Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships
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Irish Universities Association
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Presentation Content

- Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office
- MSCA in Horizon 2020
- MSCA-IF
- New Features
- Researcher and Host Organisation Requirements
- Types of IF
- Structure
- Intersectoral Mobility
- Benefits for supervisors hosting fellows
- Application and Evaluation
- Seal of excellence
- Support offered by the IMSCO
Irish Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions Office

Sponsored by the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland

- **Promote** MSCA to Irish researchers, research organisations and non-academic organisations
- **Support** researchers in preparing funding applications
- **Contribute** to policy initiatives relevant to the Actions

Two staff members:
- Dr. Geraldine Canny-Head of IMSCO and National Contact Point
- Grace McCarthy-MSCA Programme Manager (SFI Centres)
MSCA in Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

1. Excellent Science
   - European Research Council
   - Future and Emerging Technologies
   - Marie Curie Actions
   - Research Infrastructures

2. Industrial Leadership
   - Leadership in Enabling & Industrial Technologies
     - Information and communication technologies
     - Nanotechnologies
     - Advanced materials
     - Biotechnology
     - Advanced manufacturing and processing
     - Space
   - Access to Risk Finance
   - Innovation in SME

3. Societal Challenges
   - 7 Challenges
     - Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
     - Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy
     - Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
     - Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
     - Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
     - Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies
     - Secure Societies – Protecting Freedom and Security of Europe and its Citizens

Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Widening Participation
Science with & for Society
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
Joint Programming P2P
Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI)s P2B
MSCA in Horizon 2020

Budget: €6.2 billion (€2.87 billion for 2018-2020)

Funds **ALL RESEARCH AREAS**
(no thematic calls or priorities)

Implemented via Annual Calls for Proposals

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**Marie S-Curie Actions**

- Training
- Mobility
- International Intersectoral
Two Sectors in MSCA

Academic
- Higher Education Institutions
- Public Research Organisations
- Private-Non-Profit Research Organisations

Non-Academic
- Industry
- CSOs
- Government/Public Sector
- Other

Participation by the non-academic sector is necessary
Mobility leads to greater impact

**OPEN COUNTRIES HAVE IMPACT**
Nations with more scientists coming in and going out produce papers that are more highly cited (all figures are for 2013).

*Based on field-weighted citations; †Determined by numbers of scientists emigrating from, immigrating to and returning to a country, plus international co-authorships; ‡Publications are assigned to a country according to the proportion of co-authors based there.*
MSCA-Individual Fellowships

**Deadlines:**
12 Sep 2018
11 Sep 2019

- **Fully funds** experienced researchers for up to two years to carry out a research project.

- As of 2018, **part-time fellowships** can be requested by experienced researchers, except during the outgoing phase of the Global Fellowships.
New Features in MSCA-IF

**Career Restart European Fellowships:** the duration is between 12 and 36 months.

**Global Fellowships:** Fellows now have the possibility to spend up to 3 months at their European host before going abroad. This period is part of the outgoing phase to ensure a smooth transfer of knowledge when returning to Europe.

**Part-time work:** Fellows have the opportunity to pursue supplementary activities in parallel to their MSCA fellowship, for example, create their own business or follow advanced studies.

**Widening Fellowships:** Fellows applying for an MSCA European Fellowship in so-called Widening countries have a second chance through Widening Fellowships under the Work Programme "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation”

**Career Restart Panel & Reintegration Panel** will now have a higher chance of success due to budget increase.
Researcher Requirements

- **Research Experience**: Researcher must have at least 4 yrs. research experience or a PhD before the call deadline.

- **Mobility Rule**: The type of fellowship (explained in next slides) determine which of the two mobility rules are applicable.
  - **General Rule**: cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where you have lived for >12 months in the 3 years before the call deadline
  - **Relaxed Mobility Rule**: cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where you have lived for >3 years in the 5 years before the call deadline
## Types of Individual Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Fellowships</th>
<th>Global Fellowships (max. 36 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STANDARD</strong> - max. 24 months:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• General Mobility Rule (12 months in 3 yrs.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAREER RESTART</strong> – max. 36 months:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Researcher took career break &gt; 12 months before deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relaxed Mobility Rule (36 months in 5 yrs.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REINTEGRATION</strong> - max. 24 months:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EU citizen or long-term resident (&gt;5 years) living &amp; working outside EU can return to do a EU-IF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relaxed Mobility Rule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIETY &amp; ENTERPRISE</strong> - max. 24 months:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Researcher carries out fellowship in the non-academic sector (company, charity etc)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relaxed Mobility Rule</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Researcher can go to a host outside of the EU for 12-24 months and return to the EU host organisation for at least 12 months
- Must be a EU citizen or long-term resident
- **General Mobility Rule** applies to non-EU country only
# IF 2017 Success Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Action</th>
<th>IE Success Rate</th>
<th>EU Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Restart</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reintegration</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society &amp; Enterprise</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Fellowships</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>20.30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Host Organisation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>• Appropriate research and/or innovation <strong>facilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Development</strong></td>
<td>• Provide training for <strong>transferable and research specific skills</strong> e.g. training programmes, secondments, on the job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R&amp;D Achievements</strong></td>
<td>• Publications, patents, policy interventions, trade secrets, new products (including software) or processes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Supervision of Researcher** | • Experience in the area of research  
  • Past managerial/supervisory experience  
  • 2 Supervisors to complement each other (Business & research focused) |
| **Financial Viability**       | • Sufficient liquidity; financial autonomy; solvent; profitable           |
**European Fellowship Structure**

**Application Preparation**

**Optional European Secondment Host**
- **Partner Organisation:**
  - Provide secondments and/or training
  - Secondment Supervisor
  - Reimbursed by beneficiary

**Required European Main Host**
- **Beneficiary:**
  - Employs & hosts the researcher 12-24 months
  - Primary Supervisor
  - Claims grant & pays researcher

**Required Experienced Researcher**
- **Post-PhD or >4 years FT research experience**

**Mobility Rule:**
- General mobility (Standard IF)
- Relaxed mobility (Reintegration, Career restart, society & enterprise)
Global Fellowship Structure

Application Preparation

**Required**

Third Country (TC) Host

TC Partner Organisation:
- Host researcher for 12-24 months at beginning of IF
- TC Supervisor
- Reimbursed by beneficiary

**Required**

European Main Host

Beneficiary:
- Claims grant & pays researcher when on TC secondment
- Hosts researcher for 12 months after TC secondment

**Required**

Experienced Researcher

- Post-PhD or >4 years FT research experience

**Mobility Rule:**
- General rule for organisation in TC
- Must be a long-term resident of the main host country (>5 years)
How it works

European Fellowships

Researcher applies with European host → Host signs contract with EC → Host claims grant & employs researcher

Global Fellowships

Researcher applies with European host → European host signs contract with EC → European Host claims grant & employs researcher

Supported by non-European host

Non-European host signs agreement with European host

Researcher seconded to non-European host

NB* To submit the project proposal, you need to check your host organisation has a Participant Identification Code (PIC) for H2020 submissions
Intersectoral Mobility

Secondments
• Spending time in another organisation during the fellowship as part of research project (max. 6 months)

Structured and hands on training
• If your host is in the non-academic sector you can organise training within the academic sector e.g. training course on IP/communication skills.
• If you are in the academic sector you can receive hands on training in the non-academic sector.

Short visits
• Spontaneous trips outside your organisation e.g. data collection, conferences, workshops etc.

Co-Supervision
• Additional supervisor to complement your main supervisor’s expertise
Planning an IF Application

IF Structure
- Experienced researcher
- Host organisation with a dedicated supervisor
- Partner (optional EF) or TC partner (required GF)

Develop a research project
- Suits your organisations’ needs
- Implemented by researcher
- Excellent supervision

Plan Career Development
- **Training** - Transferable & research skills
- **Secondments** - Partner organisation
- **Hands on training** - Research project
More than just a research project; a career development fellowship

- Training through research (individual project)
- Additional scientific skills (new techniques, instruments etc.)
- Transferable skills (e.g. communication, IPR, entrepreneurship etc.)
- Interdisciplinary/inter-sectoral transfer of knowledge
- Research and financial management of the fellowship
- Organising and taking part in events (including public engagement)
- Training in gender, ethics issues, open science

**Must be managed by a Career Development Plan**
Benefits for Supervisors

- Opportunity to build her/his team
- Attract excellent, well-rounded researcher with complementary skills -> knowledge transfer-> publications
- Training and leadership track record improved
- Network extended -> worldwide collaborations
IF Funding Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF eligible costs</th>
<th>Costs of researchers (1) PER MONTH</th>
<th>Institutional costs (2) PER MONTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living allowance</td>
<td>Mobility allowance</td>
<td>Family allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€4,880</td>
<td>€600</td>
<td>€500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance. This coefficient is the one applicable to the country of the beneficiary (Ireland - 115.6%)
Part B1 & Part B2 Templates

Template - Part B1 (10 pages*)

• 1. Excellence
• 2. Impact
• 3. Implementation

NB-Evaluators will disregard any excess pages above the 10-page limit.

Template- Part B2 (no page limit)

• 4. CV of the Experienced Researcher (5 pages)
• Capacities of the participating organisations (1 page for the overview* and 1 page for each participating organisation)
• 6. Ethical Aspects
• 7. Letters of Commitment (GF only)

*New requirement in MSCA-IF 2018
Application headings Part B1

- It is not just about the research!
- Application requires input from researcher, supervisor(s) & host organisation(s).
- Each **subheading** must be addressed in order to be successful.

**Excellence headings**
1.1 Quality of the Research
1.2 Quality of the Training
1.3 Quality of supervision & host organisation(s)
1.4 Quality of the researcher

**Impact headings**
2.1 Impact on future career prospects
2.2 Exploitation & dissemination
2.3 Communication & public engagement

**Implementation headings**
3.1 Workplan
3.2 Management Structure
3.3 Institutional environment

*NB. See application template for full headings*
## Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Priority (ex-aequo)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellence</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall threshold of 70%

No individual thresholds

About more than just the science.....
Evaluation Panels

- Proposals are evaluated and scored by 3 experts in the field
- Consensus meeting to agree scores and comments
- 8 disciplinary evaluation panels:
  - Chemistry (CHE)
  - Physics (PHY)
  - Mathematics (MAT)
  - Life Sciences (LIF)
  - Economic Sciences (ECO)
  - Information Sciences and Engineering (ENG)
  - Social Sciences & Humanities (SOC)
  - Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
Seal of Excellence

The commission will award a ‘Seal of Excellence’ to any MSCA applicant scoring 85% or higher.

The MSCA Seal of Excellence does not guarantee funding by any Irish funding body but can be used by applicants in their CVs for subsequent funding applications.
Examples of Irish IF-2016

- **LIF**: Microbiota-immune interaction in colorectal cancer
- **CHE**: Polyester/Polypeptide hybrid biomaterials for biomedical scaffolds
- **ENG**: Knowledge Discovery in Data as Collaboration of Human and Software Actors
- **PHY**: Excited and exotic hadron resonances from Quantum Chromodynamics
- **SOC**: Linked Irish Traditional Music Project

*Examples shown can be found on the European Commission [project & results service](#)*
### Support offered by the Irish MSCA Office

**Inform** organisations on upcoming calls/events (Emails to ROs & LinkedIn)

**Handbooks** (on IUA website 2 months prior to deadline)

**Personalised support** for MSCA applications (ITN and COFUND)

**Proposal review** (via Research offices)

**Training Webinars** for specific calls (recordings on IUA website and YouTube)

**Proposal writing workshops** for IF call for incoming fellows
Thank you!
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