

Call for Expression of Interest for funding young researchers “MSCA grantees”

1. Scope

This call aims to preselect research projects presented by previous winners of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships under the Framework Programme Horizon 2020, or 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 be grantees of 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** their MSCA project needs to be concluded and the end date cannot be before **August 22, 2018**.

3. Funding

The maximum contribution of MUR is of 300,000 Euro per project and it covers up to 100% of the eligible costs as defined in article 5 of this Call.

The activities foreseen in the project proposals must be carried out over a maximum period of 36 months starting from the signing of the deed of obligation attached to the decree granting the funding and – in any case – within 20 December 2025.

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 1B of Notice n.247/2022.

The research proposal must be complementary and consequential with respect to the granted project under the MSCA Individual Fellowship or Postdoctoral Fellowship (‘First Submission’).

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

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

Project proposals must also foresee the future application of a research proposal to a European Research Council call, with the applicant as the Principal Investigator and the University of Milano-Bicocca as the Host Institution.

5. Eligible Costs

The financial contribution of Notice n.247/2022 foresees the eligible costs defined in article 15 of the Notice itself, i.e.:

a) Personnel expenses:

- i. the Salary foreseen for the permanence of the applicant at the Host Institution, for a maximum duration of 36 months starting from the signing of the deed of obligation attached to the decree which grants the funding.
- ii. the Salary foreseen for the activities carried out by fixed-term researchers, PhD students, technologists and other personnel expenses specifically working for the project proposal;

b) Expenses for subcontracts;

c) Other costs:

- i. costs of tools and equipment, to the extent and for the period in which they are actually used for the project, applying the depreciation criterion in compliance with the principles of good accounting practice;
- ii. costs of scientific consultancy or technical-scientific assistance services, used exclusively for the purposes of the project;
- iii. costs of communication activities and dissemination of research results;
- iv. other operating costs (for instance, but not limited to: consumables; publications of books; missions abroad and participation in training and / or dissemination events abroad as long as they are specifically incurred for the project and strictly related to it; costs for the acquisition and use of patents);
- v. general expenses: eligible at a flat rate of 7% of direct costs, excluding subcontracts.

6. Terms and procedures for the application

The application must be submitted through 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 form related to the complementary and consequential research proposal pursuant to Notice 247/2022 (Annex 5B);
2. The economic-financial plan, only if the total contribution requested is greater than or equal to 200,000 Euro (annex 4B);
3. Copy of the applicants' Identity Document;
4. 'First submission' of the MSC funded proposal;
5. Evaluation Summary Report of the 'First submission';
6. Curriculum vitae of the applicant;

7. Declaration of compliance with the DNSH principle (Annex 2B);
8. Self-assessment form for compliance with ethical requirements (Annex 3B);
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 "First submission"	0-5
2. Expected impact of the project (scientific, societal, economic) evaluation of the "First submission"; 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 assesses 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 7B) 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 6B) in case of positive evaluation by the Committee.

The Evaluation Committee appointed reserves the right to recalculate the overall investment and the amount of the contribution that can be granted if the economic-financial plan is not adequate for the objectives and duration of the project.

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 6B), 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 October 25, 2022 at 12:00 PM (Rome time), under penalty of exclusion and inadmissibility.

The application needs to follow the procedure of art.16 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.18 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 5B) exactly in the version evaluated by the Committee of art. 7 of this Call. If the requested amount is greater than or equal to 200,000 Euro, the applicant commits to present to MUR the economic-financial plan (Annex 4B) in the version evaluated by the Committee and integrating any potential amendment requested by the Evaluation Committee. The applicant commits to sign the preliminary agreement with the University of Milano-Bicocca (Annex 6B).

The applicant, should the proposal be funded by MUR, 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.19 of the Notice n.247/2022.

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

10. Obligations of the Host Institutions

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 6B);
3. Guarantee the additional recruitments of article 5, letter a), if foreseen by the project.

11. Responsible of the procedure

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