European Commission | Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) European Fellowships (EFs)

Under Horizon 2020, Marie Curie Actions (as they were known under FP7) have been renamed "Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions"[i] (MSCAs). They come under the "Excellent Science"[ii] pillar of Horizon 2020 and will award 6,162 million euros, over the period 2014-2020, to about 65,000 researchers worldwide. Under FP7, about **1600 Indian researchers** were awarded a MCA grant, for a total amount (EU funding) of about 4.5 million euros. Since launch of Horizon 2020, **380 Indian researchers** have benefited from MSCA grant.

The objective of MSCAs is to support the career development and training of researchers – with a focus on innovation skills – in all scientific disciplines through worldwide and cross-sector mobility. For this, the MSCA provide grants at all stages of researchers' careers, from PhD candidates to highly experienced researchers, and encourage transnational, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA is the main EU programme for doctoral training, funding 25 000 PhDs.

Endowing researchers with new skills and a wider range of competences, while offering them attractive working conditions, is a crucial aspect of the MSCA. In addition to mobility between countries, the MSCA also seek to break the real and perceived barriers between academic and other sectors, especially business. The MSCA follow a "bottom-up" approach, i.e. individuals and organisations working in any area of research can apply for funding. Boosting non-academic sector involvement in any of the actions is one of the new features of the MSCA scheme.

There are now 3 types of Career Funding schemes under MSCAs:

- Support for PhD- *MSCA Innovation Training Network*
- Individual fellowships (PostDocs) - *MSCA Individual Fellowships*
- Established Researchers- for international and inter-sectoral cooperation - *Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Scheme (RISE)*

The European Commission Horizon 2020 invites proposals for H2020-MSCA-IF-2017 Individual Fellowships. Please note: the call will be launched 11 April 2017. Application deadline: 14 September 2017.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/msca-if-2017.html

Individual Fellowships (IF) - *European Fellowships (EFs)*

The Marie Skłodowska -Curie Individual Fellowships aim at enhancing the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers (Post-Docs) through advanced training and international and inter-sectoral mobility. Indian researchers are eligible for **Individual-*European Fellowships* (IF-EFs)**.

European Fellowships are open to researchers currently within or outside Europe (e.g. India) who want to work in an EU Member State or Associated Country (MS or AC). The mobility rule applies to the MS or AC (i.e. the researcher must not have lived, worked, or studied in the MS or AC for more than 12 months during the 3 years prior to deadline). The duration of the fellowship is 12 to 24 months and primarily covers the salary of the researcher.

Why should I do it?

You can diversify your competences and acquire new skills at a multi- or interdisciplinary level through advanced training and mobility.

Who can apply?

European fellowships are awarded to the most promising researchers of any nationality (e.g. Indian) who want to benefit from advanced training abroad. The host organisation (academic or non-academic) in a MS or AC employs the awarded researcher. Applicants either hold a PhD degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

How can I apply?

First, find the right call on the participant portal: https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/apply/calls_en

Read the important documents (Guide for Applicants and Work Programme). If you have questions get in touch with your EURAXESS India. Start the search for a suitable host early on.

When can I apply?

The 2017-MSCA-IF call opens on 11 April 2017 with a deadline on 14 September 2017 (17:00 Brussels time).

How much funding can be expected?

The budget is calculated using the 'researcher unit cost' of €4650/month (monthly allowance, adjusted by country, plus a mobility allowance of €600/month and a family allowance of €500/month), if applicable. In addition, there is €800/month for research costs and €650/month for management costs.

Frequently asked questions

What is the success rate?

The global success rate for the European Fellowships was between 10% and 18% in the first calls in H2020.

When will I know the outcome of my proposal?

The proposals will be evaluated in October and November 2017 and the outcome will be known at the earliest by February 2018. The approximate date for signing the Grant Agreement is May 2018.

I have not yet obtained my PhD. How is the four years of full-time equivalent research experience calculated?

A: Experience is calculated from the "…date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate…" This may vary from country to country.

Only postgraduate research experience is relevant for this purpose. Other professional activities are not taken into account, no matter when these took place.

Could UK based Universities/Institutes host MSCA-IF?

Yes, UK legal entities are entitled to host MSCA-IF fellows and are eligible to receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions.

Contact Information

National Contact Points- Marie- Skłodowska -CurieActions in India:

india@euraxess.net OR delegation-india-ri@eeas.europa.eu

More information on this and other funding opportunities is available on the EC's Participant Portal: www.ec.europa.eu/research/participant s/portal/

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[i] http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions

[ii] http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/excellent-science