



MSCA-PF 2025

MSCA-PF: Postdoctoral Fellowships Call 2025

MSCA-PF OBJECTIVES

MSCA-PF are aimed at improving the career prospects and employability of **Postdoctoral Researchers (RE)**:

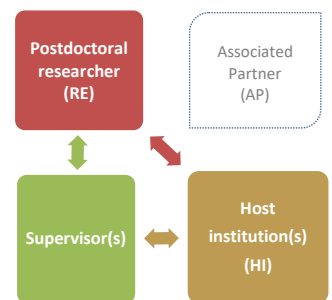
- Broader Career Advancement: Enhance research skills, experience, and employability.
- International Mobility: Facilitate international work and collaboration.
- Research Excellence: Enable the fellow to contribute to high-impact, innovative research.
- Professional Networking: Facilitate connections with leading experts, institutions, and organizations.
- Non-Academic Sector Exposure: Provide opportunities to engage with the non-academic sector.

**TRAINING
THROUGH
RESEARCH**

MAIN ACTORS INVOLVED

The **Host Institution (HI)**, based in an EU Member State or Associated Country (MS/AC), recruits the **Postdoctoral Researcher (RE)** and signs the **Grant Agreement (GA)** with the European Commission (EC). The HI, through a designated **Supervisor** (a staff member), provides specific training and oversees the project's implementation.

In addition to the HI, there is the possibility for **Associated Partners (APs)** to participate, providing additional training to the RE. APs may host the RE during *secondments* (within the project), a *placement* (after the project), or the *outgoing phase* (for Global Fellowships). However, APs do not recruit the RE nor sign the GA with the EC; this remains the sole responsibility of the HI.



WHO CAN APPLY?

The RE must hold a PhD degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before the call deadline, with a maximum of 8 years of postdoctoral experience*. Moreover, the RE must comply with the mobility rule (see below).

* The limit of 8-years full-time R&D experience is determined based on the date of award of the (first) PhD and the call deadline. In specific cases, RE exceeding this limit can declare deductions, for example for maternity/paternity leave, career breaks, research experience in third countries.

TYPES OF MSCA-PF

EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP (MSCA-PF-European)	GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP (MSCA-PF-Global)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It takes place in an EU MS/AC and can have a duration of 1-2 years. Researchers of all nationalities are eligible to apply. ▶ Nationality: RE from any country to the HI, <u>based in MS/AC</u>. ▶ The RE must comply with the mobility rule <u>in Spain</u> (UPO). ▶ IMPORTANT. Try to include (one or both of the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ During the project. At least one Secondment in another EU entity, preferably in the non-academic sector. ➢ A final Placement of 6 months in an entity of the non-academic sector. In this case, the project will be extended up to 6 months (with a max. of 30 months (2y+6m)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It spans between 2 and 3 years, with the first 1 to 2 years spent in a <u>non-associated non-EU countries</u> (TC)¹, followed by a mandatory 1-year return phase at an organisation based in an EU MS/AC (UPO) ▶ The mobility rule must be fulfilled <u>in the TC</u>. ▶ The RE must be a MS/AC national or long-term resident (>5y). ▶ <i>Secondments</i> and/or <i>Placement</i> are possible and highly advisable. With a final Placement the project will be extended up to 6 months (with a max. of 42 months (2y+1y+6m)). ▶ A Letter of Commitment from the TC entity is necessary.

¹ a TC organisation is considered as **Associated Partner** in the Project.



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MOBILITY RULE

The RE must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the HI (for *European PF*), or the HI for the outgoing phase (for *Global PF*) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.

Call 2025: Mobility eligibility window is from 11th September 2022 until 10th September 2025.

SECTORS

ACADEMIC	NON-ACADEMIC
Universities, non-profit R&D organisations and international European R&D organisations.	Any other entity not included in the academic sector and that meets the requirements of the Horizon Europe Programme.

SUMMARY TABLE

MSCA-PF		EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS	GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS
RESEARCHES (RE)	Nationality	Any	MS/AC or long-term residents
	Experience	Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree.	
	Mobility rule	From ANY country to a MS/AC	From ANY country to a TC then to MS/AC
		The RE cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity <u>in the country of the HI</u> for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the call deadline.	The RE cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity <u>in the country of the Associated Partner hosting the outgoing phase HI</u> for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the call deadline.
	Hosting organisations	<u>Beneficiary</u> : UPO (Host Institution)	<u>Beneficiary</u> : UPO (Host Institution) <u>Associated Partner hosting the outgoing phase</u> : Legal entity established in a TC.
Duration		12-24 months (UPO) + up to 6 months (if placement)	12-24 months (outgoing phase) + 12 months (UPO) + up to 6 months (if placement)
Restriction		Resubmission restrictions will apply for applications that received a score below 70% the previous year.	

HOW DOES IT RUNNING?

The *Host Institution* (HI), in this case, UPO, acts as the grant beneficiary, signs the *Grant Agreement* (GA) with the EC, and employs the Postdoctoral Researcher (RE) for the project's duration. The RE's salary is determined by the MSCA programme. Additionally, part of the budget is allocated to *Research, Training, and Networking* (RTN) expenses, among other budget categories.

A *Supervisor* (UPO staff) is responsible for mentoring, integrating, and overseeing the RE throughout the project. In the case of *Global Fellowships*, an additional Supervisor at the Third Country (TC) host institution is required during the outgoing phase.

The RE is encouraged to undertake Secondments during the project and/or a final Placement in other organizations (AP). The overall objective of the grant is to enhance the RE's career prospects while contributing to the advancement of the EU R&I Area.



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PROPOSAL

The RE must describe a concrete plan for training-based research at the HI facilities. The subject of the proposal is free choice. The [Application Forms](#) are composed of three different parts:

Part A: Administrative forms, ethical aspects and the Budget.

Part B1: *Technical part: Excellence - Impact - Implementation (10 pages.)*

Part B2: *CV of the RE, description of the HI & letter of commitment.*

EVALUATION – Part B1

- ▶ **Excellence** (50% of the score): Quality & pertinence of the project's R&I objectives; Soundness of the proposed methodology; Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the RE & HI; and Appropriateness of the RE's professional experience, competences and skills; Gender dimension & Open Science.
- ▶ **Impact** (30%): Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the RE; Measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts; Project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.
- ▶ **Implementation** (20%): Work plan; Assessment of risks and Quality and capacity of the HI's.

Evaluation Form

MSCA priorities under HE

- Green research
- Cooperation beyond academia
- Employability & competitiveness
- Training and skill development
- International cooperation
- Academic freedom
- Gender & inclusiveness
- Open research

Proposals will 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).

SECONDMENTS & PLACEMENT

SECONDMENT(S): During the execution of the project, it is advisable to carry out at least one in a MS/AC institution.

MSCA-PF European	MSCA-PF Global
Up to 1/3 of the standard project duration	Permitted for up to 1/3 of the outgoing phase or at the beginning of the Project (max. 3 months).

FINAL PLACEMENT: At the end of the project, a placement of up to 6 months in a non-academic sector organisation.

MSCA-PF European	MSCA-PF Global
This is an additional period following the standard duration of the fellowship, which must take place in an MS/AC and within the non-academic sector. Including a final placement in the proposal increases its chances of success.	

TIP: Try to include Secondment(s) and/or a Placement in the proposal, ensuring that both provide a clear added value to it.

----- CALL 2025 -----

TOPIC ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01	
Budget	274 M€	
Opening date & Deadline	08 May 2025	10 September 2025
Deadline model	Single-stage	