



MARIE CURIE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) are an efficient way to finance postdoctoral researchers working in your research group or company up to 100%. In 2019, Luxinnovation is launching an action to support Luxembourg organisations to attract researchers with IF funding. The agency can support you throughout the complete process with:

- Attracting targeted researchers to apply to your institution
- Filtering the best postdoctoral candidates for your proposal (if desired)
- Training the candidates in proposal writing
- Reviewing the proposals before submission

What we need from you is:

- A short description of your research project and the desired profile of the candidate
- [Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay informed about this initiative and other Horizon 2020 opportunities

Funding PhD students and postdoctoral researchers – Opportunities for principal investigators and companies

The European Commission offers funding opportunities for PhD students and Postdoctoral researchers in the **public and private sectors** through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) that are part of Horizon 2020. MSCA includes various programmes for different purposes and career stages, including Individual Fellowships (IF), which are the focus of this document. The MSCA programme is open to all research domains (including notably fundamental, applied, industrial and socioeconomic research), to all types of institutions (public, private, NGOs, administrations) and to candidates from anywhere in the world.

Luxinnovation hosts the National Contact Points for Horizon 2020. We will accompany you through all the steps of the process toward success in a discrete and customer-oriented manner, free of charge.

Table 1 The different MSCA actions

INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS (IF)	INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORKS (ITN)	RESEARCH & SUPPORT STAFF EXCHANGE (RISE)	CO-FUNDING OF PROGRAMMES (COFUND)
Individual Postdoc	International PhD student training	Research and support staff	PhD or Postdoctoral fellowships

Individual Fellowships: Why participate

In Luxembourg, national public and private funding opportunities for postdoctoral researchers are rare.

In **public research**, the majority of postdocs are funded through the CORE scheme of the National Research Fund (FNR). They are thereby limited to certain priority research areas and need to fit within the scope of the funded projects. MSCA IF can be a great opportunity to pilot innovative research ideas that might fall outside your main grants (provided by the FNR schemes CORE, ATTRACT or PEARL). MSCA IFs require only a small investment in time from the principal investigator, as **proposals are mainly written by the postdoctoral candidates**.

In **private research**, a return of investment is expected from research projects. This leaves little room to explore new leads that are at the edge of the existing business plan. In Horizon 2020, your company can host the researcher directly, thus giving you more flexibility.

Finding highly skilled postdocs: Finding the most talented researchers is a challenge for both private and public research. The research landscape in Luxembourg is still young and might not be on the radar for postdocs in your particular field. We will help you elaborate a short description of the desired project, and we will distribute this document in a targeted manner among the leading academic research groups in your field. We can also help you with pre-screening the potential applicants.

What are Individual Fellowships (MSCA IFs)

MSCA IFs target **individual research and innovation-related projects** developed within public or private host institutions and financed over 12 to 24 months by the European Commission. The grant can be awarded to postdoctoral researchers of any nationality moving to Luxembourg (also see eligibility below).

There are two types of Individuals Fellowships:

- **European Fellowships (EF):** Fellows work with host institutions in Luxembourg for 12-24 months
- **Global Fellowships (GF):** Fellows start with a secondment of up to 12 month to a Third Country¹ (e.g. the US or Japan) and then spend 12-24 months at their host institution in Luxembourg.

Characteristics of Individual Fellowships

Next deadline for submitting a proposal: September 2019

Requirements for experienced researchers (i.e. Postdoc):

- a PhD degree or at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience
- any nationality
- no age restrictions
- no career stage restrictions

Eligibility:

The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Luxembourg for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline. Please contact us if you need clarification in particular cases.

Grant:

Grants cover 100% of the action's eligible costs: living allowance, contribution to research and travel costs, management and overheads.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-ga_en.pdf

The living allowance is the EU contribution to the gross salary costs of the researcher and amounts to €4,880 per month as well as the mobility allowance to cover rent and a family allowance if applicable. The host institution can choose to top up the salary from its own budget and will get 800€ monthly to cover the costs of the research as well as 650€ overhead that can be used freely.

Table 2 Grant breakdown per month

	RESEARCHER UNIT COST (PERSON/MONTH) €			INSTITUTIONAL UNIT COST (PERSON/MONTH) €	
	Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training & networking costs	Management and overheads
IF	4,880	600	500	800	650

Advantages

For researchers:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia.
- Increased higher impact research and innovation output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services.
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society.

For organisations:

- Bottom-up approach: host institutions advertise their need for research and candidates design their research projects based on this need
- Better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines.
- Increased research and innovation capacity.

How to participate

- Identify your research need
- Create an Expression of Interest ([fill out template](#)) and submit it to us **no later than 29 March 2019**
- [Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay informed about the initiative
- Choose the right candidate and coordinate with him or her the proposal writing

DATE	29 MARCH	MAY - JUNE	END OF JUNE	JUNE - AUGUST	MID-SEPTEMBER
Activity	Deadline for filling out the project description	Selection of candidates (by you directly or with the help of a pre-filtering by Luxinnovation)	Training workshop by Luxinnovation	Proposal reviewing and feedback for candidates	Final deadline for submitting proposals

Call results will be announced in February 2020. The earliest start date of a project would be May 2020.



Luxinnovation services

- ▀ Identification of Horizon 2020 funding opportunities
- ▀ Personalised advice throughout the project phases
- ▀ Targeted advertisement of Expressions of Interest in order to attract the best researchers
- ▀ Proposal reviewing
- ▀ Workshops and trainings based on your needs

For more information, please contact:

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