closed as necessary;

- Gender aspects explicitly indicated under the Excellence award criterion.
Gender dimension

Integrating the gender dimension in research content means taking into account:

• the biological characteristics of both females and males (sex) and
• the evolving social and cultural features of women and men, girls and boys (gender).
Gender dimension

Integrating the gender dimension in R&I

• leads to an in-depth understanding of citizens’ needs, behaviours and attitudes,
• is an added value in terms of excellence and innovation

Thus, it enhances the societal relevance of the knowledge, technologies and innovations produced and contributes to the production of goods and services better suited to potential markets.

*Being blind to potential differences of sex and gender may result in missed opportunities, with certain groups of people being left out, poorly accommodated etc.*
What do MSCA-IF Grants offer?

- **Monthly flat rates:**
  - **Living allowance:** EUR 4.650 (In Spain: 4.538,40)
  - **Mobility allowance:** EUR 600
  - **Family allowance:** EUR 500 (determined at the submission deadline)

- **Research, training and networking costs:** EUR 800
- **Management and indirect costs:** EUR 650

* taxes may be subtracted
Eligibility

Researchers that are in possession of a **doctoral degree** or have at least **4 years of full-time equivalent research experience**.

To be fulfilled at the **deadline for the submission** of proposals: **14/09/2017**

**What is required:**

- The applicant
- A supervisor
- A Host Organisation (+ partner organizations for secondments)

*Fellowships will be awarded to the **most talented** researchers as shown by the proposed research and their track record in relation to their level of experience: “YOU COMPETE WITH YOUR PEERS”*
Types of MSCA IF Grants

1. European Fellowships (EFs)
   - Standard European Fellowships
   - Career Restart Panel (CAR)
   - Reintegration Panel (RI)

2. Global Fellowships (GFs)

A researcher (ER) can only submit one proposal.
### Types of MSCA - IF Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Fellowships</th>
<th>Global Fellowships</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 12-24 months</td>
<td>• 12-24 months plus 12 months return phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• From any country to MS/AC</td>
<td>• Secondment from MS/AC to third country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Separate multi-disciplinary panels for <strong>Career Restart</strong>, <strong>Reintegration</strong> and <strong>Society</strong> and <strong>Enterprise</strong></td>
<td>• Mandatory 12 month return phase in Europe (not subject to mobility rule)</td>
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</table>
Mobility Rule

The researcher must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in the country of the host organisation for more than

12 months in the 3 years (EF, GF)
36 months in the 5 years (RI, CAR)

immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals (14/09/2017).
### Secondments vs. Short visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Secondment</strong></th>
<th><strong>Short visit</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aim at providing transfer of knowledge and training</td>
<td>Aim at gathering data and information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clear impact on the project and with a particular scope</td>
<td>Limited impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>An integral part of the research proposal – linked to the final results</td>
<td>Can only represent a small part of the action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planned in advance</td>
<td>Could be spontaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can be at more than one partner organization located in a MS/AC</td>
<td>The location where a short visit takes place can be chosen freely (if TC, please ensure compliance with H2020 Ethics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(country of Host Institution is allowed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific supervision arrangements at the partner organization</td>
<td>The work done is supervised directly by the beneficiary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can be in the same sector (academic-academic), but expected to take place in</td>
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<tr>
<td>the non-academic sector</td>
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</table>
Secondments

- Must be meaningful and appropriate to the type of fellowship and research field
- Is allowed during any phase of the project to any entity of a MS/AC
- Can be a single period or split into shorter periods
- If you can’t specify the precise host organisation for the secondment in the proposal, must at least specify the sector (academic or non-academic), the timing and its purpose
- Entities with a capital or legal link can NOT host secondments
- No Letter of Commitment needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of the fellowship</th>
<th>Maximum duration of secondment</th>
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<tr>
<td>≤ 18 months</td>
<td>3 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 18 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
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</table>
Schedule

- **Preparation**
  - Deadline: 14 September 2017, 17:00 Brussels time

- **Proposal writing**
  - Results and ranking lists: February 2018

- **Evaluation**
  - Grant Agreement Signature: May 2018

- **Execution**
  - Project starts from May 2018
The Application

1. Register on the Participant Portal
2. Part A: online Administrative forms
3. Part B: Technical annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. EXCELLENCE
2. IMPACT
3. IMPLEMENTATION

4. CV OF THE EXPERIENCED RESEARCHER (max 5 pages)
5. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS
6. ETHICAL ASPECTS
7. LETTER OF COMMITMENT OF PARTNER ORGANISATION (GF only)
Excellence

1.1 Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects.

1.2 Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host.

1.3 Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution.

1.4 Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence.
Impact

2.1 Enhancing the **potential and future career prospects** of the researcher.

2.2 Quality of the proposed measures to **exploit** and **disseminate** the action results.

2.3 Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences.
### 3.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work package</td>
<td>WP 1.1</td>
<td>WP 1.1</td>
<td>WP 1.1</td>
<td>WP 1.1</td>
<td>WP 1.2</td>
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<td>WP 1.4</td>
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<td>WP 3.1</td>
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<td>Deliverables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milestones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
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<td>WP 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissemination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings with minority groups</td>
<td>WP 2.2</td>
<td>WP 2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project management and Training</td>
<td>WP 0</td>
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*Note: The table above shows the work plan for different months, with tasks like deliverables, milestones, conferences, dissemination, and meetings with minority groups.*
3.2 Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources

3.3 Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management

3.4 Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
CV

1. Publications in major, peer-reviewed conference proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, indicating also the number of citations
2. Granted patent(s).
3. Research monographs, chapters in collective volumes
4. Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools
5. Research expeditions that the Experienced Researcher has led
6. Organisation of International conferences in the field of the applicant (membership in the steering and/or programme committee)
7. Examples of participation in industrial innovation
8. Prizes and Awards
9. Funding received
10. Supervising and mentoring activities
## Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary X</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role and Commitment of key persons (supervisor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent research premises?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ethical Issues

Ethics Self-Assessment (Part B)

1) Describe how the proposal meets the EU and national legal and ethics requirements of the country/countries where the task raising ethical issues is to be carried out.

2) Explain in detail how you intend to address the ethical issues flagged, in particular with regard to:
   • The research objectives (e.g. study of vulnerable populations, cooperation with a Third Country, etc);
   • The research methodology (e.g. clinical trials, involvement of children and related information and consent/assent procedures, data protection and privacy issues related to data collected, etc.);
   • The potential impact of the research (e.g. dual use issues, environmental damage, malevolent use, etc.).
## Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>50%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>20%</th>
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**Weighing**

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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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</table>

Priority in case of *ex aequo*
General tips

Before you start, try to answer:

✓ Why is your project important?
✓ Why now?
✓ How will you do it?
✓ Why you?
✓ Is it really an European priority?

Artfully presenting your good science against the background of the underlying EU political priorities and mandates, and how your proposal addresses both, is a good points-scorer, especially when it comes to the prioritization of proposals in the ranking list and winning in the details.

Strike a ‘balance’ in your proposal between proving the good science in it, and at the same time make it a good marketing pitch.
General tips

✓ Revolve around a clear and simple idea;
✓ Choose an interdisciplinary project (with intersectoral secondments) if possible;
✓ Describe the state-of-the-art carefully;
✓ The project has to be highly innovative and ambitious, but realistic;
✓ Not a continuation of your dissertation;
✓ Has to add value in the specific field, for the career development of the researcher and the EU at large;
✓ Goals, methodology (advantages/disadvantages; risks and contingent alternatives), and work plan must be clear and consistent (content-wise and time-wise);
✓ At best: the results are applicable directly;
General tips

✓ Prepare a summary or diagram before you start writing, and follow it;
✓ Training through research (individual project);
✓ Additional scientific skills (new techniques, instruments etc.);
✓ Transferable skills (e.g. communication, IPR, entrepreneurship etc.);
✓ Opportunity to link with industry, NGO, public sector, national archive, etc.;
✓ Research and financial management of the fellowship;
✓ Organising and taking part in events (including public engagement);
✓ Training in gender and ethics issues;
✓ Must be managed by a Career Development Plan;
1.1 Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research

**Strengths**
- The project is innovative and will significantly contribute to answer currently unaddressed questions in the field.
- The applicant offers a sound overview of some of the important questions related to xxx.
- This research is very timely and relevant.
- The research objectives are clearly stated, and while ambitious in their purpose, realistic.
- The proposal addresses a relevant and timely research area for the EU.
- The topic is relevant from an academic multidisciplinary perspective, but also from the point of view of relevant EU policies.
- The state-of-the-art is adequately addressed. There is potential progress beyond the state-of-the-art.
- Project is hypothesis driven, the hypothesis is original that ensures high project credibility.
- The project is clearly inter- and multidisciplinary.

**Weaknesses**
- Most recent international results/developments are not mentioned
- There is insufficient detail regarding the originality of the proposal approach.
- The proposal provides only a modest level of innovation.
- There is insufficient detail regarding the impact on European excellence.
1.2 Transfer of knowledge/Training

**Strengths**
- The applicant will gain knowledge in xxxx, skills which will complement the applicant’s background.
- At this stage of career, the research maturity of the applicant is illustrated by a good track-record of publications and participation to conferences. Furthermore the applicant has successful experience of teaching and mentoring, and fund raising.
- The potential for transfer of knowledge is very high since the applicant brings technical skills to the host.
- The applicant offers pertinent information on how their knowledge will be transferred to the host organisation.
- The proposed research provides a good carry-over of the applicant’s former achievements and will re-enforce his position of professional maturity.
- There is a good match between applicant’s expertise and the objectives of the project.

**Weaknesses**
- The nature of training in qualitative research is not sufficiently detailed in the proposal.
- The applicant does not provide sufficient detailed information on the duration and execution dates of the different actions described in relation to training and transfer of knowledge.
1.3 Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements

**Strengths**

- The qualifications and experience of the supervisor are demonstrated. The supervisor is an established international scholar in the field of the proposed research (demonstrated by publication list, international collaborations, teaching experience).
- The supervisor at the host institute is a world-wide leading expert in xxx fields.
- The institutional environment is very good and the research environment is stimulating for this interdisciplinary project.
- The host institution is providing to the applicant adequate resources to support the development of an independent career.
- The hosting arrangements are addressed with appropriate detail.
- The host laboratory provides very high quality infrastructure and state of the art facilities.
- The Hosting institution has multidisciplinary academic capacities related to the research topic.
- The host maintains also several international collaborations with leading groups in the field.
- The host shows a consolidated experience in setting up practical arrangements for the implementation and management of projects.
- Measures for protecting intellectual property have been considered in sufficient detail.

**Weaknesses**

- The opportunity for creating new long term collaborations is not outlined.
1.4 Capacity of the researcher to reach/reinforce a position of professional maturity in research

**Strengths**

- The Applicant has demonstrated extensive teaching and relevant research experience in fields related to this proposal.
- The fellow’s record of publications in relevant issues is of high quality and the teaching and research experience show someone with high capacities and qualities for engaging in a high quality project.
- Leadership qualities are sufficiently highlighted by the applicant and are convincing.
- The potential for reaching a position of professional maturity in research through this fellowship is sufficiently demonstrated by the applicant.

**Weaknesses**

- It is not clear how the fellowship will reinforce the applicant’s professional maturity.
2. Impact

**Strengths**
- The interdisciplinary aspects of the proposed research are highlighted by the Applicant.
- The Applicant has very clear training objectives and they clearly presents what kind of new knowledge they will gain from the hosting organization during the fellowship.
- The project will clearly contribute to the career development of the researcher.
- This project will increase the potential of the researcher to become an independent principal investigator in the future.
- Outreach activities targeted at audiences beyond the research community are adequately covered.
- Communication of the action including a blog, articles in the general media on the topic, and lectures in secondary schools is adequate for the proposed project.
- Dissemination strategy of the research results is very good.
- Plans for dissemination activities and engagement with the wider public are sufficiently detailed and adequate.
- The software developed as part of the research will be provided as free and open source through a website.
- The outreach activities for engagement of the general public, dissemination of knowledge within scientific community and intellectual property issues are well described.

**Weaknesses**
- There is insufficient detail regarding the implementation of the proposed outreach activities.
- Insufficient reference is made to electronic dissemination channels.
- It is not clear how the proposal will benefit the European society.
3. Implementation

**Strengths**

The infrastructures and facilities at the host institution are in line with the needs set out for the execution of the project.

The Hosting institution has extensive experience in integrating Marie Curie Fellows.

- The host has access to a very good state-of-the-art infrastructure, which will be critical for completion of the project.
- There are complementary competencies between the researcher and the host, which will help the successful implementation of the project.
- The distribution of the responsibilities between the applicant and the Hosting institution is sufficiently described.
- The general methodological aspects for the development of the project are soundly based on previous experience of the group.
- The work plan is realistic and convincingly addresses the research objectives. It also includes adequate milestones and deliverables supporting the feasibility of the project.

- Feasibility and credibility of the project is clearly described in detail, including detailed feasible work plan with milestones.
- The list of deliverables proposed by the Applicant is impressive.
- The Applicant offers enough evidence to demonstrate that the fellowship has a maximum chance of successful outcome.
- The project organization and management structure are addressed with sufficient detail and are adequate to the proposed project. Progress monitoring mechanisms are planned.
- Potential risks have been outlined and satisfactory alternative strategies/ contingency plan are proposed.

**Weaknesses**

- The research objectives are not very well linked with the research methodology.
- There is insufficient detail regarding the description of Work Packages.
- The work plan is not coherent.
- Insufficient information is given about the financial management and progress monitoring. The measures for quality control and monitoring the progress of the project are not sufficiently well described.
- The potential risks are only marginally addressed.
Thank you for your attention!

WE ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL

projectes.recerca@upf.edu

SUBJECT: MSCA-IF – DEPARTMENT –