

MSCA Calls 2014 Webinar Questions and Answers

Question: Is it possible to involve two non-academic participants one from Ireland and one from outside in an Industrial Doctorate application?

Answer: Yes, it is possible as long as the minimum consortium requirements are met: one academic participant in a European country (Member States plus Associated Countries) plus one non-academic participant in a different European country.

In the case where the consortium consists of three participants; one academic in IE, one non-academic in IE and one non-academic outside IE, the recruited doctoral candidates could even split their time 50% between the Irish academic participant and the Irish non-academic participant. However, as stated in the Work Programme 2014-2015, *“ITN will provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and inter-sector mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.”* Therefore in this particular case, the limited international mobility compared to other proposals which have both inter-sectoral and international mobility, may be taken into consideration during the evaluation process.

Question: Does the ITN funding include any budget for equipment or material?

Answer: Yes, the €1800 per researcher per month for “Research, Training and Networking Costs” can be used to buy materials/consumables for the research. This funding line is a flat rate, which means no records of expenditure are required and it is up to the consortium to decide how best to spend to them for the benefit of the researchers. In the case of equipment, it is possible to buy small items but they must be used for the benefit of the researchers recruited into the ITN.

Question: How can you incorporate inter-sectoral mobility into a European Joint Doctorate?

Answer: The ITN Guide for Applicants describes two types of participant in an ITN (ETN/EJD/EID) - Beneficiary and Partner organisation. The differences between them are summarised below:

	Network Status	Recruitment of Researchers	Training and / or Hosting of Seconded Researchers	Participation in Supervisory Board	Directly Claims Costs
1.	Beneficiary	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.	Partner organisation	X	✓	✓	X

Beneficiaries and Partner organisations can come from the academic or the non-academic sector. In EJD, if a non-academic participant is a Beneficiary and therefore recruits a researcher, then in order

for the joint doctorate to be awarded, the student must also be registered for a doctoral degree at two of the other Beneficiaries in the consortium. In this way, the researcher would have three host organisations, and details of how the supervision of the researcher will be managed by the three hosts would have to be clearly outlined in the proposal.

Alternatively or additionally, you can involve the non-academic sector as Partner organisations, ensuring that the researchers go on secondment to the non-academic sector at some point during their PhD studies. The non-academic Partner organisations can also get involved in network-wide events (training schools, project workshops, conferences etc.).

Question: What are the differences between the Individual Fellowships (IF) Scheme and ELEVATE?

Answer: Both programmes offer personal fellowships to fund a period of mobility abroad, but there is one key difference: IF is owned and operated by the European Commission and their Research Executive Agency, while the ELEVATE scheme is owned and operated by the Irish Research Council (and is part-funded by the FP7 Marie Curie Actions). ELEVATE is not under the remit of the Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office and all queries relating to this scheme should be addressed to the Irish Research Council at www.research.ie.

Question: I noted that for Individual Fellowships there is no upper age or experience limit. How does a less experienced early-career researcher compete with more experienced in terms of publications etc.?

Answer: The evaluators who peer-review the applications are instructed to evaluate an applicant's track record in relation to the number of years of research experience that they have. Accordingly, they would expect more from a researcher with 20 years' experience than a recent PhD graduate. However, it would be inadvisable for a recent PhD graduate to apply if they have not yet published or otherwise disseminated their research work, as there would be scant evidence of research track record for the evaluators to consider.

Question: When the term cross-sectoral is used, does this mean interdisciplinary?

Answer: No, the term cross-sectoral means interactions/exchange between academic and non-academic participants in a MSCA.

Question: Which of the new MSCA is a “replacement” for the FP7 IAPP scheme? This question is particularly around funding of postdoctoral positions.

Answer: To achieve the close working relationship between academia and industry which was offered by the FP7 IAPP scheme, applicants should consider a European Industrial Doctorate (ITN Call) and/or a RISE application.

For postdoctoral positions via the FP7 MCA and Horizon 2020 MSCA, there are three options:

- Individual Fellowships Call
- The over 150 fellowship schemes co-funded by the FP7 Marie Curie Actions. These are listed at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/other/cofund.html> and open Calls are advertised at www.euraxess.eu. As COFUND is part of the MSCA in Horizon 2020, more co-funded programmes will come on-stream from 2014 onwards.
- Postdoctoral vacancies in FP7 ITN and IAPP projects are advertised on www.euraxess.eu

Question: Will there be any Career Integration or Reintegration Grants in the MSCA?

Answer: No, these programmes are discontinued. However, there will be a Reintegration Panel within the European Fellowships in IF, for those researchers currently outside Europe who were previously active in Europe and wish to return.

Question: Are current or former Marie Curie Fellows prevented from applying for an Individual Fellowship?

Answer: No.