

# Infoday: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

## What I learned from my MSCA PF fellowship

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- **Global Fellowship:**

Outgoing phase: 18 months at Duke University, NC, USA

Return phase: 12 months at AUTH University, Greece

Starting date: September 2024

- MSCA PF 2022 - Project MILLISURF - 86/100 **Not Funded**

- MSCA PF 2023 - Revision & Resubmission of MILLISURF - 98/100 **Funded**

# Suggestions about the template

- Follow the MSCA template of 2024
  - Changes in template from one year to another
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Handbook
  - Strengths/Weaknesses of ESR
  - Guidance/ Tips for each section/ subsection

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS



*1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art) #@QUA-LIT-QL@#*

*At a minimum, address the following aspects:*

- *Describe the quality and pertinence of the R&I objectives; are the objectives measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable?*
- Explain the research context of your project and introduce your project's subject.
- Explain the importance of the research being carried out and how it addresses a challenge/priority at a global/European level.
- Describe the specific research objectives (ROs) of the project. These should give the evaluator an insight into what research will be carried out during the project and should be feasible.
- Each research objective should correspond to the research work packages. For example, objective 1 is the objective for research WP 1. Number the objectives O1, O2, O3 etc. and include the corresponding work package in brackets at the end of each objective (WP1).

- Start preparing your proposal as soon as possible
- MSCA National Contact Point
  - Feedback on your proposal & Guidance on how to improve it
  - Allow for time to make changes according to their feedback
- Contact / Get to know your host institution and the partner for the outgoing phase (if applicable)

## Direct

- Qualifications and experience of the supervisors
- Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organizations, including hosting arrangements

## Indirect

- Transfer of Knowledge from
  - Associated Partner for the Outgoing Phase
  - Coordinator to Researcher

# Enhance clarity & readability

- Clarity in writing and in explaining the state-of-the-art / gaps-challenges / the novelty and significance of your proposal
- Lists/ Tables wherever appropriate
- Highlight important phrases
- Add figures that explain the concept of your proposal. Illustrations help in understanding/ bigger picture.
- Add preliminary results, possibly in the form of a figure. Help establish credibility for your proposal.
- Make sure that you answer everything in the appropriate section and subsection

- Section of highest weighting - extra **attention!**
- Provide **specific** Research Objectives (RO) and Work Packages (WP) that address each RO
- Give **specific information** on how you plan to implement each task (materials/ methods/ equipment/ software). **Enhance credibility** + show that you have a **well-structured plan**
- Planned training activities:
  - **Show that you know the host / outgoing-phase institution**
  - For instance plan to get scientific training on aspects that can help your research + and are the expertise of the host / outgoing-phase institution lab
  - Activities that enhance your long-term career goals

- Show why **you are the suitable** to carry out the proposed research.
  - Relate to your existing research experience.
  - Reference relevant research experience + your recent and relevant publications
- Include innovative ideas/ aspects (such as techniques/ fabrication methods) which broaden/ advance your current research
- **Bridge your existing experience with novel/ innovative aspects + host institution's & outgoing-phase institution's expertise**
- Interdisciplinary + Open science practices are important! How?

- Dissemination, exploitation plan, & communication activities: Be as specific as possible
  - how many publications/ what venues/ what will each publication address
  - specific communication activities - cover different audiences
  - how will you exploit /commercialize you research - plan
- Scientific, societal and economic impact:
  - **Scientific**: greater goals / broader impact - significance
  - **Societal**: Relate your research to EU/ global goals
    - Example: EU Mission - Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030
  - **Economic**: As quantifiable as possible
    - Example: not just faster or more cost-effective or more accurate but estimate how much



- Construct a work plan
- Include a Gantt chart
- Provide a short relation/ correlation between work packages/deliverables.
- Quality and capacity of the host institutions:
  - Refer to the equipment that will assist your research
  - Highlight how you will be integrated into the country and the lab

# Best practices on resubmission

- Use the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) from the previous submission: Weaknesses + issues addressed adequately
- Help from NCP and host/ outgoing-phase institutions
- Update state of the art: include references published since initial submission
- Changes in template, such as addition of MSCA Green Charter in 2023

## Concluding remarks

- Do not get discouraged - Resubmit
- Highlight your relevant experiences - show why you are suitable
- Show what you will gain - how the MSCA PF will help your career
- Give specific information - show that you have a plan

Best of luck!!!