



Karolinska
Institutet

Marie Skłodowska–Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 Information seminar

5 March 2026

Ying Zhao, PhD

Grants Office, Karolinska Institutet

Information provided here are subject to change after the Call opens

Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:30 **EU Framework Program: Political Objectives of MSCA.**
Isabel Dellacasa Lindberg, National Contact Point MSCA
Sweden, The Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet)
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Practicalities: Eligibility, Budget, Application support at KI.**
Ying Zhao, MSCA Grant Advisor, KI Grants Office
- 11:15 – 11:45 **Questions**

Slides will be available on [MSCA Postdoc Fellowships Info Seminar 2026 | Staff Portal](#) – download yourselves.



MSCA-PF 2026

Karolinska Institutet 2026-03-05

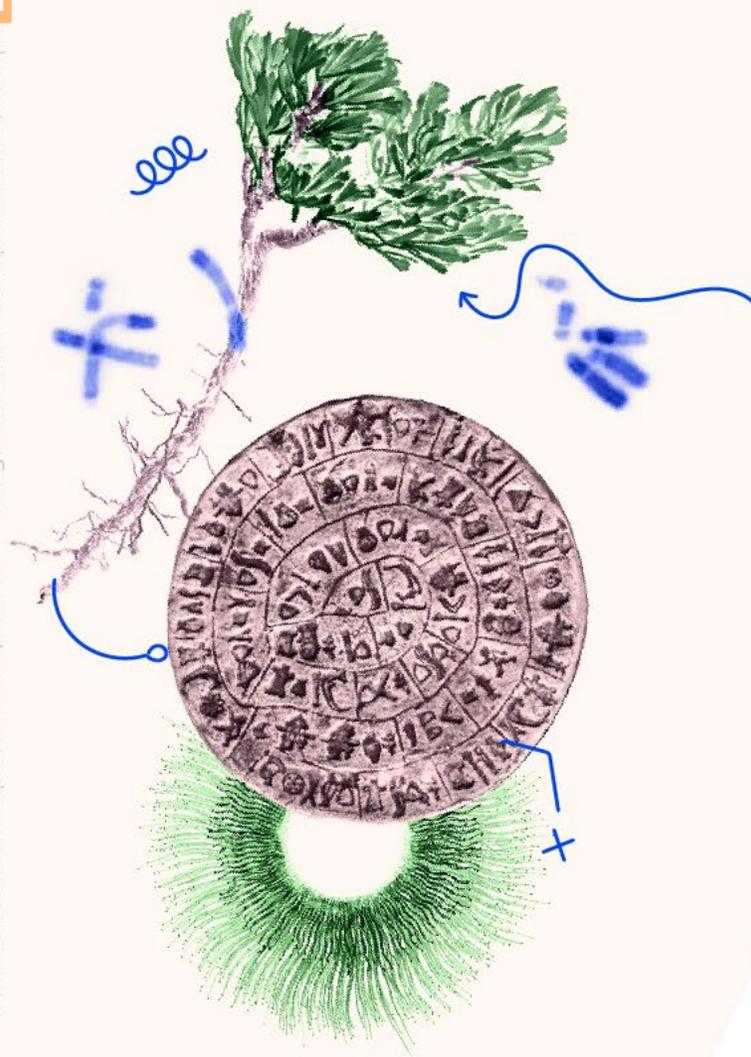
Isabel Dellacasa Lindberg, Vetenskapsrådet, NCP MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



*Curiosity that changes
the world*





Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - launched 1996

Under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), the MSCA:

Funded **1080 doctoral programmes**, of which 156 industrial doctoral programmes and 76 joint doctorates

Involved **4 700 companies**, of which **2 200 SMEs**

Involved **37% of researchers** from non-EU countries and around **1300 organisations** from non-EU and non-associated countries

Since 1996
budget
14 billion €
researchers
140 000
(39 000 PhDs)

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

budget
6.6 billion €
researchers
65 000
(25 000 PhDs)

Under Horizon Europe, the MSCA will:

Strengthen organisations

The MSCA support excellent doctoral and postdoctoral programmes and collaborative projects worldwide, promoting structuring impact on organisations

Foster research and innovation beyond academia

The MSCA boost ties between academia and other non-academic organisations with various incentives, increasing fellows' exposure to other sectors

Build international links

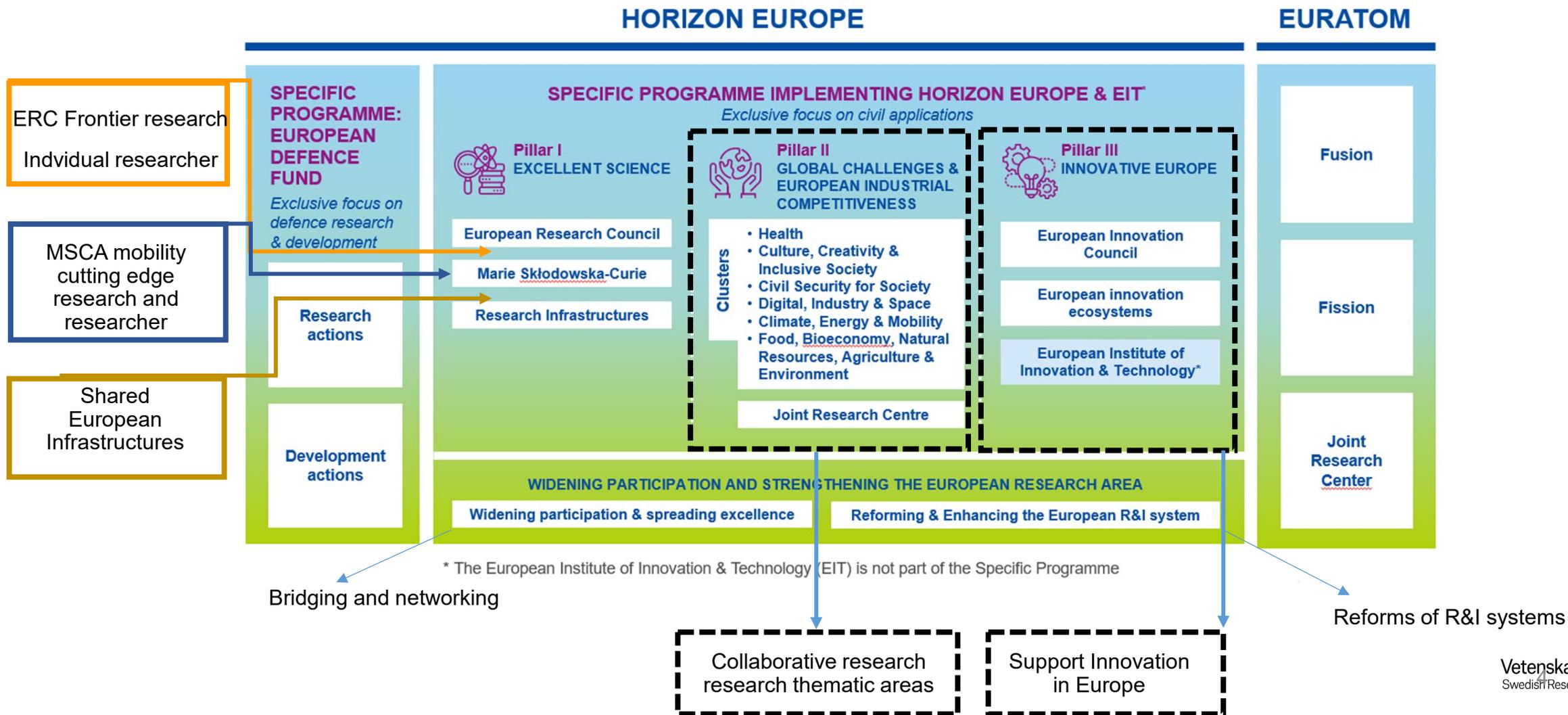
The MSCA are key in attracting talent to Europe, building international, strategic partnerships, and promoting global research mobility and science cooperation

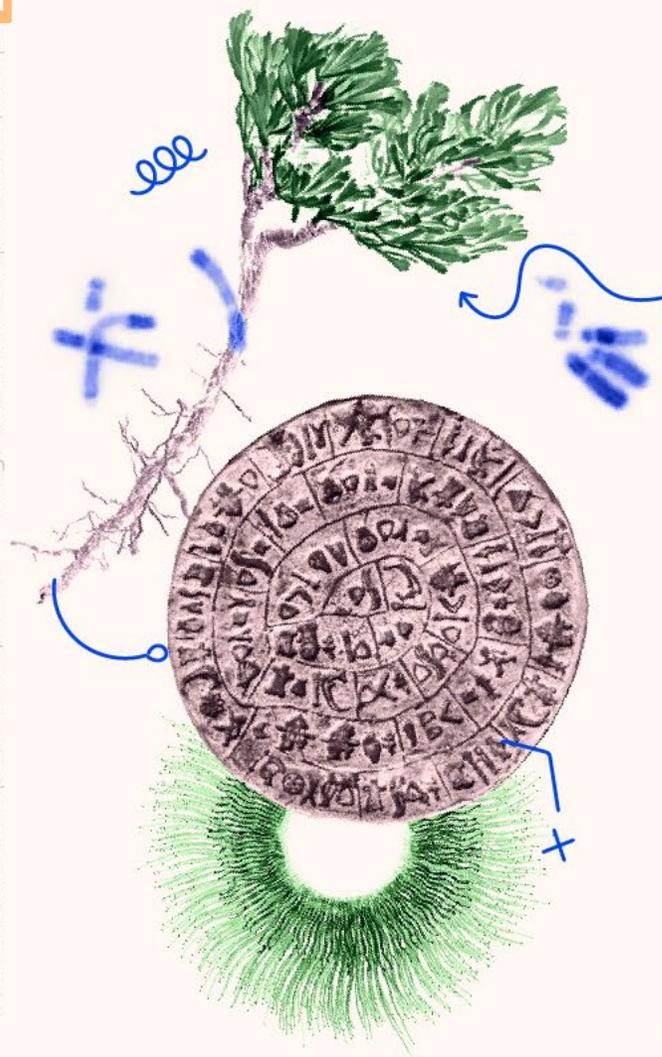
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

>12 Nobel Laureates

[Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions 2021-2027 - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://publications-office.europa.eu/)

Horizon Europe – frame work program for research & innovation





Reference programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training "talents"

The MSCA have 5 main actions

New action: Choose Europe for Science

Doctoral Networks

implement doctoral programmes (including joint doctorates and industrial doctorates) by international partnerships of organisations from different sectors. They train highly-skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research and innovation. Researchers holding a PhD can carry out their research activities, acquire new skills and develop their careers abroad, whilst developing competences in non-academic sectors and working within interdisciplinary teams.

Staff Exchanges

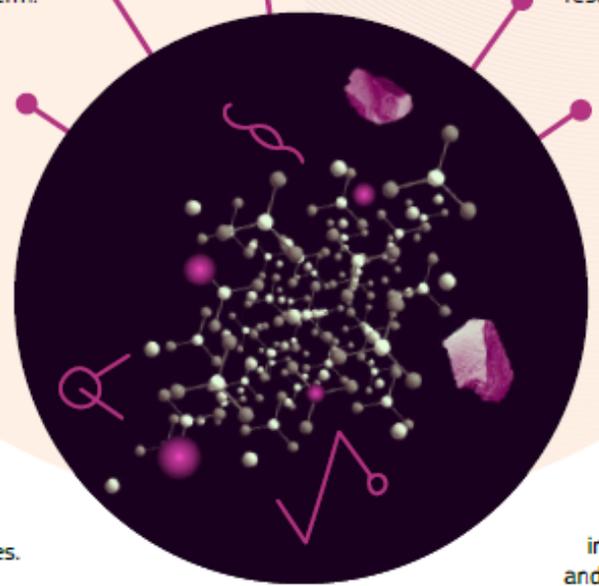
encourage short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of research and innovation staff through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe and beyond. By doing so, they enhance knowledge and skills transfer and increase organisations' research and innovation capacities.

MSCA and Citizens

brings research and researchers closer to children, families and the public at large through the European Researchers' Night - the annual research communication and promotion event taking place at the end of September across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

COFUND

co-finances regional, national and international doctoral and postdoctoral programmes for researchers' training and career development. The COFUND action spreads MSCA's best practices by setting high standards and excellent working conditions, and boosts training and international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.



MSCA Key features

Researchers training, skills and career development (all career stages)

Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectorial and interdisciplinary mobility

Attractive working and employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

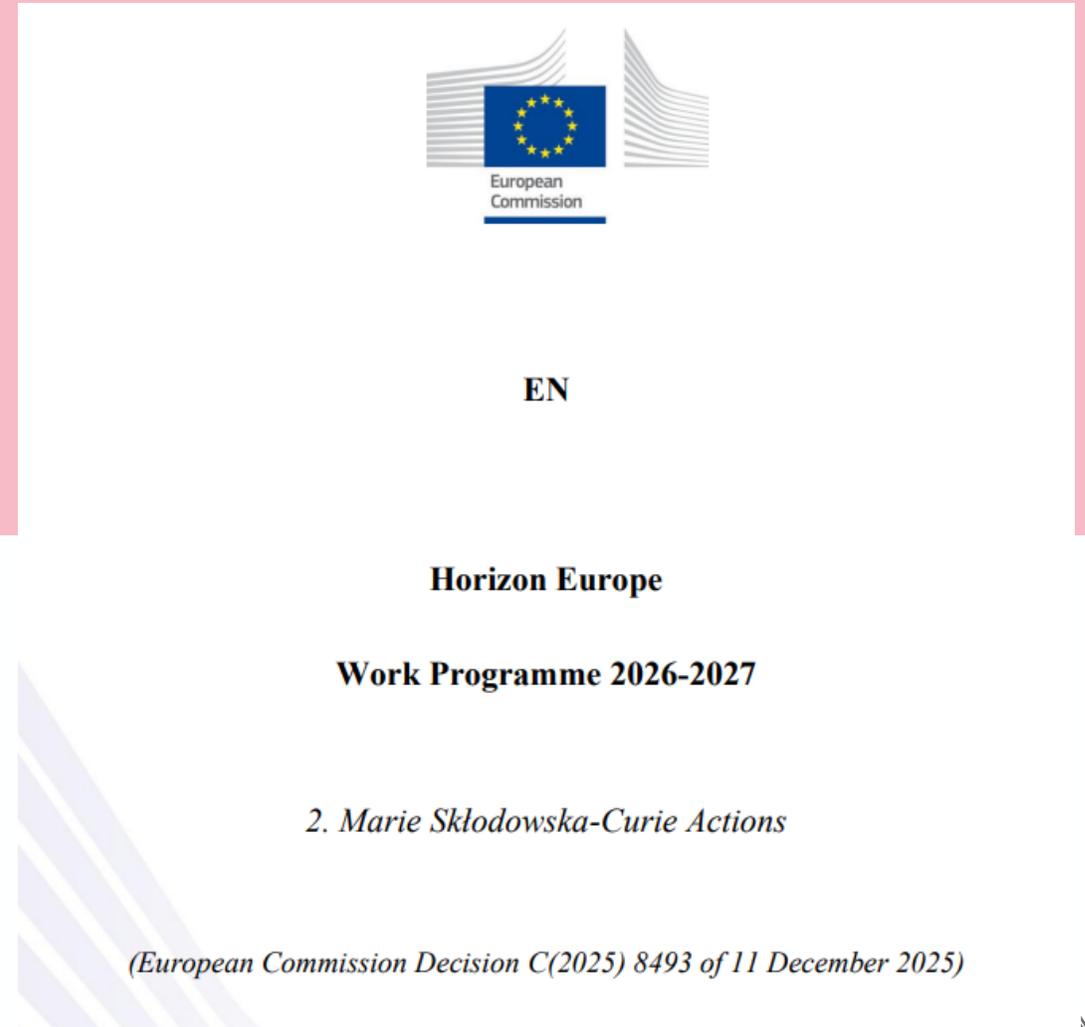
Emphasis on "non-academic"

Work programme 2026-2027

The spring update of the main Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 was adopted by the Commission on 11 December 2025, with the official reference C(2025) 8493.

8 scientific panels – bottom up & open to all domains
Resubmission restrictions depending on program!

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Indicative launch and deadline of 2026- 2027 calls

Funding - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA calls 2026	Call launch	Submission Deadline
Postdoctoral Fellowships	9 April (indicative)	9 September (indicative)
Doctoral Networks	28 May (indicative)	24 November (indicative)
COFUND 2026		8 April
Staff Exchanges		16 April
Choose Europe for Science 2027	8 December 2026 (indicative)	6 April 2027 (indicative)
COFUND 2027	8 December 2026 (indicative)	6 April 2027 (indicative)

Guide for applicants MSCA-PF

❑ Specific Guide for Applicants (GfA)

GfA for 2026 will be available when call open

- have a look at the 2025 call one for ideas

[Guide for applicants - MSCA PF 2023.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Re-submission restriction
Score <70%
cannot submit following
year with same host and supervisor

Early contact with the beneficiary
Research Support Office!



Horizon Europe Programme

Guide for Applicants

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Version 2.0 - 2023

11/04/2023

Disclaimer

This guide aims to support potential applicants to the PF 2023 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.



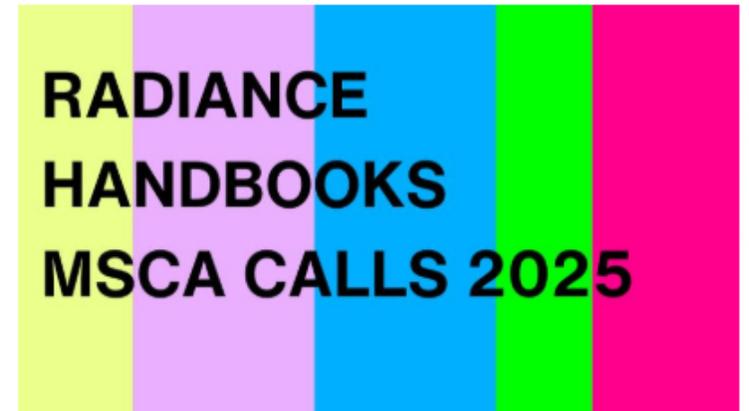
RADIANCE portal

[About us](#) | [NCP Portal Management](#) | [Horizon Europe NCP Portal](#)

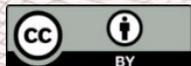
NCP Portal / Tools / Handbooks for MSCA 2025

Handbooks for MSCA 2025

In the RADIANCE project we continue to provide handbooks to support applicants in the proposal writing phase. These handbooks are updated for the call year 2025. These documents provide advice on the various aspects of the proposal and look closer into the different sections and subchapters.



[Handbooks for MSCA 2025](#) | [MSCA](#) | [Horizon Europe NCP Portal](#)



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Categories for participation in MSCA

Member States (MS)
or
**Horison Europe
Associated countries
(HE AC)**

Third countries (TC)

Entities

Academic



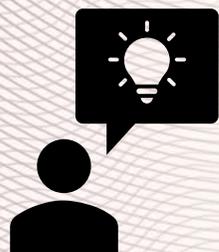
Non-academic



- ✓ Industry (SME)
- ✓ Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- ✓ Governmental Organisation (GO) not Higher Educational Institutions (HEI)

Post Doctoral Fellowship – mono beneficiary (European Fellowship)

Open for world-wide fellows
i.e. MS, HE-AC
or TC



European Postdoctoral Fellowships (EF)

✓ coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe

✓ 12-24 months

Up to 1/3 of standard duration

Optional

Secondment



MS, HE-AC or TC

Additional 6 months

Optional

Non-academic placement



Only in MS or HE-AC



Post Doctoral Fellowship – mono beneficiary (Global Fellowship)

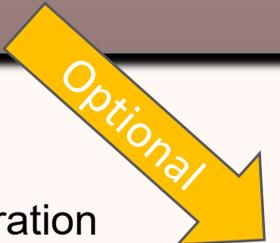
Global Postdoctoral Fellowship

- Only Nationals or Long-term residents (MS or HE AC)
 - ✓ Return 12 months



Outgoing host (TC)

- ✓ 12-24 months



Legal and continuous residence within MS or HE-AC of at least five consecutive years

Additional 6 months

Non-academic placement

Only MS or HE AC

Up to 1/3 of standard duration

Secondments

MS, HE AC or TC

Post Doctoral Fellowship – eligibility

Possession of a PhD at call deadline *i.e.* successfully defended not formally awarded (**cannot be conditionally awarded!**)

Up to 8-years research experience after PhD

8-year rule

Not resided/main activity in the country of beneficiary (EF)

➤ MS or HE-AC

or **host organisation (GF)**

➤ TC

for more than 12 months in the 36 months before deadline

Mobility rule

The scientific panels

The 8 scientific panels are:

- 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)

Applicants must indicate at the submission stage in which of the eight different scientific areas their proposal fits best.

All fields of
research and
innovation
(bottom up
principle)



Evaluation

Evaluation of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

REA – European Research Executive Agency



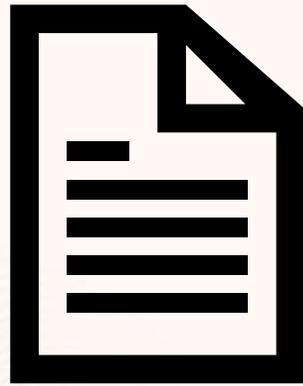
Each panel is overseen by a panel Chair and vice-chairs

An independent observer is appointed by the REA to observe the overall evaluation process

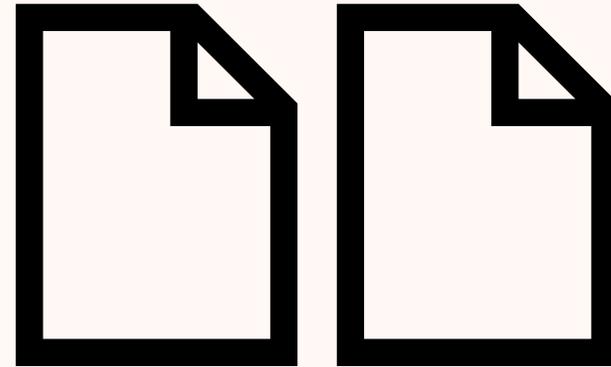
Part A and Part B1 & B2

Administrative part

Narrative part



+



Part A

Part B1 and B2



MSCA-PF success rate 2025

Published: 9 Feb 2026

MSCA awards €404.3 million to postdoctoral researchers

1610 outstanding postdoctoral researchers were selected for funding among 17,066 applicants.

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) [received 17,066 applications for this call](#), of which 16,836 were eligible and were evaluated. 1610 projects were selected. This result corresponds to a **9,6% success rate**.

MSCA-PF success rate 2024

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) received 10,360 applications for [this call](#), **16.6 %** of which were selected for funding.

Published: 11 Feb 2025

MSCA awards €417 million to postdoctoral researchers

1696 outstanding postdoctoral researchers were selected for funding among 10,360 applicants.

MSCA Seal of Excellence (SoE)

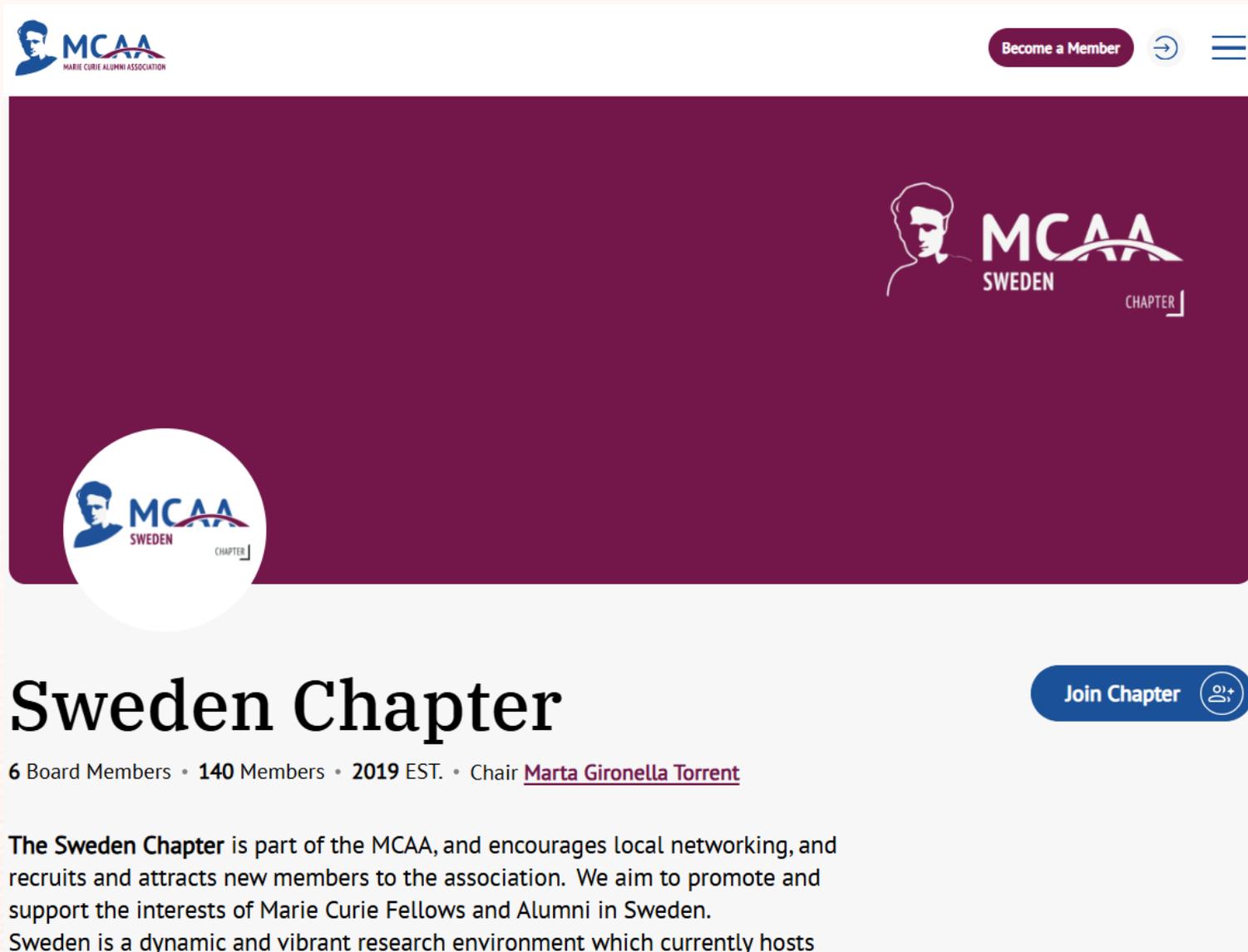
EC generally announces the evaluation results in March.

- **SoE certificates** awarded to proposals scored $\geq 85\%$ but did not get funding due to budget limitations.
- Applications may end up in the **reserve list** i.e. could be invited to the main list by the EC if the budget allows or **beyond reserve list**
 - VR handles the national MSCA Seal of Excellence (SoE) funding of SoE
 - **On the national ranking list VR will contact the beneficiary grants office for proposals considered for funding**



MSCA Alumni association (MCAA)

Sweden
Chapter | Marie
Curie Alumni
Association



Sweden Chapter [Join Chapter](#)

6 Board Members • 140 Members • 2019 EST. • Chair [Marta Gironella Torrent](#)

The **Sweden Chapter** is part of the MCAA, and encourages local networking, and recruits and attracts new members to the association. We aim to promote and support the interests of Marie Curie Fellows and Alumni in Sweden. Sweden is a dynamic and vibrant research environment which currently hosts

Contact your National Contact Point (NCP)

[Find your Ncp MSCA | Horizon Europe NCP Portal](#)



Swedish NCPs

Dr. Isabel Dellacasa Lindberg

Swedish Research Council

Coordinating MSCA NCP

Email: isabel.dellacasa.lindberg@vr.se

Dr. Erik Litborn

Vinnova

Email: erik.litborn@vinnova.se



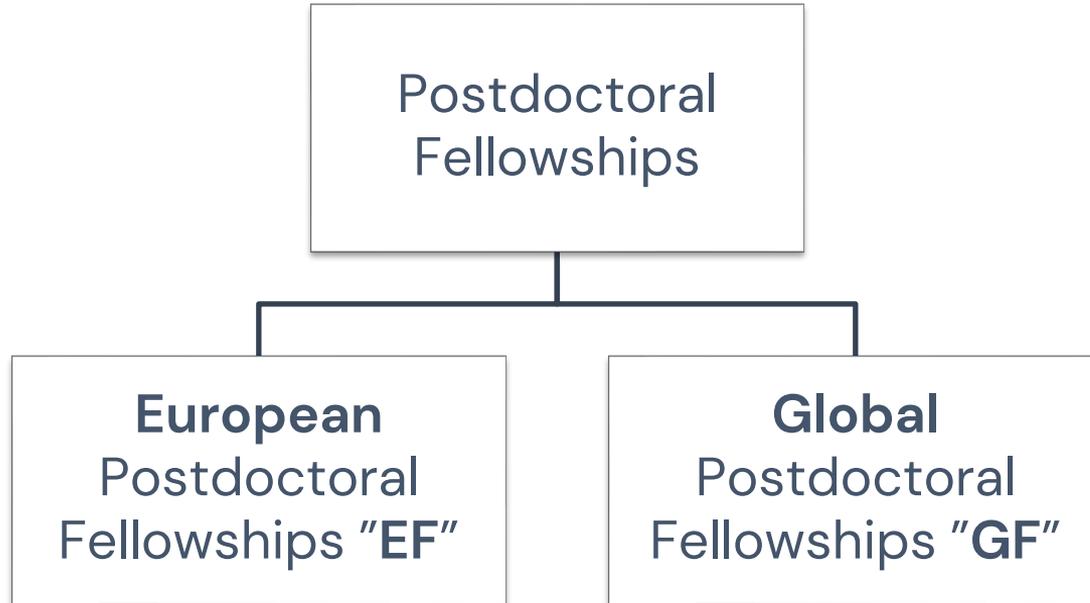
MSCA Postdoc Fellowships (PF)

- Eligibility
- Budget & Finances at KI
- Application support at KI

Ying Zhao, PhD. MSCA Grant Advisor

Grants Office, Research Support & External Relations Office, KI

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Application to MSCA-PF

Collaborative Proposal Preparation

- Fellows and Principal Investigators agree together on project content
- The PI's organization hosts the fellow.

Submission Rules

- Each fellow submits one proposal
- PIs may submit multiple proposals with different fellows and unique project objectives.



Call 2026 indicative dates

- **Opens: April 9th 2026**
- **Deadline: September 9th 2026,**
17:00 Brussels time
- **Call link: [HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF](#)**
- Always check the call link for updates when call opens as the **deadline affects Mobility eligibility**



General Eligibility Criteria MSCA-PF

Open to All Research Fields

Applicants from any research area can apply.

Host Organization Location

Eligible host organizations must be based in EU Member States or [Associated Countries](#). Organizations located in 'Third Countries' are not eligible to host.

Unconditional PhD degree or successful defense of doctoral thesis

The Fellow's PhD degree must be obtained by deadline and unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed). The fellows can have max 8 years research experience since their (first) PhD.

Allowable Time Deductions

Parental leave, career breaks, or work outside research can be deducted from the 8-year eligibility window.

European Fellowships – in addition to General Eligibility Criteria



Duration and Nationality

Fellowships can be between 12 to 24 months and open to applicants of any nationality.



Doctoral Degree Requirement

The fellow must hold a unconditional doctoral degree or have successfully defended their thesis before the deadline; max 8 yrs from date of award of (first) Doctoral degree.



Mobility Criteria

The fellow must move to an EU or Associated country and not have main activities there for more than 12 months in the past three years backdating from the deadline.

Examples, European Fellowships (Incoming postdocs to Karolinska Institutet)



International Academics

A fellow with a PhD from France and postdoc experience in Australia, but no prior activities in Sweden



Postdocs currently at KI

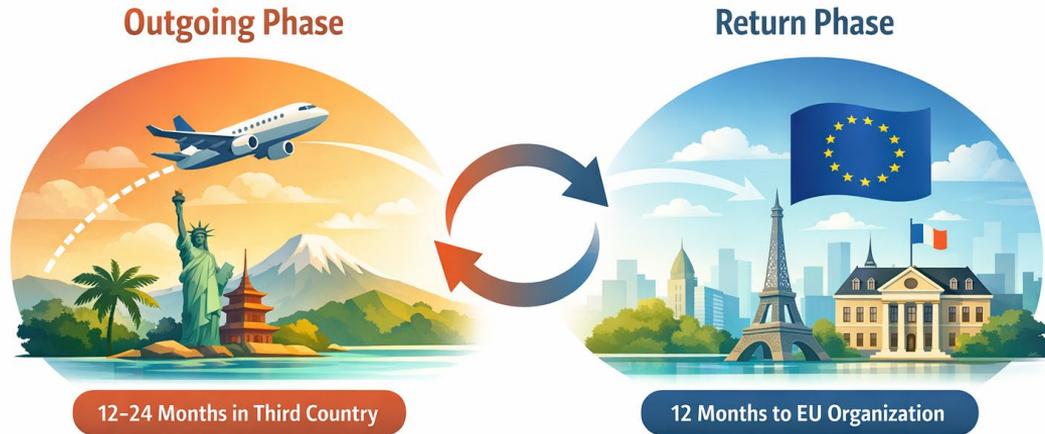
Fellows already at KI who have worked in Sweden for less than 12 months by September 9, 2026, to remain eligible.



Return of Swedish PhD from Postdoc abroad

PhD holders from Sweden with postdoc experience abroad must not exceed 12 months in Sweden between September 10, 2023, and September 9, 2026.

Global Fellowships



Outgoing Phase in Third Country

12–24 months in a Third Country (Outside EU/AC).
Secondments are allowed during this phase.

Can start project in European Host Institution for up to 3 months before moving to the Third Country.

Mandatory Return Phase

Return to EU Host Organization for 12 months.
No secondments during return phase.

Global Fellowships – in addition to General Eligibility Criteria



Nationality and Residency Requirement

Fellow must be nationals (have citizenship) or long-term residency of an EU Member State or Associated Country.



Doctoral Degree Criteria

An unconditional doctoral degree or successful thesis defense before the deadline is required, with a maximum of eight years since the first doctoral degree award.



Mobility criteria and Project Start

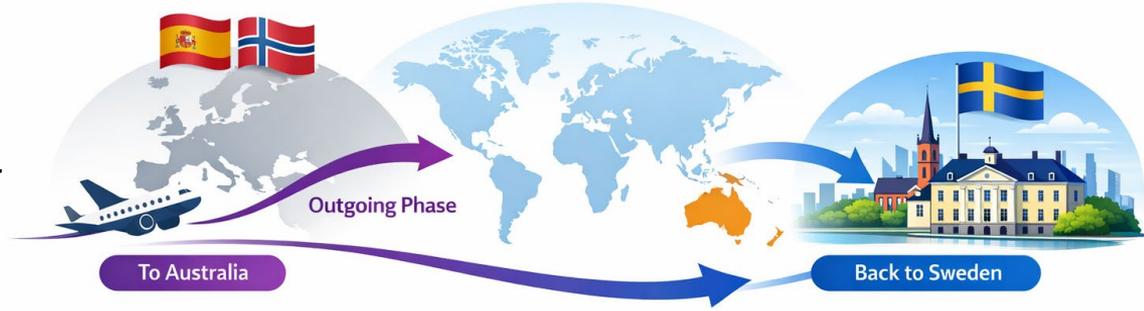
Fellow have not lived or worked in the outgoing phase (Third) country for over 12 months in the last 3 years, backdating from deadline. Can start outgoing phase in the EU/AC Host organization for max 3 months before moving to the Third Country.

Examples, Global Fellowships with Outgoing Phase

Australia, return phase Sweden

EU or AC Citizens

Fellow with Spanish (EU) or Norwegian (AC) citizenship go to Australia (outgoing phase, 12–24 months); with or without starting project in Sweden. Return to Sweden (return phase).



Third-Country Nationals with EU/AC long-term residency

Any nationality with EU/AC long-term residency go to Australia (Outgoing Phase, 12–24 months); with or without starting the project in Sweden. Return to Sweden 12 months (Return Phase).



Finding MSCA Guidelines



[MSCA – How to apply – European Commission](#)

Visit the European Commission's website for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships information and guidelines.



Essential Application Documents

You can find key documents like the Work Program, Guide for Applicants, and proposal templates are available online for download.



Support Tools for Applicants

Use the self-assessment tool and guidelines for the 2026 Call when it opens, to calculate 8 yrs of research experience.

Identifying Legal Entities



Recognizing Legal Entity Status

Universities like KI, KTH, SU, and Uppsala University are legal entities and can host projects. Centers i.e. SciLifeLab, CMM are not legal entities.

Selecting Host Organization

For projects at Karolinska University Hospital, the Host organization Legal Entity is KI or Region Stockholm. Find out where fellow will be employed. PI must be affiliated or employed.

Seeking Support and Confirmation

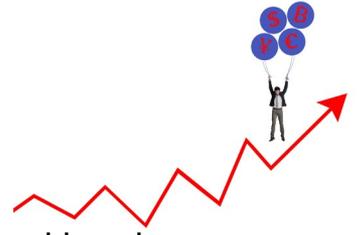
Always confirm organizational hosting and management capabilities by contacting the organizations' Research Support Offices for expert guidance on legal and administrative matters.

Budget European Fellowships in Sweden

24 Months with Family Allowance

Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research/ Training/Networking	Management/ Indirect Costs	TOTAL
181 813 €	17 040 €	15 840 €	24 000 €	15 600 €	254 293 €

MSCA Fellowship Salary Details, KI



Gross Salary and Deductions

MSCA fellowship salaries shown in the budget are gross amounts. Social charges and local taxes are deducted.

Allowance Types and Amounts

Fellows receive living, mobility, and family allowances. With example exchange rate 11.2 for Euro/SEK, the project allows a Living allowance at KI ~53,000 SEK/month. Mobility Allowance ~6000 SEK. (Family Allowance ~5500 SEK).

Salary Setting and Distribution

Precise salary is determined by HR and PI with respect to local HR- and tax regulations. If any €s left in allowances, they are paid out to the fellow after the project ends when the exact exchange rate is known.

Global Fellowships – International Rate Comparison

Living allowance in the USA for MSCA fellows is approximately 66,000 SEK per month, paid through KI.

Budget for Postdoc Fellowships at KI, Sweden

- European PF € 254 293 with Family Allowance;
 € 238 453 without
 → **European PF needs Co-financing* ~400,000–440,000 SEK for INDI generated by the budget**
- Global PF, USA €426 855 with Family Allowance;
 €403 095 without
 → **Global PF needs Co-financing* at KI ~777,000–720,000 SEK for INDI generated by the budget**
- *Co-financing in SEK calculated with example €/SEK rate 11.2*

Eligibility for Family Allowance according to MSCA definition of "Family", page 79 in the Work Program

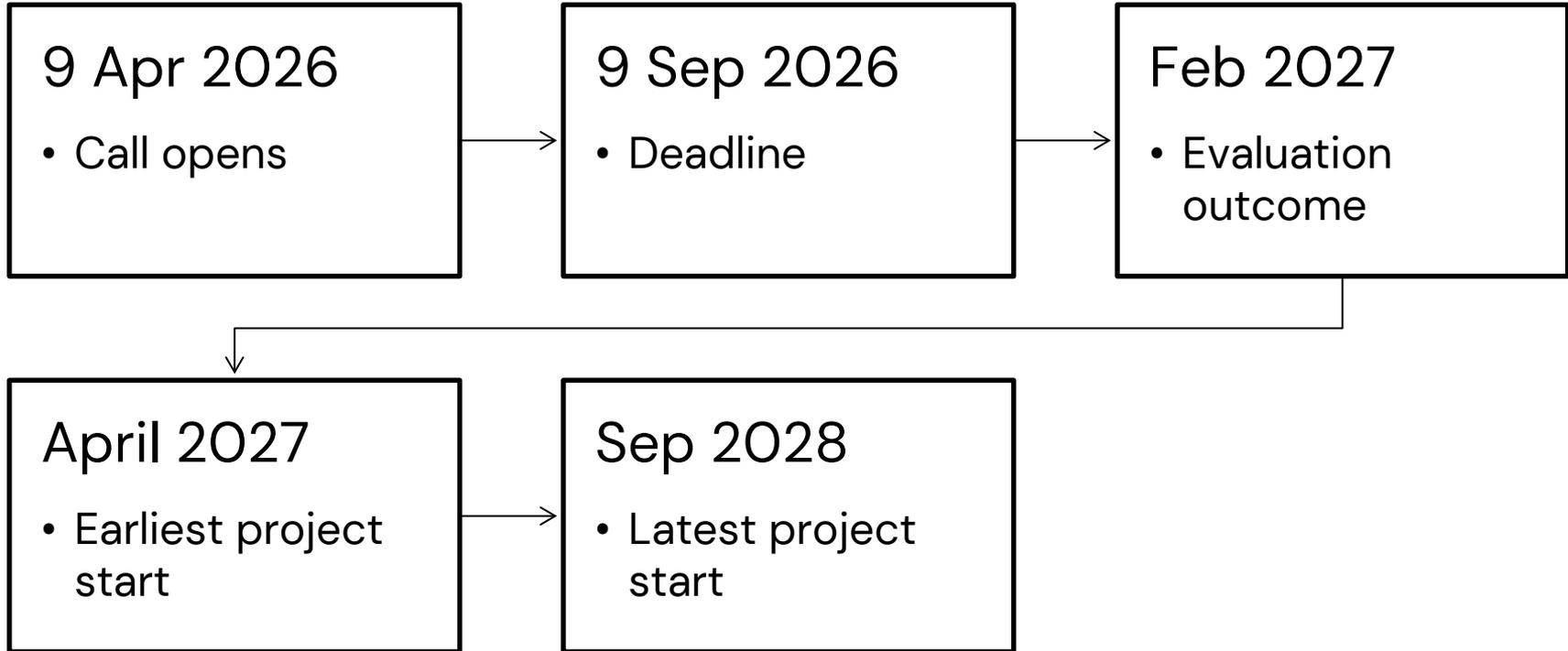
"If the postdoctoral researcher has or acquires family obligations during the action duration, i.e. has persons linked to him/her by

- i. **Marriage**, or
- ii. a **relationship with equivalent status to a marriage** recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or
- iii. **dependent children** who are actually being maintained by the researcher,

the family allowance must be paid to him/her as well "

Check for updated version of the Work Program when Call [HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF](#) opens.

Time Line, indicative



Application support at KI

- [MSCA Postdoc Fellowships | Staff Portal](#)
- [MSCA Postdoc Fellowships Info Seminar 2026 | Staff Portal](#)
 - Slides from this Information webinar will be published there
- [“MSCA Postdocs Bootcamp 2026 | Staff Portal”](#)
 - For those applying with KI as host organization
- If you are applying with KI and need help, contact ying.zhao@ki.se
- If you are applying with other universities or organizations, contact **their** Grants Office or equivalent

MSCA-PF Bootcamp

For fellows who apply with KI as Host Organization

- Workshop to build up proposal
- Breakdown of award criteria Excellence, Impact, Implementation; how arrange CV + Ethics parts.
- Bootcamp = 1 day + 7 afternoon workshop sessions
 - **June 12th: 1 day (preliminary)** building up proposal structure.
 - **August 3 – 17 (preliminary dates): 7 Afternoon sessions** Add & polish details; discussion with MSCA fellows
- Dates will be announced on the website later in the spring

Bootcamp Requirements

- PI and fellow agree on application and scientific project
- Signed [KI Application Assurance](#)
 - Department checks PI's operational and financial capacity
- Outline according to template
- [MSCA Postdocs Bootcamp| Staff Portal](#)



Karolinska Institutet Application Assurance Form
(For internal use only)

This form should be retained at the applicant department and archived when the application is granted.
A PDF should be sent to Grants Office: yjng.zhao@ki.se

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships European Postdoctoral Fellowships
 Global Fellowships - Outgoing Phase country: _____

Application Due Date (YYYY/MM/DD): _____

Call number/Identifier: _____

KI Principal Investigator (PI): _____

KI Fellow: _____

KI Department: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Acronym: _____

Total budget at the KI Department (€): _____

Cofunding¹ (list SEK required): _____

External Financial Funding Assurance Statement:

By signing below, we confirm that:

- 1) the listed PI may participate in the application described above².
- 2) the project will be performed at the KI department listed above when funding is awarded.
- 3) the PI, Head of Department and Head of Administration are aware of KI's rules and policies regarding indirect costs on external funding and certifies that the budget has been reviewed.
- 4) the PI, Head of Department and Head of Administration are aware of, and approve, cofunding requirements if applicable.

_____ Principal Investigator Name	_____ Principal Investigator Signature	_____ Date
_____ Head of Department Name	_____ Head of Department Signature	_____ Date
_____ Head of Administration Name	_____ Head of Administration Signature	_____ Date

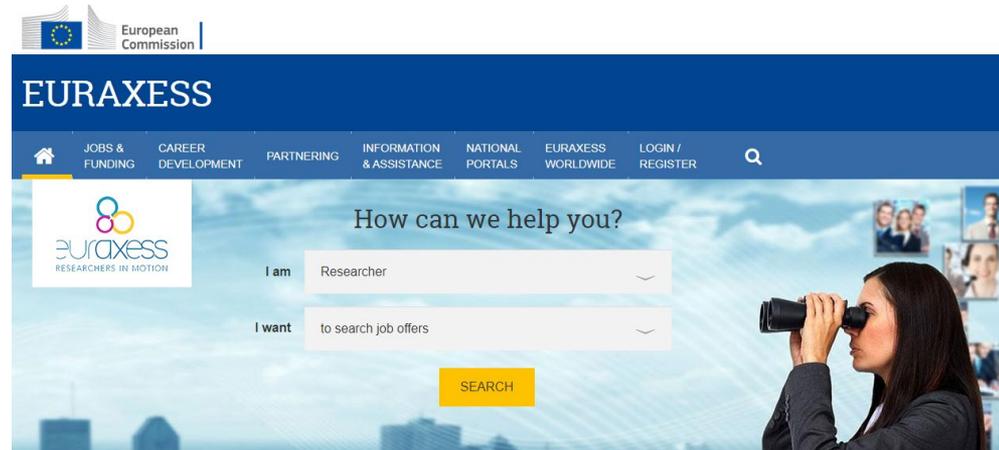
¹Cofunding is required for several EU programs including Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
²The PI does not have any pending allegations of misconduct or other reason why they should not be allowed to participate in the application

Yes I am interested in MSCA–PF!

- Make sure you're eligible in **all** criteria
 - E.g. Mobility criteria – **count exact days**;
- Grant Type that suits your career stage
 - If already done two postdocs – MSCA for third postdoc or Starting Grants?
- Decide where you want to go
 - E.g. go to Australia – do you want to come back to Europe with Global Fellowship?
- Decide which organization you should apply with – Contact their Grants Office
- Must find a PI yourself
 - PI's support for you: scientific & financial
 - Research at KI [Research at Karolinska Institutet | Karolinska Institutet](#)
 - Research groups by field at KI [Research groups | Karolinska Institutet](#)

Looking for positions?

- At KI
 - <https://staff.ki.se/positions-at-ki>
 - [International staff | Staff Portal](#)
- EURAXESS
 - <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>
 - postdoc opportunities, career guidance; organizations willing to host MSCA-postdoc applications



Summary

Verify Eligibility and Host Suitability

Assess if you meet all requirements, including country eligibility and relevance to your research.

Find a PI

The PI must agree to host you and agree to local requirements e.g. co-financing. Together you agree on contents of the application.

Consider Budget for Global Fellowships

Check whether the MSCA budget is enough to cover living costs in the Outgoing Phase country as well as needed co-financing

Start Early and Contact Hosts

Begin preparations well in advance and establish communication with potential host organizations as soon as possible.





**Karolinska
Institutet**

MSCA Postdoc Fellowships | Staff Portal

ying.zhao@ki.se