

The first [Horizon Europe MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(PF\) call](#) has finally opened (since early July), with a deadline on **12 October 2021 (17h)**.

1. Context

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) are individual research grants offering excellent postdoctoral researchers the chance to develop their skills by means of international and intersectoral mobility. Through the implementation of an original and personalised research project, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to foster excellence through training and mobility and to equip researchers with new skills and competences in order to identify solutions to current and future challenges.

These fellowships are an excellent opportunity [to attract postdoctoral researchers](#) from anywhere in the world to the University of Antwerp or to send excellent postdoctoral researchers to elsewhere in Europe or outside Europe.

2. MSCA PF types

Two types of fellowships based on the destination:

- **European Fellowships (EF):** for postdoctoral researchers of any nationality moving within or coming to Europe (to hosts within an EU Member State or an HE Associated Country) for a 12-24 months
- **Global Fellowships (GF):** for postdoctoral European nationals or long-term residents in Europe to perform research in a TC outside Europe (an outgoing phase for 12-24 months) followed by a mandatory return phase to Europe of 12 months. Only nationals or long-term residents of the EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries can apply for this GF type.

3. Who can apply for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship?

Researchers interested in PFs:

- should have a **PhD degree** at the time of the call deadline
- must have a **maximum of eight years experience in research**, from the date of the award of their PhD degree
 - years of experience outside research and career breaks will not count towards the above maximum, nor will years of experience in research in third countries, for nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to Europe
- should comply with **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 organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline

Interested researchers submit an application together with a supervisor at a host organisation, which can be a university, research institution, business, SME or other organisation based in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Details on the eligibility conditions and specific features per PF type are further described in the [MSCA PF guide for applicants](#).

4. Submission of proposals

The deadline is **12 October 2021 (17h)**.

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the European Commission's Online Submission Service accessible via the [HEU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

All call documents, templates and useful information are available on the [MSCA PF call page](#) (see “Conditions and Documents” and the [MSCA website](#)).

5. More information and support *(please click to see more)*

- [Overview of the MSCA PF call modalities under Horizon Europe](#)

- [Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2021-2022](#)
- [UAntwerp's SEP allowance for unsuccessful MSCA PF applications \(see hereunder\)](#)
- [Support from the Grants Office \(idem\)](#)

MSCA PF call modalities and novelties under Horizon Europe

- **MSCA PF Main Objectives:**
 - Foster excellence through implementation of a research project
 - Enhance the creative and innovative potential of postdoctoral researchers (training on transferable skills & career development)
 - Provide opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to acquire and transfer new knowledge
 - Provide opportunities to work on research and innovation in Europe (EU Member States [MS] and Associated Countries [AC]) and beyond (Third Country [TC])
 - Mobility is a key requirement: focus on i3 -international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary- mobility
 - Bridges and encourages exposure to the non-academic sector
- **Set-up**
 - Mono-beneficiary action: a legal entity located in a MS or AC acts as **host institution** where the **supervisor** is affiliated to and which recruits the **postdoctoral researcher**
 - Two types of fellowships based on the destination:
 - **European Fellowships (EF):** for postdoctoral researchers of any nationality moving within or coming to Europe (to hosts within an EU Member State or an HE Associated Country) for a 12-24 months
 - **Global Fellowships (GF):** for postdoctoral European nationals or long-term residents in Europe to perform research in a TC outside Europe (12-24 months) followed by a mandatory return phase to Europe of 12 months
 - **Secondments:**
 - Are optional but must be integral part of the research proposal
 - Inter-sectoral secondments are encouraged
 - New: The secondment host organisation (called “associated partner”) can be located anywhere in the world, including **in third countries**
 - Duration for EFs: Up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration
 - Duration for GFs: Up to 1/3 of the outgoing phase duration
 - New: Optional **additional placement** of up to 6 months in a **non-academic** European MS/AC organization (“associated partner”), at the end of the fellowship applicable to both European and Global PF
 - Extends the duration of the fellowship
- **Eligibility**
 - All domains of research and technological development are eligible for funding
 - For Postdoctoral Researchers
 - open to excellent researchers **any nationality** (Global Fellowships: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC)
 - New: **in possession of PhD** at the call deadline
 - New: **up to 8 years research experience after PhD**
 - Years outside research and career breaks will not be taken into account

- Years of experience in research in third countries will not be considered for those EU nationals or long-term residents who wish to reintegrate to the EU
 - **mobility rule:** applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary (or the host organisation for the outgoing phase of Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.
- **Budget**
 - Budget for the MSCA-PF 2021 call: 242 Meuro (compared to 328 Meuro in the last H2020 call)
 - Funding of PF is based on fixed unit cost per person month of the recruited postdoctoral fellow

Contributions for the recruited researcher per person-month					Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5 080	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

- New: Updated allowances + introduction of 2 new cost categories: (i) Long-term leave allowance (to contribute to the beneficiary’s pay obligations in case of long-term leave of researchers) (ii) Special needs allowance (to contribute to costs arising from special needs of researchers with disabilities)
- **Resubmission restriction**
 - New: As of the Horizon Europe MSCA PF call 2022 onwards: applications with a score below 70% are restricted to be resubmitted the following year
 - No resubmission restriction for the first MSCA PF call 2021 (no influence of the results of the last H2020 call)
- **General MSCA Novelties**
 - All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to follow the recommendations outlined in the new [Guidelines for MSCA supervision](#)
 - All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to address the principles of the new MSCA [Green Charter](#) and implement measures to reduce the environmental impact of MSCA

Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2021-2022

For each part of Horizon Europe the European Commission has developed a work programme in consultation with experts and other stakeholders. A work programme describes a certain programme

and future calls for a period of 2 years (or 3 years towards the end of the framework programme). On the basis of these work programmes the Commission subsequently launches calls for proposals. The MSCA Work programme 2021-2022 has been formally adopted and is available on [pintra](#).

UAntwerp's SEP allowance for unsuccessful MSCA PF applications

For several years now, the Research Board allocates five to six **one-year seal of excellence grants** to favourable ranked but not funded candidates for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) via the BOF/IWS (International Scientific Cooperation) budget line. This is a valuable measure that provides for the possibility of attracting or retaining strong post-docs to the university of Antwerp.

Support from the Grants Office

The Grants Office offers a range of support services during the MSCA PF application process:

- a dedicated [webpage](#) to inform and attract potential candidates for a possible MSCA-PF application with UAntwerp as a host institution:
<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research/management/funding/horizon-europe/marie-curie/>
- an informative [MSCA-PF starter package](#) will be provided to interested candidates
- a dedicated series of in house [training sessions](#) “Preparing for an Horizon Europe MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship” open to both postdoctoral researchers and supervisors – *took place in June 2021*
- support with the eligibility check
- [advise](#) on institutional aspects and horizontal issues (open science, gender, ethics and research data management...)
- advise on how to write your proposal and [proofreading](#) of a proposal
- [administrative support](#) for a MSCA PF application

We strongly recommend to inform the [MSCA coordinator](#) of the Grants Office about your intention to apply. This enables us to provide you timely with the starter package with additional information, and to make the necessary arrangements for the further support during proposal preparation.

- **First contact point** for general questions about the MSCA-PF call is the [MSCA coordinator](#) of the Grants Office (liesbet.cockx@uantwerpen.be, 03 265 32 98).
- For **help with the proposal**, a member of the [Grants Office](#) (research manager or EU research funding expert) will be allocated to you for further support during the application phase.