Yellow Research

Horizon Europe: How to Design and Write an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship Proposal

1. Workshop

As a young postdoctoral researcher, this is the time to consider new directions in your research. What is your ambition for the next stage in your career? What do you need to do now to achieve your goals in the future? A Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship offers a great opportunity for (young) researchers to boost their careers by going abroad, gaining new skills and expertise at a host institute.

Considering the fierce competition and new eligibility and evaluation criteria for writing a successful MSCA PF Proposal is a true challenge, as having a good idea is simply not enough. To be successful, the Applicants and their host Supervisors both need to have a detailed understanding of the evaluation criteria and how these impact on the different sections of the template.

Our online training combines our understanding of How to Write an MSCA PF Proposal with Live Webinars aimed at further elucidating what it takes to write a successful grant proposal.

Both Applicant and Supervisor can participate from their respective locations, receiving an invaluable aid in understanding the standards and getting one step closer to obtaining a grant.

2. Programme Outline

We provide you with solid background information about the objectives, the policy context and the basic principles of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Individual Fellowships. We will focus on the evaluation procedure and the 3 evaluation criteria: Excellence, Impact and Implementation. We aim to increase your understanding of the overall evaluation process by explaining the expectations of the European Commission and by giving examples of best practices. Moments of discussions are included in the programme to stimulate exchange of views between participants and trainers.

3. Outcome

Participants obtain general and latest information about how to write a proposal for the MSCA PF call 2024. Participants receive strategic and practical input for writing competitive Individual Proposals.

- Our online training offers applicants the complete set of training instruction and tools needed to write a competitive MSCA PF proposal.
- Use a combination of devices (e.g. your smartphone and laptop) to follow the course and simultaneously work on your proposal.
- Accommodates for an asynchronous training independent of time, place and availability based on the same, expert resource.
- An eco-friendly alternative to our regular training.

4. Who should attend

This workshop is primarily intended for experienced researchers with a doctoral degree by the time of the call deadline who plan to go abroad for a period of up to 2 years in another country. In addition, this workshop is of value to senior academic staff intending to recruit experienced researchers from abroad to strengthen the research capacity of their institute. The seminar is in English, with no translation.

5. Materials

Live Webinars with Lotte Jaspers They will be recorded and made available on the YR Online Platform to be rewatched freely by the candidates.

Tutorials. Structured around the unique knowledge and expertise of Yellow Research regarding the evaluation criteria, the design of a competitive proposal and what is key in strategizing grant writing.

Handouts for all tutorials

Background Guide. This guide has been developed over the past 16 years by Yellow Research and captures our latest insights on what panels are looking for.
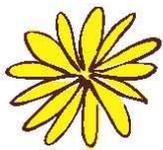
6. Programme

Webinar 1:

Part 1: <u>A general introduction</u> into the MSCA PF aims and evaluation system, so that you start writing your proposal from the right mind set. Each section and underlying paragraph address specific aspects of the evaluation criteria.

Part 2: <u>Part B1, Section 1 Excellence</u>: Paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 address the actual conduct of the research from the objectives to the soundness of the proposed methodology. There are logical links to other sections such as 3.1 quality and effectiveness of the workplan and of course in Part B2 your CV and the capacity of the host institution. We will examine these relations to allow for writing a water-tight research section. The remaining paragraphs quality of supervision and appropriateness of your professional experience and competences allow the reviewers to circle back to the feasibility of what is proposed in the first two paragraphs.

Q&A Logical moments for asking questions will be included but you are free at any point in the presentation to ask your questions.

Webinar 2:

Part 3: <u>Part B1, Section 2 Expected Impact</u>: different aspects of the impact of the proposed project need to be outlined, such as credibility to achieve the expected outcomes, impact on the career of the fellow, how the project results will be disseminated and exploited, and communication of the activities to different audiences. The strategy in which order to write this section will be explained.

Part 4: <u>**Part B1, Section 3 Implementation**</u>: some parts addressing the implementation of the project covering the quality and effectiveness of the work plan and the quality and capacity of the Host Institution(s) are already taken into account in the structuring of in particular paragraph 1.2 above. Therefore, I will be briefer and show how to not go over one page of length on this section.

Part 5 <u>**Part B2:**</u> Tips on how to write a strong CV and demonstrating the capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)

Q&A Logical moments for asking questions will be included but you are free at any point in the presentation to ask your questions

7. Trainer

Lotte Jaspers: Lotte is a founding partner of Yellow Research. She has extensive experience with individual grant applications for Marie Curie as well as the prestigious ERC grants.
She has been running workshops on individual grants at numerous universities and offering consultancy. Her knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of individual grants is an important aspect of her success with this training.