

Post-doctoral funding opportunities

MEDOW Summer 2015 Meeting

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Eevi Laukkanen Deputy Manager, European Office Research and Innovation Services Cardiff University

Session overview

- Research jobs v. Fellowships
 - Examples of both and motivations for applying
 - General tips on applying and finding funding
- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships
 - Overview of the scheme and statistics
 - Application process
 - Evaluation process
 - Mock peer review session on previous proposals
 - Tips from evaluators



7,000+ current research jobs



EURAXESS Researchers in Motion

European commission > Euraxess

European Commission



EURAXESS - **Researchers in Motion** is a unique pan-European initiative providing access to a complete range of information and support services to researchers wishing to pursue their research careers in Europe or stay connected to it.

JOBS

Employers and funders have jobs and fellowships up for grabs.

See who's offering what

SERVICES

Seeking personalised assistance or advice when relocating?

Get in touch with one of the hundreds of professionals here to support you and your family!

<u>RIGHTS</u>

Did you know that hundreds of institutions are doing their best to improve your working environment?

See who does what!

LINKS

Are you a European researcher working outside Europe? Or are you a non-European researcher wishing to come to Europe?

Discover what opportunities are available!









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Top tip 1: European Research Council (EF



- > Part of Horizon 2020, funding individual researchers
- Excellence of research and the researcher sole evaluation criteria
- ▶ Highly competitive and prestigious awards of €1.5-€3.5M
- Funding:
 - Starting Grants = early career top researchers, 2-7 years after PhD
 - Consolidator Grants = already independent excellent researchers, 7-12 years after PhD
 - Advanced Grants = senior research leaders with significant research achievements in the last 10 years

BUT ALSO: PhD and postdoctoral positions attached to ERC projects = opportunity to work on ambitious, groundbreaking projects with Principal Investigators at the 'top of their game'



Fellowship funding



- Important step in establishing your own independent career & building your own academic profile
- Opportunity to drive your own research agenda funding time and space to do what you want!
- Boost to publications and research outputs = academic progression
- Funds for travel to facilitate collaborations, present findings at conferences
- Start of a funding track record, allows you to leverage more research funding
- 'Project & grant management' experience

Top tip 2: Marie Sklodowska-Curie

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- > Part of Horizon 2020, supporting researchers
- Excellent research together with career and skills development
- Any nationality but mobility requirements
- Funding for:
 - ► Early Stage Researchers (ESR) = less than 4 years of full-time research experience and not yet in possession of a PhD → Innovative Training Networks and COFUND
 - Experienced Researchers (ER) = in possession of a PhD or at least 4 years of full-time research experience \rightarrow Individual Fellowships and COFUND
- COFUND = Fellowships programmes part-funded by the European Commission
 - Advertised on EURAXESS
 - Full employment contract but salaries and research allowances vary!
 - Find at EURAXESS or Cordis projects database (e.g. keywords COFUND + energy)

Examples of COFUND Fellowships programmes in 'Energy'



- P-SPHERE programme of UAB will offer 3 years fellowships to a total of 48 fellows which will have the opportunity to develop their researcher's careers in an exceptional environment. The P-SPHERE programme is articulated around five multidisciplinary research domains, including transversal technologies: Food, Health, Smart and Sustainable Cities, Cultural Heritage and Materials & Energy.
- UCD Energy21 programme will maximise the career development of the next generation of researchers in a range of energy-related fields that promise new and exciting opportunities.
- TECNIO programme is addressed to highly talented and motivated experienced researchers, to give them the opportunity to develop their research career in their area of interest, with focus on technology transfer.
- ENHANCED EUROTALENTS programme E2 opens world class laboratories within CEA and abroad to researchers having an excellent scientific experience and willing to broaden their career via a research project in the scientific topic they can select within CEA wellknown domains of expertise: i)Energy, environment and climate change, ii)Life sciences and biotechnology, iii)Key Enabling Technologies: Microelectronics, nanosciences and nanotechnologies, photonic, advanced material and manufacturing, iv)High energy physics, high energy density physics and astrophysics.
- INNOENERGY PATHWAYS programme's ambition is to enable its fellows to bridge the gap between industry and research. The Programme will create new competencies and an innovation-driven career path for motivated and open-minded Researchers. It offers a unique opportunity to Researchers who are willing and able to orient their career towards new business-driven paths. Researchers take part in the extended KIC-IE community, with access to events, additional training, and opportunities.



Research Professional

- UK online database of research funding opportunities and research policy news
- Full access to all funding opportunities
- Access for all staff and students from any computer on the internal network - no password required
- Option to register which allows you to set up bespoke funding searches with regular email updates on new opportunities

http://researchprofessional.com



News



Council for England.

Universities

Janet seeks work outside academia

Jisc has put in a bid to join the Public Services Network. according to a Cabinet Office report.

Politics

Glover advises Commission on future without CSA

The European Commission president's former chief scientific adviser has said that getting rid of the CSA position is one of several feasible options for the future of science advice in Furope

next parliament, warns

Universities

HEFCE chief

Insufficient evidence of the benefits of the Higher Education Innovation Fund may threaten its future, according to the chief executive of the Higher Education Funding

HEIF funding could be cut in

Whitehall

Global research fund needed to defeat antibiotic resistance, says review

A review of antimicrobial resistance has called for a global innovation fund to support earlystage, blue-sky research in the field and to act as a "not-forprofit incubator" for ideas

Plaid's plan

The Welsh nationalist party sketch out its main higher education polic principles.

SINGAPORE NRF FELLOWSHI AWARD 2016

The Singapore National Research Foundat (NRF) invites outstanding researchers in t early stage of research careers to apply f the SINGAPORE NRF FELLOWSHIP 20

To apply, please click on the banner

Deadline: 25 February 2015, 3pm (GMT+

For more information on NRF, visit: www.nrf.gov.sg

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NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDAT



Most funders have...

- Funding deadlines at specific times of the year
- Priority areas for funding, calls in specific areas
- Restrictions on who can and can't apply
- Very strict and precise application procedures
- Websites where calls and guidance notes are published, plus contact details for desk officers

Applying to Fellowship schemes

Very Competitive 10-20% Success Rates

- All are different objectives, guidelines, eligibility criteria
- Read all the guidance, think, ask questions, talk to previous winners, look at previous applications - then decide
- Find your host and work with him/her to complete
- Show enthusiasm and sell your unique angle
- Keep it simple BUT with sufficient technical detail!
- Allow plenty of time 6 months
- Don't just focus on the science funders are assessing YOU
- When you get to the interview stage, make sure you practice
- Don't do it alone

Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Individual Fellowships

Horizon 2020 & MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are to "ensure excellent and innovative **research** training and knowledge exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers to best prepare them to face current and future societal challenges"

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

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- Operates in a 'bottom-up' basis
- Open to all research and innovation domains from basic research to market take-up
- Mobility (cross-border and cross-sector) is a key requirement
- Aim to develop new knowledge / enhance skills of people behind research and innovation
- Strong participation across sectors
- Dissemination and public engagement through public outreach activities
- Gender balance equal opportunities but also gender dimension in the research content
- Total budget: €6.2bn (compared with €4.7bn in FP7)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - 5 schemes

Horizon 2020 - MSCA		
ITN	Innovative Training Networks (Early Stage Researchers)	
IF	Individual Fellowships (Experienced Researchers)	
RISE	Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (Research collaboration via exchange visits of staff)	
COFUND	Co-funding of doctoral and fellowship programmes	
NIGHT	Events for the general public and media for the promotion of research and innovation	

Individual Fellowships - Key

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features

- Individual grants for experienced researchers to support their mobility, research project and training
- Fully funded fellowships (salary, travel, research costs) hosted by academic or non-academic organisation of the researcher's choice
- No nationality or age restrictions only residency related restrictions to ensure mobility + EU value
- Opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills in and outside academia and deliver a project of researcher's personal choice in or outside Europe in any research / innovation field
- Specific support for return of researchers to Europe and career restart for individuals with high potential who have been out of active research
- **Calibre of the researcher** crucial to the success of the proposal
- Researcher and the host, incl. the **named Supervisor** work together on the proposal
- Expectation of full-time research fellowship but can/should include some supervision, teaching etc.

Key definitions for Individual fellowships

Experienced Researcher (ER)	At the time of the call deadline, must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience (with no upper limit on experience)	
Academic sector	Includes universities and higher education institutions (public and private) awarding degrees, non-profit research institutions (public and private), and international European interest organisations	
Non- academic sector	Includes any organisation not included in the academic sector (but must be research and innovation active and/or relevant)	
Standard Mobility rule	The researcher must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies etc) in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline	

Individual Fellowship activities

Standard activities

- Novel, ambitious research initiated by the researcher, combined with specific training and skills development
- Realistic and well-defined objectives in terms of research project and career advancement, incl. a Career Development Plan
- Develop and significantly widen the competences of the researcher, incl. multi/interdisciplinary expertise, inter-sectoral experience and transferable skills incl. short visits to other organisations
- Public engagement activities

Optional secondment(s)

- Highly recommended as a tool for knowledge transfer and training opportunity (in 2014, 29.5% of applications and 33.7% of funded fellowships included a secondment)
- Should significantly add to the impact of the research project no window dressing!
- Up to 3 months in a fellowship of 18 months or shorter and up to 6 months in longer fellowships
- Can be to one or more organisations and split into shorter periods
- Expected to take place in a different sector and in Europe only

Individual Fellowships funding

Researcher unit cost [person/month]		Institutional unit cost [person/month]		
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and overheads
4650	600	500	800	650

- Funding based fully on unit costs, multiplied by requested person months
- Automated calculation of budget when length of fellowship filled into application
- A country-specific correction co-efficient will apply to Living allowance (e.g. UK = 120.3%) determined by the country of the host institution (*Note*: during the outgoing phase in Global Fellowships = co-efficient of that country (e.g. US = 99.4%)
- Researcher allowances cover employer + employee contributions of NI (+ pension) and are taxed
- Researcher allowances are a minimum to be paid, top-ups from other sources allowed

- Publication date: 12 March 2015
- Call deadline: 10 September 2015(17:00 Brussels time!)
- ► (Note: E.g. internal Cardiff University deadline: 3 August 2015 → check with your host institution!)
- ► Indicative budget: €213M
 - ► European Fellowships: €186M
 - ► Global Fellowships: €27M
- Indicative timetable:
 - Evaluation of proposals: October November 2015
 - Results: February 2016
 - ► Signing of Grant Agreements: May 2016 → Earliest start dates from June 2016

UK Participation		All proposals	
European Fellowships	Standard	5334	1749 (33%)
	Career restart	425	119 (28%)
	Reintegration	466	58 (12%)
Global Fellowships		1047	152 (15%)
TOTAL		7472	2078 (28%)
	Overall success rates		
	European Fellowships	18-20%	
	Career restart	18%	
	Reintegration	19%	
	Global Fellowship	os 10-12%	

Panel cut-off scores and success rates from the 2014 call

Panel	European Fellowships		
	Cut-off	Success	
	score	rate %	
CHE	89.6	18.40	
ECO	86.6	19.10	
ENG	88.6	18.80	
ENV	90.4	18.60	
LIF	90.6	18.50	
MAT	90.2	18.80	
PHY	90.4	18.80	
SOC	92.8	18.60	
CAR	87.2	18.20	
RI	90.8	19.00	

Success	

Application and evaluation process - overview

ARDIE

PRIFYSGO

AERDY

Participant Portal

PRIFYSGOL

Call documents & submission link

PRIFYSGO

Registering a proposal

Search Topics

Call Updates

H2020

COSME

2013

Calls

Calls

Host institution & contacts

Proposal submission

- Fellow/Supervisor/European Officer registers the proposal on the Participant Portal
 - Participant Identification Code (PIC) of the host institution
 - Draft acronym, draft summary, choice of panel
 - Adds the other contacts
- For Global Fellowships, outgoing host organisation added onto the proposal
 - PIC code
 - Contact
- Proposal is completed
 - Administrative forms ('Edit forms')
 - Part B ('Download template' and 'Upload')
- Proposal is submitted
 - Submission system checks ('Validate forms' and 'Print preview')
 - Submit' as many time as required until the deadline

Proposal 1(2)

- Administrative forms provide participant details and the information for the budget estimation
 - Section 1 General proposal information (abstract, acronym, evaluation panel etc.)
 - Section 2 Data on participating organisation(s)
 - Only one organisation for European Fellowships, two for Global
 - Supervisor and Researcher details
 - Section 3 Budget (automatically filled by duration of fellowship and country)
 - Section 4 Ethics table
 - Section 5 Information on secondment(s), if any, and 'call specific questions'

Proposal 2(2)

PART B

- Structure mirrors the evaluation criteria
- Becomes Annex I Description of Action of the Grant Agreement

10 pages

Structure of Part B for IF:

- Cover Page, Table of Contents
- **List of Participants**
- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation
- **GANTT chart**
- CV of the Experienced Researcher
- Capacities of the participating organisations
- Ethical aspects
- Letters of commitment (Global Fellowship only)

Evaluation Process*

- External expert evaluators selected by Research Executive Agency (REA) of the EC
- Experts select proposals from key words and ABSTRACTS - they do not see the full proposal at this stage
- Three evaluators allocated for each proposal
- Evaluators read full proposal, score (against clearly defined criteria) and write individual evaluation reports
- Rapporteur chairs consensus meeting to agree score and drafts consensus report which is approved by other evaluators

*) Slides 38-40 and 42-49 based on presentation by Dr Rachel Adams, Cardiff Metropolitan University, delivered at Cardiff University on 27 May 2015

Evaluators

- Balanced panel of experts with evaluators from academia and industry
- Balanced panel from all EU countries
- May not have a detailed experience in your subject area
- May not have previously heard of your institution
- May not fully understand the quality of the journals in which you publish

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives	Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination	Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management
Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements		Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research		Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and institutional commitment
50%	30%	20%
	Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i>	
1	2	3
	/	

Mock peer review session

- Two proposals submitted to the 2014 call in the Engineering panel
- Work individually or in pairs
- Read through both proposals
- Write down in bullet points positives and negatives against each of the evaluation criteria
- Give a score of 1-5 on each of the three evaluation criteria
- Work as a panel and arrive at a final score

Proposal writing - General points

- Write in clear English many evaluators will not have first language English
- Do not assume prior knowledge of national systems
- Make sure you include quantitative evidence to support claims where possible - "use words to tell but figures to sell..."
- A "good" project can score poorly overall if <u>all</u> the criteria, including implementation and impact are not fully met

Tips for Excellence - Quality of training

- Primarily training through research but also include formal <u>scientific</u> training in new techniques (perhaps by a named expert)
 - Consider attending MSc lectures if new subject area for fellow.
- Formal training in transferable skills e.g. grant writing courses etc.
 - Identify where the project will provide experience of research management and protection of intellectual property.

Tips for Excellence - Quality of supervision

- Make sure you very explicitly state the supervisor's publication track record (impact factor and citation counts?) and success in obtaining funding
- Include details of the international network of the supervisor
- Indicate numbers of post-docs successfully supervised by supervisor
 - Present examples of past mentees who have reached a position of professional maturity. (Less credit given for past PhD supervision.)

Tips for Excellence - Capacity of researcher

- This is evaluated in terms of their level of experience
 - A fellow who has produced a few high quality publications in a short research career is often rated more highly than a researcher who may have produced more papers but over an extended period
 - The evaluators look for potential
- Indicate where the researcher has started to lead research, supervised others, been involved in writing grants, been awarded prizes, organised meetings, started to develop their own international networks.

Tips for impact

- Indicate how the project will develop the career of the Fellow
- Do not ignore dissemination to non-scientists and public engagement activities - be specific about activities and events
- Be very specific about scientific dissemination which journals, which meetings? Does the supervisor have a track record of publication in these journals?

Tips for implementation

- Work plan include a detailed Gantt chart with milestones and deliverables
- Make sure risk assessment and contingency planning are clear
- Do not assume evaluators have a detailed knowledge of national research priorities, facilities etc.
 - E.g. include details of infrastructure investments
- Include an appropriate secondment

- If at first you don't succeed...
- Resubmissions are not considered unfavourably there is no penalty for resubmitting
- Work on the weaknesses which were identified in the evaluation report
- Evaluators first evaluate without knowing the proposal is a resubmission
- They are presented with the previous submission and evaluation report during the consensus meeting
- Scores usually improve with resubmission

- Make your proposal as clear as possible
- Do not assume evaluators have prior knowledge
- Address ALL the evaluation criteria fully and explicitly

Thank you!

Questions?

Eevi Laukkanen European Office Research and Innovation Services Cardiff University LaukkanenEM@cardiff.ac.uk +44 (0)29 20870114