

IF Call 2015 Webinar Questions and Answers

Question 1: How do I distribute the 10 pages one has for excellence, impact and implementation over those 3 major sections?

Answer: There are no hard and fast rules about distributing the three sections across the 10 pages. However, we recommend that you distribute them roughly according to the % weighting of each section, i.e.:

- Excellence 5 pages (weighting 50%)
- Impact 3 pages (weighting 30%)
- Implementation (weighting 20%)

You can save space in the Implementation section by describing your research workpackages in detail in the Excellence section.

Question 2: Are secondments important for a Reintegration Panel IF European Fellowship? Considering the aim is to establish a secure position in research with this one, if you propose to be in an academic host, a secondment in a non-academic sector seems "counter-productive" to me.

Answer: The MSCA understands that a secure position in research can be in either the academic or non-academic sector. It also underlines the importance of academic – non-academic cooperation in research. If a secondment to a non-academic sector would be beneficial to the research project and/or your personal career development, then it is worthwhile to add one.

Question 3: I would like to find examples of funded fellowships in my field of research. Can you help me?

Answer: All projects funded by Europe as far back as FP5 are available on the Cordis Projects website at http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html. Use the Advanced Search facility to search for MSCA fellowships in your area, but be aware that the MSCA does not have any priority research areas. If you do not find a similar project in your research area, this does not mean that your project would not be funded.

Question 4: I am applying for a Fellowship with a European country other than Ireland. Should I contact the MSCA representatives in that country?

Answer: You can benefit from support from the MSCA NCP in your proposed host country. A list is available at <http://www.net4mobility.eu/ncp-contacts.html>. In addition, there may be supports on

offer by your host institution's research support office or similar. In general it is good to get as much help as possible with submitting a fellowship application.

Question 5: Under the Impact section of the proposal, is there any added value to generating impact through patents? The proposal I want to put forward is very commercial and would possibly benefit from having the IP secured under patent rather than published in the public domain. I'm not sure if this is of greater interest to Marie S-Curie than the standard journal paper publications?

Answer: The MSCA gives no priority to patents vs. publications. They do expect any results of commercial value to be protected (patented etc.) if that is appropriate, and then they wish the results to be disseminated widely to the research community and the general public. In this case, patent then publish would be the most appropriate strategy.

Question 6: I plan to apply for the European Fellowship with an Irish host organisation. I was previously active in research in the UK. Is it OK to include a secondment to the UK in my proposal? Is it appropriate if that UK organisation is one that I have previously worked in?

Answer: The MSCA allows the freedom to choose the best secondment for your research and/or career development needs. It is fine to propose a secondment to a European country where you have recently been active (the Mobility Rule does not apply to secondments). If the secondment organisation is one that you have worked in already, then you need to be extra clear about the value of visiting this organisation again and its contribution to the research and/or your career development.

Question 6: Would you recommend completing the secondment in a different area to the research you are conducting? For example, if I'm writing a scientific proposal, does it make a difference if my proposed secondment is also science related or if it were project management/business related?

Answer: Again, you can choose the best secondment for your research and/or career development needs. The application needs to convince that the secondment is appropriate, feasible and well-planned.

Question 7: Is there any benefit to having completed some project work in advance of applying for funding?

Answer: Under section 1.4 "potential of the researcher", the match between the researcher's previous experience and the research area of the proposed project will be evaluated. Having some preliminary results could be beneficial for this section, but is not a requirement.

Question 8: Is it possible to carry out any lecturing roles in parallel with the Marie S-Curie research? If so, could this lecturing position be at an institution other than the host institution?

Answer: If lecturing/teaching is a key part of your training plan within the fellowship, then it is appropriate to include it, but the amount of time allocated to it must not be large. It would be possible to carry out this lecturing/teaching at an institution other than the host institution, but this other institution could not pay you for this work (this would be a breach of the MSCA fellowship contractual requirements).

Question 9: Would it be beneficial to factor in a summer student into the budget to add to the personal development/transfer of knowledge sections of the proposal?

Answer: If supervision of students is a key part of your training plan within the fellowship, then it is appropriate to include it, but the student (stipend/grant) could not be paid for from the fellowship budget.

Question 10: I am already working at my host institution. Should I leave out the parts about “helping the researcher to move/integrate into the new host institution”?

Answer: You should briefly refer to the assistance provided when you did relocate and discuss how the institution will further integrate you during the period of your fellowship.

The Commission’s FAQ document on IF is available at

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-msca-if-2015/1660128-if-2015-faq_v2_en.pdf