



IF Call 2014 Webinar Questions and Answers

Question: Global Fellowship: can the researcher be seconded during the incoming phase (12 months) to a European institution?

Answer: Yes, the researcher can be seconded to an organisation in Europe (Member States or Associated Countries) at any time during the Global Fellowship, including during the incoming phase (the mandatory 12 months in Europe after the outgoing phase in a Third Country).

Question: I am planning a secondment during my fellowship to an SME in France. Do I need to add the details of this SME into the “List of Participants” in the Part B?

Answer: Yes, you should add the details of this SME as a Partner Organisation. You should also add information about this organisation in Section 6 “Capacities of the Participating Organisations”.

Question: Which is more important for a European Fellowship – training or transfer of knowledge?

Answer: The answer is that both are important. The evaluators will expect to see a two-way transfer of knowledge: 1) how the Experienced Researcher will gain new knowledge from the hosting organisation(s) during the fellowship through training, and 2) how the hosting organisation(s) may benefit from the previous experience of the Experienced Researcher. In addition, for Global Fellowship, they expect to see transfer of knowledge from the country outside Europe into Europe during the incoming phase of the fellowship.

Question: Is the applicant expected to have a background in the research area of the proposal – is a background in the research area an advantage for the applicant?

Answer: The proposal must demonstrate that the researcher has enough experience in the research area to be able to begin work on the project, but that the project will allow them to develop their expertise. Any “gaps” which will need to be bridged in order for the researcher to implement the project can be dealt with through the training plan for the researcher.

Question: What does "independent research premises" mean?

Answer: This question asks if the host organisation has its own research premises/facilities or if they use research premises/facilities that belong to another organisation. An example of an organisation that does not have "independent research premises" is a company spin-out from a university laboratory, where the company uses the university laboratory to carry out its research activities.

Question: Can you include a letter of reference e.g., from a colleague or previous employer?

Answer: No, these letters are not permitted in the 2014 Call. In FP7 they were allowed, but not in Horizon 2020.

Question: Can a researcher who's applying for European Fellowship include a secondment to the US as part of their application, or must all secondments be in an EU member state or associated country?

Answer: All secondments must be to an organisation in an EU member state or associated country. Short visits to Third Countries (such as the USA) for conferences etc. are permitted, but these must not represent an attempt to circumvent the rules on secondments.

Comment [JB1]: To be confirmed by Research Executive Agency

Question: Is it possible to change the abstract entered in the Part A before submission?

Answer: Yes, it is possible to change the Abstract in the Part A at any time before submission. Click on the "Edit Forms" button to open the PDF version of the Part A forms. The field for abstract is editable, as is the proposal title and the evaluation panel.

Question: The proposal template asks for a lot of information in the Implementation section. It would be a challenge to include everything they request. Any tips on making this section as concise as possible?

Answer: As usual, my top tip is to avoid writing long paragraphs of text and instead use bulleted lists, tables, figures and diagrams. Due to the lack of space, the Work Package descriptions will need to be very concise, not the "1 page per WP" that is typical of Horizon 2020 applications. One way to save space is to describe the research Work Packages in Section 2.1 "Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research", then in Section 4.1 you provide a list of the WP titles and can refer back to Section 2.1 for the details. Finally, much of the information requested in Section 4 overlaps with the information in the "Capacities" tables in Section 6. Do not duplicate this information – instead, refer the evaluator to Section 6 where appropriate.

Question: In the last part of section 5 of the Guide for Applicants, it says to describe any career breaks in research if relevant. Does this apply to all IF applications or just to the CAR and RI applicants?

Answer: Any breaks in a researcher's career (taken for any reason) that are shown in their CV should be briefly explained in either the CV or in Section 2.4 "Capacity of the researcher". Due to lack of space, do not explain it in both sections of the proposal. The need to explain a career break is so the evaluators can discount these breaks when evaluating the applicant's track record.