

## What exactly are Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships and who can apply?

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships funded by the European Commission under the 9<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe support highly talented researchers who wish to conduct their own research project abroad from their home institution, experience international, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral mobility, and learn new skills. The programme is open to researchers of all nationalities who are still at the beginning of their academic career. Moreover, MSCA PFs prepare fellows for the next step on their career path, be it applying for an ERC grant, a position with a non-academic partner, a research group based in the newly established network, or, upon return to their home country, a better-placed (and perhaps permanent) position.

Fellowships are awarded to excellent researchers seeking international mobility in or between EU Member States or countries associated with Horizon Europe, as well as in non-associated third countries. It is important to choose a supervisor at the future host institution before applying for the fellowship and to submit the application jointly. Supervisor and host institution offer the best possible conditions for the fellow to carry out the planned research project and thus to make a significant career leap.

There are two types of MSCA postdoctoral fellowships<sup>1</sup>:

- **European Fellowships:** European Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The standard duration of these fellowships must be between 12 and 24 months.
- **Global fellowships:** Global Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to European nationals or long-term residents who wish to engage in R&I projects with organizations outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. These fellowships require an outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organization based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country.

### Eligibility criteria<sup>2</sup>:

- Supported fellows must be postdoctoral researchers at the date of the call deadline, i.e. in possession of a doctoral degree. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions taken from: [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024 | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(europa.eu\)](#) (05.02.2023).

<sup>2</sup> Further information on eligibility criteria: [wp-2-msca-actions horizon-2023-2024 en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#), pages 93-94 (05.02.2023).

thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply. The successful defense must be unconditional.

- At the call deadline, supported researchers must have a maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree.
- Recruited researchers must comply with the following mobility rule: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or the host organization for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.