

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Funding Opportunities

The Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) are the European Union's reference funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training; several funding opportunities will be announced between **12 April and 10 October 2023**. All fields of research and all countries are eligible, but you need to apply jointly with a host organisation of your choice.

You are encouraged to consider the following funding opportunities and use the six useful tips and guidance to start preparing your proposal (scroll down); a short, user-friendly and to-the-point video is also available (the video is less than four minutes <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-209660>).

Funding opportunities

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023](#)
Next call for proposals opens on 12 April 2023
- [MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023](#)
Next call for proposals opens on 30 May 2023
- [MSCA Staff Exchanges 2023](#)
Next call for proposals opens on 5 October 2023
- [MSCA COFUND 2023](#)
Next call for proposals opens on 10 October 2023

These tips and tricks will help you find the best host organisation and prepare a successful proposal.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships support researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities abroad, get new skills, and **develop their careers in all fields of research**. They give outstanding postdoctoral researchers the possibility to work on their own projects while receiving training and supervision to enhance their skills and boost their careers. These prestigious fellowships are also a stepping-stone in researchers' careers, as they allow them to strengthen research cooperation with leading scientific teams and figures worldwide. If you are considering applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships, here are some useful tips and guidance to start preparing your proposal.

Step 1: Get familiar with how funding works

Have a look at the [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) page and key resources for an introduction to the scheme's characteristics and opportunities.

Consult the [MSCA Work Programme](#) and [annexes](#) for full details about the call conditions.

Step 2: Make sure you can apply

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to postdoctoral researchers from all over the world, with a maximum of eight years of research experience after their PhD.

Some exceptions and specific conditions apply, for instance for global postdoctoral fellowships. Applicants will also need to comply with the MSCA mobility rule.

Have a look at the following resources to verify your eligibility:

- The [European Research Executive Agency](#) (REA) publishes a series of essential resources for any applicant:
 - The [guide for applicants \(coming soon\)](#) is the best starting point for any researcher interested in the scheme
 - To check your research experience, REA has prepared a self-assessment tool (coming soon) and [guidelines on the calculation of eight years of research experience in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe](#)
- The MSCA-NET project, run by MSCA national contact points, offers unofficial complementary resources to support applicants:
 - [Postdoctoral Fellowships Handbook and resources](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- The Funding and Tender Opportunities portal also offers a set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you are still uncertain about your eligibility, [MSCA National Contact Points](#) can help you go through the criteria and, in some cases, do a pre-submission check of your application.

Step 3: Find a host organisation and supervisor

Organisations from all socio-economic sectors in any country can host an MSCA postdoctoral fellow – although conditions differ for those based in Third World countries that are not associated with the Horizon Europe programme (see specific conditions in the [MSCA Work Programme](#)).

If you are not sure whether a country is associated with Horizon Europe, have a look at the [list of participating countries in Horizon Europe](#).

If you do not yet have a host organisation in mind or are still looking for a secondment or a placement host, the following resources may help you find your match:

- [MSCA Matchmaking platform](#)
- [Euraxess hosting offers](#)
- [Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#) (see ‘Partner Search Announcements’)

If you are looking for a non-academic host or seeking advice for research-business collaboration, reach out to the [European Enterprise Network](#)’s contact points.

Step 4: Start drafting your application

To draft a successful application, you will need to work with your future supervisor and stick to the award criteria.

Here are some useful resources for drafting your application and understanding how it will be assessed:

- Award Criteria ([MSCA Work Programme](#), p. 95)
- Application form (coming soon on the [Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023](#) call page)
- [Evaluation forms](#)

You can also attend dedicated webinars and hands-on workshops to help you prepare your application. MSCA national contact points and Euraxess Worldwide organise webinars regularly. Contact them to find out what sessions are planned next. Your future host organisation may also have dedicated training.

The [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) offers more guidance on specific aspects evaluated under the award criteria, such as

- gender dimension (p. 14-18)
- dissemination and exploitation of research (p. 29-36)
- open science (p. 37-53)

You can also watch evaluators' briefing videos, including on [how to evaluate Open Science in Horizon Europe proposals](#).

Step 5: Check your application with the experts

Your supervisor and your host organisation are your first contact points, but if you want to receive feedback on your draft and get advice from former applicants and experts, you can also reach out to

- the [MSCA National Contact Point](#) in your future host country;
- the [Marie Curie Alumni Association](#), which has an active network of former awardees ready to help you with drafting your proposal. The association also organises regular training for future applicants; and
- some host organisations that may also have resources to verify your application,

Step 6: Submit your application

The Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 call for applications will open on 12 April and close on 13 September 2023.

During this period, you can prepare and submit your application on the [call page on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal](#).

Watch all recording [videos](#) on the [EURAXESS Africa YouTube Channel](#)

Further information is available [here](#).