



Horizon Europe Programme

Guide for Applicants

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

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Disclaimer

This guide aims to support potential applicants to the MSCA-PF 2026 call. It is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation of any applicable legal sources. Neither the European Commission nor the European Research Executive Agency (or any person acting on their behalf) can be held responsible for the use made of this guidance document. Note that the guidance provided in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement shall prevail in case of discrepancies.

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page
1.0	22 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial version (2021 call) 	
1.1	11 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of definition of Gender Equality Plan Revision of definition of Associated Partners for submission purposes Addition of procedure for the evaluation of resubmitted proposals Revision of eligibility of non-compliant non-academic placements Addition of Doctoral degree as eligibility criterion Clarification on how to encode secondments and non-academic placements Clarification on short visits Clarification on secondments for GF Clarification on description of secondments and non-academic placements in part B2 Clarification on how to apply for EURATOM funding Clarification on part B2 content Clarification on abstract content Link to 8-years research experience calculation tool added Link to FAQs 	<p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>7, 9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>11</p> <p>11-12</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p>
1.2	06 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification on the conditions for a successful PhD defence 	7, 8, 9
2.0	03 April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to Horizon Europe general Annexes updated to 2023-2025 version Statement on the evaluation of eligible resubmissions Removal of the requirement to include a letter of commitment for non-academic placements Secondment and non-academic placement table divided into "general principles" and "how to fill in the application/submission forms" Rephrasing of secondment at the start of the fellowship for Global fellowship Reference to Part A, section 5, question on secondment removed Reference to the new section on "Environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter" added. 	<p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>6,12</p> <p>11,12</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>15</p>
2.1	11 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary definition improved Beneficiary's role specified better "physical" mobility added Footnote 8 added – and consequent change of following footnotes Copyright/IPR matters added Supervision during secondment and non-academic placement specified 	<p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>7</p> <p>11</p>
3.0	19 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification on non portability of grants added Footnotes 11 and 17 on country of the main activity added Clarification on Global Fellowship standard duration and secondment Eligibility condition on "restrictions for the protection of European communication networks" added Part B2 content clarification Table header: Non-academic placements changed to singular Section 9. Frequently Asked Questions removed 	<p>5</p> <p>9,11</p> <p>10,13</p> <p>12</p> <p>17</p> <p>14</p> <p>20</p>
4.0	9 April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update for 2025 Call 	
5.0	9 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update for 2026 Call Clarification on Horizon Europe Associated countries (new footnote 8) Updated section on Refugee status Restrictions on participation: added reference to the MSCA 2026-2027 WP – 15. General Annexes. Clarification on secondments and non-academic placement rules. Revision of section 6. Instructions for completing Parts A and B of the proposal with clarification of several aspects, including a new section on the use of Artificial Intelligence. 	<p>6</p> <p>12</p> <p>12</p> <p>12-14</p> <p>17-20</p>

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Note:

National Contact Points (NCPs) have been set up across Europe and beyond by the national governments to provide information and personalised support to Horizon Europe applicants in their native language. The mission of the NCPs is to raise awareness, inform and advise on Horizon Europe funding opportunities as well as to support potential applicants in the *preparation, submission and follow-up* of the grant applications. For details on the NCP in your country, please consult the [National Contact Points page](#).

Postdoctoral Fellowships – A Few Definitions

Academic sector means public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations¹ and International European Research Organisations (IERO).²

Associated partners are entities, which participate in the action,³ but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions. They contribute to the implementation of the action, but do not sign the grant agreement. Associated partners may not employ the researchers under the action.^{4,5}

Beneficiary is the legal entity that signs the grant agreement (either directly or through an accession form) and has the responsibility for the proper implementation of the action at all times, including during the periods of the outgoing phase of the Global Fellowships, all secondments and non-academic placement. They contribute directly to the implementation of the research, transfer of knowledge and training activities. This involves recruiting, supervising, hosting, training and, where appropriate, seconding the researcher. In MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships' grants the transfer of a grant agreement to another beneficiary is only possible in very exceptional situations.

Gender Equality Plan: Having a gender equality plan is an eligibility criterion for Public bodies, Higher education establishments and Research organisations from Member States and Associated Countries. Be aware that if the proposal is selected, having a Gender Equality Plan will be necessary before the grant agreement signature. Please refer to the [Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans](#).

Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries of at least five consecutive years. Periods of absence from the territory of the EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country will be taken into account for the calculation of this period where they are shorter than six consecutive months and do not exceed in total ten months within this period.

Non-academic sector means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon Europe (HE) Rules for Participation.⁶

¹ If requested by the granting authority, institutions with self-declared research organisations status must provide evidence that their main objective is to carry out research and/or technological development. An assessment will be made on the basis of indicators such as share of research budget, volume of scientific publications and/or registered patents.

² 'International European Research Organisation' (IERO) means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe (see Article 2(15) of the [Regulation establishing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation](#), laying down its rules for participation and dissemination.

³ For the purposes of Horizon Europe, each specific project receiving funding is referred to as an "action." In the present document, the terms "project" and "action" are therefore used interchangeably.

⁴ In the framework of MSCA-PF-2026, only the following associated partners should be included in the proposal Part A (refer also to section 3 of this guide): host organisations where the outgoing phase of Global Fellowships and/or a non-academic placement are taking place. Other associated partners (such as those implementing secondments) should be included only in the Part B-2.

⁵ For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships outgoing phase, this restriction does not apply. The associated partner hosting the outgoing phase can conclude an additional employment contract with the researcher to ensure adequate medical/social insurance in the outgoing phase host country.

⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695 of 28 April 2021](#) (OJEU 12.05.2021, L170, p.1).

Non-associated Third Countries (TC) are countries that are neither EU member states (MS), nor [countries associated to Horizon Europe](#) (AC).

The **supervisor** is the senior researcher appointed by the host institution (beneficiary) to supervise the postdoctoral researcher throughout the whole duration of the action. For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, an additional supervisor must be appointed at the associated partner for the time spent during the outgoing phase⁷. However, the beneficiary is responsible towards the granting authority for the correct implementation of the proposed project for the full duration of the project.

1. Introduction

This call for proposals offers fellowships to researchers holding a PhD wishing to undertake physical mobility either to or between EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or to a non-associated Third Country (Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) in order to undertake an original and personalised research and innovation project. The objective is to improve researchers' employability and career prospects within academia and beyond, with a strong focus on interdisciplinarity and intersectoral experience.

Applications are made jointly by the researcher and a beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector, which must be established in an EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC)⁸. However, **the submission of the proposal and other actions that follow this procedure (such as withdrawal or, if successful, grant agreement signature) fall solely under the responsibility of the beneficiary**⁹. Proposals should therefore be submitted by a representative of the beneficiary (e.g. supervisor of the proposal).

All domains of research and innovation are eligible for funding, including those covered by the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)¹⁰. Applicants are therefore free to choose the field(s) of their proposed research in a fully bottom-up manner.

Proposals may include an additional period of up to six months ("non-academic placement period") at a non-academic sector organisation established in a MS or an AC.

Before preparing your application, you are strongly advised to consult the following documents:

- [MSCA Work Programme 2026–2027](#) and [General Annexes](#) to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027
- [Standard Application Form](#): Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Postdoctoral Fellowships
- [MSCA list of keywords](#)

⁷ Please see also [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#)

⁸ Horizon Europe Associated Countries: only organisations established in countries associated to the entire [Horizon Europe Programme](#) (i.e. including Pillar 1) can apply to MSCA-PF as beneficiaries.

⁹ "Applications must be submitted by a single independent legal entity, established in an EU Member State or [Horizon Europe Associated Country](#). This is a mono-beneficiary action." MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027.

¹⁰ Special conditions and eligibility criteria apply for EURATOM, please refer to section 5 of this document.

Links to other official documents, including the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#), are provided on the [call page in the Funding and Tenders Portal](#) and are also accessible via the REA [website](#).

2. Admissibility and Eligibility Conditions

Applicant researchers must meet all eligibility criteria (see relevant sections below) on the day of the call deadline. The proposed beneficiary must ensure compliance with the admissibility and eligibility criteria before submitting the proposal and must maintain all supporting documentation.

No documents for proof of eligibility need to be uploaded with the application. However, REA may request supporting documents to assess the eligibility after the call deadline.

Before completion of the formal admissibility and eligibility checks, REA cannot answer questions related to the admissibility and eligibility of a specific proposal. Guidance can be provided by NCPs.

Resubmissions: under the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 call, proposals involving the same recruiting organisation (and for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships also the same associated partner hosting the outgoing phase) and individual researcher submitted for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 call and having received a score of less than 80% must not be resubmitted.

Please note that all eligible resubmitted proposals will be **evaluated independently** of any previous evaluation(s).

IMPORTANT	
EUROPEAN and GLOBAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual researcher and the supervisor must be two different people. • Applications must be complete and contain all parts, sections and supporting documents. The applicant must fill in the submission forms online that will become part A of the proposal and upload parts B-1 and B-2. • The applicant must ensure that any copyright/IPR matters related to the content of the proposal are settled in accordance with the applicable national legislation.
Additional for GLOBAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The associated partner for the outgoing phase must provide an up-to-date letter of commitment, to be submitted with the application (in Part B-2), confirming their precise role and active participation in the proposal.
If one or more of the above conditions are not met, the proposal will not be evaluated.	
Non- academic placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-academic placement may take place at the end of the project for an additional period of up to 6 months in an <u>organisation from the non-academic sector established in a MS or AC¹¹</u>. In this case, additional budget can be requested in the proposal for the duration of the non-academic placement. • If a non-academic placement is ineligible (e.g. host is an academic organisation and/or an organisation not established in an MS or AC, and/or it does not meet the requirements in terms of duration or timing - see table in section 3), the proposal will be evaluated without taking it into consideration.

Please note that:

- **Only one proposal per individual researcher can be submitted.** In case of several proposals involving the same individual researcher, only the last submitted proposal will be considered eligible.
- The same supervisor and a host institution can be involved in more than one proposal in the same call. However, an adequate supervision must be provided, and supervisors must ensure they can dedicate sufficient time and ensure quality supervision for each individual researcher under their care. Further guidance on supervision can be found in the [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#).
- If proposals with the same research objectives and work plan are submitted by the same host organisation for different researchers, only the first submitted proposal will be considered eligible.

Further details on the eligibility criteria for European and Global Postdoctoral Fellowships are presented in the following tables.

¹¹ See Footnote 8

EUROPEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	
Standard duration	From 12 to 24 months
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – RESEARCHER:	
Doctoral degree	The researcher must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis at the date of the call deadline. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements / corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested. ¹²
Nationality	Any
Mobility	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) ¹³ in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline. ¹⁴ ¹⁵
Research experience (full-time equivalent)	Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree. This limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maternity leave (18 months – i.e. 548 days per child born after the PhD award date, <u>or</u> the exact duration of maternity leave taken, whichever is longest); – Paternity leave (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); – Compulsory national service; – Time spent not working in research; – Long-term sick leave (periods > 30 days) – Time spent working in research in a non-associated TC (only for nationals or long-term residents¹⁶ of MS or AC, wishing to reintegrate in Europe);¹⁷ More information on the calculation of the 8 years research experience is available in section 8.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - PARTICIPATING ORGANISATION:	
Beneficiary	Single independent legal entity established in MS or AC. ¹⁸

¹² A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate his/her appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment). Medical doctor degrees corresponding to basic medical training as defined in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC will not be considered a doctoral degree.

¹³ Country of the main activity: the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer)

¹⁴ The following periods are not taken into account: a) compulsory national service; b) time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention and time spent for obtaining EU temporary protection; c) short stays (such as holidays), i.e. the researcher did not reside or did not have their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country during that period.

¹⁵ In case of International European Research Organisations, international organisations with headquarters in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country or entities created under Union law, the researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately preceding the call deadline, in the same appointing organisation.

¹⁶ See definition in page 4.

¹⁷ Researchers reintegrating to Europe from a non-associated TC must be based in a TC at the call deadline or have directly moved from a TC to any EU MS or Horizon Europe AC within the 12-month period immediately before the call deadline.

¹⁸ The same conditions are applicable to *Associated partners linked to a beneficiary* (see also MSCA Work Programme, Definitions section). See also footnote 8.

GLOBAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	
Standard duration	<p>From 24 to 36 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months to an institution in a non-associated Third Country; • Followed by a mandatory 12-month return phase to the beneficiary located in MS or AC.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – RESEARCHER:	
Doctoral degree	The researcher must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before call deadline. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested. ¹⁹
Nationality	Nationals or long-term residents ²⁰ of MS or AC.
Mobility	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) ²¹ in the country of the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline. ^{22 23}
Research experience (full-time equivalent)	<p>Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree.</p> <p>This limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maternity leave (18 months – i.e. 548 days per child born after the PhD award date, <u>or</u> the exact duration of maternity leave taken, whichever is longest); – Paternity leave (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); – Compulsory national service; – Time spent not working in research; – Long term sick leave (periods > 30 days). <p>More information on the calculation of the 8 years research experience are available in section 8.</p>
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS:	
Beneficiary	Single independent legal entity established in MS or AC. ²⁴
Associated partner hosting the outgoing phase	Single independent legal entity established in a non-associated Third Country. It MUST be encoded as a participating organisation (associated partner) in Part A.

¹⁹ See footnote 12.

²⁰ See footnote 16.

²¹ See Footnote 13

²² See footnote 14

²³ See footnote 15

²⁴ See footnote 18

Refugee Status

Researchers who are refugees in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country according to the Geneva Convention are eligible to apply to both European and Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, irrespective of whether they are long-term residents (see definitions above) or not, if they fulfil the other eligibility conditions.

Researchers who, at the date of the call deadline have refugee status under the Geneva Convention, or benefit from EU temporary protection are exempt from the mobility rule.

Restrictions on participation

Eligibility to participate is subject to the restrictions and protective measures defined in the [Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027 - 15. General Annexes](#).

3. Secondments and Non-Academic Placements

Proposals may include an **optional secondment** and/or an **optional non-academic placement** (see explanation in the [MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027](#)), provided they are in line with the project objectives and add significant value and/or impact to the fellowship.

Secondments must be embedded within the standard project duration (no additional budget can be requested) and may take place in academic or non-academic organisations, whereas a non-academic placement can only take place at the end of the project, beyond its standard duration, in the non-academic sector (see definition in page 4), with additional budget requested.

The organisations hosting secondments and/or non-academic placement should provide supervision of the fellow during that period. The supervisor of a secondment or a non-academic placement must be different from the proposal supervisor (at the Beneficiary).

The relevance and added value of these periods will be assessed by the evaluators and may therefore impact the final score awarded to the proposal. Proposals will not be penalised for not including a secondment or non-academic placement period.


Only secondments and non-academic placements that are eligible (e.g. timing and duration described in Part B-1, and associated partners described in Part B-2, and for the non-academic placement inclusion in Part A) will be assessed by the evaluators. It is not possible to add a non-academic placement to a proposal after the call deadline.

Secondments and Non-Academic Placements are different in nature and follow different rules as explained in the table below.

	Secondment(s)	Non-Academic Placement
General principles		
Maximum Duration	<p><u>European Postdoctoral Fellowships:</u> Up to half of the standard project duration²⁵.</p> <p><u>Global Postdoctoral Fellowships:</u> Secondments are permitted for up to half of the outgoing phase duration ²⁶.</p>	Up to 6 months duration.
Timing	<p><u>European Postdoctoral Fellowships:</u> at any time during the standard project duration.</p> <p><u>Secondments</u> can be divided into multiple shorter periods.</p> <p><u>Global Postdoctoral Fellowships:</u> at any time during the outgoing phase of the project. Secondments are <u>not permitted during the mandatory return phase</u> of the project.</p> <p><u>Secondments</u> can be divided into multiple shorter periods.</p> <p>A maximum of three months of secondment can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary (or associated partners linked to the beneficiary) before going to the associated partner for the outgoing phase. This period will be deducted from the overall maximum time allowed for secondments and no further secondment periods are allowed at the beneficiary.</p> <p>All periods of secondment are counted as an integral part of the outgoing phase and must be within its limits of duration.</p>	Additional period that takes place only after the standard duration of the fellowship; cannot be divided in multiple periods.

²⁵ The standard project duration of European Postdoctoral Fellowships must be between 12 and 24 months. This duration does not include any additional period for a non-academic placement.

²⁶ The standard duration of Global Postdoctoral Fellowships outgoing phase must be between 12 and 24 months. This duration does not include any additional period for a non-academic placement.

	Secondment(s)	Non-Academic Placement
Where	Any country worldwide	MS or AC
Sector	Any sector (secondments may take place in one or more organisations)	Non-academic sector only ²⁷ (only one organisation allowed)
How to fill in the application forms		
Part A Section 2 Participants 	Do NOT encode the secondment organizations as a participating organisation.	The organization hosting the placement MUST be encoded as a participating organisation (= associated partner).
Part A Section 3 Budget	Do NOT encode (as no additional budget is allowed for secondments).	ADD the number of months requested for the non-academic placement as a separate line (up to 6 months are allowed).
Description in Part B-1	Yes. Secondments should be described in part B-1 and the evaluators will assess their relevance and quality in the respective criterion. Secondments should be included in the Gantt chart .	Yes. Non-academic placement should be described in part B-1 and the evaluators will assess their relevance and quality in the respective criterion. Non-academic placement should be included in the Gantt chart .
Description in Part B-2	Secondment hosts must be listed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B-2 template as an associated partner.	Non-academic placement hosts must be listed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B-2 template as an associated partner.
Supporting Document in Part B-2	None. Do not include letter(s) of commitment.	None. Do not include a letter of commitment.

Short Visits

Note that secondments and non-academic placements are to be distinguished from short visits. Short visits imply mobility to another location outside the physical premises of the beneficiary, including internationally (e.g. fieldwork). However, the work done there continues to be supervised directly by the supervisor of the beneficiary. Short visits can only represent a small part of the project duration.

When a secondment or short visit to a TC takes place, the beneficiary shall ensure compliance with the applicable Horizon Europe ethical framework and the corresponding provisions of the Grant Agreement. Short visits must not be encoded as participating organisations in the submission forms' Part A, however they must be described in Part B-1.

²⁷ For proposals with the host organization in the non-academic sector, the placement is allowed only if implemented at a different non-academic organization

4. ERA Fellowships

The ERA Fellowships (ERA-PF)²⁸ aim at mobility and brain circulation in Widening Countries.²⁹ The scheme is open to individual researchers of any nationality holding a PhD who wish to engage in R&I projects in a host institution located in a Widening Country coming from any country in the world.

The scheme will fund proposals submitted to the MSCA-2026-PF call with a beneficiary located in a Widening Country, which failed to score high enough to receive funding under this call. Only European Postdoctoral Fellowships can qualify for the ERA-PF call (Global Postdoctoral Fellowships are excluded). All eligibility and admissibility rules applicable to the MSCA-2026-PF call will apply.

Applicants can only be considered for this additional funding opportunity by ticking **"YES"** to the question *"Do you wish to participate to the ERA Postdoctoral Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?"* in the application form Part A.

Applicants who do not reply, or tick "No" to the above question, will not be considered for the ERA-PF call (but will be evaluated and ranked under the MSCA-PF call, if eligible).

The main implementation difference with MSCA-PF is that researchers supported by the ERA Fellowships will not formally be considered as MSCA fellows.

Host organisations from Widening Countries will be informed simultaneously about the results of the evaluation for both MSCA-PF and the ERA-PF call, i.e. all applicants eligible for transfer to the ERA-PF call will receive a standard MSCA-PF evaluation result letter and an attached ERA-PF evaluation result letter. There will be a single centralised evaluation review procedure for both MSCA-PF and ERA-PF.

²⁸ A dedicated budget has been earmarked under the [Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 "11. Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area"](#).

²⁹ As defined in Article 2(17) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe and laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, from the Member States, those countries are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, for the whole duration of the Programme; for associated countries, it means the list of eligible countries as defined based on an indicator and published in the Work Programme. Legal entities from outermost regions as defined in Article 349 TFUE shall be also fully eligible as coordinators under this component.

5. Euratom funding for the MSCA-PF call

Under Horizon Europe MSCA-PF proposals will be eligible for funding in the following European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) domains of research:

- Improve and support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radiation protection, safe spent fuel and radioactive waste management and decommissioning, including the safe and secure use of nuclear power and of non-power applications of ionizing radiation.
- Maintain and further develop expertise and competence in the nuclear field within the Community.
- Foster the development of fusion energy as a potential future energy source for electricity production and contribute to the implementation of the European fusion roadmap.
- Support the policy of the Union and its Member States on continuous improvement of nuclear safety, safeguards and security.

Applicants in these domains of research wishing to be considered for Euratom funding under MSCA-PF (either European Postdoctoral Fellowships or Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) **must indicate** this by ticking "YES" to the following question in the application form:

"Are the research and training activities proposed addressing topics related to nuclear sciences and technology, as outlined in the Guide for applicants for this call and the Euratom Research and Training Programme (ERTP)?"

Additionally, the Euratom proposals **must meet** additional **eligibility criteria** listed hereunder:

- The researcher must be a national or long-term resident (see definitions) of an EU Member State or Euratom Associated Country.³⁰
- The beneficiary and (if applicable) the associated partner hosting the additional non-academic placement must be based in an EU Member State or Euratom Associated Country.

Ranking of proposals in the Euratom domains

The proposals will be ranked in the same scientific panel ranking lists as other proposals, although the funding will be provided by the Euratom programme.

³⁰ For Euratom Associated Countries, please see the [Euratom Research and Training programme 2026-2027](#).

6. Instructions for Completing Parts A and B of the Proposal

A proposal consists of an administrative part - **Part A**, and a narrative part - **Part B** (technical annex). Only proposals composed of complete Parts A and B will be assessed by the independent evaluators based on how well they address the award criteria (see section 2.4 of the MSCA Work Programme).

Part A:

Part A is filled in online via the submission forms, and contains the proposal's title, abstract, as well as key information on the beneficiary, supervisor, researcher, and other administrative and financial information.

Selection of panel and MSCA Keywords

In section 1 of the Electronic Submission Service, the applicant must select one of the eight major areas of research (known as "scientific panels") considered the core discipline of the proposal: Chemistry (CHE); Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC); Economic Sciences (ECO); Information Science and Engineering (ENG); Environment and Geo-Sciences (ENV); Life Sciences (LIF); Mathematics (MAT), and Physics (PHY). Eligible proposals will be evaluated under the selected Scientific Panel. Each panel will establish a ranked list of proposals for funding. Only the highest scoring proposals will be selected for funding (within the limits of the available call budget).


Applicants should then choose the keywords (descriptors) carefully since these will guide the REA in the selection of the most appropriate experts for the proposal evaluation. The applicants must select at least 3, and up to 5, keywords (descriptors) that best characterise the subject of their proposal in descending order of relevance as explained below:

- For each keyword, you must make a selection in 3 levels (as presented in the list of MSCA keywords): Panel (e.g.: CHE), Sub-area of research (level 1 keywords, e.g. C4 –Applied and Industrial Chemistry) and Descriptors (level 2 keywords, e.g. Ceramics).
- The first two keywords (descriptors) should be selected within the same scientific area of research/panel (e.g.: CHE) that was selected for the proposal.
- The third, fourth and fifth keywords (descriptors) can be chosen from any of the eight (8) scientific areas of research/panel (CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, MAT, LIF, PHY, SOC).

The [list of MSCA keywords](#) as well as guidance material can be found on the [REA website](#).

 **Abstracts in part A should not contain sensitive information, as they will be made publicly available if the project is retained for funding.**

 **Only the associated partners hosting the outgoing phase of GF and/or hosting a non-academic placement should be included in the proposal's Part A.**

 **IMPORTANT:** do not fill in the list of up to five publications, relevant previous projects, or significant infrastructure in Part A. If filled in this will be disregarded by the evaluators. This information however should be described in the relevant sections of part B-2.

Part B:

Part B is composed of two separate PDF files (Part B-1 and Part B-2), which must be uploaded as two separate PDF files:

- **Part B-1**, containing a maximum of 10 (ten) A4-sized pages. Any excess pages (i.e. numerical page 11 and beyond) will not be available to the evaluators;
- **Part B-2**, with no strict page limit for A4-sized pages.

Applicants must use the **Part B template available on the call page** on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). An editable version of this template can be downloaded from the submission portal, after the call opening date, once you initiate the creation of your proposal. All instructions for completing part B of the proposal are embedded in the template and should be removed before proposal submission.

 **Templates are call specific – make sure you use the template for MSCA PF-2026.**

Part B-1 is the core part of the proposal, structured according to the 3 award criteria: Excellence, Impact and Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation. It should contain the details of the proposed research and training activities along with the practical arrangements proposed to implement them.

The following formatting conditions apply to Part B-1:

- The **page size** is A4
- All **margins** (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- The **reference font** for the body text of proposals is Times New Roman (Windows platforms), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions).
- The use of a different font for the body text is not allowed unless the cumulative conditions are fully met, namely that the font is clearly legible and that its use does not significantly reduce the length of the proposal in terms of the number of pages compared to the reference font (for example, with a view to circumventing the page limit).
- **The minimum font size allowed is 11 points.** Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.
- Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formulas, etc. may deviate, but must be legible and not be less than 8 points.

⚠ In cases of non-compliance with the formatting or font size requirements above, the proposal might be reformatted and any pages exceeding the page limit would be disregarded by the evaluators, in order to ensure equal treatment of all applicants.

⚠ Hyperlinks to external content should not be included in Part B-1. Any such links will be disregarded by the evaluators.

Part B-2 contains:

- CV of the researcher
- Capacity of the participating organization(s) – in addition to the beneficiary, all associated partners for the proposal (host of the outgoing phase of GF, non-academic placement hosts, secondment(s) hosts(s), and/or associated partners linked to the beneficiary should be included in Part B-2 (Tables 5.1 and 5.2).
 - ⚠ Table 5.2 should be maximum 1 page in length for the Beneficiary and maximum half page in length for each Associated Partner. Text in these tables beyond these limits will be disregarded by the evaluators, in order to ensure equal treatment of all applicants.
- Additional information on ethics and additional information on security screening (in case there was not sufficient space in the dedicated sections in part A)
- Environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter³¹
- Letter of commitment from the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase in case of Global Fellowships.

⚠ Any other additional information (including hyperlinks to external content) presented in Part B-2 that should have been included in Part B-1 or that is not required in the proposal (e.g. additional biographies, recommendation letters, letters of commitment other than those required for the outgoing phase host in GFs, etc.) will be disregarded by the evaluators.

Please consult the [MSCA-PF 2026 Call page](#) for relevant Call documents including the “Topic Q&As” section.

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)

AI definitions are available in the [Definition from the European Commission’s High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence](#).

See also: [Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research and recommendation for researchers, research organisations and funding organisations](#).

³¹ Please see the [MSCA Green Charter](#) | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (europa.eu)

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized.

If generative AI is employed in the preparation of the proposal, you should provide an explanation at the end of Part B-2, detailing which AI tool was used, for which purpose, and the specific sections of the proposal to which it was applied.

7. Technical Aspects of Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the European Commission's Online Submission Service accessible via the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). You will need a stable internet connection for the submission process. Please verify your own computer's configuration against the [recommended system configuration](#).

We encourage you to submit your proposal as soon as possible. It remains possible to reopen, edit and resubmit your proposal as many times as required before the call deadline. Only the last submitted version will be evaluated. Well in advance and prior to the call deadline, it is strongly advised to re-download parts B-1 and B-2, to ensure the PDF files are correct, complete, and not corrupted.

Each participating entity in Horizon Europe (beneficiaries and associated partners) must have a Participant Identification Code (PIC) which identifies the institution(s) taking active part in the project and which must be included in Part A of the proposal. Host institutions that are part of a Joint Research Unit must correctly identify the PIC to be used for the Beneficiary, to have a clear understanding on which institution is bearing the responsibility of the proposal.

What if your submission failed due to a technical problem?

If you believe that the submission of your proposal was not successful due to a technical error **on the side of the European Commission**, you may lodge a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk](#), within four calendar days after the call deadline.

You should save PDF versions of parts B-1 and B-2 holding a time stamp (file attributes listing the date and time of creation and last modification) that is prior to the call deadline, as well as any proof of the alleged failure (e.g. screen shots). You may be requested by the IT Helpdesk to provide these items. Any information regarding the proposal will be treated in a strictly confidential manner.

You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt the same or next working day, and you will be notified about the outcome of the complaint within the timeframe indicated in the message.

If a complaint is upheld (i.e. the investigation has demonstrated technical issues on the European Commission side which prevented (re)submission of the proposal), the secured files provided to the IT helpdesk will be used for the evaluation. In the absence of such documents, the version present in the IT system will be evaluated.

8. Calculation of 8-years research experience for researchers applying to MSCA-PF call

A document and a self-assessment tool aiming to guide the applicants towards calculating the possible deductions of their 8 years Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) experience in research can be found on the REA website following this [link](#), under the Postdoctoral Fellowships - call 2026 section.

Scientific Misconduct and Research Integrity

Issues of scientific misconduct and research integrity are taken very seriously. In line with the Horizon Europe Rules for Participation, appropriate action such as termination of the Grant Agreement Preparation phase or, if the Grant Agreement has been signed, the implementation of liquidated damages and financial penalties, suspension of payments, recoveries and termination of the Grant Agreement, will be taken against any applicants/beneficiaries found to have misrepresented, fabricated or plagiarised any part of their proposal. The applicants will also be required to make a "Declaration on Honour" in Part A of the proposal.