

Marie Curie Individual Fellowships Webinar – Q&A Session

Q. Is there a minimum stay time for the Experienced Researcher?

A. The minimum duration of a fellowship is 12 months for IEF and IIF, and 24 months for IOF (12 months outgoing phase plus 12 months return phase)

Q. Do you have slides on career integration grants as well?

A. Yes, a recorded webinar and presentation for the Career Integration Grants Call is posted at <http://www.iua.ie/marie-curie/events-and-training/webinar-28-02-12.html>

Q. In the case of a start-up company as host how long do they need to be in existence before they could host a fellow?

A. There is no minimum time for which a company must be in existence. However, note that the host organisation and the person who will supervise/mentor the Fellow will be assessed as part of the evaluation criteria: they will need to demonstrate that they have adequate capacity to host the Fellow (e.g. sufficient infrastructure, support/mentoring mechanisms and access to appropriate career development support). Annex 2 of the Guide for Applicants (call specific part) details a table which summarises the evaluation criteria.

Q. Is there a handy table showing all the calls in the People programme up to the end of FP7?

A. A table of all calls and deadlines is listed in the 2013 'People' Work Programme, which will be launched on 11th July next. It will be posted on the Participant Portal at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_documentation.

Q. Is mobility is required or optional for IEF?

A. Mobility is required for all Marie Curie Individual Fellowships. See slides 12 and 13 of the presentation for details.

Q. Could you please post a timeline (when the various evaluations happen, and when people are notified)?

A. A timeline for the Call is included in Annex 1 of the Guide for Applicants (call specific part)

Q. How does one calculate maternity leave into 'years of experience'?

A. Maternity leave should not be included when calculating 'years of experience'

Q. Do invertebrates need to be dealt with in the same manner as vertebrate animals in the ethics section?

A. For specific information related to ethics issues, please read the Guide for Applicants (ethics) 2012 and the links to relevant webpages contained within the document. This can be downloaded from the appropriate call page (IEF, IIF or IOF) at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people>.

Q. Currently I am still waiting to receive the PhD certificate and I don't know an exact date when I am supposed to receive it. I am still eligible to apply for MC –IEF fellowship?

A. If you have completed the necessary requirements to be awarded a PhD (usually a viva voce or thesis defence) before the Call Deadline, and could provide written evidence of this from your PhD host institution, then you would be eligible to apply for a fellowship. You do not need to have had your graduation ceremony in order to be eligible.

Q. Where can I find a list of past researchers (along with titles of their projects) which were successful in receiving IOFs. How successful are Humanities projects in this call? (that is, is this call more focused on sciences?)

A. Details of funded projects can be accessed at <http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/>. Note that for Data Protection Reasons, the name of the researcher is not published. Some Success Stories are published here http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/media-library/success-stories/index_en.htm.

There are no thematic priorities in Marie Curie Actions Calls – one area is not more supported over the others. The success is distributed equally across the eight Evaluation Panels according to the number of proposals received in that panel, i.e. if 200 proposals are submitted to the Physics panel and 50 to the Social Sciences and Humanities panel, and they have enough budget for a call success rate of 20%, around 40 proposals will be funded in the Physics panel, and around 10 in the Social Sciences and Humanities panel. Note that proposals are not compared across panels, e.g. an SSH proposal will never be compared with or ranked against a Physics proposal.

Q. For IOF, what is the 'topic code'? in A1?

A. Details of how to complete each field in the 'A' forms is given in Annex 3 of the Guide for Applicants (specific part).

Q. I am not married at the moment but I will be married by the time my proposal starts (if successful)- can I list my status as married?

A. The reference deadline for the family situation is the call deadline, therefore if you will be married by 16th August 2012, you can request the 'with family' mobility allowance as part of your application.

Q. In your presentation, you mentioned adding an "Executive Summary" at the start of the Part B of the proposal - what do you mean by "Executive Summary"?

A. An executive summary is a short paragraph or paragraphs that summarise the overall content and goals of the proposal. A bit like an Abstract, but with slightly more detail. It can be added at the start of the proposal (but within the overall page limits) to summarise the fellowship.

Q. How many of the documents to be submitted will have to be in PDF format, or will it be possible to type straight into the application forms?

A. Part B of the application should be submitted in PDF format. Part A is completed entirely online.

Q. In completing form A2, who is the 'person in charge', the researcher or the scientist-in-charge?

A. The 'person in charge' is the scientist-in-charge at the host organisation.

Q. For an IOF fellowship, what are the roles of the Researcher, Outgoing host and Return host in the different phases of the fellowship, i.e. application, negotiation and contract?

A.

- Application Stage: at this stage the proposal is prepared collaboratively between the Researcher, Outgoing host and Return host. The details of both hosts, including the name of a scientist-in-charge at each host, is provided in the Part A administrative proposal forms. The person at the Return host is considered to be the lead scientist-in-charge.
- Negotiation Stage: the Research Executive Agency opens negotiations with the Return host organisation. The person in charge of this step is the scientist-in-charge at the Return host.

They should work with the Researcher and the Outgoing host to complete the negotiation. The contact details etc. of the Outgoing host are added to the Grant Agreement Preparation Forms (GPFs), but the Outgoing host do not sign the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement is concluded only between REA and the Return host.

- Contract Stage: the Return host is responsible for the execution of the fellowship, including periodic and financial reporting to REA. The two hosts (Outgoing and Return) are recommended to conclude a Partnership Agreement setting out the details of the fellowship including financial and Intellectual Property (IP) matters.

REA does not publish precise details of the negotiation process, as it can vary slightly from year to year. Some details are online at http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/funded-projects/how-to-manage/iof/index_en.htm

Q. If successful in winning an IOF, which institution will the funding be awarded/accredited to (European host, Other Third partner or both)? If all funding is accredited to the European host organisation, what are the benefits for the Other Third partner institution? Will this funding award be accredited to the Other Third partner organisation's school/faculty in anyway?

A. The funding is transferred to the European host, and it is up to the European host and the Other Third Country host to conclude a partnership agreement to decide which (if any) of the funds should be transferred to the OTC host. For example, it often makes sense for the part of the Research Costs and overheads attributed to the Outgoing phase to be transferred to the OTC host. The benefits for the OTC host are that they get the benefit of an excellent European researcher working in their organisation, and the opportunity to build or expand on a long-term collaboration with European scientists in their field. In addition, they will not have to pay the researcher's salary or research costs, and will receive an overheads contribution to support the researcher while they are located at their organisation.

Q. On form A2 of the IOF application: at the end of the document they ask: "What is the Main area of activity (NACE code)"? What is the correct NACE code for a University?

A. This data is collected for statistical purposes so there is no right or wrong answer. In our opinion, the most suitable code is the one for Higher Education.