

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships @ UNIVIE

### What is a MSCA-PF?

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF) is a post-doctoral training programme in which the post-doc (fellow) gains additional skills and abilities through working on a specific research project in a new environment, while also transferring their knowledge within their new institution. Open to all fields of research, fellowship applicants apply to work with a supervisor for a 24-month period.

### Why should you support a candidate for a MSCA Fellowship?

- Brings a high-quality postdoctoral researcher to your group
- Enriches the future research careers of successful applicants, often initiating further independent research development
- Enhances the visibility of your mentoring and leadership skills
- Enlarges your international network
- Brings additional expertise to your group
- Competitive funding: in addition to funding the fellow's salary, the fellowship offers a mobility and family support allowances. The host also receives additional funds to support training and research activities of the fellow.

### Role of Supervisor

At APPLICATION stage the supervisor, as PI for the project, works closely with the fellow on the proposal and submits it on the Funding and Tenders Portal. **The application needs to demonstrate clear mutual benefit both for the fellow and for the supervisor in terms of knowledge/skills exchange.** Therefore, alongside the research project, the qualifications and experiences of the supervisor are also evaluated, including: track record; international collaborations; familiarity with the proposed research topic; and evidence of supervising/training experience at an advanced level (PhD, post-doc).

During IMPLEMENTATION supervisors are expected to:

- Integrate the fellow within their team, as well within the wider organisation – all parties should gain maximum knowledge and skills from the fellowship
- Ensure that the planned training-through-research takes place
- Engage regularly with the fellow, including offering support and guidance for their personal and professional development

*=> Please note: As PI for the project, the supervisor is ultimately responsible for its overall implementation. This includes oversight of project finances such as expenditure of the research and training budget.*

### MSCA PF Support Programme 2022

Building on the success and awareness raised by the Expression of Interest programme in 2020 and 2021, [Research Services and Career Development department \(DLE FSNF\)](#) will this year run the MSCA-PF support programme again, but in a slightly more simplified way (without the EoI step).

### Process:

1. Potential MSCA applicants can access a [list of supervisors](#) at the University who have already indicated willingness to support an application; alternatively, they can identify other relevant supervisors in their field at the University.
2. Applicants will be asked to first check their eligibility for the scheme (information will be readily available to them on the dedicated DLE website), prepare a CV and a research idea *before* contacting their chosen supervisor to discuss a potential proposal.
3. Once supervision has been agreed, applicant and supervisor can contact the DLE to access further relevant information and support documents.
4. DLE will double-check the applicants' eligibility, and outline next steps and deadlines.
5. DLE will then work intensively with candidates and supervisors to prepare an application for the **submission deadline: 14 September 2022 (TBC)**.

*=> Please note: **before agreeing to support an applicant that looks excellent on paper (CV/research idea) but whom you have not previously met, we would advise organising a brief online meeting with them. If the fellowship is awarded you will need to work and be in reasonably regular contact with the fellow for two, possibly three (see below) years.***

### **How to Become a Supervisor**

To be added to the list of potential supervisors on the dedicated [MSCA-PF \(univie.ac.at\)](#) website we kindly request that you complete the Supervisor Form (doc) and return it by **7th March 2022** to this address: [msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at).

We also encourage you to contact directly any promising potential candidates as well as to advertise this Programme within your own networks.

If at any point you wish to be removed from the list, simply inform the DLE at: [msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at)

### **Additional information**

- A supervisor can accept applicants at any point but we would not recommend taking on new applicants after the end of June/mid-July 2022 as they would have insufficient time to develop a strong proposal (NB: The list of supervisors will be removed from the webpage at the end June).
- If the collaboration between supervisor and fellow is not working during the application stage, or the quality of the application is not what was expected, the supervisor can stop the process. If this happens, please inform us as well as the fellow.

### **Extra Funding for a Third Year**

The University of Vienna has again made extra funding available for the 10 top-ranked MSCA European Fellowships (top 5 female, top 5 male) awarded to the University, based on the score given by the European Commission. Recipient fellows are awarded a third year of salary, allowing them and the supervisor to carry out further research, publication, training or grant writing. As this additional year is funded separately by the University, the activities should be related but distinct to those carried out during the project's first two years.