European Funding Opportunities for Postdocs in Horizon 2020

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships and ERC Starting Grants

Dr. Claudia Breit, KoWi
KoWi – EU Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations

**information, consulting & training on EU research & innovation funding**

“one-stop-shop” for Horizon 2020

**service platform for our supporting association* focussing on universities**

financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

**connected on European level offices in Bonn & Brussels**

* Association for the Promotion of European and International Cooperation in Science e.V.

## Part I – Excellent Science

1. European Research Council (ERC)

2. Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)

3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

4. European Research Infrastructures, including e-infrastructures

## Part II – Industrial Leadership

1. Leadership in Enabling & Industrial Technologies (LEIT)
   - Information and Communication Technologies
   - Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing and Biotechnology
   - Space

2. Access to Risk Finance

3. Innovation in SMEs

## Part III – Societal Challenges

1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy
4. Smart, green and integrated transport
5. Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
7. Protecting freedom and security

## Part IV

- Spreading excellence & widening participation

## Part V

- Science with & for Society

## Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

## The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Individual Fellowships

Global Fellowship

European Fellowship
Country Categories in Horizon 2020

- **Europe:**
  - 27 EU Member States (MS), including their overseas departments
  - 16 associated countries (AC): Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia

- Third countries: all other countries
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Mobility Rule

Fellow has lived or worked $\leq 12$ months within the last 3 years in the potential host country.

A French researcher has lived in Germany for the last 4 years

Not eligible for a Fellowship in Germany!

Eligible for a Fellowship in France and other countries
## European Fellowships (EF)

**Research project in Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>Postdocs or researchers with at least 4 years of (full-time) research experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nationality</strong></td>
<td>No restrictions (except RI panel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobility rule</strong></td>
<td>May not have lived/worked more than 12 months within the last 3 years in host country</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Secondments**   | • Optional for 3 to 6 months within Europe  
                   | • Can be split (e.g. 2 x 3 months)                                              |
| **Project**       | 1 – 2 years (Career restart option: 3 years)                                    |
European Fellowships (EF): Multidisciplinary Panels

- **CAR - Career Restart**
  > Researchers who have not been active in research for at least 12 months within the last 18 months before the call deadline

- **RI - Reintegration**
  > Researchers returning to Europe after a research phase in a Third Country

- **SE - Society & Enterprise**
  > Applicants with a non-academic Host Institution

Fellow has lived or worked \( \leq 3 \text{ years} \) within the last 5 years in the potential host country.
# Global Fellowships (GF)

Research project in a Third Country and Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>Postdocs or researchers with at least 4 years of (full-time) research experience</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td>MS/AC nationals and long-term residents (must have lived/worked ≥5 years in MS/AC)</td>
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| Secondments       | • Optional for 3 to 6 months within Europe  
                      • Can be split (e.g. 2 x 3 months) |
| Project           | 1 – 2 years  
                      + 1 year mandatory return phase to Europe |
MSCA Basic Contracts IF

- EC/REA
- Grant Agreement
- Beneficiary
- Host Institution (MS/AC)
- Work contract (100%)
- Fellow
IF Financing

- Living allowance ER  
  (*country correction coefficient)
- Mobility allowance
- Family allowance (if applicable)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>4,880 x 12 M</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600 x 12 M</td>
</tr>
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Employer’s gross  
e.g. Belgium (*100 %)  

5,980 EUR/M  
71,760 EUR/y

e.g. Germany (*correction co-efficient 97 %) = 5,833.60 EUR/M
How is the IF application process organised?

- Annual call for proposals
  MSCA IF Call 2020
  - Opening: 8 April 2020
  - Closing: 9 September 2020

- The proposal
  - Submission by the Host Institution (supervisor)
  - Jointly with the researcher

- Online submission
  - Funding and tender opportunities portal:
    https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home
Preparation of the proposal

- Work Programme
- Guide for Applicants
- Templates

EU Funding Portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home
From Submission to Funding (IF)

- Call opening (~ April)
- Proposal preparation
- Deadline (~ September)
- Results (~ February)
- Signature Grant Agreement (~ May)
- Evaluation
- Grant preparation

ca. 8 months
IF Success Rates 2018

### MSCA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proposals retained for funding</th>
<th>Success rate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EF</td>
<td>1.211</td>
<td>13.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>21.7 %</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: COM
Information online

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) in part I Excellent Science of Horizon 2020 have a budget of EUR 6.56 billion. The aim of the programme is the qualitative and quantitative strengthening of the human capital in research and technology in Europe as well as the career development for innovative researchers.

Mobility continues to be a key requirement. Researchers will receive funding by broadening or deepening their competencies in another country.

The different Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are open to all fields of research and provide funding for basic research as well as projects that aim to cover market take-up or the implementation of innovation services.

Innovative Training Networks (ITN) support innovative, structured doctoral training; within the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) research, innovation and administrative personnel can participate in exchanges between academics and non-academics as well as between international partners. For Postdocs, the MSCA programme provides fellowships within Europe and in Third Countries (Individual Fellowships, IF). The co-funding for postdocs and doctoral programmes (COFUND) is also possible. In addition, a call for the Researchers' Night will be published every two years. The Researchers' Night is a set of Europe-wide evening events with the main goal to convey the importance of science for the society to the broader public.

An overview of all funding schemes is provided in the Work Programme, which is published on the Funding & Tender opportunities Portal of the European Commission. It informs about the road map of upcoming calls.

KoWi services: Deadline for proposal proof-reading
As in previous years, KoWi offers individual support to applicants writing their proposal. For the funding schemes of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions we kindly ask you to send us your complete proposal at least two weeks before the deadline, so that we can give you feedback on your proposal in time. Afterwards we may not be able to guarantee a detailed feedback.

Please note: In order to optimise our services concerning the proof-reading of proposals we have agreed on an exchange with the NCP MSC. This means that we inform each other on the acronym and best institution of proposals we receive in order to avoid double checks. We ensure that we will not exchange information with the NCP containing personal data.

## Part I – Excellent Science

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## Part IV

Spreading excellence & widening participation

## Part V

Science with & for Society

Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
## ERC Starting Grants – Overview

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<th><strong>Target group</strong></th>
<th>2-7 years after PhD (exceptional extensions possible; special rules for MD)</th>
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<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>max. EUR 1.5 million for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 1 million for major equipment or major equipment/field work costs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host institution</strong></td>
<td>in EU Member State or Associated Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time commitment</strong></td>
<td>≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application procedure</strong></td>
<td>single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call</strong></td>
<td>annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ERC Grantees – Profile Features

- Starting-Grantees usually have longer (and often several) “mobility experiences”
- Solid third-party funding (DFG, BMBF, EU etc.)
- Publications in the most high-ranking international journals
- Memberships in academies and editorial boards, review activities
- Distinct (inter)national research cooperation with leading scientists
ERC application process

- Calls for proposals
  - Annually
  - Specific deadline
- The proposal
  - submitted by the PI
  - together with a Host Institution (Host Support Letter)
- Online submission
  - Funding and tender opportunities portal:
    [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home)
Important Documents

- ERC Work Programme
- ERC Rules for Submission and Evaluation
- Information for Applicants
- Research Proposal Template

Funding & tender opportunities portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home
Proposal Parts

Part A

Administrative Forms/Proposal Submission Forms
1 - General Information
2 - Participants & Contacts
3 - Budget
4 - Ethics
5 - Call-specific questions

Part B

B1
Extended synopsis
CV
Track record

B2
Scientific proposal

Annexes
- Host Support Letter (Host Institution Binding Statement of Support)
- PhD-Certificate
- Ethics Self-Assessment (if applicable)
- Further documents (if applicable)
From Submission to Funding

- **Proposal preparation**
  - ~ 90 days

- **Evaluation**
  - ~ 110 days

- **Result step 1**

- **Result step 2**
  - Grant preparation
  - ~ 100 days

- **Signature GA**

- **~ 10 months**
## ERC Success Rates 2016-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Grants</td>
<td>11 %</td>
<td>13.3 %</td>
<td>12.7 %</td>
<td>13.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator Grants</td>
<td>13.8 %</td>
<td>13.2 %</td>
<td>12.2 %</td>
<td>12.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Grants</td>
<td>9.6 %</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td>10.8 %</td>
<td>n.a. %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ERC Information Online

National Contact Point (NCP)  European Research Council (ERC)
KoWi services for MSCA & ERC

(for ERC in cooperation with EU Bureau of the BMBF as National Contact Point for ERC)

**Information**
- Information events and workshops
- KoWi newsletter: kowi.de/aid-newsletter
- NCP ERC newsletter and FAQs: nks-erc.de

**Consulting**
- Individual consulting and support for applicants
- Tailored advice for small groups
- Advice on legal and financial project management

**Training**
- Workshops on application and grant management
- ERC Interview trainings for Starting and Consolidator Grants in Bonn + on-site support in Brussels
MSCA KoWi-Team

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Sebastian Claus
Cristina Condovici
Yvette Gafinen (parental leave)
The National Contact Point ERC is a cooperation between the EU-Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (EU-Büro des BMBF) and the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi).

Please contact:
https://www.eubuero.de/erc-germany.htm
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