

Call for Expression of Interest for funding young researchers “MSCA Seal of Excellence”

1. Scope

This call aims to preselect research projects presented by young researchers who obtained a ‘Seal of Excellence’ in the framework of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships under the Framework Programme Horizon 2020, or of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships under the Framework Programme Horizon Europe.

The preselection is necessary for the subsequent application by the MSCA grantees of research proposals in response to the Call for proposal – National Recovery and Resilience Plan – Mission 4 “Education and Research” – Component 2 “From Research to Business” – Investment 1.2 “Funding of projects presented by young researchers” (Notice n.247/2022) published by the Ministry of Education and Research (MUR) according to the Ministerial Decree n.894 of July 11, 2022.

The research projects funded by MUR foresee the recruitment of young researchers with a fixed-term research contract of type a (RTD-A), as defined by Law n.240 of December 30, 2010, according to Law n.79 of June 29, 2022. Additional personnel dedicated to the research activities can be recruited. The young researcher, if funded by MUR, will sign the contract with the University of Milano-Bicocca (Host Institution), where the research activities will be carried out.

2. Eligibility conditions for the applicant

The applicants need to hold a ‘Seal of Excellence’ obtained after applying to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships under the Framework Programme Horizon 2020 or Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships under the Framework Programme Horizon Europe. In addition, by **August 23, 2022** they need to have received the notification of the ‘Seal of Excellence’ since **48** months or less.

3. Funding

The contribution by the MUR amounts to 150,000 Euro and covers 100% of the eligible costs defined in art.5 of this Call.

The activities foreseen in the project proposals must be carried out over a maximum period of 24 months starting from the signing of the deed of obligation attached to the decree granting the funding and – in any case – within 20 December 2024.

4. Admissible projects

The proposals of the applicants may be part of one of the research areas belonging to the scientific-disciplinary macro-sectors of the MSCA Individual Fellowships and the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, as listed in Annex 1C of Notice n.247/2022.

The research proposal must be an adaptation of the proposal that received the ‘Seal of Excellence’ in the framework of MSCA Individual Fellowships or Postdoctoral Fellowships (‘First Submission’).

The applicant must declare Compliance with the “do no significant harm” principle through the transmission of the signed Declaration of fulfillment of the DNSH (Annex 2C to Notice n.247/2022).

The applicant completes the self-assessment form for compliance with ethical requirements (Annex 3C).

5. Eligible costs

The grant awarded by the MUR, according to Notice n.247/2022, is of 150,000 Euro per funded project. The contribution covers 100% of the costs of the project presented by the applicant holding a 'Seal of Excellence' under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe. The funding is 'lump sum'.

6. Terms and procedures for the application

The application must be submitted by completing the on-line form at the link: <https://www.unimib.it/ricerca/opportunita/finanziamenti-alla-ricerca/finanziamenti-nazionali/bando-giovani-ricercatori-msca-msca-seal-excellence>

prior to 12.00 pm of **October 18**, 2022, and uploading the following documents (in English, with the exception of the Identity Document):

1. The new research proposal pursuant to Notice n.247/2022 (Annex 4C);
2. Copy of the applicants' Identity Document;
3. 'First submission' of the MSCA that received the 'Seal of Excellence';
4. Evaluation Summary Report of the 'First submission';
5. 'Seal of Excellence' received after the 'First submission'
6. Curriculum vitae of the applicant;
7. Declaration of compliance with the DNSH principle (Annex 2C);
8. Self-assessment form for compliance with ethical requirements (Annex 3C);
9. Declaration signed by the applicant for the presentation of the proposal to the University.

The University will only consider applications in the scientific-disciplinary sectors consistent with its research activities.

7. Evaluation of the proposals

After the call deadline, the University of Milano-Bicocca appoints an Evaluation Committee, composed of at least three members, according to the criteria of competence, transparency, and rotation, in compliance with the principles of impartiality, promptness and absence of conflicts of interest. The Evaluation Committee will assess the merit by evaluating the proposals based on the following criteria:

ELEMENTS FOR EVALUATION	SCORE
1. Scientific adequacy: Consistency, clarity and ambition of the project goals with respect to those of the " <i>First submission</i> " that received the 'Seal of Excellence'	0-5
2. Expected impact of the project (scientific, societal, economic); evaluation of the " <i>First submission</i> "; adherence to European and international policy frameworks (for example, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 5 EU Missions of the Horizon Europe Framework Program) and validity in terms of technology and knowledge transfer.	0-5
3. Implementation and feasibility; robustness, clarity and feasibility of the research plan in the proposed timing	0-5
TOTAL SCORE	0-15

Each criterion is given a score in the 0-5 range as detailed below:

SCORES	DESCRIPTION
0-1	The proposal does not adequately meet the evaluation criteria or there are inherent weaknesses
2-3	The proposal addresses the evaluation criteria correctly but there are some limitations
4-5	The proposal successfully addresses the evaluation criteria, and any shortcomings are to be considered marginal

Projects that achieve an overall score of less than 9 out of 15 or that have at least one score on the individual criterion equal to or less than 1 are not eligible for the subsequent application to MUR.

In addition, the Evaluation Committee carries out an assessment of the compliance of the project proposals with the principle “do no significant harm”, through the use of an exclusion list, and with relevant European and national environmental legislation, according with the provisions of the DNSH Operational Guidelines attached to the Communication of the Ministry of Economy and Finance no. 23 of 31th December 2021.

For each application received, the Evaluation Committee prepares, a Report (Annex 6C) including the assessment of merit and of compliance with DNSH and ethical principles. The report will be sent to the applicant, together with the preliminary agreement (Annex 5C) in case of positive evaluation by the Committee.

8. Application procedure to request funding to MUR

After completion of the evaluation procedure, the applicant, having subscribed the Preliminary agreement with the Host Institution (Annex 5C), applies for funding to MUR . Applications must be submitted in English, exclusively electronically, via the <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it> platform starting from 5th September 2022 at 12:00 PM (Rome time) and strictly no later than 25th October 2022 at 12:00 PM (Rome time), under penalty of exclusion and inadmissibility.

The application needs to follow the procedure of art.23 of Notice n.247/2022. The Ministry carries out a preparatory formal-administrative evaluation, after which it draws up the list of eligible applicants, following the provision of art.25 of Notice n.247/2022.

9. Obligations of the applicant

Each applicant can submit only one application for Notice n.247/2022 to MUR.

The applicant commits to present to MUR the research proposal (Annex 4C) exactly in the version evaluated by the Committee of art. 7 of this Call. The applicant commits to sign the preliminary agreement with the University of Milano-Bicocca (Annex 5C).

Should the proposal be funded by MUR, the applicant is obliged to sign a contract with the University of Milano-Bicocca no later than December 20, 2022 and to follow the implementation and accounting procedures set out in art.26 of Notice n.247/2022.

For all other matters, the reference is art.28 of Notice n.247/2022

10. Obligations of the Host Institution

If the research project is granted funding by MUR, the University of Milano-Bicocca commits to:

1. Ensure that the applicant has access to the infrastructures required for the research activities described in the proposal;
 2. Recruit the applicant, at the latest by December 20, 2022, in compliance with the provisions of the preliminary agreement (Annex 5C);
11. Person responsible for the procedure

The responsible of the procedure is Teresa Gallicchio, Head of Grant Office & Tender Sector,
ricerca@unimib.it