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MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Research Fellowship Programme

(From an evaluator perspective)

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions support researchers at all stages of their careers, regardless of age and nationality. Researchers working across all disciplines are eligible for funding. The MSCA also support cooperation between industry and academia and innovative training to enhance employability and career development.

SOURCE: Jean-Bernard VEYRET *Head of ENV Unit, 2014*

European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

ITN
Innovative Training Networks

What does it offer?
High-quality research training delivered through international and interdisciplinary networks, industrial doctorates or joint doctorates

Who applies?
International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral level (less than four years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)

Call details:
Opened: 11 December 2013
Closes: 09 April 2014 at 17.00.00 CET
Budget: € 405.18 million

IF
Individual Fellowships

What does it offer?
Opportunities to work on personal research projects by moving between countries and possibly sectors to acquire new skills

Who applies?
Individual researchers together with the host organisation

Who is funded?
Postdoctoral researchers

Call details:
Opens: 12 March 2014
Closes: 11 September 2014 at 17.00.00 CET
Budget: € 240.50 million

RISE
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

What does it offer?
The exchange of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and the transfer of knowledge

Who applies?
International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

Who is funded?
Researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff of any nationality and at all career levels

Call details:
Opened: 11 December 2013
Closes: 24 April 2014 at 17.00.00 CET
Budget: € 70 million

COFUND
Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

What does it offer?
Regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

Who applies?
Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level

Call details:
Opens: 10 April 2014
Closes: 02 October 2014 at 17.00.00 CET
Budget: € 80 million

European Commission | Research Executive Agency

Evaluation process of IF (Individual Fellowships)

OPEN CALLS

DEADLINE
11/09/2019

Individual Fellowships 2019

MSCA-IF-2019

Published on: 10/04/2019

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/get-funding_en

TYPES OF INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

There are two types of Individual Fellowships:

- European Fellowships
- Global Fellowships

European Fellowships:

- are open to researchers moving within Europe, as well as those coming in from other parts of the world.
- can restart a research career after a break, such as parental leave.
- can help researchers coming back to Europe find a new position.

These Fellowships are held in the EU or associated countries and last for one to two years.

Global Fellowships

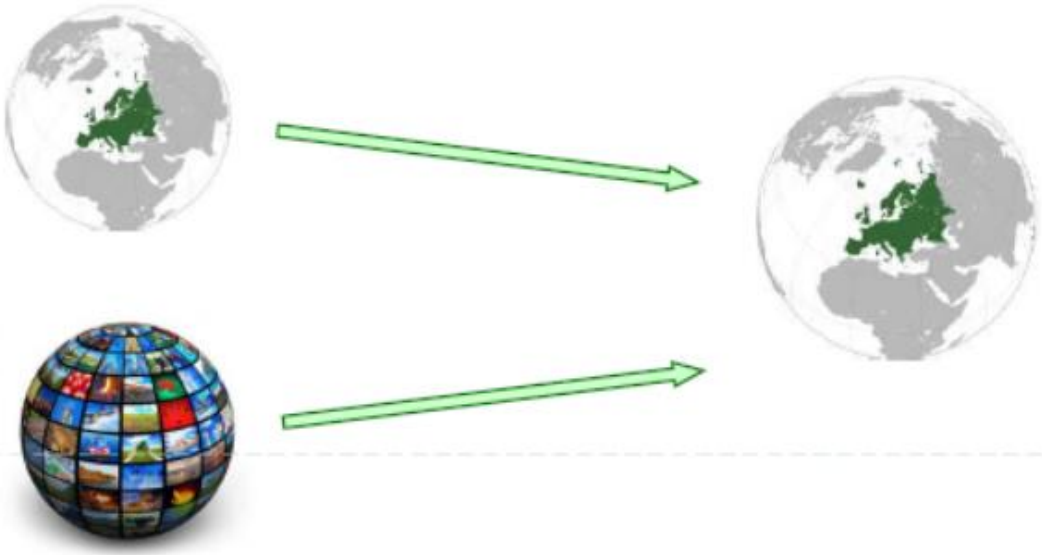
- fund positions outside Europe for researchers based in the EU or associated countries.
- last between two and three years.
- the researcher has to come back for one year to an organisation based in the EU or associated countries.

Both types of Fellowship can also include a **secondment period** of up to three or six months in another organisation in Europe.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/individual-fellowships_en

European Commission

Evaluate transfer of knowledge



European Fellowships

For fellows coming to or moving within Europe (12-24 months)

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Evaluate training

12 months

EU or associated countries

Global Fellowships

12-24 months

For fellows coming from Europe to train abroad and come back (24-36 months)

Evaluation of secondments

Instructions to external experts **Secondments / partner organisaons:**

in case of secondments and collaborations with other institutons

- evaluate their pertinence (do they make sense? Will they be beneficial for the researcher and/or the project?)
- check if the institutions' role, capacity, etc is fully and adequately addressed.
- be reminded that they are not compulsory, you must not penalise proposals that do not have secondments or partner organisations.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This action is for **experienced researchers** from across the world.

Applicants need a doctoral degree or at least four years' full-time research experience by the time of the call deadline.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

All research areas can be funded. MSCA Fellows come from a wide variety of disciplines – from physics to linguistics, and from health-sciences to mathematical modelling.

WHAT THE FUNDING COVERS

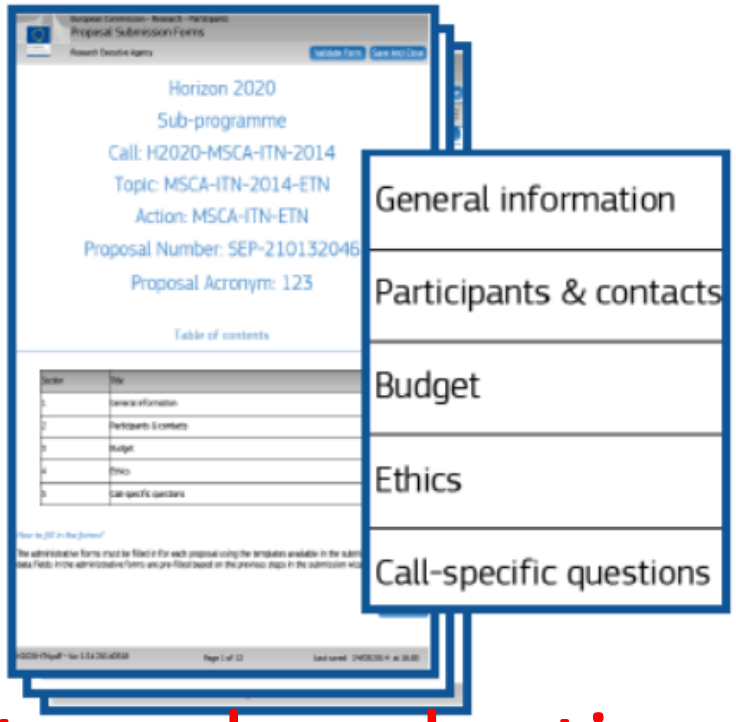
The grant provides an **allowance to cover living, travel and family costs**. In addition, the EU contributes to the training, networking and research costs of the fellow, as well as to the management and indirect costs of the project. The grant is awarded to the host organisation, usually a university, research centre or a company in Europe.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/individual-fellowships_en

Structure of proposals

European Commission

Part A
- structured data -



Part B
- description of action -

elligibility: internal evaluation

external experts

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EVALUATION PANELS

- 1. In ITN, IF and RISE, proposals will normally be **evaluated by** one of eight 'main evaluation **panels**': Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic, Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences, (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY).
- For IF, there are – in addition to the main evaluation panels – three separate multidisciplinary panels: Society and Enterprise Panel (SE), Career Restart Panel (CAR) and the ReintegrationPanel (RI).
- (there is a higher weighting for the proposals of the IF Career Restart Panel (CAR) and the IF Reintegration Panel (RI).

- Appreciation may vary between panels (science/applications…)
- Selective pressure differs between panels: if your project is at interface of two or more scientific area, consider the difference between selective pressure

Budget versus number of projects evaluated exemple IF 2014

IF 2014 - Overview

TOPICS	EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS			GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS	TOTAL
Budget	211.5 million			29 million	240.5 million
SCIENTIFIC PANEL	EF-ST	EF -CAR	EF - RI	GF	
CHE	708	46	30	70	854
ECO	129	12	15	31	187
ENG	665	34	71	148	918
ENV	712	55	52	193	1012
LIF	1487	109	182	257	2035
MAT	147	9	13	17	186
PHY	656	34	42	98	830
SOC	1030	126	61	233	1450
GRAND TOTAL	5334	425	466	1047	7472

What is evaluated by external experts

IF – Part B

European Commission

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EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

THE 3 award criteria

'excellence',
'impact'
'quality and efficiency of the implementation'

(see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013).

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5. Scores with a resolution of one decimal place may be awarded.

The total score will be subject to a threshold of 70%.

more on: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf

Overview of evaluation criteria

Award Criterion	Threshold	Weight	Priority if ex-aequo
Excellence	n/a	**50%**	**1**
Impact	n/a	30%	2
Implementation	n/a	20%	3
Total	70%		

2014

IF – Award criteria

European Commission

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	**Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives**	**Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for **communication** and **results dissemination**	**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures,** including quality management and risk management
Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements		**Appropriateness of the institutional environment** (infrastructure)
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research		**Competences, experience and complementarity** of the participating organisations **and institutional commitment**
Weighting		
50%	30%	20%
Priority in case of *ex aequo*		
1	2	3

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2019

IF: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	**Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship**	Coherence and effectiveness of **the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of **tasks and resources**
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way **transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and **disseminate** the project results	Appropriateness of the **management structure and procedures**, including risk management
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to **communicate** the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the **institutional environment** (infrastructure)
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Some more detailed criteria

- SCIENCE
  TRAINING
  APPLICANT
  IMPLEMENTATION
  IMPACT

	0	1	2	3	4	5
1. SCIENCE						
Quality						
Methods						
Innovation						
Timely						
Host						
Supervisor						
Other?						
2. TRAINING						
Objectives						
Quality						
Facilitation						
Other?						
3. APPLICANT						
Experience						
Output						
Qualities						
Match						
Potential						
Other?						
4. IMPLEMENT						
Facilities						
Collaboration						
Management						
Feasibility						
Arrangements						
Other?						
5. IMPACT						
Skills						
Collaboration						
Career						
ERA						
Outreach						
Other?						

Dissemination and exploitation of results

Good dissemination plans make it easier for new knowledge to reach its audience. They also show taxpayers that their money is being well spent.

Dissemination activities feed into **exploitation**, which is about using the scientific results in the commercial, industrial and policy-making worlds.

Try to take account of some of the following issues when developing your dissemination and exploitation strategies:

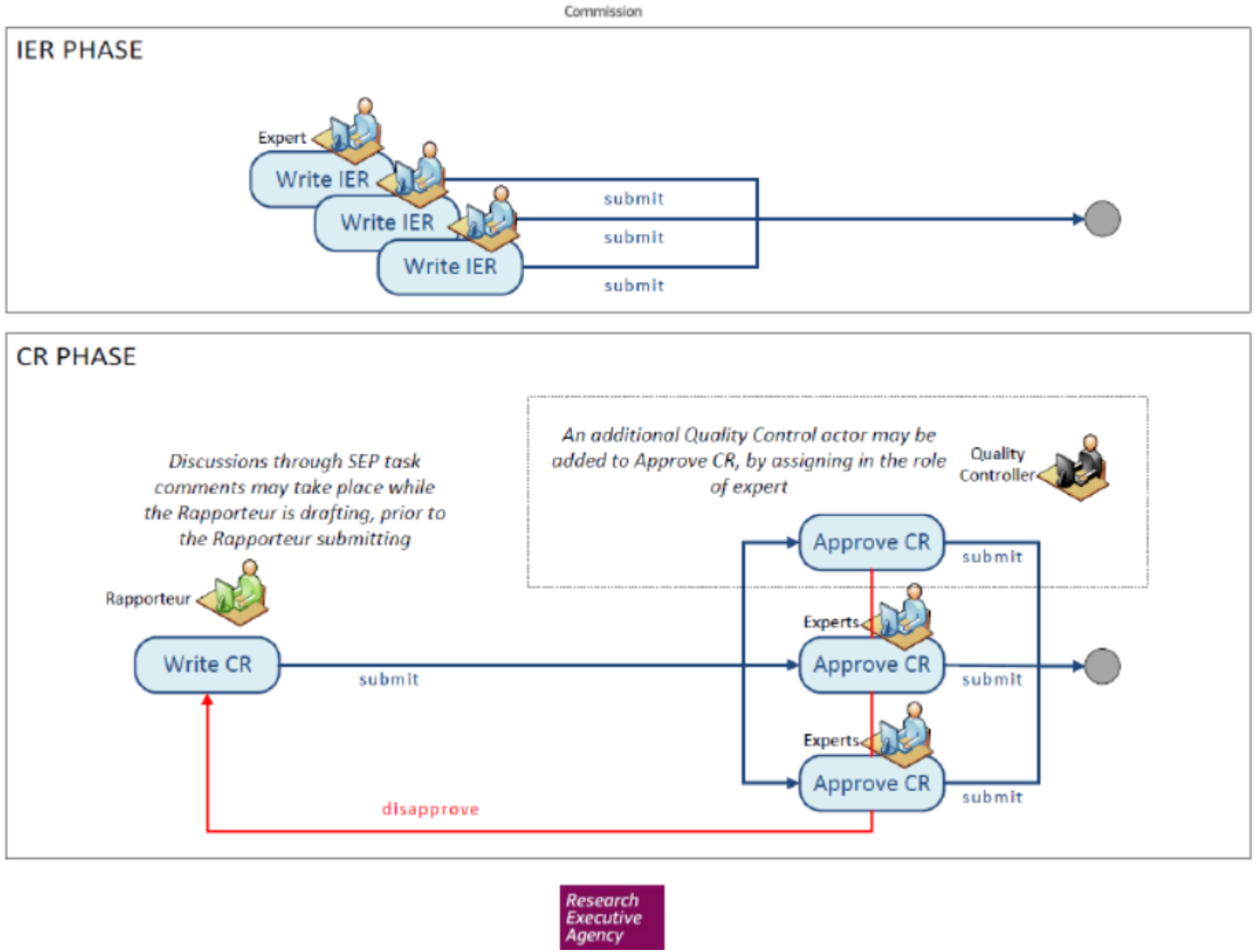
- Link your project to the **policy context** in the call for proposals;
- Involve **potential end-users** and **stakeholders** in your proposal;
- Say how you expect the **results** of your project to be **applied**;
- Show you understand the **barriers to any application** of your results.

Communicating your project

Project partners will also be expected to **promote the project** and its results to the media and the general public. Communication activities **must** be part of any project proposal.

A comprehensive **communication plan** should therefore define clear objectives adapted to a range of target audiences.

How is it evaluated



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Example of comments

Strengths:

- The S&T objectives of the research project are well presented and clearly structured.
- The partners have complementary expertise.
- The joint collaborative research programme is of good quality.
- The project is original and the state of the art is adequately presented.

Weaknesses:

- The methodology for the project is not fully convincing.
- The data collection strategy, potential sources of information and data accessibility are unclear.
- The proposals fails to sufficiently demonstrate that the consortium has the necessary expertise and capabilities to obtain the necessary information needed for the project.

More examples

Weaknesses of the proposal:

- The proposal is not specific enough to clearly show its innovative and original aspects.
- The contribution of the private sector is not described clearly.
- The connection between the basic research topics and the 3 translational projects is not well presented.

Weaknesses:

•There is insufficient information regarding the fit between the capacity of hosts and the size of support requested. In particular, the participation of SMEs is not well described in the proposal, especially considering the limited presentation of their facilities and human resources.

From an evaluator perspective

- Althought it is an individual application it aims at
  - Linking teams
  - bring a complementarity of research theme, competence, facilities
  - ->Optimize the use of ALL available facilities of the host institution (including scientific but also hosting facilities, language learning facilities …)

- Although it is a research project (fundamental or applied research) it has to
  - Present potential application/ Demonstrate an increase of employability and career developmentof the applicant (means not only in science)
  - Convince of general (cultural) interest for the general public

    ->Think of original dissemination perspectives, connect with scientific attachés organizing science fairs in varying countries, regional libraries, science museums, technical exhibitions for SMEs, radio, scientific movies….

- Stay realistic and convincing (why a secondment is beneficiary, which specific SME is involved, which radio or TV program is likely to disseminate your results, demonstrate that you or your institutions have previous contact
- Exemple https://www.nouvelobs.com/ce-soir-a-la-tv/20190404.OBS11114/voyage-sur-les-flots-celestes-cosmos-2019.html
- https://oceans.taraexpeditions.org/rp/exposition-locean-au-21eme-siecle/

Good luck!