MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025

Internal selection process & guidance for applicants

Please note: the 2025 call is expected to open in May therefore this guidance is based on the assumption that the Horizon Europe deadline will be similar to the 2024 date of 11th September. We will update this information as soon as the deadline is announced.

The Research Strategy & Development team would like to invite Intention to Submit from applicants wishing to apply to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships scheme. This is a highly competitive scheme, with a lengthy application process. If you would like to receive support with your application, please notify your Research Development Manager no later than 27th June 2025. Please note that we cannot guarantee support for notifications received after this date.

Because of the high levels of interest in this scheme, and the specific eligibility requirements, we ask for EoIs which are considered by Heads of Department. If you don't submit an EoI (which replicates the scheme requirements), you cannot be considered by King's. Once you have submitted, your EoI will be assessed by the host department with members of the Research Strategy & Performance team; we will notify you of the outcome (whether King's can support your application) within a week of the EoI submission deadline.

Please note, this guidance and internal deadline applies only to prospective candidates from the Arts & Sciences Faculties (Arts & Humanities; Dickson Poon School of Law; King's Business School; Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences; Social Science & Public Policy).

Overview

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) fund excellent research and innovation and equip researchers at all stages of their career with new knowledge and skills, through mobility across borders and exposure to different sectors and disciplines. The MSCA also fund the development of excellent doctoral and postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects worldwide. By doing so, they achieve a structuring impact on higher education institutions, research centres and non-academic organisations.

The objective of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PFs) is to support research careers and foster excellence in research, by enhancing the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to diversify their individual competences and acquire new skills through advanced training and international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility, while implementing excellent research projects across all sectors of research.

MSCA PFs target researchers holding a PhD and with a maximum of 8 years full-time postdoctoral experience. The scheme is open to all domains of research and innovation, at all stages – from basic frontier research to near market uptake.

There are two types of Postdoctoral Fellowships:

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The standard duration of these fellowships must be between 12 and 24 months.
- Global Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to European nationals or long-term residents who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. These fellowships require an outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Assessment criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the award criteria 'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. The weighting is 50% Excellence, 30% Impact and 20% Quality, and each is marked out of 5. Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget.

More detailed information can be found in Section 2.4 (pages 94-95) of the Work Programme document available at this link [*please note this refers to the information for the 2024 call, until the 2025 details are released*]: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

Process

If you are interested in applying to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship and would like support in the preparation of your application, please submit an Expression of Interest by no later than Friday **27th June 2025** (see details below). By this point, you should have already engaged the prospective KCL supervisor, and they should be familiar with the proposal and with the inputs they will need to provide to assist you in its competitiveness. You should also contact the relevant department/school and make sure that all local processes have been adhered to. (Though there is no limit to the number of

applications the College will support, some departments might operate an internal triage to ensure quality and oversight of the applications.)

Please note the deadline of 27th June 2025 is final and non-negotiable.

Expressions of Interest: what to include

All candidates interested in applying via King's should submit a formal Expression of Interest (EoI) by **27th June 2025.** Expressions of interest should include:

1. A 2-page CV including selected publication list, please include (expected) PhD award date.

2. A Statement of eligibility including whether the European/Global fellowship is being applied for. Please structure your statement around the eligibility criteria in [Guide for applicants_MSCA PF 2024.pdf](#) pp. 7-11. [*Please note this link refers to the information for the 2024 call, until the 2025 details are released*] For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships only, also include who your associated partner for the outgoing phase of the project will be (if known).

3. A Personal statement (up to 1-page) covering key contributions to research, wider contributions to research community (supervision/mentoring, ED&I, public engagement, research culture etc.), choice of host environment (i.e., why King's, why proposed supervisor), and training plans. If you already know that you want to do a non-academic placement and/or a secondment, please explain why and identify the host(s) (if known); or write 'N/A' if not applicable. (NB Placements and secondments are optional; applicants to the MSCA scheme are not penalised for not including a placement or secondment.) Include your future career plans and ambitions.

4. A 2-page Research proposal including:

   a. Excellence (up to 1-page)
      i. What are your project objectives?
      ii. How does the project go beyond the state of the art?
      iii. What is your methodology and how will it help you deliver your project objectives?
   b. Impact (up to ½ page)
      i. What skills do you want to develop?
      ii. How do you think your research and training activities will enhance your career prospects, whether inside or outside academia?
      iii. With which target groups will you communicate or engage about your project?
      iv. Which target groups (e.g., scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) would benefit from your project, and what kinds of impact are you hoping to make?
   c. Implementation (up to ½ page of A4)
      i. What are your key deliverables and milestones?

5. Email confirmation from KCL supervisor to confirm that they support the application and have seen and had appropriate input into the EOI being submitted and have planned the training and development activities required with the applicant.

Please complete all expression of interest materials as one PDF document, in Arial size 11 and then submit to susanna.cornick-willis@kcl.ac.uk by **27th June 2025.** Please see the contact list at the end

of this document for details of your Faculty's Research Development Manager if you would like to discuss your EoI before submission.

Finances / Length of award

Postdoctoral Fellowships typically offer funding for:

- Living allowance
- Mobility allowance
- Family allowance (if applicable)
- Research, training and networking costs
- Management and indirect costs

Please have a look at the Pre-Award Factsheets on the scheme which includes information on finance aspects and Excel spreadsheet calculators for calculating the unit costs and totals for each category and the grant as a whole: https://internal.kcl.ac.uk/innovation/grants-contracts/pre-award/how-to-apply/pre-award-costing-factsheets

European PF awards are between 1 and 2 years. Global PF awards are between 2 and 3 years, with 1-2yrs outgoing phase, and 1yr mandatory return phase in Europe.

Please also read through the Guide for applicants_MSCA PF 2024.pdf. This is the 2024 version and will be updated when available.

Internal selection process timeline

The timeline for the application process is set out below.

Date	Action	Notes
27th June 2025	Expression of Interest submission	*This deadline is final and non-negotiable.* *Please also inform the relevant department/school and make sure that all local processes have been adhered to.* Please send your EoI to susanna.cornick-willis@kcl.ac.uk
By 7th July 2025	Agreement of King's support from HoD	RDMs to consult with HoDs to confirm candidates that are ready and suitable to apply
By 7th July 2025	Notify applicants of faculty decision	
7th July – 28th August 2025	Application development; standard costings & Worktribe process	Research Development Managers available to give feedback to applicants during development.
28th August 2025	King's internal submission deadline for applicants	

11ᵗʰ September 2025, 5pm Brussels time (date & time TBC)	Expected external Funder Application Deadline	

The Research Strategy & Development team ran an information session for applicants & mentors for the 2024 competition which will still be useful to recap on. The recording for the session can be found at this link: https://internal.kcl.ac.uk/innovation/strategy-development/research-development/events/workshops-training-events

Contact details

Please contact your local RDM with any queries about the process above.

Useful links*

- MSCA website: https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/ (https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships)
- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Guide for Applicants
- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Application Form
- Funding & Tender opportunities portal (includes useful FAQs and once the call opens will have all the relevant application and guidance links).

    *Please note, these links will be updated when the call is opened. please see the MSCA website (top link) for details, if unsure.

Research Development Managers

Name	Faculty/School	Email
Gil Toffell	SSPP & Law	Gilad.toffell@kcl.ac.uk
Emma Jay	A&H	Emma.jay@kcl.ac.uk
Sarah Evans	KBS	Sarah.l.evans@kcl.ac.uk
Mike Ward	NMES (Maths, Chemistry & Physics)	Michael.ward@kcl.ac.uk
Cecilia Rossiter	NMES (Informatics & Engineering)	Cecilia.rossiter@kcl.ac.uk
Jack Matthews	NMES (Net Zero Centre & Centre for the Physical Science of Life)	Jack.matthews@kcl.ac.uk
Clarissa Edwards Nuria Andreu	IoPPN*	Clarissa.edwards@kcl.ac.uk Nuria.andreu@kcl.ac.uk
Greg Dow	FoDOCS* & FoLSM* (Immunology & Microbial Sciences, Cancer & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Basic & Medical Biosciences)	Greg.dow@kcl.ac.uk
Sarah Davies	NMPC* & FoLSM* (Cardiovascular Medicine & Sciences, Life Course Sciences, Population Health & Environmental Sciences, Biomedical Engineering & Imaging Sciences)	Sarah.k.davies@kcl.ac.uk

*note – these Faculties do not require the EoI stage of the submission but you should still discuss with your RDM as soon as possible.