

## MSCA-PF 2024@UNIVIE

### What is a MSCA-PF?

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF) is a post-doc training programme in which the post-doc (fellow) gains additional skills and abilities 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?

- Attract a high-quality, postdoctoral researcher to your group.
- Enrich the future research careers of successful applicants, often initiating further independent research development.
- Enhance the visibility of your mentoring and leadership skills.
- Enlarge your international network.
- Bring additional expertise to your group.
- In addition to funding the fellow's salary, the fellowship offers superb mobility and family support allowances. The host also receives additional funds to support training and research activities of the fellow.
- Additional funding for top-ranked applicants provided by the University (see below).

### Supervisor's Role

Supervisors work with the fellow on the proposal and submit it on the Funding and Tenders Portal. In the application, in addition to the research project, the qualifications and experiences of the supervisor will be evaluated including: track record; international collaborations; familiarity with the proposed research topic; and supervising/training at an advanced level (PhD, post-doc). Officially, supervisors are the Principal Investigators (PI) for the project, and as such, should have a contract with the University for the lifetime of the project. During the implementation of the fellowship, supervisors are expected to:

- Integrate the fellow within the organisation – all parties should gain maximum knowledge and skills from the fellowship.
- Ensure that the foreseen training-through-research takes place.
- Provide regular support and guidance for personal and professional development of the fellow.

### Expression of Interest Programme

For the 2024 call, Research Services and Career Development (DLE FSNF) will continue the Expression of Interest (EoI) programme. The EoI programme is an additional process run internally by the University to proactively attract applications from excellent researchers worldwide who are interested in a MSCA fellowship.

The EoI programme has been slightly updated this year, with supervisors communicating with applicants directly, rather than via the DLE FSNF.

The opportunity to apply for a MSCA-PF at the University will be externally advertised (through e.g. EURAXESS, The Guild, Funding and Tender Portal). Potential fellowship applicants will be able to review a [list of supervisors](#) at the University interested in supporting an application. Applicants will then submit an

EoI including their project idea and C.V. to the supervisor directly. Supervisors will review the applicants and select their top candidate(s), informing them directly of their success, as well as those who were not successful (with [msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at) in cc). Once confirmed with the DLE, we will then work intensively with the candidate and the supervisor to prepare an application.

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

The University of Vienna has again made additional funding available for the 10 top-ranked MSCA European Fellowships awarded to the University (based on the score given by the European Commission). An additional third year of salary will be funded, allowing the fellow and supervisor to carry out additional research, publication, training or grant writing. As this third year is funded separately by the University, the activities should be related, but distinct to what will be carried out during the first two years of the project. Please note all UNIVIE applicants, not just those who completed the EoI, will be considered.

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

A list of supervisors will be made available on a MSCA-PF dedicated website ([MSCA-PF \(univie.ac.at\)](https://msca-pf.univie.ac.at)). Supervisors interested in being included on this list are kindly asked to complete the online form ([Supervisors \(univie.ac.at\)](https://supervisors.univie.ac.at)) by **27 February 2024**. To increase the visibility of the EoI, supervisors are encouraged to advertise within their own networks and contact potential applicants. The list of supervisors will remain online until the end of June, so other potentially interested applicants may still contact you about working together on a proposal. However, we are happy to remove you from the list at anytime if you let us know.

By **14 June** you will receive applications from the interested individuals. You commit to confirming with your chosen candidate(s) (with us in cc) by **3 June**. Once confirmed, we will contact the selected candidate and outline the next steps and deadlines for preparing an application for the MSCA-PF submission deadline (**11 September 2024**).

### **Applications without the EoI**

Fellowship applicants DO NOT need to complete the EoI process in order to be eligible to submit. Should you already have an interested candidate in mind, or be approached by one after the EoI has concluded, you are welcome to submit a MSCA-PF application. We only ask that you please inform us of your intent to submit as soon as possible, so that the applicant can take advantage of the support services we offer.

### **Timeline Overview (2024)**

27 February: Supervisors confirm their participation on the list of supervisors

10 April: MSCA-PF call opens

14 May: EoI application submitted to potential supervisor

3 June: Supervisor informs successful/unsuccessful applicants (with [msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at) in cc)

31 July: Internal deadline – proposal check

30 August: Internal deadline – Vice Rector approval (if no proposal check is requested)

11 September: Submission deadline EU

More information - [MSCA-PF: Information For Supervisors - External funding support services - Wiki der Universität Wien \(univie.ac.at\)](https://msca-pf.univie.ac.at)