



Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions



Career-FIT

Career Development Fellowships in the National Technology Centre Programme

2018 CALL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Following the publication of the Terms and Conditions, applicants are advised to consult the document and to liaise with the research office (or relevant) of their proposed host organisation in Ireland if they need clarifications. If the research office is unable to answer a query, then the research office should contact Enterprise Ireland. All clarifications will be communicated through the FAQ document for reasons of transparency and fairness.

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1) Fellowship types and calls

How many Fellowships are available?

CAREER-FIT will fund up to 50 three-year Fellowships, 25 to be awarded in Call 1 in 2017 and 25 in Call 2 in 2018.

Is CAREER-FIT a mobility programme?

Yes, the programme aims to attract experienced researchers to Ireland. Researchers must not have resided in Ireland for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date of 31 JULY 2018.

Where will the Fellows be based?

Fellows will be based in Ireland, in the host organisations of the national [Technology Centres Ireland](#) Programme with industry secondments also in Ireland.

What research fields does the CAREER-FIT Programme cover?

Research proposals should relate to the domain areas of the [Technology Centres Ireland](#) Programme. The specific topic of the proposal should fall within the research expertise of the chosen Academic Mentor.

What are the salary and other financial supports for these positions?

Each Fellow will receive an annual gross salary (i.e. before tax and statutory deductions) of €56,191 (or €61,608 with family allowance). Additionally, each Fellow will receive a mobility allowance and the host institution will be provided with overheads. Further details are provided in the Guide for Applicants.

I already have an application submitted for a Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship. Does this prevent me from applying?

You are still very welcome to apply for the CAREER-FIT programme. If you are successful in both CAREER-FIT and the individual Fellowship, you would only be able to accept one position.

Can I apply for a PhD under the scheme?

No, the programme is for post-doctoral Fellowships.

What is the deadline for application submission?

The deadline for submission of applications under Call 2 is 30 April 2018 at 17:00 (CET).

2) Eligibility of applicants

Is the CAREER-FIT Programme open to applicants from any country?

Applicants from any country in the world can apply for a Fellowship, provided they comply with the Transnational Mobility Rule: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Ireland for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date of 31 JULY 2018.

What is an “experienced researcher”?

In line with eligibility requirements applicable under Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, “experienced researchers” must, at a specified date (at the time of recruitment in the case of Career-FIT), be in possession of a doctoral degree (regardless of actual duration of the degree as long as the degree was awarded) or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.

Can someone with research experience but without a PhD apply?

Yes: Applicants must be Experienced Researchers as per the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions definition: at the time of recruitment, applicants must be in possession of a doctoral degree or, if the applicant does not have a doctoral degree and is not in the process of completing one, they should have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience. Full-time equivalent research experience applies to researchers who have been working on their PhD for at least four years and are near completion and those who have four years of full time experience in research, but are not working towards PhD completion (examples of such researchers include: someone with MD (medical doctor) or a research assistant in academia or industry).

How can I calculate required research experience when applying for Fellowships under the CAREER-FIT Programme?

All research undertaken after the researcher has gained a university degree/diploma giving them access to doctoral studies (the degree/diploma must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies without having to acquire any further qualifications) can be counted. Research experience in an organisation where research activity was only part of applicant’s duties will not be counted as full time research experience. Applicants lacking the requisite years of full-time postgraduate research experience by the time of recruitment are not eligible.

What is the PhD completion date that I should use to determine the length of my post-PhD experience?

The PhD completion date to be used to calculate the length of applicant’s post PhD experience is the viva date, provided that the researcher has successfully passed the viva and has been recommended for the PhD award as a result of it.

I am already a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow on another programme, or was previously. Does this affect my eligibility?

No, you are entitled to apply for as many Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships as you like wherever they are applicable to your career stage and mobility situation.

How will researcher eligibility be confirmed?

On application, your CV will be checked to see if you meet the eligibility criteria. You should therefore ensure it details your situation and qualifications with respect to the mobility and experience criteria. If you are selected for a Fellowship award, before an employment contract is issued, we will check references for each of your major employments, qualifications or other history, to confirm that you meet the rules before starting at your host institution.

Can I reapply if my application has already been refused?

Yes, you can apply again under future CAREER-FIT Calls.

3) Application process

How are applications submitted?

Applications for the CAREER-FIT Programme are accepted through the online application system, which will be open on the programme website during the submission phase of each Call. In exceptional circumstances hardcopy or email applications may be accepted.

In what language should the applications be submitted?

Only applications written in English will be accepted.

Can I simultaneously submit applications to CAREER-FIT and other Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions?

Yes, but you will only be able to take up one position if you are successful. You should withdraw from any application in progress if you choose to take up another.

Do I need to submit documentation certifying the fulfilment of the requirements of the call (e.g. PhD certificate, etc.)?

No, this documentation is not needed at the application submission stage. Successful candidates will be required to present it prior to accepting the grant.

Should the proposal include a detailed list of references or is it enough to note the cited references in footnotes?

It is sufficient to note the references of the proposal in footnotes. A list of publications and project relevant references can be submitted as part of the proposal; however, it is not mandatory.

Should my PhD diploma be translated into English?

Applicants are not required to submit their diplomas with their application. They may be asked to submit their diploma and other relevant documentation only if successful. In such cases, diplomas and other documentation are required to be translated into English.

What documents constitute proof that I have not lived in Ireland for more than 12 months?

Documents that would be used for other purposes where residency is being verified can be used if Enterprise Ireland deems verification of residency necessary.

Do I need to agree an industry secondment with a company and/or get a letter of support?

At the proposal stage, it is sufficient to name a company or companies or an area of industry that you could target for a secondment; you do not need a letter of support. If you are able to name a specific company that you have discussed with your mentor or that you have interacted with to prepare your proposal it may strengthen your application.

Is it possible to update my application or to submit additional material/information after the call deadline?

No, it is not possible for any applicant to submit additional material or information once their application has been submitted and the online application system is closed.

What happens to my submission if it is incomplete?

Completeness of the application will be checked at the eligibility checking phase. Incomplete submissions will be deemed ineligible. Applicants can resubmit their applications under the second CAREER-FIT call.

How will project proposals be evaluated?

All eligible applications will be sent out for independent, international peer review. Each application will be evaluated by three independent assessors. More details on the evaluation procedures can be found in the Guide for Applicants document in the Application Documents section.

When will I receive information on whether or not I will be offered a Fellowship?

Applicants will be contacted shortly after the final selection meeting on 31 JULY 2017 to inform them of the outcome of their applications. A separate offer of a contract of employment will follow from the host institution to successful applicants.

Will I be informed about the reasons for refusing my application?

All applicants will receive feedback on applications submitted, including results of the eligibility check, final score and qualitative assessment from the external peer review process.

Where can I get help writing my proposal?

The main idea for the proposal should be your own. You should discuss your idea with, among others: your chosen mentor, local Marie Skłodowska-Curie national contact point, funding support services in your current location, experienced research peers and/or the CAREER-FIT management team. Many of these will be able to offer advice on how to turn your idea into a research proposal that can be successfully evaluated using the criteria presented in the guide for applicants.

I am having difficulty accessing the application system, or I cannot access information I need to write my proposal because of my situation. Can I get additional support?

Yes. We are here to help any eligible researcher to apply. Get in touch on careerfit@enterprise-ireland.com , or call +353 1 727 2665.

4) Fellowships

Does the mentor have to be a member of staff at an eligible host organisation in Ireland?

Yes, the academic mentor must be a member of staff at an eligible host organisation in Ireland. It is a matter for the host organisation to determine the suitability of their staff members to act as academic mentors for Career-FIT fellowships. Mentors will need to have the required background and track record to provide guidance for the Fellow on the research project and will be expected to be the mentor for the entire duration of the fellowship. By providing institutional endorsement to an application, the host organisation will confirm the eligibility and suitability of the proposed academic mentor to support the fellow.

Can I have multiple academic mentors for my Fellowship?

You should name one academic mentor, as this will define your place of employment. You can name multiple co-mentors if you demonstrate that this arrangement contributes to the execution of your research plan. Only one academic mentor (at an eligible host organisation in Ireland at which the academic mentor is employed and through which the award will be administered) can be formally nominated.

If I am offered a CAREER-FIT Fellowship, when should I start?

It is expected that successful Fellows will start the Fellowship at their earliest convenience, typically within four months of acceptance. Given that transnational mobility is a key feature of the programme, CAREER-FIT recognises that additional time may be required to allow a Fellow to complete their previous activities and move to Ireland. Consequently, the starting date for each Fellow will be negotiated on an individual basis by the Fellow in question and their respective host institution.

What training will I receive as part of the CAREER-FIT programme?

CAREER-FIT will provide a training scheme that you will participate in along with your peer group of Fellows. This will include an induction programme, communication and assertiveness skills (personal effectiveness, Innovation management (primarily in an industrial context, including market scoping) as well as a variety of research management skills and how to seek and secure funding, all targeted at experienced post-doctoral researchers. Some researchers will have had similar training before; in this case you may still choose to participate to refresh your knowledge and to engage with your peers, or we may devise an alternative plan. There will be additional funding available for specific skills training on request to / approval by CAREER-FIT Management.

Where will I be based?

Your Fellowship will be at the workplace of your academic mentor, a higher education institution in Ireland, and you will be expected to perform the majority of your work at that institution. For the purposes of conducting your research plan, you may be required to work in other locations from time to time.

What / how long / where should the industry secondment be?

The purpose of the industry secondment is to support your research activity and /or your development as an independent researcher. It must be at an Enterprise Ireland client company in Ireland. The CAREER-FIT programme does not set a specific duration for secondments, but they should be more than a visit to a company, and not take the majority of the Fellowship – this could be between 6 and 18 months. You can do more than one secondment if it helps your work.

Do companies need to have a research function/capacity to carry out research?

Companies are required to have the necessary research capacity to support the proposed fellowship, its research dimension as well as career and training development dimension. As companies can vary in size and the number of separate functions within the organisation, it will not be an absolute requirement to have a dedicated research function. It will however be required that the applicant and the company demonstrate in their submissions how the company will support the successful implementation of the proposed fellowship.

Can the applicant propose a company of their own choice?

Yes, applicants are free to collaborate with an eligible company of their choice. Enterprise Ireland is encouraging companies to express an interest in becoming a partner organisation for CAREER-FIT fellowships through our website. However any eligible company can become a partner organisation for a fellowship.

Is it up to the applicant to contact and solicit company interest in participating in CAREER-FIT or should my academic mentor do that?

This is a matter for agreement between the applicant and their proposed academic mentor. Enterprise Ireland encourages parties to leverage existing links (for example at the institutional/technology centre level).

Can one company support more than one CAREER-FIT Fellowship?

Yes, companies can participate in more than one Fellowship, as long as they have the capacity and infrastructure required to support the relevant research work and to provide training to more than one researcher if more than one proposal is successful.

Can I do an academic secondment as part of my Fellowship?

Yes, if it supports your pursuit of your research goals and/or career development as a researcher. It does not replace the requirement to make an industry secondment.

Can I start my fellowship before obtaining my PhD diploma?

All Fellows need to be in a possession of a PhD diploma at the time of the start of their Fellowship. The only exception includes researchers with at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience, who at the time of application were not enrolled on a doctoral programme and are not working towards a PhD completion.

5) Financial matters

Who is eligible for a family allowance?

Family is defined as persons linked to the Fellow by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the Fellow. Should one or more of these apply to your circumstances you will be eligible for a family allowance.

How will the salary be paid?

The salary will be paid through the host institution which will be employing the Fellow for the duration of the fellowship.

6) Other

Where can I find practical information about living and working in Ireland?

Information and further links to resources about living and working in Ireland can be accessed from the Working in Ireland section of the website.

Is it required to present a TOEFL test or another language proficiency test for the Career-FIT programme?

Researchers must be able to communicate to the requisite standard through the English language, and a statement confirming same by the host institution will be required as part of the endorsement

of the application. It is not the scheme's requirement to have a specific English language proficiency test completed in order to apply (home organisations however might have requirements in this regard).