

호라이즌 유럽 필라1 신청 가이드북

유럽연구위원회 & 마리퀴리포닥펠로우십

Horizon Europe Pillar 1 Application Guidebook

European Research Council (ERC) &
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA PF)

EU 우수 연구자 펀딩 가이드

EU Funding for Excellent Researchers

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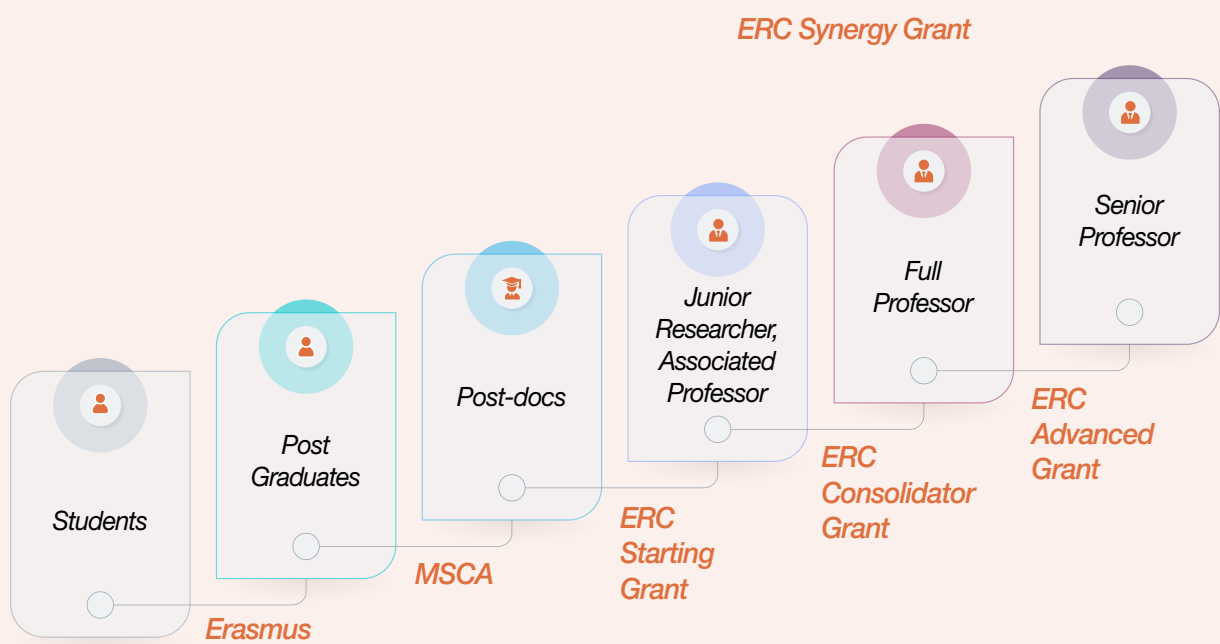
벨기에 브뤼셀에 소재한 한-EU 연구협력센터(KERC)는 한국과 유럽 간 과학기술 협력 강화를 위해 호라이즌 유럽에 대한 국내외 정보를 제공하고, 관련 기관과의 소통을 지원하는 등 다각도의 지원을 꾸준히 이어오고 있습니다. 특히 필라1과 관련해서는 MSCA(마리퀴리 프로그램) 및 ERC(유럽연구위원회) 프로그램에 대한 온라인 워크숍을 개최하여 제도 전반을 소개하며 국내외 참여 연구자의 실제 경험을 공유하고, 연구자들이 활용할 수 있는 정보 채널을 안내함으로써 실질적인 접근성을 개선하기 위해 지속적으로 노력하고 있습니다.

호라이즌 유럽의 핵심 축 중 하나인 필라1 프로그램은 ERC와 MSCA등을 통해 개별 연구자들을 직접 지원하는 제도로, 연구의 독창성과 도전성을 중시하며 세계 연구 무대에서 두각을 나타낼 수 있는 발판을 마련해 줍니다. 그러나 참여 절차와 연구 환경에 대한 정보가 제한적인 상황에서, 국내 연구자들이 참고할 수 있는 사례 기반 자료에 대한 필요가 제기되어 왔습니다.

이번에 발간하는 『EU 우수 연구자 펀딩 가이드 – 호라이즌 유럽 필라1 유럽연구위원회 및 마리퀴리포닥 펠로우십』은 필라1 프로그램에 대한 국내 연구자들의 이해를 높이고, 실제 참여 경험을 바탕으로 구체적인 도전 경로를 제시하기 위해 기획되었습니다. 사례집에는 프로그램에 선정된 한국인 연구자들의 생생한 경험과 제안은 물론, 유럽 연구 환경 속에서 마주한 도전과 이를 극복한 과정이 담겨 있습니다. 또한, 한국인 연구자 유치를 희망하는 유럽 내 대학 및 연구기관의 정보도 함께 수록하여 연구자들이 보다 구체적이고 실질적인 참여 기회를 모색할 수 있도록 하였습니다. 이 자료가 호라이즌 유럽 필라1 참여를 준비하는 연구자들에게 유용한 길잡이가 되고, 더 많은 분들이 글로벌 연구 무대에 도전하는 데 도움이 되기를 바랍니다.

끝으로, 귀중한 경험을 기꺼이 나누어주신 연구자분들께 깊은 감사의 말씀을 드리며, 한국과 유럽이 함께 만들어갈 미래 과학기술 협력의 여정에 더 많은 연구자분들이 동참하시기를 기대합니다.

한-EU연구협력센터 이대명 센터장



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European Research Council (ERC)
Guide Book

**유럽연구위원회(ERC) 지원
프로그램 가이드북**



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC



Welcome Message

The Republic of Korea and the European Union share a long-standing relationship based on shared values and principles, particularly in Research and Innovation (R&I). Cooperation in R&I is crucial, and there is immense potential for increasing our cooperation across a broad spectrum of thematic domains. Since 17 July 2025, the Republic of Korea has officially associated to Horizon Europe, EU's funding programme for research and innovation (2021-2027). This provides a wealth of new opportunities, and I look forward to seeing an increased number of Korean researchers and organisations participating in the calls and activities of Pillar II of the Horizon Europe programme.

The European Research Council (ERC), a component of Horizon Europe Pillar I, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the premier funding organisation of the European Union for excellent frontier research. Whilst the association of the Republic of Korea is only to Pillar II of the programme, there are many opportunities available for Korean researchers through the ERC. Indeed, our individual grants are open to researchers of any nationality, to carry out research in a subject of their choice, at a research institution in an EU country or one of the countries associated to Pillar I. Furthermore, within ERC Synergy Grants, which bring together 2-4 principal investigators to tackle a major research challenge, one of the principal investigators can be based anywhere in the world and receive funding in the same way as their European counterparts.

Korean researchers also can benefit from visiting fellowships managed through a formal agreement between the ERC and Korea's Ministry of Science, ICT, and Future Planning. This agreement facilitates collaborative research between early career researchers in Korea and ERC grant holders, promoting a valuable exchange of knowledge and expertise.

I strongly encourage Korean researchers to take full advantage of the ERC funding schemes and the other opportunities designed for international researchers, and I am positive that this guidebook, prepared by the Korea-EU Research Centre, will serve as useful resource for those interested to apply.

Prof. Maria Leptin
President of the ERC Scientific Council

The ERC Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers: A Step by Step Handbook

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The ERC Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers

A Step-by-Step Handbook

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1

Introduction to the ERC and Horizon Europe

The **European Research Council (ERC)** is the flagship funding organisation of the **European Union (EU)** for frontier research, operating under the **Horizon Europe Framework Programme (2021–2027)**. Established in 2007, the ERC supports excellent individual researchers to pursue bold, ground-breaking ideas at the frontiers of knowledge, across all scientific disciplines.

Why ERC?

1. Prestige & international recognition
2. Scientific freedom and independence
3. Substantial long-term funding (up to €2.5 million+ per project)
4. Career advancement opportunities
5. A strong entry point into European research networks

ERC grants are awarded solely based on **scientific excellence**, which is the only evaluation criterion. Unlike many other funding schemes, ERC calls have no pre-defined topics; researchers are free to propose projects in any field. This **bottom-up approach** encourages innovation across the full spectrum of science and scholarship. The funding is **Principal Investigator (PI)-centred**, meaning it follows the researcher rather than the institution, and offers applicants full autonomy over their research direction, team composition, and project execution.

As a result, ERC grants are highly attractive to researchers worldwide. They offer not only **substantial long-term funding** – with maximum budgets ranging from €1.5 million for Starting Grants up to €2.5 million for Advanced Grants (with possible top-ups) – but also **scientific independence, international visibility**, and strong **career advancement opportunities**. Furthermore, ERC-funded researchers benefit from being embedded in vibrant European research environments and gain a strong foothold in international scientific networks.

Another distinctive feature of ERC funding is its **global accessibility**: researchers from any country, including Korea, are eligible to apply, provided the project is hosted by an institution

located in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. Proposals are evaluated solely on their scientific quality, with **no assessment of societal impact or relevance**, in contrast to Horizon Europe's collaborative calls under Pillar II. ERC funding also includes support for salary, relocation and start-up costs, and provides indirect cost coverage through institutional overhead contributions.

By combining **scientific freedom**, **generous support**, and a **singular focus on excellence**, ERC grants provide a unique opportunity for researchers to develop ambitious ideas and establish themselves as independent leaders at the cutting edge of their fields.

To meet the needs of researchers at different career stages and research ambitions, the ERC offers five distinct grant schemes. These vary in eligibility requirements, funding amounts, and project structure. The overview below summarises their core characteristics:

Grant Type	Eligibility Window	Max Funding	Duration	Key Characteristics
Starting Grant (StG)	2-7 years post-PhD	€1.5M (+€1M top-up)	Up to 5 years	» For early-career researchers establishing independence
Consolidator Grant (CoG)	7-12 years post-PhD	€2M (+€1M top-up)	Up to 5 years	» For mid-career researchers consolidating their research team
Advanced Grant (AdG)	No fixed window; based on research excellence	€2.5M (+€1M top-up)	Up to 5 years	» For established leaders with a significant research track record
Synergy Grant (SyG)	Any career stage; 2-4 PIs tackling a major joint challenge	€10M (+€4M top-up)	Up to 6 years	» For collaborative teams tackling ambitious scientific challenges
Proof of Concept (PoC)	For current ERC grantees only	€150K	Up to 18 months	» To explore innovation or commercial potential of ERC research

New for 2026 and beyond

As of the 2026 edition, significant updates have been introduced, including a revised evaluation format, updated proposal templates, and clearer separation between scientific ambition and feasibility assessments.

For 2027, further changes are expected, including a narrative-style CV and a review of eligibility windows for Starting and Consolidator Grants. Researchers planning submissions in 2026 or 2027 should consult Sections 4 and 5 for details and check the official ERC update.

2 Who is Eligible to Apply

ERC eligibility depends on the number of years since the applicant's PhD defence. Each grant scheme targets a specific career stage. For a breakdown of eligibility windows, see the table in Section 1. See the box below for specific guidance for Korean applicants.



Korean Researchers and ERC Participation

Korean researchers are fully eligible to apply for ERC grants. However, because **Korea is not an Associated Country under Horizon Europe Pillar I** (which includes ERC), **Korean institutions cannot act as host institutions** for StG, CoG, or AdG projects. For these schemes, applicants must be hosted by a legal entity in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. **There is no requirement to reside in Europe at the time of application**, but a significant physical presence in Europe is required during the grant period (check 'Time Commitment Requirements' table on page 15).

The SyG scheme is the only ERC scheme that allows **one PI to be hosted outside Europe**, providing a unique opportunity for Korean researchers to participate without relocating. Researchers planning to relocate can request **up to €1 million in additional start-up funding** to cover equipment, relocation and travel. Early coordination with your home institution (e.g., for leave or secondment) is strongly advised.

Applicants with career breaks (e.g., parental leave, national service) may request eligibility extensions when applying for StG or CoG – see Information for Applicants for details¹. To find a suitable host and prepare your proposal, Korean researchers are encouraged to:

- Explore** the **EURAXESS Korea**² platform, which provides updates on funding opportunities, mobility support, events, and practical relocation guidance for Korean researchers moving to Europe.
- Use** the **ERC Dashboard**³ to identify potential host institutions. It allows you to search all ERC-funded projects by topic, country, PI or host institution, helping you understand who has been funded and where.
- Connect** with European institutions via academic networks or open calls for expressions of interest.
- Seek** support from the **Korean National Contact Point (NCP)** at the National Research Foundation (NRF), which offers proposal guidance, information sessions, and mentoring.
- Engage** with the **Korea-EU Research Centre (KEREC)**⁴ for additional resources, events, and networking opportunities related to ERC and Horizon Europe.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf

² <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

³ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

⁴ <https://k-erc.eu/>

3 How to Prepare your ERC Application

To apply for an ERC grant, the applicant must prepare a complete proposal and submit it via the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal** before the published deadline. The application process includes scientific, administrative, and institutional elements that must be coordinated in advance.

Host Institution Requirements

ERC proposals must be submitted in coordination with a **host institution (HI)** in Europe. While the PI remains the scientific lead, the host institution must formally commit to supporting the project by signing a **Host Institution Commitment Letter** (check page 33~35 for the template). This letter confirms the institution will provide the PI with full scientific independence, including authority over the project's direction, team, budget, and publications. The host should also offer appropriate infrastructure, administrative support, and freedom to pursue additional funding or publications. The PI does not need to be employed by the host at the time of application but must be formally engaged if the project is funded.

Choosing the Right Host Institution

Although ERC grants are PI-centred, a strong and supportive host institution can significantly strengthen your application and help ensure smooth implementation. When selecting a host, consider the following:

1	Research environment	Ensure the institution has the infrastructure, technical expertise, and facilities required for your project.
2	ERC experience and support services	Hosts familiar with ERC grants often have dedicated support teams to assist with budgeting, internal reviews, and logistics.
3	Mentoring and proposal support	Some institutions offer pre-submission reviews, mock interviews, or access to ERC grantees for mentorship.
4	Institutional commitment	Check that leadership understands ERC expectations and will support your independence and scientific autonomy.
5	Relocation and practical considerations	If relocating from outside Europe, consider visa support, housing assistance, and cultural integration services – these can significantly ease your transition.

Tip

*If you don't yet have a potential host, you can search for institutions via the **ERC Dashboard**⁵⁾ or **EURAXESS Korea**⁶⁾.*



5 <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

6 <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

Time Commitment Requirements

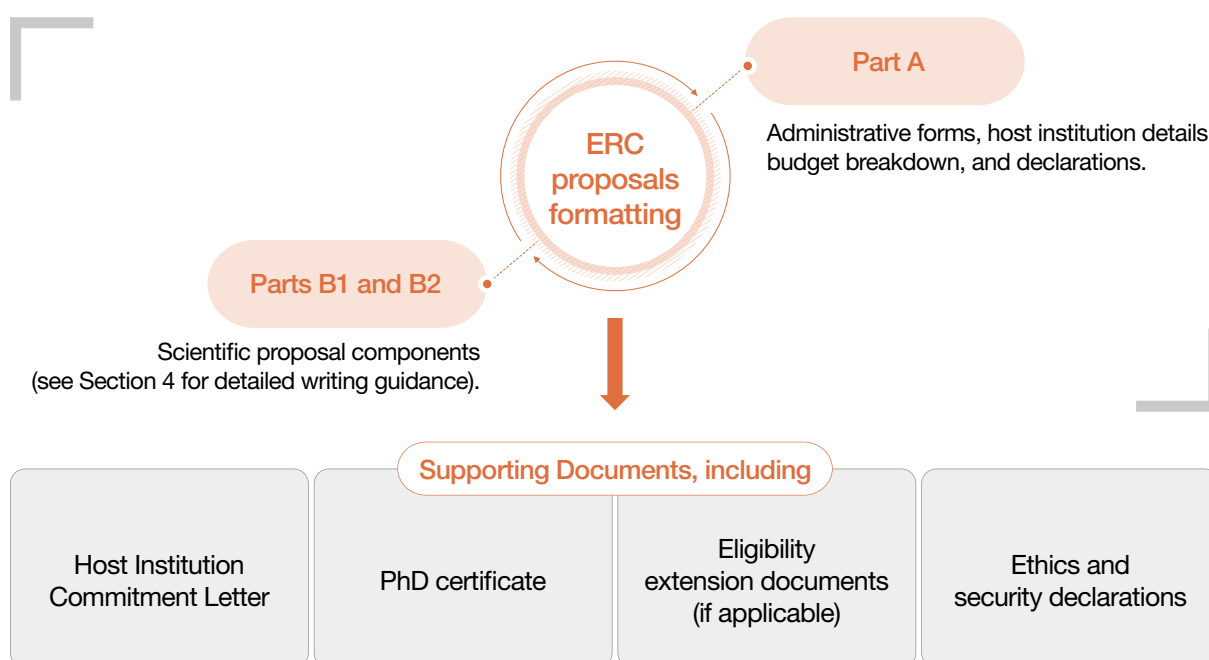
ERC PIs are expected to devote a substantial portion of their working time to the funded project and be physically present in Europe for most of its duration. The minimum time commitments are as follows:

Grant Type	Minimum Time on ERC Project	Minimum Time in Europe (EU/AC)
StG	At least 50%	At least 50%
CoG	At least 40%	At least 50%
AdG	At least 30%	At least 50%
SyG (Per PI)	At least 30%	At least 50% (if hosted in EU/Associated Country)

These requirements reflect the ERC's expectation that the PI will lead the project directly and be closely involved throughout.

Application Process Overview

ERC proposals must follow strict formatting and submission guidelines. A complete application consists of:



All sections must comply with ERC formatting and page limits. Proposals that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

4 Writing a Competitive ERC Proposal

Writing a strong ERC proposal requires clarity, ambition, and alignment with the ERC's sole evaluation criterion: **scientific excellence**. Your proposal must convince reviewers on two fronts:

- The **project** – its originality, ambition, and feasibility
- The **PI** – your creativity, independence, and capacity to lead the research

ERC proposals consist of two main scientific sections – **Part B1** and **Part B2** – alongside administrative and supporting documents.

Part B1 – First Impressions Matter

Part B1 is evaluated in both Step 1 and Step 2.

- At **Step 1**, it is the only part reviewers will read – therefore, it must stand entirely on its own and convincingly present the research vision.
- At **Step 2**, B1 is re-read alongside Part B2, allowing reviewers to assess how the proposed implementation plan supports the original ambition and concept.

It includes:

1 Extended Synopsis (max 5 pages)	A self-contained summary of your project's scientific vision, originality, and ambition. Clearly describe the research challenge, its relevance, and your bold idea to address it. A schematic figure can help make your concept visually memorable. Do not include methodology or feasibility details here.
2 Curriculum Vitae and Track Record (max 4 pages)	Describe your academic background, career trajectory, and up to 10 key outputs (e.g., publications, patents). Briefly explain your contribution to each and its significance.

Tip

Ensure Part B1 includes all essential ideas – reviewers won't see Part B2 in Step 1.



● Demonstrating Scientific Independence and Leadership

For StG and CoG applicants, it is crucial to demonstrate independence from former supervisors and clear leadership potential. You can show this by:

- Highlight publications where you are **first/corresponding author without your PhD supervisor**. These are often interpreted as strong indicators of independence. Consider using an asterisk and noting this explicitly in your track record.
- Emphasize any **project leadership roles**, such as coordinating a study, supervising junior researchers, or managing collaborations.
- Include a **narrative** (in CV or B2) about your scientific vision and how you have developed it independently: e.g., “During my postdoc, I developed method X, which I now apply to address problem Y in this proposal.”
- Clearly describe your **intellectual ownership** of past work. If you conceived a method or led a project, say so directly.

● Crafting a Strong CV and Track Record

Your CV/Track Record is your opportunity to convince reviewers that **you can deliver the proposed project**. It should demonstrate leadership, productivity, and recognition appropriate to your career stage.

Tips for a strong CV:

1	Focus on quality, not quantity	Select up to 10 outputs that highlight breakthrough contributions or significant impact.
2	Explain relevance of outputs	Briefly describe the importance of each: “Developed a new material used in XX research (JOURNAL NAME, YEAR).”
3	Show trajectory and peer recognition	Include awards, fellowships, invited talks, or editorial roles.
4	Broader scientific contributions	Organising a conference, developing software, or curating datasets can all showcase leadership.
5	Explain gaps or unconventional paths	If you had a career break (e.g., maternity leave, national service, illness), include it. ERC panels consider achievements relative to opportunity.
6	Presentation matters	Use bullet points or tables to make your record easy to scan.

Tip

Avoid jargon. Make it bold but clear – think of it as your scientific “elevator pitch.” If the panel doesn’t understand or get excited here, they may not read further.





Highlight: Your Summary Is Your First (and Best) Pitch

The **Summary** (submitted as part of Part B1 and visible to reviewers early) is one of the most important sections of your ERC proposal. It's often the **first thing panel members read** – sometimes the **only section read in detail** at Step 1. Use this space to **pitch your idea with clarity and impact**. Your Summary should briefly but convincingly communicate:

- **The problem or research gap:** What is the challenge or unmet need? Why is it urgent or timely?
- **The state of the art:** What has been done so far, and what is missing?
- **Your aim and objectives:** What are you proposing to do, and what will you achieve?
- **Your approach:** What methods or work packages will you use to get there?
- **The potential impact:** How will your work advance knowledge, enable new directions, or benefit broader fields?

Part B2 – Scientific Depth and Feasibility

Under the 2026 Work Programme, this section is limited to seven pages for Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant applications, and ten pages for Synergy Grants (excluding the budget justification). It must cover all feasibility-related content, as this is no longer assessed in Part B1.

The following elements should be addressed:

1	Methodology and Work Plan	Explain how you will execute the research, including theoretical approaches, experimental strategies, and data sources. Organise the plan by work packages or project phases if appropriate.
2	Timelines and Milestones	Provide a clear project timeline, outlining major phases, deliverables, and decision points. A simple Gantt chart or milestone table can help convey structure, though it is optional.
3	Risks and Contingency Plans	Identify key scientific or technical risks and explain how you will mitigate them. Show that you have considered uncertainties and developed fallback options where appropriate.
4	Resources and Budget Justification	While the budget breakdown is submitted in Part A, use B2 to briefly justify your requested resources – such as staff, equipment, infrastructure, travel, or relocation. Demonstrate that the scale of support aligns with the ambition and scope of your project.

Tip

Feasibility is a critical factor in Step 2 – reviewers must believe your project is not only bold, but also realistic and executable.





Strategic Tip: Think Beyond 5 Years

ERC reviewers don't just fund a "project" – they fund a **scientific vision**. Show how your proposal represents the **beginning of a long-term research programme**, with potential to:

- Open new research directions,
- Build a research group around a new methodology or theme,
- Influence other fields or applications.

If possible, include this broader outlook in your **Extended Synopsis** or **CV narrative**. Panels are looking to invest in **future leaders** of frontier science, not just one-time deliverables.

High-Risk / High-Gain Research

ERC encourages **bold ideas with high potential impact** – even if they involve scientific risk. Do not downplay or conceal uncertainties, instead:

- Be transparent about what aspects of your proposal are exploratory.
- Demonstrate that your idea pushes boundaries while remaining methodologically sound.
- Present clear fallback strategies to show that you are prepared for obstacles.

What Makes a Strong ERC Proposal

Successful proposals typically:

- Address a significant open question or gap in knowledge.
- Present a bold, original research vision with potential for high scientific impact.
- Combine ambition with a credible, well-reasoned plan.
- Clearly reflect the PI's intellectual leadership and independence.

A strong ERC proposal tells a compelling story – of an **bold idea**, a **credible plan**, and a **capable researcher ready to lead it**.

Tip

Avoid "safe" or incremental proposals – ERC panels seek visionary projects that can change the direction of a field.

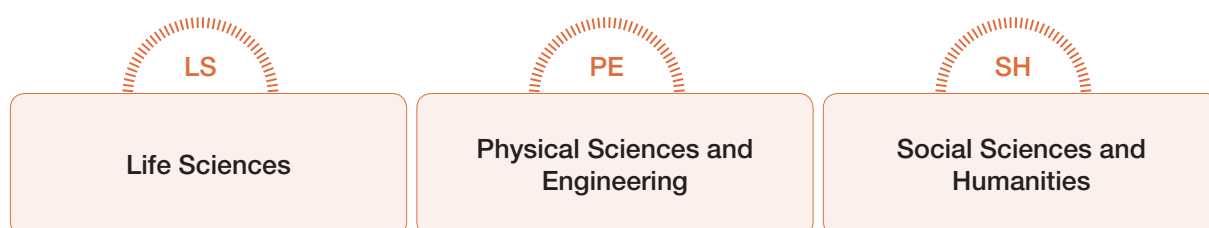


5 Understanding the ERC Evaluation Process

Submitting a proposal is only the first step. To succeed in the ERC competition, applicants must also understand **how proposals are evaluated**, **who evaluates them**, **what scores mean**, and **how interviews work** (for certain schemes). This section explains how ERC proposals are reviewed and what to expect after submission.

Panel Structure and Domains

ERC proposals are reviewed by **peer-review panels** organised under three broad domains:



Each domain contains several panels (e.g., LS1-LS9, PE1-PE11, SH1-SH7), covering specific disciplines. Applicants must choose the most appropriate panel at the time of submission.

Panels consist of **scientific experts** from across Europe and beyond. Panel composition **changes annually**, and members typically rotate **every 2 years** to ensure diversity of perspective and prevent static expectations.

Tip

Panels often cover broad fields, so ensure your proposal is clearly written and compelling to non-specialists – especially in Step 1, when only Part B1 is reviewed.



● Evaluation Steps and Timeline

ERC proposals are evaluated in **two stages**:

	What is Evaluated	Who Reviews	When
Step 1	Part B1 only (Extended Synopsis + CV/Track Record) Assesses ambition and scientific vision .	Panel Members	~3-4 months after deadline
Step 2	Part B1 + Part B2 (Full Proposal) Assesses feasibility.	Panel + External Experts	~6-7 months after deadline

Proposals rated highly in Step 1 are invited to Step 2. For StG and CoG, Step 2 includes an interview with the panel. From the 2026 Work Programme onward, Step 1 focuses only on the ambition and intellectual merit of the proposed research, based on the Extended Synopsis (Part B1). Feasibility, methodology, and resource planning are now evaluated only at Step 2. Applicants should present a bold, well-articulated research vision in Part B1, while all feasibility details must be included in Part B2. Final evaluation results are typically communicated 7-8 months after submission.

● Step 2 Interviews (StG, CoG, and AdG)

Applicants invited to Step 2 of **StG**, **CoG**, or **AdG** must attend an **interview**, typically conducted **online via videoconference**.

The interview generally includes a **short presentation (5-10 minutes)** by the PI, followed by **Q&A with the panel**. Some panels permit slides; others prefer a purely oral format. The presentation should highlight your core idea, its significance, and why you are the right person to lead the project.

During the interview, panels assess:

Clarity of scientific vision	Communication skills and confidence	Ownership of the idea and intellectual leadership	Feasibility of the work plan and risk management
------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	--

Tip

Practice your presentation with colleagues. Many host institutions offer mock interviews – use them to refine your message and delivery.



● Scoring System, Outcomes, and Resubmission Rules

ERC panels assign a score of A, B, or C to each proposal, based on both the project's and the PI's excellence:

Score	Outcome	Reapplication Restriction
A	Excellent and fundable (or high-ranked reserve list)	Can reapply next year
B (Step 1 or 2)	Not fundable	Cannot apply for any ERC scheme the following year
C (Step 1 only)	Below threshold	Cannot apply for any ERC scheme for 2 years

Note: These restrictions apply **across grant types** – e.g., receiving a B for a StG application bars you from applying for a CoG the following year, even if eligible.

Because of these rules, applicants should submit only when their proposal and profile are truly competitive. Submitting a weak or premature application may delay future opportunities. Many ERC grantees succeed on their second or third attempt, having strengthened their proposal and CV based on feedback.

Tip

If you are unsure whether your idea is ready, it may be better to wait and apply with a stronger concept and track record. A well-prepared first submission is better than triggering a reapplication block too early in your ERC trajectory.



6 Additional Resources

To prepare a strong ERC application, it is essential to consult the most current official documents and make use of the available support services. Below is a selection of key resources relevant to ERC applicants – particularly those applying from Korea.

Key ERC Documents

ERC Work Programme 2026⁷

Contains detailed descriptions of each grant scheme, eligibility rules, funding limits, call timelines, and resubmission policies.

Note: The 2026 Work Programme will be published at a later date. In the meantime, the ERC has issued a preliminary announcement outlining upcoming changes – see ERC news update for details.

Information for Applicants⁸ (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG)

Provides step-by-step application instructions, eligibility criteria, formatting rules, and evaluation guidance.

ERC Evaluation Forms and Scoring Criteria⁹

Explains how reviewers assess proposals and what they look for in both project and PI excellence.

ERC Proposal Templates (Parts B1, B2)

Official templates to structure your proposal submission.



All documents are available via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹⁰

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026/wp_horizon-erc-2026_en.pdf

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/erc-rules-for-submission-and-evaluation_he-erc_en.pdf

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents?programmePeriod=2021-2027&frameworkProgramme=43108390>

Online Platforms

EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹¹

The platform for ERC call announcements, submission, and proposal templates.

ERC Official Website¹²

Grant scheme summaries, news, success stories, FAQs, and calls.

EURAXESS Korea¹³

Updates on mobility support, funding calls, relocation tips, and events tailored to Korean researchers.

Additional Learning Resources

ERC Success Stories and Funded Project Summaries

Explore funded project examples from your field for inspiration and to understand the scope and ambition level expected by ERC panels. For more detailed insights, use the **ERC Dashboard**¹⁴ and **ERC Projects & Statistics**¹⁵ pages.

Workshops and Webinars

Watch for events hosted by EURAXESS, KERC, European embassies, Korean universities, or ERC alumni networks.

Mentoring and Peer Review Opportunities

Seek informal feedback from colleagues or former ERC applicants; many institutions offer mock interviews or internal review panels.

Institutional Research Offices (in Europe)

Many European host institutions have dedicated research or grants offices that support ERC applicants. They can help with proposal formatting, budget preparation, internal reviews, and submission logistics. If you've identified a host, reach out early to understand their internal timelines and available support.

Tip

Even if you are not applying this year, begin reviewing these materials early to familiarise yourself with ERC standards and start preparing your research vision.



¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

¹² <https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>

¹³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

¹⁴ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

¹⁵ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics>

References

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- [10] EURAXESS Korea. *Researcher Mobility Portal*.
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- [11] EURAXESS Hosting Offers Database.
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting>
- [12] European Research Council (ERC). *Success Stories and Newsroom*.
<https://erc.europa.eu/news-events>
- [13] Enspire Science. *ERC Blog and Proposal Development Tips*.
<https://enspire.science/erc-blog>

The ERC Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers: Appendix - Useful Tools

1 Quick Reference Tools

ERC Application Checklist

Task	Completed (✓)
Identify suitable ERC grant scheme based on career stage	
Confirm PhD eligibility window (see Section 1)	
Assess need for eligibility extension and collect documentation	
Identify and secure agreement from a host institution	
Prepare Host Institution Commitment Letter	
Draft Part B1 – Extended Synopsis, CV, Track Record	
Draft Part B2 – Full Scientific Proposal	
Complete Part A – Administrative forms and budget	
Upload all supporting documents (PhD certificate, extensions, ethics)	
Submit proposal via EU Funding & Tenders Portal before deadline	

Timeline Planning Guide

Activity	Recommended Timing
Start planning ERC application	12–18 months before deadline
Search for host institution	9–12 months before
Attend ERC info sessions or workshops	6–9 months before
Start writing Part B1 and CV	4–6 months before
Internal reviews / mentoring	2–4 months before
Final edits and formatting	1–2 months before
Submit via Funding Portal	At least 1–2 weeks before deadline

Proposal Checklist

Checklist Item	✓ / ✗
Have you written a clear and compelling Summary that pitches your idea effectively?	
Is your big idea clearly stated in the first page of Part B1?	
Does Part B1 stand alone and tell a coherent story?	
Is your project both ambitious and feasible?	
Have you highlighted your independence and leadership?	
Is your methodology specific and well-reasoned?	
Have you anticipated risks and provided fallback strategies?	
Is your budget and time commitment well-justified and aligned with your work plan?	
Have you consulted your host institution's research office for budget coordination, internal review, and submission support?	
Have you proofread and formatted your proposal according to ERC guidelines?	

2

Proposal template Part B1 (ERC Starting Grant 2026)

ERC Starting Grant 2026

Part B1¹

*(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2,
Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)*

Proposal Full Title

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise, and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

If a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms, please explain and justify the cross-panel or cross-domain nature of your proposal here. There is a limit of 1000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

¹ Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls'.

Part I of the Scientific Proposal (max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit).

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the “ERC Work Programme 2026” and the “Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls”.

[Part I of the Scientific Proposal should present the envisaged research and it should:

- *lay out the current state of knowledge,*
- *explain the scientific question and the objectives of the project, and*
- *present the overall approach or research strategy to reach the goals of the project.*

Part I should convince the evaluation Panel that it presents an original and creative idea addressing an important question in the respective research field(s). Furthermore, it should substantiate how the project will advance the frontier of knowledge, and what contribution it will make to the research field(s) i.e. what may be changed, opened, challenged or how the results of the work will alter the current understanding of the field.

At Step 1, only Part I and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Track Record (see below) is assessed by the evaluation Panel. It forms the basis for the Panel’s decision whether it chooses to evaluate the proposal in the next step. Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section.

References to literature should also be included. Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.]

Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

[You may modify the below template if necessary.]

PERSONAL DETAILS

[Provide your personal details, your education and key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions you have held.]

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):

URL for website:

- Education and key qualifications**

DD/MM/YYYY PhD

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

Name of PhD Supervisor

YYYY

Master

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

- Current position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Current Position

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

YYYY – YYYY Current Position

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- Previous position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Position held

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

YYYY - YYYY Position held

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION**Research achievements**

[Provide a list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how you have advanced knowledge in your field with an emphasis on more recent achievements, such as publications, articles deposited in a publicly available preprint server, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, data sets, software, patents, licenses, standards, start-up businesses or any other research outputs you deem relevant in relation to your research field and your project.]

You may include a short, factual explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, your role in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate your capacity to successfully carry out your proposed project.]

Peer recognition

[Provide a list of selected examples of significant recognition by your peers if applicable, such as prizes, awards, fellowships, elected academy memberships, invited presentations to major conferences or any other examples of significant recognition you deem relevant in relation to your research field and project.]

You may include a short explanation of the significance of the listed examples.]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[You may provide relevant additional information on your research career to provide context to the evaluation panels when assessing your research achievements and peer recognition as described above].

Career breaks, diverse career paths and major life events

[You may include a short factual explanation of career breaks or diverse career paths such as secondments, volunteering, part-time work, time spent in different sectors or the effects of major life events such as long-term illness, including events that have no impact on eligibility, such as the effects of pandemic restrictions on research productivity.]

Other contributions to the research community

[You may include a list of particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community you have made other than research achievements and peer recognition, and a short explanation of these contributions. The purpose of this section is to allow the evaluation Panel to take a more rounded view of your career and achievements and to ensure that any additional responsibilities, commitments and leadership roles that you have taken on beyond your individual research activities are recognised and taken into account.]

[(for more information see ‘Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls’)]

Do NOT split Part I from the CV and Track Record and/or references and do NOT upload them as separate documents. The peer reviewers will only receive one single document for evaluation at Step 1. Hence, Part B1 should contain all elements as explained in this template. If some parts of Part B1 are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

3

Proposal template Part B2 (ERC Starting Grant 2026)

ERC Starting Grant 2026

Part B2¹*(not evaluated in Step 1)*

Part II of the Scientific Proposal (**max. 7 pages**, references do not count towards the page limits).

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the “ERC Work Programme 2026” and the “Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls”.

[Part II of the Scientific Proposal should be a detailed explanation of the project implementation, including research methodology, work plan, risk assessment, mitigating measures and any further necessary background not included in Part I. Please note that the justification for the requested budget and resources should be explained under the “Resources” Section in the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget). Part II of the Scientific Proposal cannot deviate from the Resources section but can include additional justification where necessary when describing the methodology, workplan etc.]

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.

Do NOT split Part II from the references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and do NOT upload them as separate documents.

Do NOT include any description of resources or budget table here (Part B2). The Resources section and the detailed budget table are part of the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget) which will be extracted and provided to the peer reviewers. If additional documents are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

¹ Instructions for completing Part B2 can be found in the ‘Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls’.

***Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI
(Funding ID)***

Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits)

Current research grants (Please indicate "No funding" when applicable):

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Amount (Euros)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Role of the PI</i>	<i>Relation to current ERC proposal²</i>

On-going / submitted grant applications (Please indicate "None" when applicable):

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Amount (Euros)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Role of the PI</i>	<i>Relation to current ERC proposal²</i>

² Describe clearly any scientific overlap between your ERC application and the current research grant or on-going grant application.

Commitment of the Host Institution for ERC Calls 2026^{1, 2, 3}

The <<please fill in here the name of the legal entity that is associated to the proposal and may host the principal investigator and the project (action) in case the application is successful>>, which is the applicant legal entity,

confirms its intention to sign a supplementary agreement with
<<please fill in here the name of the principal investigator>>

in which the obligations listed below will be addressed should the proposal be retained.

Performance obligations of the *applicant legal entity* (Host Institution) that will become the coordinator of the HE ERC Grant Agreement (hereafter referred to as the Agreement), should the proposal be retained and the preparation of the Agreement be successfully concluded:

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to ensure that the action tasks described in Annex 1 of the Agreement are performed under the guidance of the principal investigator who is expected to devote:

- in the case of a Starting Grant at least 50% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of a Consolidator Grant at least 40% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of an Advanced Grant at least 30% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to respect the following conditions for the principal investigator and their team:

- a) host and engage the principal investigator for the whole duration of the action;
- b) take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers⁴ — in particular regarding working conditions,

¹ A scanned copy of the signed statement should be uploaded electronically via the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) Submission Service in PDF format.

² The statement of commitment of the Host Institution refers to most obligations of the Host Institution, which are stated in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions (MGA). The [MGA](#) is available on the Funding & Tenders Portal. The reference to the time commitment of the Principal Investigator is stated in the ERC Work Programme 2026.

³ This statement (on letterhead paper) shall be signed with a legally binding signature (e.g. blue ink or digital signature) by the institution's legal representative indicating their name, function, email address and, in case of blue ink signature, along with the stamp of the institution.

⁴ [Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005](#) on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

transparent recruitment processes based on merit and career development — and ensure that the principal investigator, researchers and third parties involved in the action are aware of them;

- c) enter — before grant signature— into a Supplementary Agreement with the principal investigator, that specifies the obligation of the applicant legal entity to meet its obligations under the Agreement;
- d) provide the principal investigator with a copy of the signed Agreement;
- e) guarantee the principal investigator scientific independence, in particular for the:
 - i) use of the budget to achieve the scientific objectives;
 - ii) authority to publish as senior author and invite as co-authors those who have contributed substantially to the work;
 - iii) preparation of scientific reports for the action;
 - iv) selection and supervision of the other team members, in line with the profiles needed to conduct the research and in accordance with the beneficiary's usual management practices;
 - v) possibility to apply independently for funding;
 - vi) access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting the research;
- f) provide — during the implementation of the action — research support to the principal investigator and the team members (regarding infrastructure, equipment, access rights, products and other services necessary for conducting the research);
- g) support the principal investigator and provide administrative assistance, in particular for the:
 - i) general management of the work and their team;
 - ii) scientific reporting, especially ensuring that the team members send their scientific results to the principal investigator;
 - iii) financial reporting, especially providing timely and clear financial information;
 - iv) application of the beneficiary's usual management practices;
 - v) general logistics of the action;
 - vi) access to the electronic exchange system;
- h) inform the principal investigator immediately (in writing) of any events or circumstances likely to affect the Agreement;
- i) ensure that the principal investigator enjoys adequate:
 - i) conditions for annual, sickness and parental leave;
 - ii) occupational health and safety standards;
 - iii) insurance under the general social security scheme, such as pension rights;
- j) allow the transfer of the Agreement to a new beneficiary, if requested by the principal investigator and provided that the objectives of the action remain achievable (portability; see Article 41 of the Agreement);
- k) respect the fundamental principle of research integrity and ensure that persons carrying out research tasks under the action follow the good research practices and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity⁵. If any such violations or allegations occur, verify and pursue them and bring them to the attention of the Agency.

⁵ [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) – Revised Edition 2023. All European Academies, Berlin. DOI 10.26356/ECOC

For the applicant legal entity (Host Institution):

Date



Name and Function



Email and legally binding signature of legal representative

Stamp of the applicant legal entity (Host Institution)⁶**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

In order to be complete, all the above mentioned items are mandatory and shall be included in the commitment of the Host Institution.

If the letter is digitally signed, please do NOT lock it.

⁶ No need to stamp this letter of support when it is digitally signed.

5 Eligibility Period Extension Request Template

ELIGIBILITY EXTENSION REQUEST

THE ELIGIBILITY CALCULATION WILL BE BASED ON THE SUCCESSFUL PHD DEFENCE DATE; PLEASE ATTACH THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS TO PROVE YOUR PHD DEFENCE DATE AND THE DOCUMENT(S) SUPPORTING YOUR EXTENSION REQUEST.

In connection with my [call identifier: STG 2026/ COG 2026] proposal acronym [indicate acronym], I am requesting an extension of the eligibility window period due to:

- ☐ Maternity /parental leave
- ☐ Paternity / parental leave
- ☐ Long-term illness*
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ National service
- ☐ Clinical training
- ☐ Major disaster**
- ☐ Seeking asylum
- ☐ Gender-based violence or any other form of violence**

Calculation of the extension period for the applicable circumstances [each event should be listed separately]:

No.	Leave/event	[if applicable] Short description (e.g. taking care of a sick family member)	Start date (not needed for a flat rate)	End date (not needed for a flat rate)	Calculated number of days/months/years	Supporting document(s) (type)
1.						
2.						
3.						
Total extension request [1+2+3+(...)]:						

* Over 90 days for the Principal Investigator or a close family member (child, spouse, parent or sibling).

** For a minimum of 90 days.

ERC Starting Grant & Consolidator Grant 수혜 사례



네덜란드 델프트 공대 주철민 교수

작성자 : 주철민(Professor, TU Delft)

1 자기소개

프로젝트명	RNAi / MIGHTY_RNA
공고명	ERC Starting Grant / ERC Consolidator Grant
기간	2012년 ~ 2017년 / 2019년 ~ 2024년
프로젝트 총 예산	1,500,000 유로 / 1,800,000 유로
호스트 기관	네덜란드 델프트 공과대학(TU Delft)
CORDIS 링크	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/309509/ https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/819299
프로필	웹사이트(or 소셜미디어) : www.chirlmin.org

저는 네덜란드 델프트 공과대학의 BioNanoScience 학과에서 단일 분자 생물물리학 교수로 재직 중입니다. 운이 좋게도 ERC Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant, Proof of Concept (PoC)까지 수혜받은 경험이 있습니다. 현재는 Advanced Grant에도 도전하고 있습니다.

학부 시절에는 한국에서 물리학을 전공했고, 이후 미국으로 유학하여 생물물리를 공부했습니다. 박사과정 이후에는 생물학에 대해 더 깊이 배우고자 김빛내리 교수님 연구실에 합류하며 서울대학교에서 박사후연구원(postdoc) 과정을 수행했습니다. 이후 유럽 네덜란드에서 자리를 잡게 되었고, ERC를 비롯한 다양한 연구비를 수주하며 독립적인 연구를 이어가고 있습니다.

저는 이미 유럽에 있는 상태에서 ERC에 지원했기 때문에, 제 이야기가 이미 유럽에 계신 분들에게 적합할 수 있겠지만, 동시에 한국에서 포스닥을 거쳤기 때문에 한국에서 포스닥을 하면서 곧바로 ERC를 준비하려는 연구자분들께도 일정 부분 도움이 될 수 있으리라 생각합니다.

특히, 한국 포스닥 연구자들이 ERC에 지원할 때 가장 큰 장벽 중 하나는 지원할 수 있는 유럽의 호스트 기관을 찾고, 그들을 설득해야 한다는 점입니다. 이에 있어 제 직접적인 경험은 아니더라도 이런 포스닥 사례를 많이 봐왔기 때문에, 설득에 성공한 이후에는 어떤 도움을 받을 수 있는지에 대해서도 구체적으로 답변드릴 수 있습니다.

2 신청 배경 및 선정 과정

저는 2011년에 네덜란드에 정착하면서 시드 펀딩을 바탕으로 박사과정생 2명, 포닥 1명, 테크니션 1명을 고용하게 되었습니다. 당시 가장 놀랐던 점은 한국, 미국과 다른 유럽의 수직적인 연구 조직 구조였습니다. 정교수의 권한이 매우 강한 시스템 속에서, 독립적인 연구비를 어떻게 확보할 수 있을지 고민이 많았던 시기였습니다. 그러던 와중에 ERC에 대해 처음 듣게 되었습니다. 그 당시만 해도 ERC는 지금처럼 잘 알려져 있지는 않았습니다. 주위 반응도 다양했는데, 과연 외국에서 온 제가 지원한다고 받을 수 있는 것인지에 대해 의문이 많았던 것이 사실입니다.

지금은 분명하게 말씀드릴 수 있습니다. 유럽에서 독립적인 연구를 하기 위해서는 ERC와 같은 연구비가 필수적이며, ERC는 모두에게 열려 있습니다. 이러한 개인 연구비를 받지 않으면 기존의 수직적인 구조 속에서 연구를 수행할 수밖에 없습니다. 또한 ERC 수혜자는 학계 내에서도 독립적 연구자로 바라보는 시선을 느낄 수 있습니다. 주요 대학 내에는 ERC 지원 체계가 잘 정립되어 있어, 이를 적극 활용하는 것이 중요합니다. 모두가 이를 이용하기에, 이 체계를 제대로 활용하지 않고 혼자 준비하면 오히려 손해를 볼 수 있는 구조입니다. 또한, 국가별로 준비해야 할 게 차이가 굉장히 많이 납니다. 예를 들어 서유럽 국가 지원자의 경우 인터뷰를 대비해 사전 연습을 충분히 하는 반면, 다른 국가 지원자들은 시스템에 대한 이해가 부족하거나 지원을 받지 못했다는 인식을 주는 경우가 많다는 이야기를 들었습니다. 이런 면에서 준비 과정에서 호스트 기관과의 호흡이 굉장히 중요합니다.

델프트 공대의 경우 ERC 지원 체계를 매우 체계적으로 갖추고 있습니다. 제가 지원할 당시에도 인터뷰 두 달 전부터 인터뷰 연습을 지원하거나 실제 발표 스타일을 교정해주는 등 인터뷰에 특히 신경을 많이 써주었습니다. 학교와의 인터뷰 준비는 실제 상황과 최대한 비슷하게 구성되었고, 큰 도움이 되었습니다. ERC 선정 평가는 ERC에서 공지한 일정에 따라 정해진 프로세스로 진행되었습니다. 한 가지 단점이 있다면, 다른 연구비의 경우 평가 리뷰를 미리 받아 이에 대한 반박(rebuttal)을 쓸 기회를 준 다음 인터뷰가 진행되는 반면, ERC는 지원자가 리뷰 내용을 알지 못한 상태에서 인터뷰에 참여해야 한다는 점입니다.

일반적인 질문들(실험실 운영 등)에 관해서는 학교 측의 지원을 받을 수 있지만, 세부 전공 내용에 대해서는 각자 스스로 대비해야 합니다. 이는 ERC만의 독특한 과정이라고 생각합니다. 인터뷰 구성은 패널에 따라 달라 일반화하기 어렵지만, 제 경우에는 10분 발표와 20분 질의 응답으로 진행되었습니다.

인터뷰 전, 전체 일정과 시간 구성은 사전에 공지되었습니다. 보통 인터뷰 대상자는 약 2배수 정도로 선정되는 것으로 알고 있습니다.



2011년 초기 실험실 구성

3 성공 팁 및 신청시 유의사항

저는 유럽에 정착한 이후 ERC를 준비했기 때문에 처음에는 어떤 기준으로 연구계획서를 작성해야 할지 막막했습니다. 하지만 돌아보면, ERC는 다음과 같은 카테고리를 중시합니다:

- 🌐 **Idea** : 실행 가능하면서도 새로운 아이디어
- 🌐 **Social Impact** : 기초적이지만 응용 가능한 연구
- 🌐 **Track Record** : 학술적 성과
- 🌐 **Name Value** : 소속 기관의 명성
- 🌐 독립적 연구자로서의 지위

이 중에서도 가장 중요한 것은 “아이디어(Idea)”입니다. 유럽의 많은 연구비가 조직이나 사회적 파급력을 강조하는 반면, ERC는 진정한 의미의 창의적이고 기초과학적인 아이디어를 우선합니다. 따라서 개인 연구자, 특히 기초과학을 하는 분들에게 ERC는 거의 유일한 기회입니다.

저는 박사과정에서 생물물리를 공부했고, 포닥 때는 생물학과 마이크로 RNA(miRNA) 시스템을 연구했습니다. 그런데 이 두 분야를 결합한 사람이 없었기 때문에, 이를 기반으로 아이디어를 구성하여 제안서를 작성했을 때 “high-risk, high-gain”이라는 평가를 받을 수 있었습니다. 심사위원들은 제 연구가 “fundamental change of direction”을 이끌 수 있다고 판단했습니다. 이런 관점에서, “내가 할 수 있지만 다른 사람은 할 수 없는 연구는 무엇인가?”에 대한 고민이 중요합니다.

ERC는 Track Record를 매우 중요하게 생각합니다. 기초과학 연구자에게는 오히려 유리한 부분일 수 있습니다. 또한, ERC는 학교의 Name Value를 굉장히 중요시합니다. 따라서 주요 서유럽 대학이 아닌 Name Value가 약한 곳에서는 다소 불리할 수 있습니다.

더하여, 무엇보다도 독립적인 연구자인지가 매우 중요합니다. 수직적 구조의 조직 내에서 연구비가 흡수된다면 ERC에서는 좋지 않은 평가를 받을 수 있습니다. 우리 학과는 비교적 수평적인 구조였기에 큰 문제가 없었지만, 지원자의 학과가 그렇지 않다면 이를 가릴 수 있는 전략이 필요합니다. 예를 들어, 본인의 모든 논문에 박사과정 지도교수 이름이 포함되어 있다면 ERC 수혜는 어려울 수 있습니다. 반대로 얘기하자면, 박사과정 지도교수의 이름이 들어가지 않은 독립적인 논문을 먼저 만든 후 지원하는 것이 유리합니다.

유럽에 오거나 정착을 고려하고 있는 연구자라면, ERC 지원 자격 조건, 특히 지원 시점 기준 경력 연차 요건을 정확히 파악하는 것이 중요합니다. 예를 들어 이제 막 임용된 신임 교수가 Consolidator Grant에 지원하는 것은 적절하지 않습니다. 내년부터는 지원 자격이 많이 유연해지는 점도 참고 바랍니다.

ERC는 지원자가 자신에게 적합한 심사 패널을 선택하는 구조입니다. 지원자는 본인에게 맞는 분야(Life Sciences, Physical Sciences & Engineering, Social Sciences & Humanities 중)와 세부 분야에서 패널을 골라야 합니다. 본인이 어느 분야에 속해야 할지 선택이 어려운 경우(특히 학제 연구나 산업공학 등), ERC 자체에서도 패널 선택이 더욱 까다로울 수 있습니다. 이때는 인터뷰 경험자들의 조언을 참고하는 것이 도움이

됩니다. ERC 심사위원 구성은 전년도 패널 멤버의 절반 정도가 참여하고, 패널 내에서 해당 분야 전문가가 1-2명 정도 포함되는 것이 일반적입니다. 전전년도 패널들이 다시 복귀하는 경우가 꽤 있어, 이를 미리 확인하고 인터뷰 준비에 참고할 수 있습니다.

인터뷰에서 가장 중요한 것은 발표 자체보다 Q&A 세션입니다. 발표는 심사위원에게 내용을 다시 요약해 주는 성격이 강하고, 심사위원들은 이미 동료평가를 통해 과제 내용을 검토한 상태입니다. Q&A 질문의 절반 정도는 실험식 운영 방식, 연구비 사용 계획, 프로젝트의 중요성, 연구팀 구성 등 일반적인 질문들입니다. 흥미롭게도, 과제 내용 자체에 대한 질문은 그리 깊게 들어가지 않는 편입니다. 이유는 대부분의 질문이 사전 동료평가에서 제기된 내용에서 추출되기 때문에, 인터뷰 패널 본인이 제기한 질문이 아닐 수 있다는 점입니다. 핵심은 간단명료하게 답하고, 자신 있게 설명하는 태도입니다.

추가로, 최근 ERC 인터뷰는 온라인으로 진행되고 있으며, 이에 따라 발표 전달 방식도 달라졌습니다. 작은 화면, 답답한 시청 환경 등으로 인해 발표 효과가 반감될 수 있기 때문에, 온라인 발표 플랫폼을 능숙하게 다루는 기술을 익히는 것도 필요합니다.

● Starting에서 Consolidator로

Starting Grant를 받은 후 5년이 지나 2017년에는 규모 있는 실험실을 구성할 수 있었습니다. Consolidator Grant로 이어가기 위해서는 훨씬 더 높은 기대치에 부합해야 합니다. “이전 연구도 훌륭하지만, 새로운 것은 무엇인가?”에 대한 명확한 답이 필요합니다.

제가 Starting Grant 다음 단계인 Consolidator 신청할 당시(2017년) 인터뷰 단계까지 도달하지 못한 지원자에게 1년간 재지원이 제한되는 패널티가 막 도입된 시기라 함부로 도전하고 지원하기 어려웠습니다. ERC 자체가 하던 연구를 계속 이어가는 것을 긍정적으로 보지 않는다는 이야기도 자주 들려왔습니다. 기존의 연구 방법론은 유지할 수 있으나, 연구 질문은 새롭게 설정해야 한다는 점이 중요했습니다. 저도 이 부분에 대해 1년 이상 고민하면서 준비하였습니다.

저는 Genome Editing과 연관된 연구를 제안하고 싶었으나, 당시 Genome Editing은 CRISPR로 인해 이미 너무 많은 주목을 받은 분야였습니다. 과연 이 주제로 연구비를 받을 수 있을지 의문이 있었기에, 전혀 다른 새로운 접근법을 제안했고, 이는 긍정적인 평가를 받았습니다.



ERC Starting Grant 완료 시점의 실험실 규모

● Consolidator에서 Advanced로

ERC와 같은 유럽 내 개인 연구비는 단순히 기존 연구의 연장선을 반복하는 방식에 대해 긍정적이지 않습니다. 동일한 질문을 동일한 방식으로 반복하거나, 변화 없이 기존 방법론을 그대로 적용하는 연구는 평가에서 좋은 점수를 받기 어렵습니다. 핵심은 '연속성 속의 혁신'입니다. 기존 연구로부터의 연장선에서 새로운 방법론과 아이디어를 제시하고, 경우에 따라 머신러닝 같은 기술도 접목하여 제안서의 완성도를 높여야 합니다.

저 역시 제안서를 준비하면서 이 점을 인식했습니다. 기존 연구의 연장선상에서 전략적으로 시스템도 바꾸고 새로운 방법론도 직접 개발했습니다. 이를 위해 여러 사람들과 브레인스토밍 및 피드백 과정을 거쳤습니다. 실험실 포닥들과 토론하고, 관련 분야 전문가들에게 제 아이디어를 설명하면서 어디에 적용하면 가장 효과적일지에 대한 의견을 들었습니다. 현재 준비 중인 아이디어는 네덜란드 암연구소(Netherlands Cancer Institute) 연구자들과 논의하며 구체적 응용 가능성과 파급효과를 검토하고 있습니다.

4 ERC 펀딩의 장점 및 특징

현재 Consolidator Grant가 종료되고, 다른 연구비를 사용하는 단계에서, 자율성이 정말 다르다고 느껴집니다. ERC는 자율방식을 채택하고 있어서, 큰 규모의 자금을 지원하면서도 연구자에게 거의 전적인 자유를 보장합니다. 예를 들어 연구의 방향이 제안서 대비 일부 바뀌더라도, 그것이 문제가 되지 않습니다. 그리고 ERC는 개인 연구비이기 때문에 필수적인 공동연구 파트너가 요구되지 않습니다. 반면, ERC를 제외한 대부분의 유럽 내 연구비는 필수적으로 다른 연구자들과 협력해야 합니다. 이 협력 자체가 연구자의 시간과 에너지를 크게 소모할 수 있습니다.

ERC는 연구비 관리 측면에서도 상당히 간편합니다. 연구비 관리는 호스트 기관이 전담하며, 별도의 복잡한 집행 구조가 요구되지 않습니다. 대부분 기관의 내부 정책에 따라 자율적으로 집행 가능하며, 이와 관련해 ERC가 자체 관리 규정을 요구하지는 않습니다. 저의 경우, 델프트 공대에서는 연구비 사용에 있어 큰 제약 없이 자유롭게 운용할 수 있었습니다. 다만 이는 기관마다 차이가 있다는 점을 아셔야 합니다. 행정 절차 또한 ERC의 강점 중 하나입니다. 신청 서류 형식이 매우 간단하고 자유로운 편이며, 경험상 한국에서 오시는 연구자들에게는 MSCA보다 ERC가 접근하기 쉬울 것입니다.

시너지 그랜트의 경우 한국에서 지원할 수 있는 유일한 ERC 보조금이니, 이미 공동연구를 진행한 사람들이 있고 충분한 실력이 있으면 해볼 만할 것입니다. 물론 ERC에도 한계는 존재합니다. 대표적으로 10년 넘게 연구비 규모가 물가 상승을 전혀 반영하지 않고 동일하다는 점이 있습니다. 최근에는 미국 연구자들에 대한 지원을 강화하는 흐름도 보이고 있습니다. 전반적으로 경쟁률이 높은 구조가 고착화되어 있다는 인상도 있습니다. 그럼에도 불구하고, ERC는 다른 유럽 연구비에 비해 공정하고 투명한 평가 구조를 갖추고 있습니다.

● ERC Proof of Concept

PoC는 ERC 수혜자만 신청할 수 있습니다. 150,000유로의 소규모 연구비만을 지원하다보니 그닥 매력적이지 않아 보일 수 있습니다. 그러나 신청 절차가 매우 간단하며, 제안서도 짧으며 선정 과정 또한 간결하고, 성공률도

약 40%로 높은 편입니다.

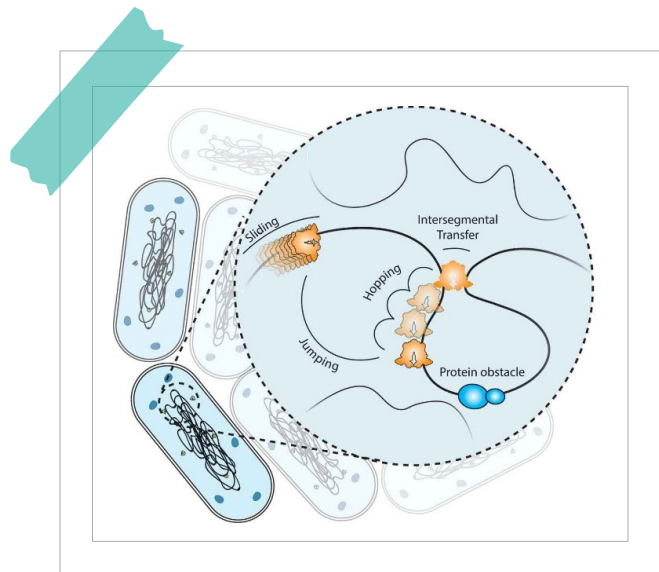
저는 기초 과학 연구자다보니 초기에는 “Commercialization(상용화)”이라는 단어에 부담을 느껴 지원하지 않았지만, 실제로 PoC는 상용화를 목표로 한다기보다 상용화의 ‘초기 단계’를 돕는 데 중점을 둡니다. 이를 이해하고 나서 제안서를 작성했고, 무리 없이 선정되었습니다.

5 연구 수행 내용

ERC Starting Grant

우리 몸의 세포는 동일한 유전정보를 가지고 있지만, 각기 다른 기능을 수행합니다. 이러한 정교한 유전자 발현 조절의 핵심에는 RNA가 있으며, 그중 마이크로RNA(microRNA)는 유전자 스위치 역할을 하는 중요한 조절자입니다. 2006년, 2024년에 노벨상이 수여된 분야기도 합니다. 저의 연구는 microRNA가 세포 내에서 어떻게 생성되고 제거되며, 그 조절 네트워크가 어떻게 작동하는지를 단분자 수준에서 실시간으로 추적함으로써, 유전자 발현 조절의 근본 원리를 밝히는 것을 목표로 하였습니다.

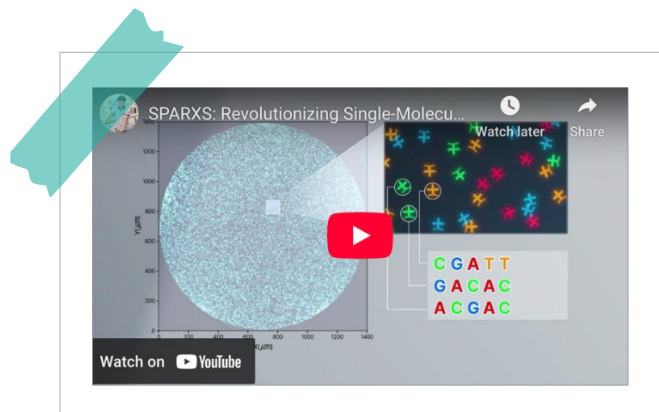
이를 위해 Dicer, TUT7, Argonaute 등 핵심 단백질이 microRNA를 어떻게 인식하고 처리하는지를 영상화하고 정량화하였으며, 그 결과는 Cell, Molecular Cell, Nature Communications, EMBO Journal 등 세계적 학술지에 발표되었습니다. 이 연구는 RNA 생물학의 정밀한 이해를 가능케 하는 기술적·개념적 기반을 마련했으며, 이후 RNA 기반 치료제와 진단 기술 개발의 가능성도 열어주었습니다.



Argonaute이 guide DNA/RNA를 이용하여 타겟을 찾아가는 과정

ERC Consolidator Grant

이 프로젝트의 핵심은 생체 분자의 작동 방식을 분자 하나하나 수준에서 빠르고 정확하게 분석할 수 있는 새로운 기술, SPARXS(Single-molecule Parallel Analysis for Rapid X-sequence Screening)를 개발하는 것이었습니다. 기존의 단분자 분석 기술은 정밀하지만, 분석 속도가 매우 느려 대규모 데이터 확보에 제약이 컸습니다. 본 연구에서는 수백만 개의 분자 반응을 동시에 추적할 수 있는 고속 분석 플랫폼을 구축함으로써, 단분자 수준의 실시간 반응 관찰을 고속 스크리닝



신기술 SPARXS 개발

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJmhT0So2rY>

기술로 확장하는 데 성공했습니다. 이 기술은 microRNA를 포함한 RNA뿐 아니라 단백질, DNA 등 다양한 생체 분자 간 상호작용을 빠르게 분석할 수 있어, 향후 신약 개발이나 진단 기술로의 응용 가능성이 큼니다. SPARXS 기술의 핵심 개념과 성능은 현재 다수의 협력 연구로 확장되고 있으며, 관련 성과는 Science 등 국제 학술지 논문으로 이어지고 있습니다.

6 향후 계획 / 기타 조언 / 하고싶은 말 / 마무리

현재의 목표는 올해 안에 Advanced Grant에 도전하는 것입니다. 재작년 11월에 Synergy Grant를 제출하면서, 시스템상 2024년 8월 이전에는 다른 ERC 과제를 신청할 수 없는 제한이 있어 Advanced Grant 지원이 불가능했습니다. 개인 연구비 중에서는 현실적으로 ERC 외에 대안이 거의 없기 때문에, 올해는 반드시 잘 준비해서 도전할 계획입니다.

또한 그동안 ERC 중심의 연구를 해 왔지만, 집단 기반의 기초연구도 확대할 필요성을 느끼고 있습니다. ERC 단독 과제로는 어려운 부분이 분명 존재하기 때문에, ERC 개인 연구와 집단 연구 간의 균형을 잘 맞추는 것이 앞으로의 전략에서 중요할 것이라 생각합니다.

저는 유럽이야말로 과학을 깊이 있게 배울 수 있는 최적의 환경이라고 생각합니다. 유럽은 현대 과학이 시작된 곳이기도 하며, “왜 이걸 해야 하는가”, “어디로 가야 하는가”라는 근본적인 질문에서 시작하여 토론하고 가설을 만들고 검증하는 과정이 매우 중시됩니다. 속도는 느릴지라도, 그만큼 의문을 던지고 사유하는 과학, 창의적인 시도를 장려하는 문화가 유럽의 장점입니다.

미국은 자원이 풍부하고 경쟁이 치열한 만큼, 다양한 결과가 빠르게 나오는 환경입니다. 반면, 유럽은 자원이 상대적으로 적음에도 깊이 있고 창의적인 방식으로 문제를 탐색합니다. 한국은 다소 조급한 문화를 갖고 있고, 속도 중심의 연구 환경이 언제까지 지속될 수 있을지 고민해 볼 필요가 있습니다. 창의적인 접근을 배우고 싶다면, 유럽은 정말 좋은 환경이라고 생각합니다.

유럽은 투명하고, 모든 프로세스를 충분한 시간을 갖고 진행합니다. 다만, 때로는 지나치게 느릴 수 있으며, 심사 결과를 받는 데도 1년 가까이 소요되기도 합니다. 한국은 전반적으로 빠르고 실적 중심입니다. 핵심 주제가 명확하지 않은 채 마일스톤과 요점 위주로 급히 구성되기도 합니다. 어느 방식이 옳다기보다는, 문화적 차이를 이해하고 전략을 달리할 필요가 있습니다.

결국 제안서에서 가장 중요한 것은 ‘이 사람이 어떤 문제를 풀고 싶은 사람인가’를 명확히 보여주는 것입니다. 연구자가 어떤 질문을 던지고 있는지, 그 질문이 왜 중요한지, 사회적으로 어떤 파급효과를 가질 수 있는지를 분명히 드러내야 합니다. 이러한 관점에서 ERC는 단순히 연구비를 확보하는 수단이 아니라, 자신이 하고자 하는 연구를 정리하고 선언하는 기회라고 생각합니다.

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)**

Guide Book

**마리퀴리 포닥 펠로우십
가이드북**

MSCA PF



Welcome Message

We are delighted to introduce you to the opportunities offered by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) - the European Union's flagship programme for supporting the career, skills development, and mobility of researchers.

The MSCA programme supports researchers from all over the world, at all stages of their careers, across all disciplines, and encourages international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral collaboration. Whether you are a doctoral candidate, a postdoctoral researcher, or an institution seeking global talent, the MSCA provide a unique platform to strengthen your research through funding, training, and international partnerships.

We very much welcome the initiative of the Korea-EU Research Centre (KERC) to release this special publication on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships. These fellowships are among Europe's most prestigious funding opportunities for talented researchers seeking to advance their careers through international mobility and excellence in research.

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships support experienced researchers to undertake high-quality research in Europe and beyond, expand their skills, and develop their potential to fill the top positions of tomorrow.

Whether you are looking to deepen your expertise, build global collaborations, or transfer your knowledge to new sectors or disciplines, the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships offer you the freedom and support to shape your own research journey.

We invite you to explore the opportunities the programme offers, to join a dynamic, international research community and make a lasting impact through scientific excellence.

Let the journey begin - with MSCA.

Claire Morel

**Head of Unit, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) unit, Directorate General
for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission**

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
Guide Book
마리퀴리 포닥 펠로우십 가이드북

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EU 마리퀴리 포닥 펠로우십 신청 가이드북

KERC

작성자 : 한-EU 연구협력센터(KERC) 송예일 연구원

1 들어가며

● 『마리퀴리 프로그램』이란?

MSCA는 연구자의 경력 수준 및 학문 분야와 관계없이 국가·분야·산업 간 이동을 촉진하여 연구자의 역량 향상과 경력 개발을 지원하는 프로그램입니다. 이를 통해 연구 기관이 전 세계 우수한 국제 연구자를 유치하고, 선도 기관과 전략적 파트너십을 구축할 수 있도록 돕습니다. 또한, 연구자에게 장기적인 고용 가능성을 높이는 데 필요한 전문 지식과 경험을 제공합니다.

MSCA는 기초 연구부터 시장 적용 및 혁신 서비스까지 폭넓게 지원하며, 연구 주제를 자유롭게 선택할 수 있는 '상향식(Bottom-up) 방식'을 채택하고 있어, 개인 연구자와 기관 모두 자신이 원하는 연구 분야를 자율적으로 제안할 수 있습니다. 이 프로그램은 매력적인 고용 조건과 근무 환경을 제공하고, 산업계를 비롯한 비학문 부문과의 협력을 강화합니다. 또한 참여 기관에 장기적이고 구조적인 변화를 가져오며, 안정적이고 지속 가능한 연구 환경을 조성합니다.

MSCA에는 Doctoral Networks, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Staff Exchanges, COFUND, MSCA and Citizens가 포함됩니다. 이 가이드북은 이 중 우수한 박사후 연구자를 지원하는 개별 펠로우십인 PF(Postdoctoral Fellowships)에 초점을 맞추고 있습니다.

● MSCA PF 목표 및 주요 성과

MSCA PF은 박사후연구원의 창의성과 혁신 역량을 강화하기 위해 기술 교육과 경력 개발을 지원하는 것을 목표로 합니다. 이를 통해 학문적 우수성을 높이고, 국가·분야·산업 간 이동을 촉진하며, 학계와 비학문 부문 간의 긴밀한 연결을 구축합니다.

2021년 이후 MSCA PF 공모에는 매년 약 8,000~10,000건의 제안서가 접수되었으며, 연평균 약 1,400개 프로젝트가 선정되어 성공률은 약 16%에 달했습니다. 지금까지 2021~2024년 공모를 통해 약 5,500개 프로젝트가 지원을 받았으며, 110개 이상의 국적을 가진 연구자들이 참여했습니다. 이 중 여성 연구자의 비율은 43.3%입니다. 2025년도 MSCA PF 공모 예산으로는 총 4억 430만 유로가 편성되었습니다.

2 MSCA PF 이해하기

펠로우십 종류

MSCA PF은 두 가지 유형의 펠로우십을 지원합니다. 신청자는 본인의 경력 목표, 호스트 기관의 수용 여부, 이동 이력을 종합적으로 고려하여 결정할 수 있습니다.

- ‘유럽 펠로우십(European Fellowship)’은 국적에 관계없이 전 세계 연구자가 유럽으로 와서 2년간 연구를 수행하도록 지원
- ‘글로벌 펠로우십(Global Fellowship)’은 유럽 기반 연구자가 제3국에서 일정 기간 연구를 진행한 뒤 유럽으로 복귀하여 연구를 마무리할 수 있도록 지원

펠로우십 유형	지원 자격	내용	기간	예산 예산 (2025 Call)
유럽 펠로우십	유럽으로 오거나 유럽 내에서 이동하는 모든 국적의 연구자	EU 회원국 또는 준회원국에서 연구 수행	12-24 개월	€ 343.65 백만
글로벌 펠로우십	유럽 국적자 혹은 EU 회원국/준회원국에 장기 거주하는 연구자	제3국에서 연구 수행 후 EU 회원국/준회원국에 복귀	24-36 개월 (제3국에서 12-24개월 + 12개월 의무 유럽 복귀 단계)	€ 60.64 백만



Optional Features

파견 (Secondments)

펠로우십 기간 중 전 세계 어디로든 가능한 단기 이동(단, 글로벌 펠로우십의 의무 복귀 단계는 제외)으로, 학문 또는 비학문 분야 어느 부문이든 가능하며, 한 번 또는 여러 번 나누어 진행할 수 있습니다. 기간은 유럽 펠로우십의 경우 총 기간의 최대 3분의 1, 글로벌 펠로우십의 경우 해외 파견 단계 기간의 최대 3분의 1까지 허용됩니다.

비학문 부문 파견

펠로우십의 마지막 단계에서, EU 회원국 또는 준회원국에 소재한 비학문 기관에서 최대 6개월간 단일 파견이 가능하며, 이 경우 추가 자금 지원을 받을 수 있습니다.

재정 지원 및 수당

MSCA PF 연구비는 채용된 연구자에게 지급되는 월별 고정 지원금과, 기관에 지급되는 월별 고정 지원금으로 구성됩니다. 지원 항목에는 생활비, 이동 지원금뿐 아니라 가족 부양, 장기 휴가, 특수 필요를 위한 추가 지원이 포함됩니다. 또한 연구, 교육, 네트워킹 활동은 물론, 관리비와 간접비도 지원합니다. 수혜 기관은 연구자를 펠로우십 전 기간 동안 채용해야 합니다.

채용 연구자에 대한 지원금 (월별 1인 기준)	생활비(세전)	5,990 유로 x 국가 계수(country coefficient)
	이동 수당	710 유로
	가족 수당(해당 시)	660 유로
	장기 휴가 수당(해당 시)	6,700 유로 x 수혜기관이 부담하는 비율(%)
	특수 필요 수당(해당 시)	신청 지원금 ÷ 개월 수
기관 단위 지원금 (월별 1인 기준)	연구 · 교육 · 네트워킹 지원금	1,000 유로
	관리비 및 간접비	650 유로



채용 연구자에 대한 지원금

생활비 수당

수혜 기관의 고용 비용을 충당하며, 연구자가 프로젝트 기간 동안 안정적인 재정적 지원을 받을 수 있도록 제공됩니다. 모든 채용 연구자에게 형평성을 보장하고, 국가별 생활비 차이를 반영하기 위해 국가 계수(채용 기관이 위치한 국가)가 적용됩니다. 생활비 수당은 총액 기준으로 산정되며, 이 금액에서 각국 법률에 따른 사회보장 분담금, 소득세, 기타 의무 공제가 차감됩니다. 또한 채용 기관은 MSCA 지원금에 더해 추가 금액을 지급할 수 있습니다.

이동 수당

채용된 연구자의 개인적인 이동과 관련된 비용을 지원하기 위한 것으로, 여행 경비나 숙박비 등이 포함됩니다. 다만, 업무나 연구 목적으로 발생하는 이동 비용은 해당 지원금에 포함되지 않습니다.

가족 수당

결혼한 연구자뿐 아니라, 결혼과 동등한 지위를 해당 국가에서 인정받은 연구자에게 지급됩니다. 부양 자녀가 있는 경우 역시 가족수당을 받을 수 있습니다. 펠로우십 수행 중 결혼이나 자녀 출생 등 신상에 변화가 생기면, 그 시점부터 가족수당 지급 대상이 됩니다.

장기휴가 수당

출산 · 육아 휴가, 장기 병가, 또는 30일 이상 연속되는 기타 특별 휴가 등 개인 사유로 장기간 휴가를 사용할 때 발생하는 비용을 지원합니다. 이 수당은 필요성이 보고된 경우에 한해 지급됩니다.

특수 필요 수당

국가 기관으로부터 장기적인 신체 · 정신 · 지적 · 감각 장애가 공식적으로 인정된 연구자에게 지급됩니다. 이 수당은 연구자가 프로그램에 참여하는 데 필요한 장애 관련 필수 비용을 지원하며, 필요성이 보고된 경우에 한해 제공됩니다.



기관 단위 지원금

연구/교육/네트워킹 지원금

연구 활동과 관련된 프로젝트 수행 비용뿐만 아니라, 다양한 교육 · 네트워킹 행사 및 활동에 필요한 비용을 지원합니다. 구체적으로는 경력 개발 활동(학회 참가, 논문 게재 비용, 등록비나 여행 경비가 필요한 하드 및 소프트 스킬 교육 과정 등), 연구 관련 비용(소모품, 연구 시설 또는 인프라 사용료 등), 비자 관련 수수료 및 여행 경비, 파견으로 인한 실제 이동이 필요한 경우 발생하는 추가 여행 및 숙박 비용이 있습니다.

관리비 및 간접비

프로젝트 관리와 관련된 비용, 그리고 프로젝트의 관리 · 조정을 위한 인건비나 간접비 등 기관에서 발생하는 추가 비용을 충당합니다.

3 지원 자격 요건

MSCA PF에 관심 있는 연구자는 대학, 연구 기관, 기업, 중소기업, 기타 자격을 갖춘 기관 등 호스트 기관과 함께 신청해야 합니다. MSCA PF는 모든 연구 분야에 열려 있습니다.

● 연구자 지원 자격

국적	유럽 펠로우십은 국적에 관계없이 모든 연구자가 지원할 수 있으며, 글로벌 펠로우십은 EU 회원국 또는 호라이즌 유럽 준회원국의 국적자, 또는 해당 국가의 장기 거주자만 지원할 수 있습니다.
박사 학위 요건	공고 마감일 기준으로 박사 학위를 소지해야 하며, 논문 심사를 통과했으나 공식 학위 수여가 아직 완료되지 않은 경우에도 지원할 수 있습니다.
연구 경력	박사 학위 취득 후 전일제 기준 8년 이하의 연구 경력을 가진 경우 지원할 수 있습니다. 단, 경력 공백, 연구 외 활동 기간, 유럽 외 지역에서 수행한 연구 기간(유럽 복귀 연구자의 경우)은 8년 제한에서 제외됩니다.
이동 규정	공고 마감일 직전 36개월 동안 호스트 기관이 위치한 국가에서 12개월 이상 거주하거나 주된 활동(근무, 학업 등)을 한 경우 해당 호스트 기관에 지원할 수 없습니다. 글로벌 펠로우십의 경우, 공고 마감일 직전 36개월 동안 해외 파견 단계 호스트 기관이 위치한 국가에서 12개월 이상 거주하거나 주된 활동(근무, 학업 등)을 한 경우 해당 호스트 기관에 지원할 수 없습니다.



기타 규정

재신청 제한

전년도 공모에서 70% 미만의 평가 점수를 받은 지원자는 해당 연도에 재신청할 수 없습니다. (2022년부터 적용)

단일 제출

연구자는 각 공모당 제안서를 한 건만 제출할 수 있습니다. (즉, 1년에 한 번만 신청할 수 있음)

● 호스트 기관 지원 자격

호스트 기관	EU 회원국 또는 호라이즌 유럽 준회원국에 소재해야 하며, 연구비 협약 체결과 펠로우십 기간 동안 연구자 채용에 대한 법적 책임을 집니다.
해외 파견 기관 (글로벌 펠로우십)	해외 파견 기관은 제3국(EU 또는 호라이즌 유럽 준회원국이 아닌 국가)에 소재한 법인이어야 하며, 참여 협약서(Letter of Commitment)를 제출해야 합니다.

● 참여 가능 국가

EU 회원국	모든 EU 회원국	
호라이즌 유럽 준회원국	정식 준회원국	전환 협정국
	알바니아, 아르메니아, 보스니아-헤르체고비나, 페로제도, 조지아, 아이슬란드, 이스라엘, 코소보, 몰도바, 몬테네그로, 북마케도니아, 노르웨이, 세르비아, 튀니지, 튀르키예, 우크라이나, 영국	이집트, 모로코, 스위스
제3국	한국*을 포함한 그 외 모든 국가 *한국은 호라이즌 유럽 필라2에 한해 준회원국으로 가입되어 있으므로 필라1 MSCA에 있어 한국은 준회원국이 아닌 제3국으로 분류	



전환 협정(Transitional Arrangement)

2025년 1월 기준, 스위스, 이집트, 모로코는 호라이즌 유럽 준회원국 지위를 취득하는 절차에 있는 국가로, 전환 협정의 혜택을 받고 있습니다. 이들 국가의 기관은 다른 준회원국과 동일한 조건으로 신청할 수 있으며, 최종 자격은 지원금 계약 체결 시 확정됩니다.



참여확대국(Widening Countries)

참여확대국에 소재한 기관을 호스트로 하여 표준 유럽 펠로우십에 지원하는 경우, 제안서 제출 시 2025 ERA 펠로우십 공모¹에 동참할 수 있는 기회가 주어집니다. 예산 제약으로 인해 MSCA PF에서 선정되지 못한 우수한 지원자 중 약 45명이 ERA 펠로우십을 통해 지원받게 됩니다.

Tip

어떤 국가가 호라이즌 유럽 준회원국인지 확실하지 않다면, 호라이즌 유럽 참여국 목록²을 확인해 보시기 바랍니다.

★★★★★

¹ https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-widening-participation-and-spreading-excellence/era-fellowships_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

4 호스트 기관 탐색 및 신청 준비

MSCA PF에 지원하려는 연구자는 반드시 호스트 기관과 협력해 신청서를 공동으로 준비해야 합니다. 호스트 기관에는 다음과 같은 유형이 포함됩니다.

-  고등교육기관
-  연구센터 및 연구 인프라
-  민간 부문 기관(산업체, 기업, 중소기업 등)
-  공공 부문 기관(국가·지방 정부, 공공기관, 박물관 등)
-  특정 국제기구·단체 및 연구기관
-  비영리단체, 재단, 자선단체 등 기타 기관



호스트 기관 탐색 지원 도구

- MSCA 매치메이킹 플랫폼³
- Euraxess 호스팅 제안⁴
- Funding and Tender Opportunities 포털⁵ ('Partner Search Announcements' 참고)

비학문 부문 호스트를 찾고 있거나 연구-산업 협력에 관한 조언이 필요한 경우, 유럽 기업 네트워크(European Enterprise Network)⁶ 연락처를 활용할 수 있음

³ <https://www.b2match.com/e/radiance-msca>

⁴ https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search?f%5B0%5D=offer_type%3Ahosting

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/topic-announcements/46905380>

⁶ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points>

5 신청 절차

● 주요 일정

MSCA PF 공모는 주로 4월~5월에 개시되어 9월에 마감됩니다.



- 2025년 5월 : 제안서 공모 시작
- 2025년 9월 : 제안서 제출 마감
- 2026년 2월 : 결과 통보
- 2026년 4월 : 선정된 프로젝트 지원금 계약 체결
- 2026년 4월 : 첫 EU 지원 프로젝트 시작

● 제안서 양식

MSCA PF 제안서는 행정적 정보를 입력하는 Part A와 연구 제안의 핵심 내용을 담는 Part B로 이루어져 있습니다.

MSCA PF 제안서 템플릿⁷

Part A 온라인 신청 양식

● 초록 : 프로젝트에 대한 간략한 설명(공백 포함 최대 2,000자)

프로젝트가 지원 대상으로 선정될 경우 공개되므로, 민감하거나 기밀에 해당하는 정보는 포함하지 않아야 합니다.

- 문장의 프로젝트 배경 (1~2문장)
- 연구 목표
- 최신 연구 동향에 대한 배경
- 구체적 목표 및 세부 계획
- 기대 파급효과

● 참여 기관의 행정 정보와 역할

● 연구자 명단

● 예산

● 윤리 · 보안 평가

● 공모별 추가 질문

● 성평등 선언

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

Part B-1 최대 10 페이지

이 부분은 평가에서 가장 중요한 핵심 제안서로, 세 가지 평가 기준(Excellence, Impact, Implementation)에 따라 작성해야 합니다. 공식 템플릿은 EU Funding & Tenders 포털에서 신청 절차 개시 시 다운로드 받을 수 있으며, 신청자는 해당 양식을 따라 제안서를 작성해야 합니다. 모든 표 · 그림 · 참고문헌을 포함한 관련 요소는 모두 10쪽의 페이지 제한에 포함됩니다.

Part B-2 추가 문서, 페이지 제한 없음

 이력서(권장 분량 5 페이지)

- 연구자명
- 경력(가장 최근 경력부터, 날짜 형식: dd/mm/yyyy)
- 학력(박사 학위 수여일 포함, 가장 최근 학력부터, 날짜 형식: dd/mm/yyyy)
- 동료평가를 거친 학술지 논문, 학술대회 발표 논문집, 단행본 목록(오픈액세스), 그 외 데이터, 소프트웨어, 알고리즘 등 연구 경로상 중요한 성과물(오픈액세스) (Journal Impact Factor 대신 간단한 학문적 중요성 평가도 같이)
- 국제적으로 인정된 학술 대회 등 초청 발표
- 국제 학술 대회 운영(운영위원회 및 프로그램 위원회 참여 포함)
- 주도한 연구
- 등록 특허
- 산업 혁신 참여 사례
- 수상 경력, 수혜 내역
- 연구 지도 및 멘토링 활동
- 기타 참고할 만한 사항

 참여 기관의 역량(템플릿 표 사용)

- 개요(1 페이지)
- 수혜 기관 표(최대 1 페이지)
- 연관 기관 표(최대 ½ 페이지)

 추가 윤리 관련 정보

 추가 보안 심사 관련 정보

 MSCA Green Charter⁸에 따른 환경 고려 사항

- 프로젝트를 수행하는 과정에서 MSCA Green Charter의 원칙을 준수하기 위한 방안 설명
- 프로젝트의 지속 가능한 수행을 보장하고 환경 영향을 최소화하기 위해 계획한 조치(최대 ½ 페이지)

 해외 파견 기관 협약서(Letter of Commitment) (글로벌 펠로우십만 해당)

- 기관명 또는 직인 포함
- 공고 게시일 이전이 아닌 최신 문서
- 제안서에 적극적으로 참여할 의지 명시
- 구체적인 역할 설명

8 <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/about-msca/msca-green-charter>



제안서 레이아웃

- 용지 크기 : A4, 모든 여백은 15mm 이상 (머리말과 꼬리말 제외)
- 본문 글꼴 : Times New Roman(Windows), Times/Times New Roman(Apple) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L(Linux)
- 최소 폰트 크기 : 11pt (본문 및 표 안의 텍스트 포함), 8pt (본문 이외의 요소 – 머리말, 각주 · 미주, 캡션, 수식, 도표, 간트 차트 등)
- 하이퍼링크 사용 금지



제안서 템플릿

- 제공된 템플릿 사용 – 제공된 소제목 그대로 포함(태그 삭제 금지)
- 페이지 번호 : 꼬리말에 'Part B- Page X of Y' 형식
- 표지나 목차 포함 금지

제출 방법

EU Funding & Tenders Portal⁹에서 계정을 생성하고, 포털에 게시된 Open Funding Call¹⁰을 통해 신청서를 제출합니다.

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01>

6 제안서 작성 방법

제안서 구성

제안서는 다음 세 가지 주요 섹션으로 구성됩니다.

1 우수성 (Excellence)

명확한 연구 목표

- 연구 · 혁신(R&I) 목표의 수준과 적합성 설명
- 측정 가능하고, 검증 가능하며, 현실적으로 달성 가능한 목표
- 제안한 프로젝트가 최신 연구 동향을 어떻게 뛰어넘는지 기술

방법론

- 전체적인 방법론
 - 연구를 뒷받침하는 개념, 모델, 가정 등을 포함한 전반적인 방법론
 - 이를 통해 프로젝트 목표를 어떻게 달성할 수 있는지 언급
 - 예상되는 주요 과제 및 극복 방안
 - 목표 달성을 위한 방법 및 학문
 - 목표 달성을 위해 서로 다른 분야의 전문성과 방법을 어떻게 결합할지 설명
 - 다학제적 접근이 필요하지 않다고 판단되는 경우, 그 이유를 명확히 제시
 - 성별 및 기타 다양성
 - 연구 · 혁신 내용에 성별 관점과 기타 다양성 요소를 어떻게 반영하는지 설명
 - 해당 사항이 프로젝트와 관련이 없다고 판단될 경우, 그 이유를 명확히 제시
- *연구 · 혁신 활동의 내용에 관한 것이며, 수행팀의 성별 균형과는 관련이 없음
- 오픈사이언스(Open Science) 실천 (권장 분량 ½ 페이지)
 - 적절한 오픈사이언스 실천 방안을 설명
 - 연구 특성에 맞게 조정된 실천 방법이 프로젝트 목표 달성 가능성을 어떻게 높이는지 제시
 - 적용이 부적절하다고 판단되면, 그 이유를 명확히 제시

슈퍼바이저의 전문성

- 슈퍼바이저의 자격과 경험
 - 제안한 연구 주제와 관련된 전문성
 - 주요 국제 협력 경험
 - 박사 및 박사후 연구자를 포함한 고급 연구 지도 · 훈련 경험
 - 연구자를 위해 계획된 훈련 활동(학문적 측면, 관리 · 조직 역량, 주요 기술 등)
- 유럽 펠로우십의 경우, 연구자와 호스트 기관 간 양방향 지식 교류 계획 설명.
글로벌 펠로우십의 경우, 연구자, 호스트 기관, 해외 파견단계 연관 파트너 간
삼방향 지식 교류 계획 설명
- 비학문 부문 파견(해당 시)과 Secondment(해당 시)의 필요성과 부가가치

혁신성과 다학제적 요소

- 제안한 연구 주제와 관련하여 연구자가 보유한 기존 전문 경험의 수준과 적합성

2 파급효과 (Impact)

구체적인 경력 개발 계획 및 미래 경력 목표

- 학계 안팎에서 연구자의 경력 전망과 고용 가능성을 높이기 위한 구체적 방안
- 제안된 역량 개발이 연구자의 장래 경력에 미칠 기대 효과

성과 확산·활용·소통 전략과 예상되는 과학적·사회적·경제적·기술적 영향과의 연계

- 확산·활용·소통 계획
 - 프로젝트의 파급효과를 극대화하기 위한 활동 계획 및 대상 그룹 (e.g. 학계, 최종 사용자, 투자자, 일반 대중)
 - 소통 활동 계획에는 핵심 메시지와, 각 대상 그룹에 도달하기 위해 사용할 도구와 채널을 구체적으로 명시

*소통 및 대중 참여 전략은 사회와 적극적으로 교류하며, 프로젝트 활동과 그 활용, 시민이 얻게 될 혜택을 알리는 데 목적이 있으며, 명확한 목표를 가지고 전략적으로 기획된 이 활동은, 프로젝트 시작 시점부터 착수해 전 기간 동안 지속적으로 이어져야 함

- 지식재산권 관리 전략
 - 필요하다면 특허, 디자인권, 저작권, 영업비밀 등 지식재산 보호 방안을 제시하고, 이를 어떻게 성과 활용에 연결할지 설명
- 성과와 영향의 규모 및 중요성
 - 프로젝트가 성공했을 경우, 예상되는 성과와 영향에 얼마나 기여할 수 있을지 제시(신뢰할 수 있는 수치 추정치 포함)

3 이행 (Implementation)

세부 작업 계획

- 협력 방안을 포함하여 과업, 산출물, 주요 단계, 일정(작업별 시간 배분)을 종합적인 간트 차트로 명확히 전달

잠재적인 위험 요소 관리 전략 및 대응 계획

기관 차원의 충분한 지원 입증

- 연구자가 소속될 팀·기관 내 통합 과정 및 제공되는 지원 서비스
- 참여 기관의 인프라, 시설, 물류 역량 등 연구 수행을 뒷받침할 수 있는 자원과 역량

● 제안서 작성 팁



제안서 작성 핵심 가이드

- 10페이지 안에 필요한 핵심 내용을 모두 담으면서도 충실하게 작성하려면 시간이 걸리기 때문에, 제안서 준비는 마감일 최소 4~6개월 전에 시작하는 것이 좋습니다. 또한 슈퍼바이저, 연구지원 부서, 동료, 지인 등으로부터 피드백을 받은 뒤 수정할 시간도 반드시 고려해야 합니다.
- 이전에 성공한 제안서 사례를 참고 합니다 (온라인에서 다양하게 찾아볼 수 있습니다).
- 심사위원 중에는 영어가 모국어가 아닌 경우도 있으므로, 쉽고 명확한 표현을 사용하는 것이 좋습니다.
- 형식 준수
 - MSCA 공식 제안서 템플릿 가이드라인을 철저히 따라야 합니다.
 - 페이지 제한 내에서 내용을 최대한 담기 위해 그림과 표, 간결한 레퍼런스 양식을 활용합니다.
 - 핵심 내용은 폰트 굵기, 기울임, 색상 등을 일관되게 사용해 가독성을 높입니다.
- 간트 차트는 과업, 주요 단계, 산출물이 논리적인 순서로 명확히 드러나도록 구체적으로 작성해야 합니다.
- 마무리 결론은 다음 사항을 강조하는 설득력 있는 요약으로 마무리하는 것이 좋습니다.
 - 연구의 독창성과 중요성
 - 연구자와 호스트 기관 모두에게 주는 핵심 개념과 상호적 이익
 - MSCA 지원이 연구자의 경력 목표와 어떻게 부합하는지, 그리고 유럽 연구 공동체에 어떤 기여를 할 수 있는지



성공적인 제안서의 공통 강점

- 연구 분야의 최신 동향을 반영해 주제를 선정
- 다학제적 연구 주제와 배경을 명확히 제시하고 그 타당성을 충분히 설명
- 체계적이고 신뢰할 수 있는 협력 계획을 마련
- 연구 활동, 훈련, 성과 확산 전략, 미래 경력 목표가 긴밀하게 연계되어 있음을 제시
- 연구자와 호스트 기관 간의 상호 지식 교류를 분명하게 드러냄



제안서 작성시 피해야 할 실수

- 지나치게 야심차거나 비현실적인 연구 목표 및 훈련 계획
- 산출물, 주요 단계, 위험 관리가 구체적으로 드러나지 않는 작업 계획
- 연구 목표와 충분히 맞지 않는 연구 방법론
- 영향력 및 성과 확산 계획을 두루뭉술하게 작성(구체성이 부족한 설명)

7 평가 절차

MSCA PF 제안서 평가 절차는 (1) 제안서 제출, (2) 적격성 확인, (3) 개별 전문가 평가, (4) 패널 토론 및 순위 결정, (5) 결과 발표 단계로 이루어집니다. 신청자는 EU 포털을 통해 마감일 전까지 제안서를 제출해야 하며, 제출 즉시 접수 확인 메일을 받게 됩니다.

적격성 확인 단계에서는 연구 경험 요건과 모빌리티 규칙 충족 여부가 먼저 검토되며, 이와 함께 형식 요건(페이지 제한 등)도 확인됩니다. 적격하지 않을 경우 평가 단계로 넘어가지 않고 탈락됩니다.

각 제안서는 최소 3명의 독립적인 외부 전문가에게 배정되며, 전문가들은 평가 기준(Excellence, Impact, Implementation)에 따라 점수를 소수점 둘째 자리까지 부여합니다. 개별 평가 후에는 패널 미팅을 통해 점수가 조정되고, 합의된 평가 보고서(Consensus Report)가 작성됩니다. 패널은 제안서를 분야별로 묶어 상대평가를 진행하며, 최종 순위 리스트가 확정됩니다. 일반적으로 상위 약 15%의 제안서가 선정되며, 선정된 후보자가 지원을 거절할 경우 예비 후보에게 기회가 주어집니다.

결과는 보통 제안서 제출 후 약 5개월 이내에 통보되며, 탈락자도 평가결과보고서(Evaluation Summary Report)를 받아 자신의 점수와 패널 코멘트를 확인할 수 있습니다.

● 평가 기준 세부 항목

1  우수성 (Excellence) 50%	- 연구·혁신 목표의 수준과 적합성(목표의 수준이 얼마나 야심차고, 최신 연구 동향을 넘어서는지) - 제안된 방법론의 타당성(다학제적 접근, 연구와 관련된 경우 성별 및 다양성 요소 고려, 오픈사이언스 실천의 수준 포함) - 지도 및 훈련의 질, 연구자와 호스트 기관 간의 양방향 지식 교류 - 연구자의 전문 경험, 역량, 기술의 수준과 적합성
2  파급력 (Impact) 30%	- 연구자의 경력 발전과 고용 가능성 제고를 위한 조치의 신뢰성 - 성과 확산·활용·소통 계획에 제시된 예상 성과와 영향을 극대화하기 위한 방안의 적절성과 수준 - 프로젝트가 기여할 것으로 기대되는 과학적·사회적·경제적 영향의 규모와 중요성
3  이행 (Implementation) 20%	- 작업 계획의 실행 가능성, 위험 관리 방안, 각 작업에 배분된 자원의 적절성 - 호스트 기관과 참여 기관의 역량과 준비 수준 (연구자 수용 계획 포함)

8 지원 도구 및 참고 자료

● 피드백과 지원 요청

● 호스트 기관

호스트 기관의 연구지원 부서를 적극 활용해 전문적인 상담, 제안서 작성 지원, 제안서 검토 등을 받으실 수 있습니다. 많은 경우, 유럽의 주요 호스트 기관은 MSCA PF 프로그램 정보와 신청 과정을 체계적으로 안내하는 인포 세션이나 마스터 클래스를 운영합니다.

● 마리퀴리동문협회(MCAA)

마리퀴리동문협회¹¹(MCAA)는 제안서 작성 시 도움을 줄 수 있는 이전 수혜자들의 활발한 네트워크를 보유하고 있습니다. 또한 협회는 미래 지원자들을 위해 정기적으로 교육 프로그램을 운영합니다.

● 국가연락관(NCP)

보다 구체적인 지원과 내부 정보를 원할 경우, 자국의 국가연락관¹²(NCP)에게 문의하시기 바랍니다.

● 신청 자격 확인을 위한 주요 문서 및 정보

자격 요건을 확인하려면 아래 자료들을 참고하시기 바랍니다.

● 유럽연구집행기관(REA) 제공 자료

- 유럽연구집행기관¹³(REA)은 모든 지원자에게 필요한 주요 자료를 제공합니다.
 - 신청자를 위한 가이드¹⁴(Guide for Applicants)는 해당 프로그램에 관심 있는 연구자가 시작하기에 가장 좋은 자료입니다.
 - 제안서에서 흔히 발생하는 실수를 피할 수 있도록 돕는 별도의 가이드¹⁵가 있습니다.
 - 연구 경력을 확인할 수 있도록, REA는 8년 연구 경력 산정 방법과 관련된 자가 진단 도구¹⁶와 가이드라인¹⁷을 제공합니다.
 - 전문가들이 활용하는 평가 가이드라인¹⁸ 등 다양한 자료¹⁹도 확인할 수 있습니다.

11 <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/groups>

12 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

13 https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#ecl-inpage-293

14 <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9a4230a6-2769-4067-b136-3e238ae65fa6/library/96b41c46-5aeb-4c96-89fc-df9d76a2da2b/details>

15 <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9a4230a6-2769-4067-b136-3e238ae65fa6/library/bbc8e3a5-1318-4e08-8583-b38e73e62eed/details>

16 <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9a4230a6-2769-4067-b136-3e238ae65fa6/library/ed160164-5f3d-4b54-9dd3-7887a4d61acf/details>

17 <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9a4230a6-2769-4067-b136-3e238ae65fa6/library/f3c14c30-e651-4ce0-8a0e-95fa4362a7b2/details>

18 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/ef/ef_he-msca_en.pdf

19 https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en

🌐 MSCA-NET 제공 자료

- MSCA 국가연락관 네트워크가 운영하는 RADIANCE 프로젝트²⁰에서는 지원자들을 위한 비공식 보충 자료를 제공합니다.
 - 핸드북과 안내 문서 등을 모아둔 자료실
 - 자주 묻는 질문²¹(FAQ)

🌐 FAQ 자료

- EU 공식 Funding and Tender Opportunities 포털 역시 별도의 FAQ²² 자료를 제공합니다.

자격 요건이 여전히 불확실하다면, (본인이 신청하고자 하는 국가의) MSCA 국가연락관²³에게 문의하여 기준을 함께 검토할 수 있으며, 일부 경우에는 사전 검토를 받을 수도 있습니다.

🌐 신청을 위한 주요 문서와 정보

모든 관련 문서는 Funding and Tender Opportunities 포털에서 공고별로 확인할 수 있으며, 다음과 같은 자료가 포함됩니다.

🌐 MSCA 워크프로그램²⁴ 및 일반 부속서²⁵

🌐 신청자 가이드²⁶

🌐 자주 묻는 질문

🌐 제안서 템플릿²⁷

신청 및 평가 절차에 대한 더 자세한 정보와 추가 안내를 원하신다면, 아래 자료를 참고하시기 바랍니다.

🌐 신청 방법에 관한 안내 페이지²⁸

🌐 유럽연구집행기관(REA) 공식 웹사이트²⁹

20 <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/msca>

21 <https://mariesklodowskacurieactions.blogspot.com/>

22 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq>

23 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

24 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

25 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

26 https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#postdoctoral-fellowships--call-2023

27 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

28 <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/how-to-apply?>

29 https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en

● 평가 관련 주요 문서와 정보

- 평가 기준 및 예산 구조(MSCA 워크프로그램, p.95)
- 지원 양식(MSCA PF 2025³⁰ 공모 페이지에 곧 게시 예정)
- 평가 양식³¹
- 호라이즌 유럽 프로그램 가이드³²는 평가 기준에 반영되는 특정 요소들에 대해 추가 지침을 제공합니다
 - 성평등과 포용성 (p. 16–20)
 - 연구 성과의 확산 및 활용 (p. 31–39)
 - 오픈 사이언스 (p. 40–55)
- 지속가능성

MSCA Green Charter³³에 부합하는 지속가능한 실천을 적극적으로 도입하고, 그 노력에 대해 보고 하도록 권장됩니다. 프로젝트의 지속가능성을 높이기 위한 유용한 팁과 지침³⁴도 확인할 수 있습니다.

30 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01>

31 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/ef/ef_he-msca_en.pdf

32 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

33 <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/about-msca/msca-green-charter?>

34 <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1369305f-6c9d-11ee-9220-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

(Hubrecht Institute, The Netherlands) Mechanoimplantation Project

작성자 : 심가운(휴브레흐트 연구소 박사후연구원)



1

자기소개

프로젝트명	Mechanoimplantation
공고명	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01
기간	2024년 4월 1일 ~ 2026년 4월 1일
프로젝트 총 예산	203,464.32 유로
호스트 기관	Hubrecht Institute
CORDIS 링크	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101151289
프로필	https://www.linkedin.com/in/gawoonshim/

저는 네덜란드 휴브레흐트 연구소의 Hiiragi Takashi 박사님 연구실에서 올해, 2년차 박사후 연구원 자격으로 생쥐를 사용해 포유류의 발달생물학을 연구하고 있습니다. 학부는 스탠포드 대학교에서(전공 : 기계공학) 유체 역학을 공부했지만, 프린스턴 대학교에서 석박사 과정을 시작한 후, Daniel Cohen 교수님을 만나 생명공학에 큰 흥미를 느끼고 연구방향을 바꾸게 되었습니다. 이후 대학원 과정 동안 저는 직류 전기 신호를 이용하여 2D 및 3D 상피세포 집단의 이동을 유도하고 제어하는 방법을 연구했습니다.

발달생물학에 대한 관심은 박사과정을 끝마칠 때 즈음 갖게 되었습니다. 장 줄기세포 오가노이드, 인간 유도 만능 줄기세포(human-induced pluripotent stem cells, hiPSCs)와 같은 다능성 세포 모델을 이용하여 ‘3차원 구조 내 내강(lumen)이 형성되면서 압력이 축적되는 현상’을 연구하는 박사과정 프로젝트를 수행하는 동안, 저는 국소적 및 전체적 물리적 힘의 적용이 3차원 구조의 형태뿐만 아니라 세포 분화와 이후 발달 과정에 어떤 영향을 미치는지에 대해 관심을 갖게 되었습니다. 그러던 중 생쥐 배아 내 압력 축적이 성장과 형태에 미치는 영향을 다룬 Hiiragi 교수님의 논문에 큰 영감을 받아, 그의 연구실에 지원하기로 결심하게 되었습니다.

현재 제가 연구활동을 하고 있는 휴브레흐트 연구소(Hubrecht Institute for Developmental Biology and Stem Cell Research)는 네덜란드 왕립예술과학아카데미(KNAW) 산하의 연구 기관입니다. 휴브레흐트 연구소는 생명체 수준, 세포 수준, 분자 수준에서 발생생물학과 줄기세포 연구를 중점적으로 수행하고 있으며, 21개의 그룹들이 배아 발생, 기관의 발달 및 항상성(homeostasis) 유지 등 다양한 생물학적 과정을 이해하기 위한 연구를 진행하고 있습니다. 발생생물학 및 줄기세포 생물학 분야에서 세계 최고 수준의 연구 기관 중 하나로 평가받고 있으며, 유럽분자생물학연구소(EMBL)를 비롯한 다수의 국제 연구 기관들과 긴밀하게 협력하고 있습니다. 또한 박사 / 박사후 과정 연구자들을 지원하기 위해 다양한 연구 시설과 교육 프로그램을 갖추고 있습니다.

현재 제가 MSCA 펠로우십의 지원을 받아 수행하고 있는 연구의 주요 목표는 생쥐 배아 착상(implantation) 과정에서 작용하는 물리적인 힘을 이해하는 것입니다. 착상은 포유류 발생 초기에 배아가 모체 자궁과 맨 처음 연결되어 정상적인 발달을 시작하는 과정으로, 건강하고 성공적인 임신을 위해 필수적인 단계입니다. 배아는 자궁 내강 상피(luminal epithelium)에 착상된 후 내세포괴(inner cell mass)가 자궁벽 반대 방향을 향하도록 방향을 조정하고, egg cylinder로 발달하기 위한 일련의 형태 변화를 시작합니다. 착상 과정은 배아와 자궁 간의 정밀한 상호작용에 의해 조율되기 때문에, 이 시기의 배아-자궁 상호작용은 반드시 이해되어야 할 중요한 부분입니다. 배아 방향 조정, 자궁 접합, 형태 형성(morphogenesis)은 모두 강력한 물리적인 과정이므로, 착상 전후 발달을 조정하는 데 있어 물리적 힘의 역할에 주목하고 있습니다. 저는 이 연구를 통해 착상 전후 발달 과정에서 물리적/기계적인 신호의 역할을 규명하고, 관련된 mechanotransducing pathways를 밝히는 것을 목표로 하고 있습니다.

2 신청 배경 및 선정 과정

● 해당 프로그램을 접하게 된 계기

펀딩 프로그램에 대해서는 유럽으로 박사후 연구원 지원을 준비할 때 지도교수님께서 알려주셨습니다. 미국 시민권이 필요한 NSF 나 NIH 펀딩과는 달리 MSCA 프로그램은 연구자의 국적에 제한을 두지 않는다는 것이 큰 장점이었습니다. MSCA는 매우 잘 알려진 프로그램이었기 때문에, 학과 내 많은 유럽 출신 교수님들이 직접 또는 간접적으로 지원 경험이 있었고, 많은 분들께서 저에게 지원해 보라고 권유하셨습니다. 일부 유럽 출신 박사후 연구원들은 최근에 해당 펀딩에 지원한 경험이 있어서, 준비해야 할 일정과 서류 종류에 대해 보다 실질적인 조언을 받을 수 있었습니다. MSCA 이외에도 Human Frontiers Science Program, (HFSP)과 European Molecular Biology Organization(EMBO)의 박사후 펠로우십에도 지원하는 것을 추천 받았습니다.

MSCA는 박사 수료 후 8년 이내까지 지원할 수 있어 다른 펠로우십에 비해 박사학위 취득 후 지원 계획을 세울 수 있는 기간이 비교적 길게 주어집니다. 하지만 지원하는 해 9월 기준으로 이전 3년간 호스트 연구소에서 연구기간이 12개월 미만이어야 한다는 요건이 붙습니다. 예를 들어, 2026년 9월에 지원을 하고 싶다면 2023년 9월과 2026년 9월 사이 본 연구소에서 연구한 기간이 12개월 미만이어야 합니다. 따라서 이미 연구소가 정해졌다면 펠로우십에 지원하기 이전 해에 미리 호스트 연구소와 지도교수님과 상의하는 것을 권유드립니다.

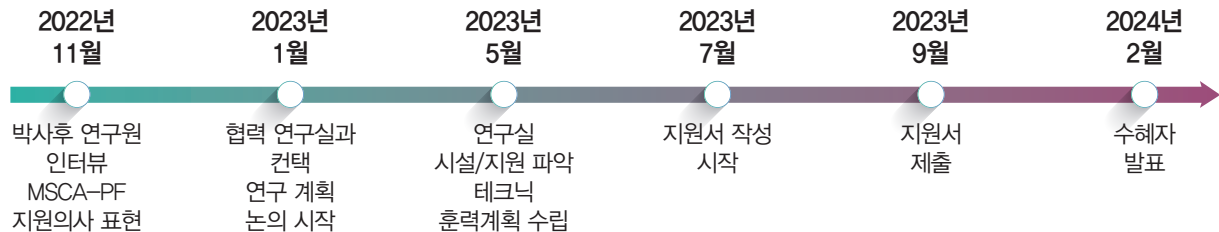
● 호스트 기관 선정과 연락

제 경우, 세포 배양 및 실험 플랫폼 개발에 초점을 맞춘 박사 과정과는 전혀 다른 포유류 배아 발달생물학에 관한 연구를 하고 싶었기 때문에 지도교수님의 지원이 없이는 MSCA 펠로우십 제안서를 작성하는 것이 사실상 불가능했습니다. 따라서 박사후 연구 인터뷰를 위해 지도교수님을 처음 만났을 때 MSCA 펠로우십에 지원하고 싶다는 의사를 표현했으며, 교수님이 MSCA 박사후 펠로우십을 받은 박사후 연구원들을 지도한 경험이 있으며 제안서 작성에 도움을 주실 의향이 있음을 확인하였습니다.

● 제안서 작성 및 신청 과정

2022년 11월에 현재 재직중인 연구소에서 오퍼 레터를 받은 후, 2023년 9월에 펠로우십에 지원할 수 있도록 준비하기 위해 지도교수님과 논의를 시작했습니다. 연구 제안서 구상은 제가 관심 있는 연구 주제, 배우고 싶은 실험 기법, 그리고 제가 박사후 연구원을 지원할 때 관심을 가졌던 다른 연구실들에 대한 내용들을 중심으로 지도교수님과 논의하며 시작했습니다. 마침 지도교수님께서 제가 지원했던 연구실 중 하나의 그룹 리더와 그 무렵 대화를 나누셨고, 해당 연구실은 제가 학부 때 공부한 물리학과 공학적 지식을 바탕으로 연구를 하는 곳이어서 세 사람 간 협동할 수 있는 연구에 대한 논의로 이어졌습니다. 이 연구실은 이전에 개발한 2차원 세포층에서의 직접적인 물리적 힘을 측정(direct force measurement) 할 수 있는 테크닉을 3차원 구조로 확장해 사용할 수 있는 연구를 시작한 상황이었기에 발달 중인 배아에서의 직접적인 힘을 측정하는 연구를 하자고 제안할 수 있었습니다.

이 아이디어를 바탕으로, 저는 지도교수님 및 협력 연구실과 화상 회의를 진행하여 필요한 도구 및 테크닉, 그리고 실험 계획 수립에 대해 논의하였습니다. 또한, 호스트 연구소에 연락해 특정 실험에 사용할 수 있는 연구소 시설과 연구소 직원들로부터 받을 수 있는 지원 종류에 대해서도 직접 확인하였습니다. 대략적인 계획 수립과 정보 수집을 마친 후 제안서를 작성하는 데에는 약 두 달이 걸렸습니다.



지원서는 Part B1 과 B2 로 구성되어 있습니다. Part B1은 연구 제안서, 연구자 및 호스트 기관이 연구에 적합한 이유, 연구자가 어떤 방식으로 훈련을 받을 것인지, 연구의 예상 영향력 그리고 전체 과정을 펀딩 기간 내에 어떻게 진행할 것인지에 대한 계획 등을 기술하게 되어있습니다. 이 모든 내용을 10페이지 이내에 담아야 했기 때문에, 충분한 내용을 담으면서도 간결하게 서술하는 것이 큰 과제였습니다. 이전에 지원했던 박사후 연구원들은 과학적 제안서는 5페이지 이내로 작성하기를 조언했습니다. Part B2는 페이지 수 제한이 없으며, 연구자의 CV, 호스트 기관 및 지도교수의 역량(capacity)을 포함하는 항목이었습니다. 두 서류 모두 9월 말까지 제출해야 하며, 결과는 이듬해 2월에 발표됩니다. 별도의 면접은 없습니다.

● 왜 해당 국가/기관을 선택했는지?

제가 후브레흐트 연구소를 선택한 이유는 해당 기관이 발생생물학 분야에서 뛰어난 전문성을 갖추고 있기 때문이었습니다. 제가 소속된 Hiiragi 교수님의 연구실은 생쥐에서 채취한 배아를 직접 다루지만, 줄기세포를 이용한 합성 배아학(synthetic embryology)이나 오가노이드를 연구하는 연구실들도 있기에 협력 연구를 통해 새로운 발견을 할 수 있는 많은 기회가 있습니다. 생물학적 발견을 기반으로 중개 의학(translational medicine)이나 응용(application) 연구를 진행하는 그룹들도 있기 때문에, 제 연구 결과가 향후 어떤 응용 가능성을 가질 수 있을지에 대해 논의할 수 있는 최적의 환경이란 믿음이 있었습니다.

네덜란드는 외국인 연구자에게 매우 친화적인 환경을 갖춘 나라로, 대부분의 국민이 영어를 유창하게 구사하여 연구실은 물론이고 일상생활에서도 불편함 없이 생활할 수 있습니다. 배우자 거주 허가(spousal resident permit) 신청 절차가 간단하고 당사자의 고용 상태만을 기준으로 진행되기 때문에 가족과 함께 이주를 준비하는 데에 큰 어려움이 없습니다. 자전거 도로와 대중교통이 잘 정비되어 있어 차량을 운전할 필요가 없는 점도 저에게는 매력적이었습니다.

3 성공 팁 및 신청시 유의사항

● 선정 결과: 제안서 평가 결과(+/-요소)

제 제안서는 학제 간(interdisciplinary) 특성 덕분에 연구의 혁신성 측면에서 긍정적으로 평가받았다고 생각합니다. 제안서 평가에서는 배아 발달 과정에 작용하는 물리적 힘을 정량적 수준에서 연구하려는 접근이 착상(implantation)에 대한 현재의 이해를 한층 발전시킬 수 있을 것이라고 언급했습니다. 이와 같은 맥락에서 제가 호스트 기관의 테크닉과 지식을 어떻게 보완할 것인지에 대해 설명한 양방향 지식 이전(two-way knowledge transfer) 계획 역시 좋은 평가를 받았습니다. 연구 계획을 수립할 때, 수치 해석 능력과 이해도, 맞춤형 실험 장비를 설계하고 제작한 경험 등 기계공학자로서의 제 강점을 최대한 살리면서 호스트 기관이 보유한 생쥐 배아 발생에 대한 전문 지식을 적극 활용할 수 있다는 사실을 보여준 것이 성공 요인이었다고 생각합니다. 이전에 제가 박사후 연구원으로 지원한 분야와는 전혀 다른 분야에서 학문적 훈련을 받았다는 점이 오히려 강점으로 작용했습니다.

좋은 평가를 받은 또 다른 부분은 다른 연구실과의 협력 계획이었습니다. 실험 기법, 도구 개발, 심층 분석이 필요한 각각의 분야의 깊은 전문성을 가진 연구실들과의 협력을 통해 이루어 질 것이란 계획이 긍정적으로 평가되었습니다. 제 평가서에 언급된 제안서의 약점 중 하나는 과학적 위험 요소를 완화하기 위한 전략이 충분히 구체적으로 서술되지 않았다는 점이었지만, 이어서 협력 연구자들의 전문성이 위험 요소를 줄이는 데 도움이 될 것이라는 긍정적인 평가가 함께 제시되었습니다. 협력 연구자들에 대한 세부사항은 지도교수의 자격과 경력에 대해 설명할 때 좀 더 깊게 다룰 수도 있습니다.

제 제안서 계획의 약점 중 하나는 제가 보유한 테크닉과 연구를 수행하기 위해 새롭게 배워야 하는 테크닉 사이에 약간의 불일치가 있으며, 제한된 기간 내에 습득해야 할 새로운 테크닉의 양이 다소 과도하다는 점이었습니다. 박사후 펠로우십 기간이 12개월에서 24개월로 매우 짧다는 것을 고려할 때 아무리 좋은 연구 아이디어라도 주어진 시간 내에 실현 가능해야 한다는 사실을 유념해야 합니다.

● 성공적인 제안서 작성/신청 팁

펠로우십 지원을 통해 생성된 연구 결과의 확산(dissemination) 및 활용(exploitation) 계획을 작성할 때는 연구가 가져올 궁극적인 목표와 영향력을 염두에 두고 기술하는 것이 중요합니다. 예를 들어, 제 연구 주제가 착상 과정을 이해하는 것이었기 때문에, 연구 결과의 주요 영향은 착상실패를 예방하고 건강한 임신을 지원 하는 데 기여할 수 있다는 점이었습니다. 이에 따라 연구 결과를 의료 현장의 전문의들과 공유하는 계획을 포함하였으며, 이는 후브레흐트 연구소의 네트워크뿐만 아니라 제가 그동안 구축한 전문가 네트워크를 통해 이루어질 예정이라고 명시하여 리뷰어로부터 긍정적인 평가를 받았습니다.

본인의 장래 목표가 독립적인 그룹 리더가 되는 것이라면 제안서를 작성할 때, 제안한 연구와 교육계획이 연구자의 향후 경력에 어떻게 기여할 것인지(enhance the career perspectives and employability) 본인이 새로운 연구분야를 구축하는 데 기여할 수 있을지를 강조하는 것이 중요합니다. 이는 연구자가 더 나은 과학자로 성장하는 것뿐만 아니라, 향후 그룹 리더가 되기 위해 필요한 행정적 능력과 교육적 역량을 어떻게 갖추게

될 것인지에 대해서도 포함해야 하며, 본인에게 주어진 자원과 기회를 얼마나 잘 알고 있고 효율적으로 사용하는지를 설명해야 합니다. 저는 후브레흐트 연구소와 모기관인 네덜란드 왕립과학예술원(Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, KNAW) 네트워크를 통해 제공되는 자원 뿐만 아니라 유럽분자생물학연구소(European Molecular Biology Laboratory; EMBL)와 같은 협력 기관을 통해 얻을 수 있는 다양한 기회도 목록에 포함시켰습니다. MSCA 펠로우십이 연구자의 이동성(mobility)을 높여 더 다양한 기회를 열어줄 수 있다는 점도 함께 언급할 수 있습니다.

제안서 평가에 간트 차트(Gantt chart)를 포함하여 연구 목표(deliverables)와 주요 이정표(milestones)를 관리 가능한 단위로 세분화했다는 점이 강점이라고 언급되어 있는 것으로 보서는 연구 계획과 연구 일정을 시각적으로 명확하고 구체적으로 제시하는 것이 중요하다고 생각합니다. 제가 제출한 간트 차트에는 연구 진행사항 이외에도 프로젝트 진행에 중요한 워크숍이나 학회 참석 계획도 포함했습니다. 이 과정은 저에게도 특히 어려운 부분이었는데, 1) 작업을 어떻게 나눌 것인지 결정하는 것과 2) 모든 내용을 한 페이지짜리 차트에 담아야 한다는 점이 가장 큰 도전이었습니다. 연구소 내 다른 박사후 연구원들의 제안서에 포함된 간트 차트 예시를 참고할 수 있었던 것이 큰 도움이 되었습니다.

제안서를 작성할 때 어려웠던 점 중 하나는 제가 제안된 연구를 수행할 수 있는 충분한 역량을 갖추고 있음을 보여주는 동시에, 호스트 기관에서 어떠한 추가적인 교육과 훈련을 받을 것인지도 명확히 설명해야 한다는 점이었습니다. 제가 받은 조언 중 하나는 글을 작성할 때 “프로젝트 수행에 필요한 자질의 약 70%는 이미 이전의 경험을 통해 보유하고 있으며, 나머지 30%는 제안된 연구와 훈련을 통해 채워질 것”이라 생각하고 제안서를 작성하라는 것이었습니다. 훈련 활동(training activities)에 제안서에 언급된 연구테크닉 중 현재 제가 보유하고 있지 않은 항목을 하나하나 구체적으로 설명하는 것이 중요했습니다. 저는 교육받을 연구테크닉을 나열할 때 각 테크닉을 습득하는 데 도움을 줄 연구자의 이름과 사용할 시설, 대략적인 훈련 일정도 함께 포함시켰습니다.

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
WP1																								
Task 1: Uterine tissue measurement		WP1 T1																						
Task 2: Manufacture hydrogels			WP1 T2																					
Task 3: Investigate embryo development on hydrogel					WP1 T3																			
WP2																								
Task 1: TFM measurement						WP2 T1																		
Task 2: Bead measurement								WP2 T2																
WP3																								
Task 1: Apical-ECM interactions												WP3 T1												
Task 2: ICM orientation													WP3 T2											
Task 3: Egg cylinder formation																WP3 T3								
Task 4: Validate in <i>in-utero</i>																	WP3 T4							
Milestones							M1				M2							M3			M4			
Deliverables			D1	D2				D3			D4		D5		D6				D7					
WP4: Training/knowledge transfer																								
Internal trainings		IT1	IT2	IT3							IT4					IT5								
External trainings					ET1		ET2										ET3							
WP5: Communication																								
Online seminars								OS1							OS2					OS3				
Outreach activities			O1							O2								O3						
WP6: Dissemination/exploitation																								
Lab meetings/institute seminars						LM1					LM2								LM3	IS				
Conferences							C1					C2			C3						C4			
Pre-print/publication																							P	
IP meeting											IM1												IM2	

4 MSCA-PF 펀딩의 장점 및 특징

앞서 말씀드렸듯이, MSCA-PF 펀딩은 연구자의 국적과는 관계없이 연구소가 유럽에 있다면 지원할 수 있다는 것이 장점입니다. 또한 MSCA 지원은 9월에 Form B1과 B2를 제출하는 한 번의 제출 단계만 있으며, 별도의 면접이나 2차 심사는 없습니다. 제안서의 첫 번째 부분이 탈락할 경우 전체가 심사되지 않을 수 있는 다른 프로그램들과 달리, 제안서를 추가로 준비할 필요가 없다는 점이 편리했습니다.

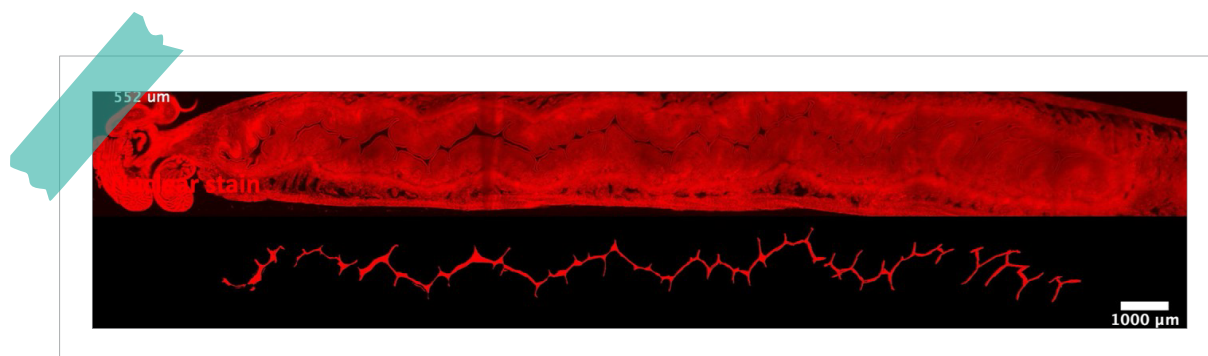
주변에는 MSCA 지원 경험이 있는 동료들이 많았고, 성공적인 제안서 작성을 위한 워크숍과 첨삭 서비스를 지원하는 내부 및 외부 프로그램도 잘 마련되어 있었습니다. 또한 연구소 커뮤니케이션 부서가 제 프로필과 연구 제안서를 미디어 채널을 통해 소개해 주면서 박사후 연구를 시작한 지 1년이 채 지나기 전에 저와 제 연구가 널리 알려질 수 있었습니다. 유럽 내에 별다른 학술적 네트워크가 없던 저에게 이러한 노출 기회는 매우 큰 도움이 되었습니다.

박사 과정 연구와 동떨어진 분야에서 연구를 시작한 제 경우에는 훈련과 교육에 중점을 둔 독립적인 펀딩을 확보하는 것이 가능한 한 빠르게 출판 가능한 결과를 내야 한다는 부담을 덜어주어 연구에 집중하는 데 큰 도움이 되었습니다. MSCA 펠로우십이 주는 또 다른 혜택으로는 컨퍼런스 참가나 협동 연구를 위한 여행 경비와 가족이 동반하는 경우에는 추가 생활비 지원이 있습니다.

5 연구 수행 내용

● 연구 수행 절차/과정

현재 저는 착상 전후(perimplantation) 시기에 자궁 내강(uterine lumen)의 형태가 어떻게 변하는지를 관찰해 발달과정 중인 배아의 force measurement 를 위한 실험을 보다 정교하게 설계하고자 합니다. 처음에는 자궁 내강이 배아가 떠 있는 단순한 튜브 형태일 것이라고 예상했지만, 실제로는 수많은 주름(folds)으로 이루어진 복잡한 형태를 가지고 있다는 것을 발견했습니다.



라이트시트 현미경으로 촬영한 수정 후 2.5일 시점의 생쥐 자궁(위)과 내강 구조 (아래)

처음 연구를 설계할 때에는 배아가 상호작용하는 자궁 표면을 모사하기 위해 평평한 표면을 사용할 계획이었기 때문에, 이번 발견은 실험 세팅을 실제 배아의 생체 내(in vivo) 환경에 더 가깝게 만들기 위해 반영할 수 있는 매우 유용한 정보를 제공합니다. 또한, 광학 단층 촬영(optical coherence tomography, OCT)과 같은 첨단 이미징 기술을 활용하여 배아가 자궁 표면과 어떻게 상호작용하는지 더 잘 이해할 수 있는 방법도 연구하고 있습니다.

● 연구 일상

현재 단계에서 제 실험은 생쥐의 교배를 세팅하고, 임신한 암컷 생쥐로부터 임신 기간 동안 여러 시점에 자궁 조직을 수집하고, 수집한 조직 샘플을 라이트시트 현미경(light-sheet microscopy) 이미징 조건에 맞게 준비하는 작업으로 이루어져 있습니다. 이후 이미징 데이터를 분석하여 정성적인 경향 (예: 특정 시점에서 배아의 위치나 모양)을 파악하고, 이를 반복 가능한 방식으로 정량화할 수 있는 방법을 찾는 데 집중하고 있습니다. 이후 통계 분석을 통해 관찰된 경향이 실제로 유의미한 패턴인지 확인하고, 단순한 상관관계인지 아니면 실제로 인과관계를 가지는지를 검증하는 작업을 하고 있습니다. 동물실험의 경우 유전자 변형 생쥐 라인을 생성하는 데에 막대한 시간과 노력이 들기 때문에 비변형(control) 조건에서 모든 과정을 세심하게 관찰하고, 이를 통해 특정 과정에 가장 중요한 역할을 하는 인자가 무엇인지에 대해 최대한 근거 있는 가설을 세우는 것이 매우 중요합니다. 화학 억제제나 배양 조건을 이용해 비교적 쉽게 조건을 변화시킬 수 있던 세포 배양 시스템을 활용했던 이전 연구와는 달리 동물실험은 꽤나 느리게 진행되어 답답할 때도 있지만, 실험을 진행하면서 얻는 작은 발견들이 보람찬 순간들을 만들어 줍니다.

● 연구 문화

미국의 사립 대학에서 박사과정을 마친 저로서는, 연구소 내 연구 환경이 생각보다 훨씬 협력적이고 연구원 간 상호작용이 활발하다는 점에 놀랐습니다. 조직 배양실(tissue culture room)과 같은 공간은 연구소 전체가 공동으로 사용하며, 피펫팁이나 튜브와 같은 소모품도 연구소 차원에서 관리하고 비용을 부담합니다. 특정 연구실에서 구매한 현미경이라도 연구소의 공공설비로 등록되어 사용법을 배우기만 한다면 연구소 내 누구나 예약하여 사용할 수 있다는 점이 인상적입니다.

하지만 추가적인 행정 절차가 필요해 어려움을 겪는 경우도 있습니다. 연구소에서 지급한 업무용 노트북에는 IT 부서의 승인을 받지 않은 소프트웨어를 설치할 수 없었고, 실험할 때 필요한 물품들은 연구소에서 허가받은 판매자에서 우선적으로 구매해야 했습니다. 미국과 유럽의 문화차이를 보여줬던 흥미로운 행정절차 중 하나는, 근무 시간이 지난 후나 주말에 연구소에 출입하기 위해서는 지도교수님의 서면 승인을 인사팀에 제출해야 했고, 근무를 시작한 지 한 달이 지난 후에야만 가능했다는 것입니다.

제가 가장 예상치 못했던 부분은, 동물 실험을 수행할 수 있는 사람과 허용되는 실험 유형에 대해 매우 엄격한 규정이 있다는 점이었습니다. 동물 모델, 특히 생쥐를 활용한 연구를 계획하고 있는 경우, 연구를 수행할 호스트 국가에서 동물 실험을 위해 요구되는 자격 요건과, 이를 취득하는 데 있어 호스트 기관이 어떤 지원을 제공할 수 있는지를 반드시 사전에 확인할 것을 강조하여 말씀드립니다. 예를 들어, 네덜란드는 동물 실험에 대한 규정이 매우 엄격하여, Article 9 자격을 취득하지 않으면 동물 실험을 계획하거나 수행할 수 없습니다. 이 자격을 얻기 위해서는 1) 생명과학 또는 관련 분야 석사 학위 이상을 소지해야 하며, 2) 실험동물과학

(Laboratory Animal Science, LAS) 교육 과정을 이수해야 합니다. 첫 번째 조건은 필수이기 때문에 해당 분야에서의 석사학위가 없다면 연구활동이 어려워질 수 있으며, 두 번째 조건 역시 교육 과정을 예약하고 완료하는 데 몇 개월이 걸릴 수 있으므로 사전에 충분히 계획해야 합니다.

수행할 수 있는 동물 실험의 종류 또한 동물 복지 규정 및 호스트 연구실이 승인받은 연구 범위에 따라 제한되기 때문에 연구 주제를 구상할 때 연구실의 현재 구성원들과 적극적으로 상의하는 것이 중요합니다. 모든 동물 실험은 연구소 내 동물복지위원회(Animal Welfare Body Committee)의 승인을 받아야 하며, 위원회가 실험의 타당성이 부족하다고 판단할 경우 승인 과정에 몇 주씩 걸릴 수 있습니다. 제출해야 하는 서류에는 사용할 동물의 수, 수행할 실험 절차, 그리고 이러한 실험이 연구 질문을 탐구하는 데 왜 필요한지를 명확히 설명해야 합니다. 이러한 과정은 실험을 전략적이고 체계적으로 계획하는 데 도움이 되지만, 한편으로는 “혹시?”라는 호기심에서 비롯되는 창의적인 실험을 제한하는 면도 있다고 느꼈습니다.

● 현지 생활

도시마다 주거 시장이 매우 경쟁이 치열하기 때문에 시간을 여유롭게 두고 기거할 곳을 찾아보는 것이 중요합니다. 네덜란드의 경우 인터넷, 휴대전화 등의 서비스를 신청하기 위해선 유럽 내 은행 계좌가 필수적이므로 출국 전에 필요한 서류를 미리 갖추어 최대한 준비를 마치고 가는 것이 큰 도움이 됩니다.

6 향후 계획 / 기타 조언 / 하고싶은 말 / 마무리

저의 현재 계획은 그룹 리더가 되어 독립적인 연구실을 운영하는 것입니다. MSCA 펠로우십을 수혜하게 된 것은 저에게 연구에 대해 사람들이 얼마나 다양한 방식으로 접근하는지를 배울 수 있는 좋은 기회가 되었습니다. 또한 미국에 있을 때는 좀처럼 만날 기회가 없었던 유럽 전역의 과학자들을 직접 만나고 함께 연구할 수 있는 매우 소중한 기회이기도 했습니다.

지원서를 작성할 때 가장 좋은 조언을 얻을 수 있는 사람들은 같은 연구소나 연구실에서 최근에 펀딩을 받은 연구자들이기 때문에, 주저하지 말고 제안서를 공유해주거나 조언을 해줄 수 있는지 물어보시기 바랍니다. 그리고 신청 과정이나 연구 전반에 대해 궁금한 점이 있으시다면 언제든지 편하게 연락 주시기 바랍니다.

(TU Dresden, Germany) HYPER-CAT Project

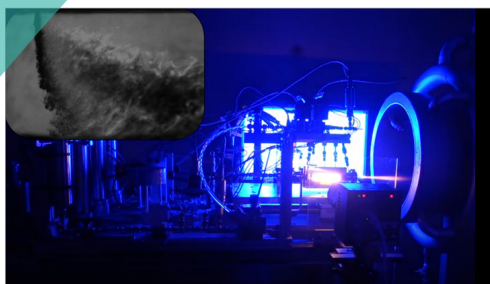
작성자 : 최석민(드레스덴공과대학 박사후연구원)

1 자기소개

프로젝트명	HYPER-CAT
공고명	HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01
기간	2024년 5월 13일 ~ 2026년 5월 12일
프로젝트 총 예산	189,687 유로(EU 자금: 189,687 유로)
호스트 기관	드레스덴공과대학(TU Dresden)
CORDIS 링크	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101110555
프로필	https://www.linkedin.com/in/sukminchoi/?locale=en_US

안녕하십니까. 저는 드레스덴공과대학교 항공우주공학과에서 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) 박사후연구원으로 재직 중인 최석민입니다. 현재는 HYPER-CAT 프로젝트(과제명: Utilization of H_2O_2 in Transpiration Cooling System for Active Heat Protection and Implementation of Thermal Decomposition for Catalyst Free H_2O_2 /Kerosene Bipropellant Aerospike Rocket Engine)를 수행하며, 고농도 과산화수소 기반의 에어로스파이크 로켓 추진 시스템 개발과 금속 적층제조 기법을 활용한 증산 냉각 기술의 개념 설계 및 실험을 진행하고 있습니다.

저는 한국과학기술원(KAIST) 항공우주공학과에서 2012년 학사 과정을 시작하였으며, 대학원에 진학하여 권세진 교수님의 지도 아래 석사(2018년), 박사(2022년) 학위를 취득하였습니다. 제가 대학원 생활을 한 KAIST 항공우주공학과 로켓 연구실은 고농도 과산화수소를 활용한 로켓 엔진에 대한 연구에 중점을 두고 있었으며, 저 또한 과산화수소를 추진제로 활용하는 단일추진제(Mono-propellant)와 이원추진제(Bi-propellant) 로켓 엔진을 주제로 연구를 수행하였습니다. 석사학위 논문으로는 과산화수소 단일추진제를 활용한 50N급 펄스 추력기를 개발하고, 펄스 운용 시 발생하는 압력 섭동, 구조적 진동, 연소 불안정성 등이 특정 운용 조건에서 강하게 증폭되는 원인을 이론적으로 제시 후 실험적으로 규명하였습니다. 이를 바탕으로 펄스 변조 추력 제어의 안정적인 운용을 위한 설계 지침과 운용 방안을 제안하였습니다. 2022년 박사학위 논문에서는 과산화수소 단일추진제 추력기의 일부인 촉매 반응기 내 물리·화학적 변화에 따른 동적 거동과 정상 작동 중의 연소 불안정성을 예측할 수 있는 저차원 동적 모델을 개발하였고, 연소 실험 결과와의 비교를 통해 예측 성능을 검증하였습니다. 실증적 연구로는 달 착륙선의 유도·제어·항법(GNC) 혹은 위험감지 및 회피(HDA) 시스템을 지구에서 검증하기 위한 지상비행시험기를 개발 및 비행 시험하기도 하였습니다.



KAIST 항공우주공학과 로켓 연구실에서 대학원 시절 수행했던 연구 활동들

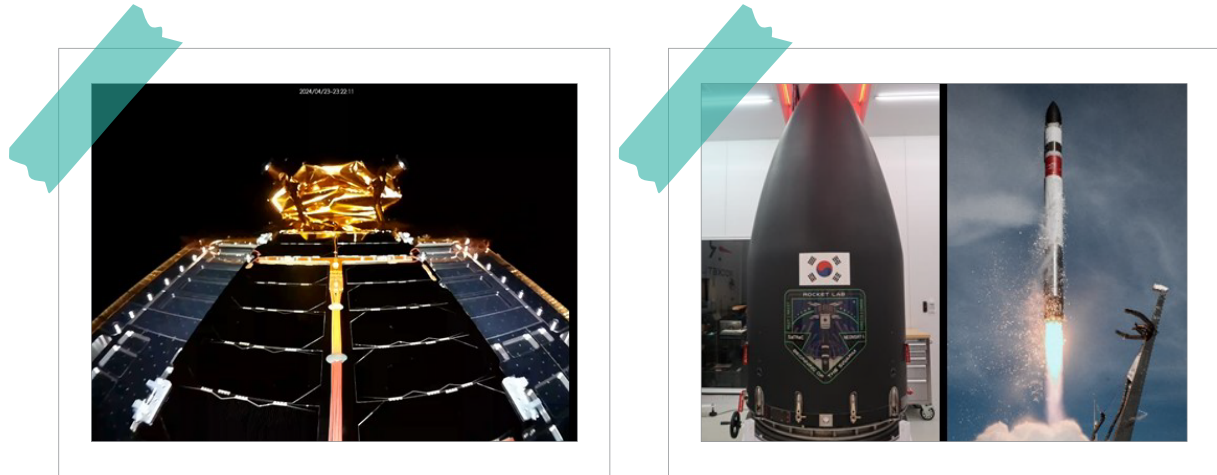
박사과정 중 2021년에는 DLR 우주추진연구소(독일 Lampoldshausen)에 방문연구원으로 파견되어, 액체 로켓 엔진의 저주파 연소 불안정성 예측을 위한 모델링 도구를 개발하고 실험 기반 검증을 수행하였습니다. 해당 연구는 한국연구재단(NRF)과 독일학술교류처(DAAD)가 공동으로 지원하는 한-독 파트너십 프로그램 (GEnKO) 프로그램의 지원을 받아 이루어졌으며, 이후 후속 연구 과제로 다시 선발되어 2023년부터 2024년까지 협력을 이어갔습니다. GEnKO 프로그램을 알기 전인 2020년 국제학술대회에서 여러 연구자들과 교류하던 중 DLR 우주추진연구소의 연구원들과 접촉하게 되었고, 두 기관 모두 저주파 연소 불안정성 예측에 관심을 갖고 있다는 공감대를 확인하였습니다. 이후 공동 연구를 위한 펀딩 소스를 탐색하여, GEnKO 프로그램을 알게 되어 지원 후 선발되었습니다. 이 과정에서 KEREC에 과거 기고문을 작성하셨던 손민 박사님께서 많은 노력을 해주셨기에 다시 한번 감사의 말씀을 전하고 싶습니다.



DLR 우주추진연구소에서 동료들과 찍은 사진

박사 졸업 후에는 KAIST 기계기술연구소에서 연수연구원으로 재직했습니다. 장기간 해외 파견으로 인해 전문 연구요원 기간이 남아있었기 때문에 약 1년간 졸업한 연구실에 신세를 지며 평소에 해보고 싶었던 흥미롭지만 실패 가능성이 큰 연구를 진행하였습니다. 과산화수소-케로신 이원추진제 연소기의 연소실 내 액체 제트 유동 가시화 및 횡단유동 내 분무 거동 분석 연구를 성공적으로 수행했지만, 한국기계연구원과의 Rotating Gliding Arc를 활용한 과산화수소의 대체 분해 방식 검증, GEnKO 프로그램의 후속 과제로써 강제 압력 섭동기를 활용한 추진제 공급계의 수력학적 특성 분석 등 성공적이지 못한 연구 또한 존재했습니다. 이후 전문연구요원이 완료된 2023년에는 KAIST 인공위성연구소에 입사하여 초소형 위성 군집 시스템 'NEONSAT' 1호기의

발사 임무를 전담하고, 궤도 및 임무 분석 업무를 수행하였습니다. 동시에 'NEXTSAT-3' 우주물체 능동제거 위성의 추진계 팀장으로 참여하여 초기 시스템 설계를 수행하였습니다. 생소한 인공위성이라는 분야에 대한 경험을 하며 매우 짧은 기간 안에 민간 발사체공급업체와의 협상 및 논의를 통해 성공적으로 위성을 궤도에 안착시키는 귀중한 경험을 할 수 있었으며, 전세계적으로 주목받은 우주 쓰레기 제거 임무를 한국에서 실시 하는데 의의가 큰 우주물체 능동제거 위성의 추진시스템의 방향성을 정하는 역할을 수행할 수 있어 매우 뜻깊은 경험이었습니다.



NEONSAT-1의 발사 장면과 위성 분리 장면 (출처: KAIST 인공위성연구소)

2024년 5월부터는 독일 작센주에 위치한 드레스덴으로 가족과 함께 옮겨왔습니다. MSCA Fellowship의 지원을 받아 드레스덴공과대학교 항공우주공학과에 소속되어, 금속 적층제조 기법으로 제작한 다공성 금속 구조체에 고농도 과산화수소를 냉매로 사용하는 증산 냉각 기술을 적용한 Aerospike 로켓 노즐 개념을 개발 하고 있습니다. 해당 기술은 기존 냉각 방식이 어려운 구조적 제약을 극복하기 위한 대안으로, 향후 소형 발사체나 재사용 엔진에 적용 가능성을 타진 중입니다.



드레스덴 구시가지 전경과 드레스덴공과대학 항공우주공학과에서 수행한 과산화수소-케로신 에어로스파이크 이원추진제 로켓 엔진의 연소 시험 장면 (출처: 드레스덴공과대학 항공우주공학과)

2 신청 배경 및 선정 과정

해외 박사후연구원 자리를 지원하게 된 계기는, 본격적으로 연구자의 자리를 잡기 전에 색다른 환경에서, 비록 실용적 쓰임새는 다소 제한적일 수 있더라도 흥미롭고 의미 있는 연구 경험을 쌓고 싶다는 개인적인 바람에서 비롯되었습니다. 아직 젊기 때문에 무모할 수 있는 도전도 한 번쯤은 감수해볼 수 있다는 생각이 결정에 큰 영향을 주었습니다. 다만, 제가 전공한 로켓 추진공학은 방위산업과 밀접하게 연계된 분야이기 때문에, 대부분의 국가에서는 외국인의 취업이나 연구 참여에 제약이 많습니다. 하지만 독일은 예외적으로 외국인의 로켓 추진기관 관련 과제 참여가 가능한 국가였고, 박사과정 중 방문연구원 자격으로 경험했던 독일항공우주센터(DLR) 우주추진연구소에서의 연구 환경이 인상 깊게 남아 있었기에, 졸업과 동시에 독일에서 박사후연구원 자리를 모색하기 시작하였습니다. DLR은 연구 인프라와 전문성이 매우 뛰어난 기관이었지만, 조직 규모와 실험 시설이 워낙 방대하여, 포닥에게 요구되는 단기간의 성과 도출에는 오히려 불리하다고 판단해 다른 기회를 찾게 되었습니다.

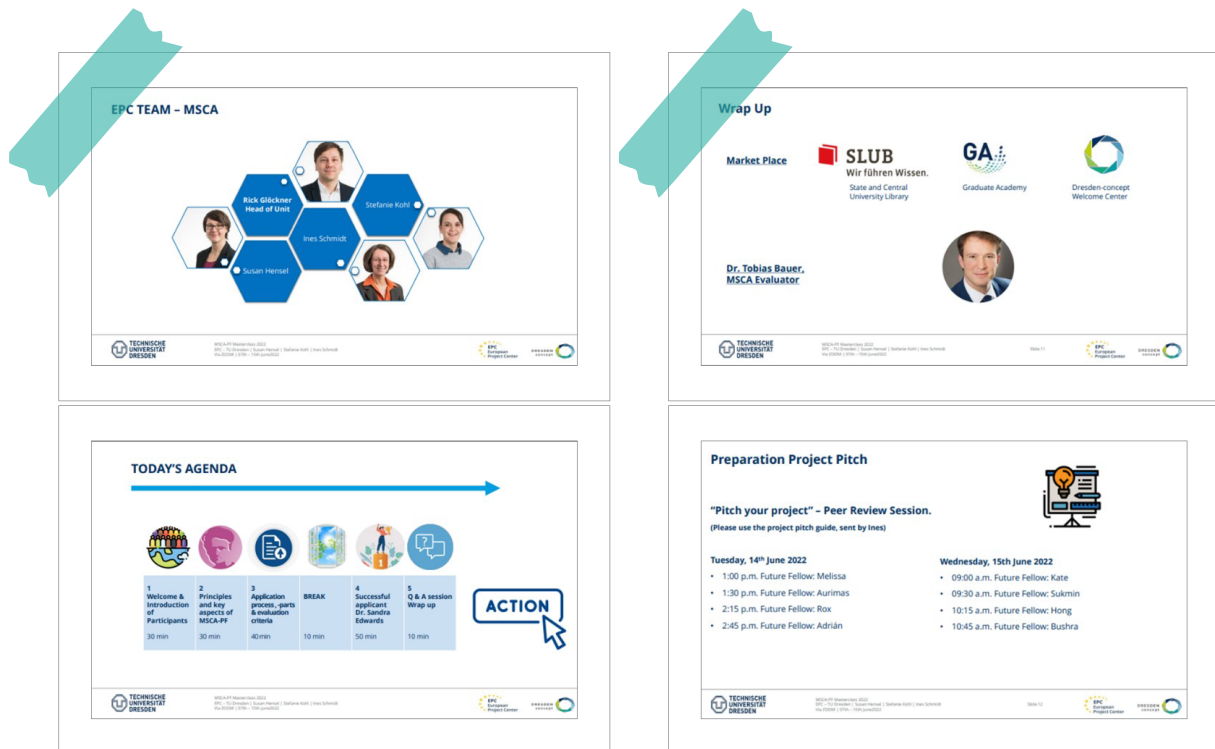
그 기회는 의외로 비교적 빨리 찾아왔습니다. 전문연구요원 기간이 거의 끝나가던 2022년 5월경, 석사 과정을 함께했던 캐나다 국적의 선배로부터 드레스덴공과대학교 항공우주공학과(이하 TUD-ILR)에서 포닥 자리를 제안 받았습니다. TUD-ILR은 당시 과산화수소 기반 추진기관 연구를 확대해 나가고 있었고, 관련 경험을 갖춘 박사후연구원을 찾고 있는 상황이었습니다. 학과장 역시 제가 KAIST에 입학하던 2012년까지 그곳에서 교수직을 맡고 계셨던 분이었고, 현재 저와 가장 많은 논의를 나누는 동료 연구그룹장 또한 과거 국제학술대회에서 교류한 인연이 있었기에, 연구적 친연성은 물론, 개인적인 신뢰 기반도 존재했습니다. 비록 연구 장비와 기반이 완전히 구축되어 있지 않다는 단점은 있었지만, 학과의 지원 아래 이를 직접 구성해 나갈 수 있다는 점을 오히려 긍정적으로 받아들였습니다. 특히, TUD-ILR에서 다루는 연구 주제들이 제가 해외 포닥을 결심한 이유 즉, 실용성보다는 학문적 흥미와 창의성이 강조되는 연구와 정확히 맞아떨어졌기에, 지원을 결정하는 데 오랜 시간이 걸리지 않았고, 제안 수일 후 곧바로 온라인 미팅을 진행하게 되었습니다.

온라인 미팅에서는 연구그룹의 현재 연구 현황과 향후 로드맵, 팀 내에서 포닥으로서 기대되는 역할 및 협력 방식에 대해 상세히 안내받았습니다. 가장 중요한 부분은 예산 관련 사항이었는데, 당시에는 저를 위한 인건비 예산이 확보되어 있지 않았기에, 새롭게 연구 과제를 함께 기획하고 신청하자는 제안을 받게 되었습니다. 자리를 제안받은 입장에서 다소 당황스러울 수 있었던 상황이었지만, 독일 내 다수의 박사후연구원이 유사한 조건에서 출발한다는 점을 감안하여 자연스럽게 펀딩 소스에 대한 논의로 이어졌습니다. TUD-ILR 측에서는 MSCA-PF를 비롯해 DAAD(BMBF) 펀딩, 훔볼트 펠로우십(Humboldt Fellowship) 등을 제안하였고, 이 중 MSCA-PF는 지원 규모와 기간 면에서 가장 유리했으며, 마침 제출 기한도 가까웠기에 해당 펀딩을 선택하게 되었습니다. 특히, 저의 경우 배우자와 곧 태어날 아이와 함께 독일로 이주해야 했기 때문에, 가장 안정적인 재정 지원이 가능한 MSCA-PF가 최적의 선택이라고 판단했습니다.

드레스덴공과대학교에는 교내의 European Project Center (EPC)라는 전담 기관이 있어, 유럽 내 연구 펀딩 프로그램 신청을 적극적으로 지원하고 있습니다. EPC는 MSCA-PF 제안서 제출 약 3개월 전에 유망한 주제를 제시한 지원자를 대상으로 3일에 걸쳐 Masterclass 프로그램을 운영하며, 이를 통해 과제 구조 전반에 대한 이해, 최근 선정 사례 공유, 평가자의 관점에서의 제안서 작성 전략 등을 체계적으로 안내합니다. 저 역시 MSCA-PF에 대해 전혀 알지 못한 상태에서 참여하게 되었지만, Masterclass를 통해 최근 수혜자의 제안서와

실제 평가 피드백을 열람할 수 있었고, 이는 제안서 구체화에 있어 실질적인 참고자료로 매우 유용하게 활용되었습니다. 또한, 프로그램 참여자 한 명당 EPC 행정 담당자가 개별로 배치되어, 제안서 작성 초기부터 제출까지 밀도 있는 실무적 지원을 받을 수 있었습니다.

연구 주제의 경우 연구그룹장과 수많은 온라인 미팅을 통해 저의 경험과 연구 그룹이 보유하고 있는 기술, 경력과 시설을 백분 활용하며 독창적일 수 있는 주제로 설정하였습니다. TUD-ILR의 화학추진기관 연구 그룹은 에어로스파이크(Aerospike)라는 차세대 노즐 형태를 활용한 로켓 엔진을 중점으로 연구를 수행하고 있으며, 또다른 특징으로는 금속 및 세라믹 적층제조(Additive Manufacturing) 방식을 적극적으로 채용한다는 특징이 있습니다. 적층제조 기술을 활용한 로켓 엔진의 대량 · 고속 · 저비용 생산 방식은 우주추진 분야의 차세대 핵심 기술로 주목받고 있으며, 드레스덴 소재의 Fraunhofer IKT와 IWS 연구소와의 적극적인 협력을 통해 앞선 적층제조 방식을 로켓 엔진에 적용할 수 있다는 점을 TUD-ILR의 강점으로 판단, 이를 연구 주제로 결정하였습니다.



EPC에서 준비한 Masterclass의 발표 자료 중 일부 발췌. 과제에 대한 설명과 제안서 평가 방식, 수혜자와 (전)평가원의 발표로 구성되어 있어 처음 MSCA-PF를 접하는 사람도 제안서 작성에 대한 정보를 폭넓게 얻을 수 있다.

제안서 작성 기간은 제출 마감일인 9월 중순까지 약 3개월을 계획하였으나, KAIST 기계기술연구소에서의 시험 일정과 개인적인 사정으로 인해 대부분의 작업은 마지막 1개월 안에 집중적으로 이루어졌습니다. Masterclass 프로그램에서 안내 받은 내용을 바탕으로, 전체 작성 시간의 대부분은 Part B1 작성에 투입 하였습니다. Part B1은 연구 목적, 방법론, 영향력, 역량 등을 매우 구체적으로 기술해야 하며, 요구 항목 중 일부라도 생략되거나 설명이 부족하다고 판단되면 평가에서 감점 요소가 됩니다. 패널에 따라 다소 차이는 있지만, MSCA-PF 평가에서 최종 커트라인은 100점 만점 기준 90점대 중반에서 형성되는 경우가 많아, 실질적으로는 MSCA-PF 선발 과정은 감점을 최대한 줄이는 경쟁이라고 할 수 있습니다.

이 점에서 Part B1의 각 항목을 제한된 10페이지 분량 안에 모두 포함시키는 작업은 가장 큰 도전이었습니다. 우선 제안서에 담고 싶은 내용을 모두 작성을 한 뒤 문장을 수정해가며 분량을 줄이고, 최대한 글을 도표와 그림으로 대체하는 작업을 수행하였습니다. 한정된 공간 안에서 풍부한 정보를 담되, 제안서가 일목요연하고 가독성 높게 구성되어야 하며, 동시에 해당 분야에 익숙하지 않은 평가자에게도 명확한 인상을 남길 수 있도록 노력하였습니다. 이 과정에서 EPC가 제공한 다양한 작성 가이드라인과 과거 사례는 매우 실질적인 도움이 되었습니다. 반면, Part A와 Part B2는 비교적 간단한 행정 양식이었으며, 제안서 본문 작성이 완료된 후 EPC 담당자가 모든 서류를 종합적으로 점검한 뒤 EU Funding & Tenders Portal을 통해 제출하였습니다. 덕분에 저는 제안서 내용 작성에만 전념할 수 있었고, 행정적인 부분에 대한 부담은 최소화할 수 있었습니다.

Panel	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC
Europ. Fellow (all)	1062	123	1052	896	1672	163	847	1624
Retained for funding	148	17	143	123	230	23	119	222
EF score Pt	92.8	92.0	92.8	93.6	94.4	92.4	92.2	93.6
Success rate %	13.94	13.82	13.59	13.73	13.76	14.11	14.05	13.67
Global Fellows (all)	65	9	70	119	119	13	69	344
Retained for funding	11	2	11	19	19	2	11	56
GF score Pt	92.0	83.8	95.0	95.8	95.8	92.0	94.2	92.8
Success rate %	16.92	22.22	15.71	15.97	15.97	15.38	15.94	16.28

2021년도 MSCA-PF 패널별 지원자 수 및 합격 비율

2023년 2월 중순, MSCA-PF 제안서 평가 결과가 발표되었고, 저는 평가 점수 91.2점으로 대기자 순번에 포함된 것을 확인하였습니다. 제가 지원한 공학계열(ENG) 패널의 커트라인은 약 92점대 중반이었고, 경쟁이 치열한 것으로 알려진 생명과학(LIF) 패널 등은 95점 이상으로 기억합니다. MSCA-PF에서는 선발자 숫자의 일정 비율의 지원자를 대기 인원으로 선정하여, 최종 합격자가 펀딩 수령을 포기할 경우 해당 패널의 대기자 순번에 따라 펀딩 기회가 제공되는 구조입니다. 대기자에게는 본인의 정확한 순번이나 컷오프 점수가 공식적으로 제공되지는 않지만, 각국의 National Contact Points(NCP)에서 제공하는 정보를 종합하면 어느 정도의 위치를 유추할 수 있습니다.

제가 지원했던 2022년도에는 영국의 브렉시트 이후 Horizon Europe 프로그램에서의 지위가 불확실했던 시기로, 다수의 영국 소재 대학·기관 소속 지원자들이 제안서를 제출하였고, 일부는 최종 합격자로 선정되었습니다. 그러나 당시 EU와 영국 간의 협상이 지연되면서, 이들 영국 기관 소속 합격자에게는 실제 MSCA-PF 펀딩이 지급되지 않았고(이들은 UKRI 펀딩으로 대체 수혜), 이에 따라 대기자 명단에 있던 연구자들에게 순차적으로 펀딩 기회가 주어졌습니다. 저 역시 TUD EPC 담당자를 통해 영국 기관 소속 합격자의 수와 제 순번을 파악하고 있었기 때문에, 특별한 외교적 합의가 없는 한 제게도 펀딩이 돌아올 가능성이 높다고 판단하고 있었습니다. 결국 2023년 6월, 공식 채널을 통해 펀딩 수여가 확정되었다는 통보를 받았습니다.



MSCA-PF에서 일정 점수 이상이 되면 합격되지 않더라도 Seal of Excellence라는 증서를 수여받습니다.
 이를 기반으로 유럽 내 타 대학에서 포닥 자리를 조금 더 수월하게 지원할 수 있는 것 같습니다.
 제 경우는 대기자로 선정 후 합격이 되어 Seal of Excellence를 받았지만,
 바로 합격하신 분들도 받는지는 확실하지 않습니다.

3 성공 팁 및 신청시 유의사항

선정 과정에서 Part B1이 제일 중요하기 때문에, 해당 항목의 작성 팁을 몇가지 작성해보도록 하겠습니다. MSCA-PF의 제안서 Part B1은 Excellence, Impact, Implementation 세 가지 평가 기준으로 구성되어 있습니다. 이 세 항목은 각각 명확한 기준을 가지고 평가되기 때문에, 작성 시 각 항목의 특징을 정확히 이해하고 접근해야 합니다.

우선 Excellence(탁월성) 항목을 작성할 때는 다음의 네 가지 주요 평가 요소에 집중해야 합니다. 첫째, 연구와 혁신 목표의 품질 및 관련성입니다. 목표는 명확히 정의되고, 현재의 기술 수준을 뛰어넘는 창의적이고 도전적인 것이어야 합니다. 제안서에 목표를 구체적으로 번호화(O1, O2 등)하고, 목표 간의 논리적 연결을 잘 보여주는 것이 중요합니다. 관련 그래프나 도식(WP 간 상호작용)을 활용하면 심사자의 이해도를 높일 수 있습니다. 제안서 작성 시 본문의 폰트 종류나 크기에 대한 지침은 명확히 정해져 있지만, 그림이나 도표 내부에 포함된 텍스트에 대해서는 별도의 지침이 없습니다. 따라서 그림과 도표 내 텍스트를 전략적으로 활용하면, 제한된 10페이지 분량 안에 최대한 많은 내용을 효과적으로 포함시킬 수 있습니다.

둘째, 방법론의 적합성과 타당성입니다. 연구 목표 달성을 위해 구체적인 방법을 제시하고, 다양한 학문 분야를 융합하는 융합적 접근법을 분명히 드러내야 합니다. 특히 젠더 차원(gender dimension)을 반드시 고려해야 하며, 연구 데이터 관리 및 Open Science 관행(FAIR 원칙: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)을 적극적으로 반영하는 것이 요구됩니다. 제 연구의 경우 로켓 엔진에 관한 연구로 젠더 평등과 연관성이 없었지만, 본문 내 이를 명시하는 문장을 추가하여 감점의 여지를 없앴습니다.

셋째, 연구자의 경험과 역량의 적합성입니다. 자신의 기존 연구 경력과 성과, 국제적인 경험 및 네트워크를 구체적으로 설명하고, 본 연구 프로젝트를 수행하기에 자신이 왜 최적의 연구자인지 설득력 있게 작성합니다. 단, 연구자의 자세한 이력은 Part B2에 있으므로 Part B1에서는 간략하면서도 핵심적인 정보만 담아야 합니다.

넷째, 지도(supervision) 및 양방향 지식 전수의 품질입니다. 지도교수(supervisor)의 연구 실적과 경험을 구체적인 수치(H-index, 프로젝트 수 등)를 통해 제시하고, 지도 체계(정기적인 미팅, 커리어 개발 계획 등)를 명확히 설명합니다. 특히, 연구자 본인이 호스트 기관에 어떤 독특한 전문성을 제공할 수 있는지, 반대로 호스트 기관으로부터 어떤 새로운 지식과 역량을 얻을 수 있는지 분명하게 기술해야 합니다. 만약 저와 같은 상황에서 학과장을 Supervisor로, 연구그룹장을 Co-supervisor로 설정할 계획이라면, 제안서에서 차라리 Co-supervisor를 별도로 서술하지 않는 편이 유리할 수도 있습니다. 제 경우에는 Co-supervisor가 비교적 최근에 교수직을 시작한 단계였기 때문에 학과장과 상대적으로 비교하여 연구 실적이 적어 보일 수밖에 없었습니다. 절대적인 실적이 부족한 것이 아니라 상대적인 비교에 따른 것이었음에도 불구하고, 평가 과정에서 이를 근거로 감점이 이루어졌습니다.

다음은 Impact(영향) 항목입니다. 이 항목은 연구자의 향후 커리어 발전, 연구 결과의 전파 및 활용 계획, 그리고 유럽 및 국제 사회에 대한 폭넓은 영향력 등을 평가합니다. 연구자의 구체적인 커리어 목표를 설정하고, 펠로우십 활동이 해당 목표 달성에 실질적으로 어떻게 기여할지 구체적이고 명확하게 서술해야 합니다. 특히, 학술적인 전파(논문 출판, 학회 참가 등)뿐 아니라 일반 대중(SNS 등을 활용한) 및 정책 결정자와 같은 다양한 이해관계자에게 연구 결과를 효과적으로 알리는 커뮤니케이션 전략을 구체적으로 제시해야 합니다. 또한 지식재산권(IPR) 관리 전략과 결과물의 상업적 활용 및 기술 이전 가능성까지 고려하여 기술해야 합니다. 지식재산권의 경우 해당되지 않는 연구자분들이 많을 수 있다고 생각합니다. 본인의 연구 주제가 특허 등록에 걸맞지 않다고 판단 하시거나 일반 대중을 위한 소통이 힘들 것 같다고 생각하셔도, 계획이 없다고 언급하는 순간 감점될 수 있습니다. 어떻게든 제안서에서 요구되는 항목들에 대해(구체적이지 않더라도) 계획안을 작성 하시는 것을 추천 드립니다.

마지막으로 Implementation(이행) 항목은 연구 수행 계획의 효율성과 현실성, 리스크 관리 전략, 호스트 기관의 역량과 연구 환경의 우수성을 평가합니다. 최대 6개의 작업 패키지(work package, WP)로 프로젝트를 구성 하되, 과도하게 세분화되지 않도록 주의합니다. 연구 WP 외에도 관리(management), 훈련(training), 전파(dissemination), 소통(communication) 등을 포함해야 합니다. 각 WP의 일정과 마일스톤, 산출물(deliverable)을 포함한 간트 차트를 필수적으로 제시해야 하며, 각 작업에 배정된 기간 및 인력투입량(person-month)을 명확히 기술하여 계획의 타당성을 입증해야 합니다. 특히, 연구 및 행정적인 리스크를 철저히 분석하고 그에 따른 구체적인 대안을 제시하지 않으면 심사에서 큰 약점으로 지적될 수 있으므로 주의해야 합니다.

1 우수성 (Excellence)

1. 연구와 혁신 목표의 품질 및 관련성

- 목표는 명확히 정의되고 도전적이어야 함
- 현재 기술 수준을 뛰어넘는 창의적 접근 필요
- 목표 번호화(O1, O2 등)로 구조적 명확성 강화
- WP 간 상호작용을 도식이나 그래프로 시각화
- 도표와 그림 내 텍스트는 효과적 정보 전달 수단

2. 방법론의 적합성과 타당성

- 구체적인 연구 방법 제시
- 융합적 접근법 강조(다학제적 시각)
- 젠더 차원(gender dimension) 고려 필요
- 연구 데이터 관리와 Open Science 관행(FAIR 원칙) 반영
- 관련성이 낮더라도 감점 방지를 위해 명시적 언급 필요

3. 연구자의 경험과 역량

- 기존 연구 경력 및 국제적 경험 강조
- Part B1은 간략하지만 핵심 정보만 포함
- 연구자가 해당 프로젝트의 최적임임을 설득

4. 지도 및 양방향 지식 전수의 품질

- 지도교수의 연구 실적 및 경험(H-index, 프로젝트 수) 명시
- 지도 체계(정기 미팅, 커리어 개발 계획 등) 명확히 기술
- 호스트 기관으로부터의 지식 전수와 본인의 기여도 명확히 설명
- Co-supervisor 선택 시 상대적 연구 실적 고려 필요

2 파급력 (Impact)

1. 커리어 발전 및 연구 결과 전파

- 구체적이고 실질적인 커리어 목표 설정
- 펠로우십이 커리어 목표 달성에 기여하는 방식 명확히 기술
- 학술적 전파(논문, 학회 참가)와 일반 대중 대상 소통 전략 포함
- 다양한 이해관계자(정책 결정자 등)와의 효과적 소통 계획

2. 지식재산권(IPR) 및 기술 이전

- IPR 관리 전략 명시(특허, 상업적 활용 가능성)
- 계획이 없는 경우라도 감점 방지를 위해 대안적 계획 제시

3 이행 (Implementation)

1. 연구 수행 계획의 효율성과 현실성

- 최대 6개의 작업 패키지(WP)로 구성(과도한 세분화 지양)
- 관리, 훈련, 전파, 소통 포함한 WP 구성
- 간트 차트를 통한 일정, 마일스톤, 산출물 제시
- 각 WP에 배정된 기간, 인력투입량(person-month) 명확히 기술

2. 리스크 관리 전략

- 연구 및 행정적 리스크 철저 분석
- 구체적인 대안 제시 필요(감점 방지)

앞서 언급한 바와 같이, 성공적인 제안서를 작성하는 것은 평가 과정에서 감점 요인을 최소화하는 것과 같은 의미를 가집니다. 감점은 주로 평가 항목에서 요구하는 내용이 제안서에 명확히 기재되지 않았거나 불충분하다고 평가될 때 발생합니다. 여기서 특히 유의할 점은 제안서에 대한 평가가 항상 완벽히 객관적이거나 일관되게 이루어지지 않는다는 점입니다. 전 세계의 MSCA-PF 지원자들이 모이는 여러 웹 커뮤니티(예: Facebook 그룹 또는 Talk Academia 웹사이트)에서는, 평가 과정의 비객관성이나 평가자들이 때때로 부정확한 감점을 부여한다는 점이 반복적으로 제기되고 있습니다. 저 역시 일부 평가 항목의 내용을 명확히 제안서에 기술했음에도, ‘충분히’ 언급되지 않았다는 이유로 감점을 받은 경험이 있습니다.

구체적으로 예를 들어, 특허 활용 계획을 묻는 질문에 대해 저는 ‘연구 주제의 특성상 근미래에 실용화 가능성이 낮아 특허를 신청하더라도 빠른 시일 내 활용하기 어렵다’고 현실적으로 답했으나, 평가자는 이 부분을 불충분하다고 판단하여 감점을 부여했습니다. 즉, 제안서 평가 과정에서는 ‘어떤 방식으로든 특허를 제출하여 실용화하겠다’는 식의 적극적인 대답을 제시해야만 감점을 피할 수 있는 현실적인 허점이 존재하는 것입니다. 다른 예시로는 Gender Dimension and Other Diversity Aspects 항목에 대한 언급입니다. 제 연구 주제의 경우 로켓 엔진을 중점으로 하기에 연구 주제에서 성 평등을 고려하기 어려우나, 아래 제 제안서에서 발췌한 것 처럼 적용이 힘들다는 점을 최대한 잘 서술하는 것이 중요합니다.

1.2.3 Gender Dimension and Other Diversity Aspects

The research content was analyzed for the need for a gender dimension using the checklist from Gendered Innovations²⁹, which was found to be not applicable. There are no biological characteristics or social/cultural features in the research itself, and the results are not expected to affect different sexes and genders differently. The research content was further analyzed for diversity aspects, social categories, and identities, such as ethnicity and race, social class and wealth, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, and found none applicable.

MSCA-PF 제안서 중 Gender Dimension and Other Diversity Aspects 부분에 작성한 내용을 발췌

뿐만 아니라, 평가자들이 수많은 지원자의 제안서를 검토하는 과정에서 실수로 기재된 내용을 제대로 확인하지 못해 감점하는 경우도 종종 발생합니다. 이와 같은 문제는 매우 불합리하다고 느낄 수 있지만, 역설적으로 이러한 점을 미리 인지하고 있으면 선제적 조치를 통해 평가 과정에서 유리한 위치를 점할 수 있습니다. 감점 방지를 위한 구체적인 팁으로는, 제안서에서 필수적으로 요구되는 항목에 대한 답변을 굵은 글씨체(bold)로 강조하거나, 각 항목의 첫 문장에 평가자가 빠르고 직관적으로 이해할 수 있는 명료한 문장을 배치하는 방법 등이 있습니다. 이러한 전략을 통해 평가자가 중요한 정보를 놓치는 상황을 최소화하고, 명확하고 간결한 형태로 제안서를 구성할 수 있습니다.

4 성공 팁 및 신청시 유의사항

저는 첫 번째로 알아보고 신청해본 펀딩 프로그램이 MSCA-PF이었고, 별도의 펀딩을 지원하지 않았습니다. 따라서 기타 펀딩과의 차별점을 알려드리기는 어렵지만, 대신 제가 느낀 MSCA-PF 펀딩의 장점을 몇가지 소개드리도록 하겠습니다. 가장 실질적으로 체감할 수 있는 부분은 지원금 규모입니다. MSCA-PF는 펀딩 규모와 지원 기간 측면에서 다른 펀딩들에 비해 매우 후한 편으로 알려져 있으며, 최대 2년 동안 연구자에게 안정적인 급여와 별도의 연구비를 지원하여 연구에 전념할 수 있는 환경을 제공합니다. 특히, 수혜자가 가족과 함께 해외에서 유럽 국가로 이동하는 경우에는 (국가별 약간의 차이는 있지만) Living allowance, Mobility allowance, Family allowance를 각각 5,080유로, 600유로, 660유로로 책정하여, 세전 기준 총 6,340유로를 매월 수령할 수 있습니다. 제 경우 세금과 호스트 기관 부담금 등을 공제하고, 아동 수당까지 포함하면 약 4,000유로에 조금 못 미치는 금액을 실제로 수령하고 있습니다. 일반적으로 유럽 내 포닥 급여 수준으로는 적지 않다고 평가되지만, 최근 독일 내 월세 상승, 식료품 물가 급등 등을 고려하면 생활에 여유가 있는 수준은 아닙니다. 연구비는 매월 1,000유로씩, 24개월 동안 총 24,000유로를 지원받게 되며, 이를 통해 학회 출장비, 논문 게재료, 소규모 실험비 등에 활용할 수 있습니다. 절대적인 액수로는 크지 않지만, 포닥 기간 동안 요구되는 연구 실적을 달성하는 데 있어 학회 참가나 논문 출판에 있어 경제적 부담을 크게 덜어주는 수준이라고 할 수 있습니다. 또한, 학교 정책에 따라 차이가 있을 수 있으나, Management and Overheads 항목으로 매월 650유로씩, 24개월 동안 총 7,800유로가 소속 기관에 지원됩니다. 제가 소속된 드레스덴공과대학교(TUD)의 경우, 이 중 절반을 연구자가 필요한 경우 사용할 수 있도록 허용하고 있어, 추가 연구 활동이나 장비 구매 등에 유용하게 활용할 수 있었습니다.

또 다른 장점은 과제 시작 시점을 유연하게 조정할 수 있다는 점입니다. 저는 2022년도에 MSCA-PF 과제를 신청하여 선정되었지만, 당시 참여하고 있던 초소형위성 군집 시스템의 발사가 2024년 4월로 예정되어 있었고, 막 태어난 아기가 안정적으로 장거리 비행을 하고 새로운 환경에 적응할 수 있도록 고려하여, 생후 6개월이 되는 시점인 2024년 5월에 과제 시작을 결정하였습니다. MSCA-PF는 과제 신청 시점으로부터 최대 2년 이내에 과제를 시작할 수 있도록 허용하고 있습니다. 이 덕분에 지원자가 기존에 재직 중인 기관에서 수행 중이던 프로젝트를 마무리하거나, 개인적인 사정에 따라 과제 시작 시점을 조정할 수 있는 유연성을 확보할 수 있습니다. 이러한 제도는 연구자 입장에서 경력 관리와 생활 환경 변화에 대응하는 데 있어 큰 장점으로 작용합니다. MSCA-PF 펀딩 자체가 향후 연구 경력이나 국제 협력 기회를 직접적으로 보장해주는 것은 아닙니다. 그러나 MSCA-PF 수혜 사실은 연구자에게 좋은 첫 인상을 심어주는 데 있어 분명한 도움이 됩니다. 그럼에도 불구하고, 가장 중요한 것은 결국 연구자 개인의 역량과 지속적인 노력이라고 생각합니다.

MSCA-PF 수혜자들은 대체로 높은 수준의 연구 역량과 성실성을 갖추고 있으며, 이러한 요소들이 좋은 연구성과로 이어진다고 생각합니다. 특히 주목할 점은, MSCA-PF 수혜 경력이 ERC Starting Grant(ERC StG) 신청 시 매우 긍정적인 평가 요소로 작용한다는 점입니다. 박사후연구원 과정을 마친 이후에도 유럽 학계에서 연구를 계속 이어가고자 하는 연구자라면, 후속 연구 과제 확보에 대한 고민이 많을 것으로 예상되며, 그중 가장 유망한 경로 중 하나가 ERC에서 제공하는 Starting Grant입니다. 본 기고문에서는 ERC StG 과제에 대한 자세한 소개는 생략하지만, 관련 Masterclass에서 제공된 안내에 따르면, MSCA-PF 수혜 기록이 Starting Grant 심사서에서 의미 있는 가산점으로 작용할 수 있다는 점이 강조되었습니다. 이를 참고하여 장기적인 연구 경로를 설계하시는 데 활용하시면 좋을 것 같습니다.

5 유럽에서의 연구 경험

유럽에서의 연구 환경과 분위기는 물론 한국과 많은 차이를 보이지만, 이는 국가나 대륙 차원보다는 각 연구실 별로 차이가 더 크게 나타나는 것 같습니다. 현재 제가 소속된 드레스덴공과대학교 항공우주공학과(TUD-ILR)에서 경험하는 연구 문화도, 같은 독일 임에도 과거 방문연구원으로 체류했던 DLR 우주추진연구소에서 느꼈던 분위기와는 상당히 다릅니다. 이러한 경험을 통해, 유럽이라는 대륙이나 독일이라는 국가만으로 연구 환경의 특성을 일반화하거나 특정짓기는 어렵다는 생각을 하게 되었습니다. 이에 따라, 본 글에서는 제가 개인적으로 느낀 몇 가지 주요 특징을 간략히 나열해보고자 합니다.

독일 도착 이후 수많은 연구 그룹과 교류하며, 새로운 연구 주제를 논의하고 과제 신청을 함께 모색하는 기회를 얻을 수 있었습니다. 현재 제가 소속된 연구 그룹에서는 대부분 과제가 2년 정도의 단기 과제로 구성되어 있으며, 과제 종료 시 박사과정 학생들의 인건비 확보가 어려워지는 구조입니다. 이에 따라 박사과정 학생들이 학위를 계속 이어가기 위해서는 연구 그룹 차원에서 지속적으로 새로운 과제를 수주해야 합니다. 유럽 내에서는 서로 이해관계가 맞는 여러 연구 그룹이 모여 새로운 아이디어를 발굴하고, 이를 바탕으로 공동 제안서를 작성하여 과제를 신청하는 과정이 반복적으로 이루어지고 있습니다. 물론 MSCA-PF 수혜자에게는 제안서 작성이나 과제 수주에 대한 의무가 부여되지는 않으며, 원칙적으로는 본인의 연구에 집중하면 됩니다. 그러나 저는 이번 기회를 활용하여 유럽 내 다양한 연구 그룹과 인연을 쌓고, 그들의 아이디어를 듣고 제 아이디어를 설명하며 논의해보고자 하는 개인적인 목표를 가지고 이러한 미팅에 지속적으로 참여하였습니다. 제 연구 분야는 전 세계적으로 연구 인력이 매우 한정되어 있어, 지금 형성된 인연이 앞으로의 연구 커리어 동안 소중한 자산이 될 것이라 기대하고 있습니다.

한편, 앞서 언급한 과제의 지속적 수주 구조는 예상치 못한 문제를 야기할 수 있습니다. 저는 현재 제 연구 주제에 관심이 있는 몇몇 박사과정 학생들과 함께 연구를 수행하고 있지만, 소수의 학생은 새로운 과제 수주 실패와 기존 과제 종료로 인해 인건비 조달이 불가능해져 학위를 중단해야 하는 상황에 처하기도 하였습니다. 이로 인해 저는 과제 진행 일정을 급격한 인력 변동에 맞추어 재조정해야 하는 상황을 겪었고, 이는 한국에서는 쉽게 예상하지 못했던 리스크였습니다. 따라서, 박사과정 학생들의 도움을 받을 계획이 있는 연구자라면 갑작스러운 인력 변동 가능성을 리스크로 인식하고, 이를 대비하는 방안을 제안서 작성과 연구 일정 계획에 반영할 것을 권장드립니다. 현재 제가 소속된 연구 그룹은 재택근무(home-office)에 대한 제한이 없어, 연구원 각자가 자율적으로 출근 여부를 결정할 수 있습니다. 2주에 한 번 진행되는 연구 그룹 미팅에 대해서는 대면 참여를 권장하지만, 온라인으로 참여하는 것도 허용되고 있습니다. 덕분에 실험이나 실험 준비가 없는 날에는 재택근무를 할 수 있는 장점이 있지만, 반대로 업무와 가정이 자연스럽게 엮이면서 업무 집중도가 떨어지는 경우도 발생합니다. 또한 연구원들이 모두 출근하는 날이 드물다 보니, 짧은 휴식 시간 동안 자연스럽게 이루어지는 연구 관련 논의가 줄어드는 아쉬움도 있습니다.

유럽 국가들의 근로 문화에 대해서는 이미 많은 경로를 통해 알려져 있지만, 제가 속한 드레스덴공과대학교 항공우주공학과(TUD-ILR)의 경우, 연간 약 30일의 공식 휴가가 보장되어 있습니다. 이를 주말과 연결해 활용하면 약 1달 반 가량을 휴가로 사용할 수 있습니다. 가족과 함께 보내는 시간이 늘어난다는 점은 큰 장점이지만, 반대로 모든 연구원이 동시에 장기 휴가를 떠나는 시기에는 연구 진행이 다소 지연될 수 있습니다. 예를 들어, 출장비 환급 신청 후 실제 입금까지 약 2달 반이 소요된 사례가 있었으며, 부품 구매 시에도 세 개 이상의 제품을

비교하여 문서화하고 별도의 승인을 거쳐야 하는 등 행정 절차가 상당히 복잡하고 시간이 걸리는 편입니다. 독일 특유의 이러한 행정적 비효율성을 고려할 때, 연구 일정은 다소 여유를 두고 설정하는 것이 현실적이라고 판단됩니다. 다만, 모든 독일 연구원들이 느긋하고 비효율적으로 일하는 것은 아니며, 제 소속 연구 그룹장의 경우 휴가 중에도 메일과 메시지를 신속히 답변하는 등 빠른 대응을 보여주기도 했습니다. 결국 연구 환경은 연구실마다, 사람마다 다를 수 있다는 점을 체감하고 있습니다.

유럽 현지 생활 적응에 대한 조언을 드리자면, 연구 시간을 제외하고 대부분 가족과 함께 시간을 보내는 경우가 일반적인 사례로 참고될 수 있을지는 모르겠습니다. 다만, 독일은 어린 아이와 생활하기에 매우 좋은 환경을 갖추고 있습니다. 도심 주변에 드넓은 자연 공간이 잘 조성되어 있어 아이와 함께 산책하거나 야외 활동을 하기에 적합하며, 기후도 지나치게 덥거나 춥지 않아 육아 만족도가 높습니다. 대중교통 역시 유모차를 가지고 이용하기 편리하여, 도시 내 이동에는 별도의 자가용이 필요하지 않았습니다. 다만, 도시간 이동이나 휴가를 계획할 경우에는 입국 후 6개월이 지나면 독일 운전면허증이 필요하므로, 연구자 비자를 수령한 뒤 가급적 빨리 면허증 발급 절차를 시작하시는 것을 추천드립니다.

참고로, 저는 구 동독 지역에 거주하고 있어 독일 전역에 동일하게 적용될 수 있는지는 확실하지 않지만, 식재료 가격은 한국에 비해 다소 저렴한 편입니다. 가족과 함께 주로 집에서 식사를 하신다면 생활비를 상당히 절감할 수 있습니다. 다만, 최근 독일 전역에서 월세가 급격히 상승하고 있는 상황이므로, 재택근무가 가능한 연구 환경이라면 도심 외곽에 거주하는 것도 좋은 대안이 될 수 있습니다. 다만 외곽으로 이동할수록 대중교통 인프라가 약해질 수 있으니, 이 점을 신중히 고려하여 거주지를 결정하시기를 권장드립니다.

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향후 계획 / 기타 조언 / 하고싶은 말 / 마무리

MSCA-PF에 지원을 준비하고 계신 많은 연구자분들께 진심 어린 응원의 말씀을 전하고 싶습니다. 제안서 작성부터 최종 결과를 기다리는 긴 여정은 분명 쉽지 않은 과정이지만, 그 과정에서 얻는 고민과 성장 자체가 연구자로서의 큰 자산이 된다는 것을 직접 체감하였습니다. 단순히 수혜 여부에 연연하기보다는, 본인의 연구 주제와 경력을 다시 한번 점검하고 앞으로의 연구 방향을 구체화하는 기회로 삼으신다면, 지원 자체만으로도 큰 의미를 가지게 될 것이라 생각합니다.

앞서 기고문 전반에서도 언급하였지만, MSCA-PF 선정 여부를 가르는 중요한 요소 몇 가지를 다시 한번 짚어드리고자 합니다. 첫째, 제안서의 모든 항목은 명확하고 구체적으로 언급되어야 하며, 평가자가 놓치지 않도록 구조적으로 정리하는 것이 중요합니다. 둘째, 제안서 내용이 과학적 기여뿐만 아니라 연구자의 커리어 발전 계획과 호스트 기관과의 상호 보완성을 충분히 설명할 수 있도록 구성되어야 합니다. 셋째, 평가 과정이 항상 완벽히 객관적이지 않을 수 있다는 점을 감안하여, 필요한 내용은 강조하고, 주요 메시지는 반복적으로 명확히 전달하는 전략적 접근이 필요합니다.

끝으로, MSCA-PF는 단순한 연구비 지원을 넘어, 유럽 내 연구 커뮤니티의 일원이 되어 장기적인 연구 커리어를 확장할 수 있는 소중한 발판이 될 수 있습니다. 제 경험이 비슷한 길을 걷고자 하는 연구자분들께 작은 참고가 되기를 바라며, 모든 지원자 여러분이 각자의 자리에서 좋은 결과를 얻고, 값진 연구 여정을 이어나가시기를 진심으로 기원합니다.

Introduction to EURAXESS Korea

작성자 : Dr. Tomasz Wierzbowski

EURAXESS Korea is operated Dr. Tomasz Wierzbowski – he can be reached at korea@euraxess.net.

EURAXESS Korea Office:

Foreign Language Training and Testing Center #413

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

107 Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 02450

**Introduction to
EURAXESS Korea**

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What is EURAXESS

"EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion" is a pan-European initiative backed by the European Commission that aims to support the development of the European Research Area (ERA) by addressing barriers to the mobility of researchers, and to enhance scientific collaboration between Europe and the world.

EURAXESS is supported by 47 participating countries across Europe (EU member states and countries within the Horizon Europe Associated Countries list). Designed as a comprehensive toolset, it provides researchers with a complete range of information and support services that are structured around four areas: the network of services for researchers, the European portal, the national portals and EURAXESS Worldwide.

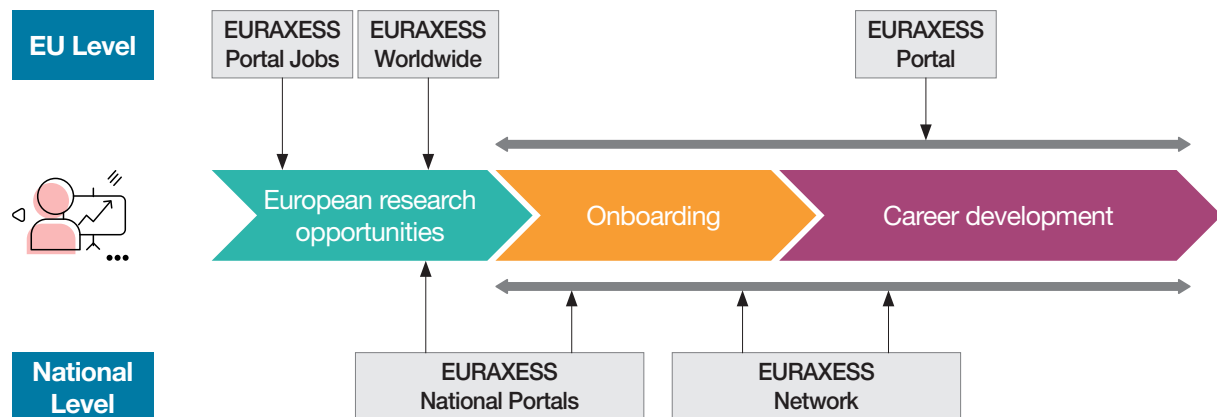
The European portal (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>) provides a single access point for career development resources and a database of jobs, funding and hosting opportunities in Europe.

It is complemented by 47 national portals with country-specific information on the conditions of living and working in European countries as a researcher. The EURAXESS network also provides personalised assistance to incoming and outgoing researchers through more than 600 Service Centres in Europe.

The international arm of the EURAXESS initiative, EURAXESS Worldwide bridges Europe to the rest of the world through its 9 hubs outside of Europe (Africa, Australia and New Zealand, ASEAN, China, India, Japan, Latin American and Caribbean States, North America and Korea).

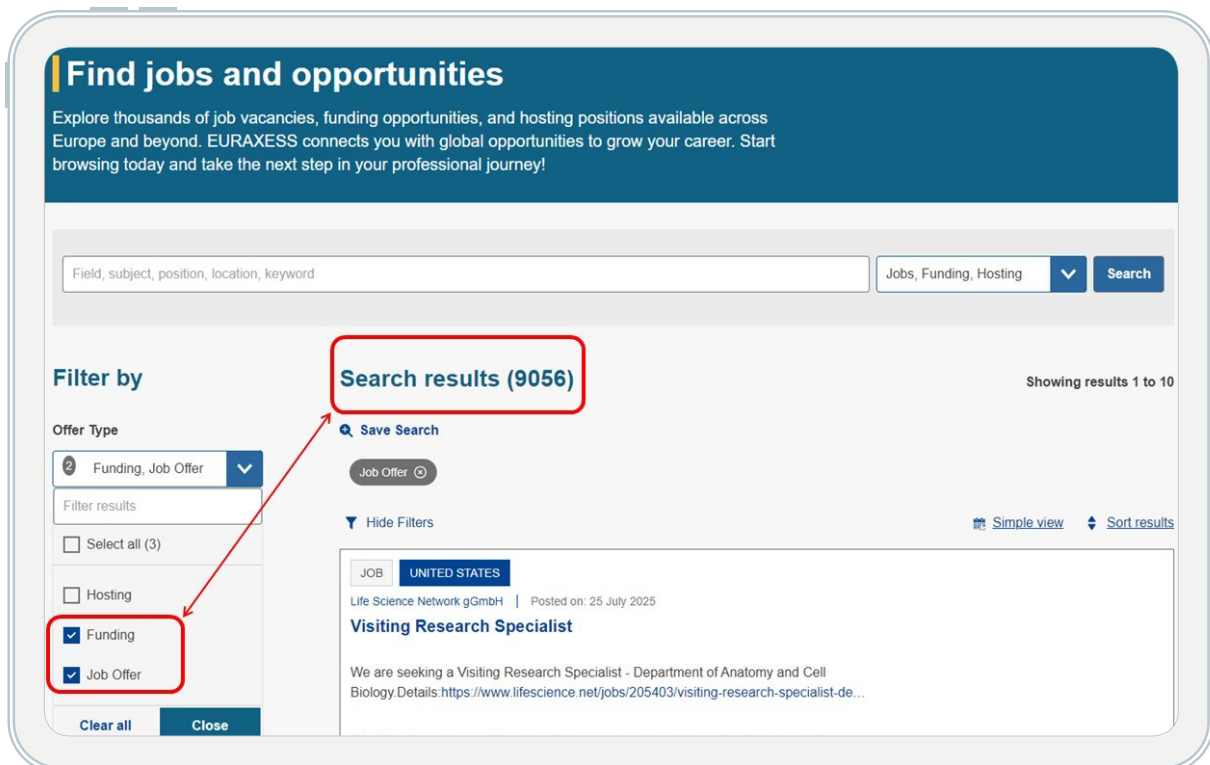


The tools of EURAXESS

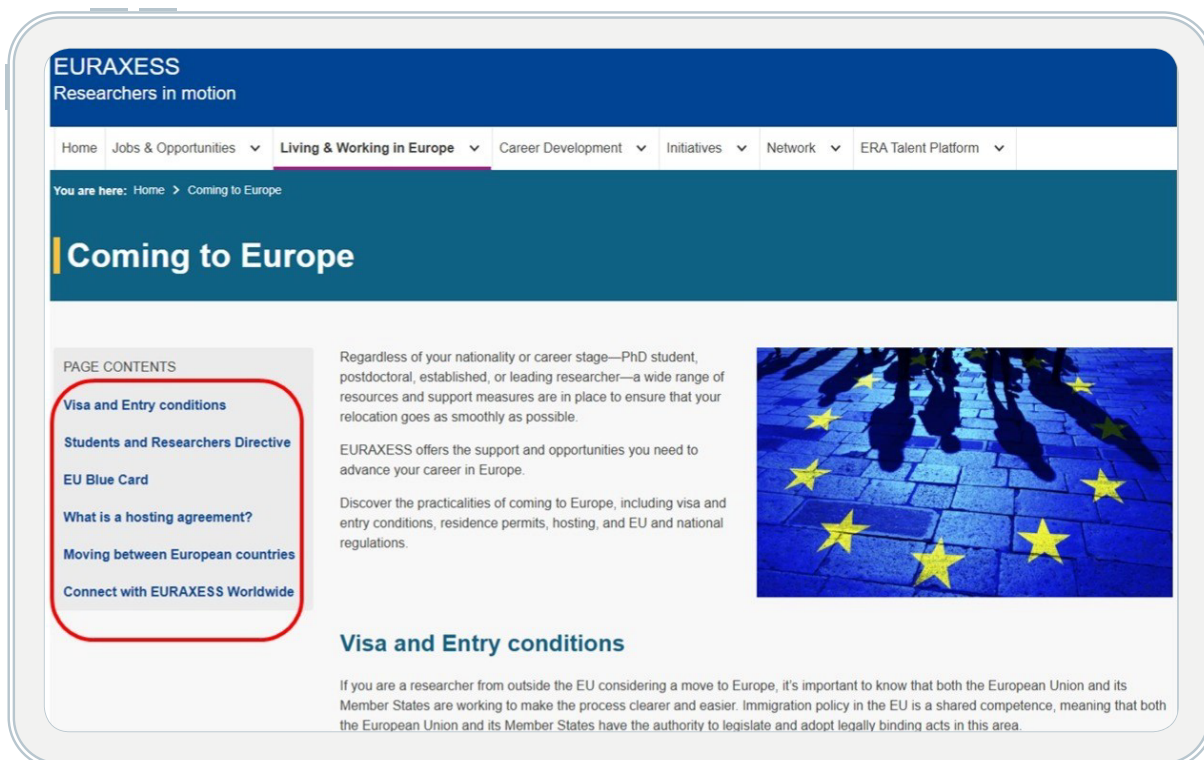


EURAXESS value proposition for researchers and institutions

The EURAXESS toolset provides services to researchers and Research Performing Institutions (RPOs) independently of their origin, country of affiliation, research domain – including humanities and social sciences, institution area (private R&D, public research institutes, universities and higher education institutions, etc), or career level – from PhD candidate level to senior profiles. These services are supported by the EURAXESS portal, with the following elements:



- 🌐 The Jobs and Funding section¹ provides, via a fully open online platform, access to the largest European job portal for research-related jobs that also includes PhD positions. Korean or Korea-based individual researchers can not only look for jobs in Europe, but also create their profiles and CVs online with the aim to be spotted by potential employers. Korean research institutions may register to the portal so as to be able to post job offers, which is a free service. This section also provides access to a funding database fed by research and innovation institutions all around Europe where researchers can browse for international cooperation or mobility funding programmes. It includes travel grants and fellowships. In addition, researchers can find hosting offers on EURAXESS - Expressions of Interest from research institutions in support of applications to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships calls, as well as offers from institutions with available research infrastructures.

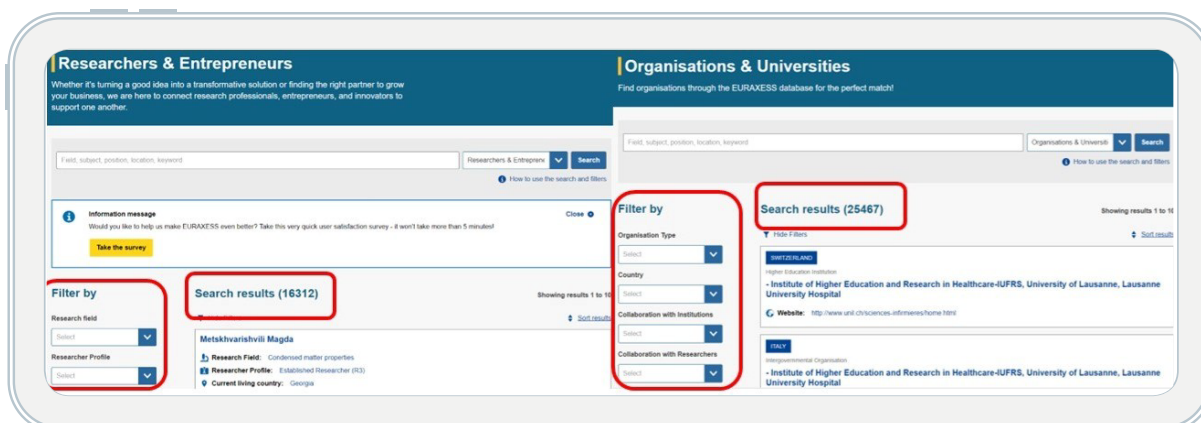


- 🌐 The Information and Assistance section² provides, in complementarity with 47 national portals (euraxess.ec.europa.eu/choose-your-country) a full range of useful information to researchers looking to relocate in Europe, comprising 18 topics (in alphabetical order): access to the culture of the host country & language courses; accommodation; banking; career development; day care, schooling & family related issues; departure conditions & formalities; dual career; entry conditions & visas; funding opportunities; health insurance; intellectual property rights; medical care; pension for researchers; recognition of diplomas; taxation & salaries; unemployment; and work permit. In addition to the online information services, more than 1,500 EURAXESS

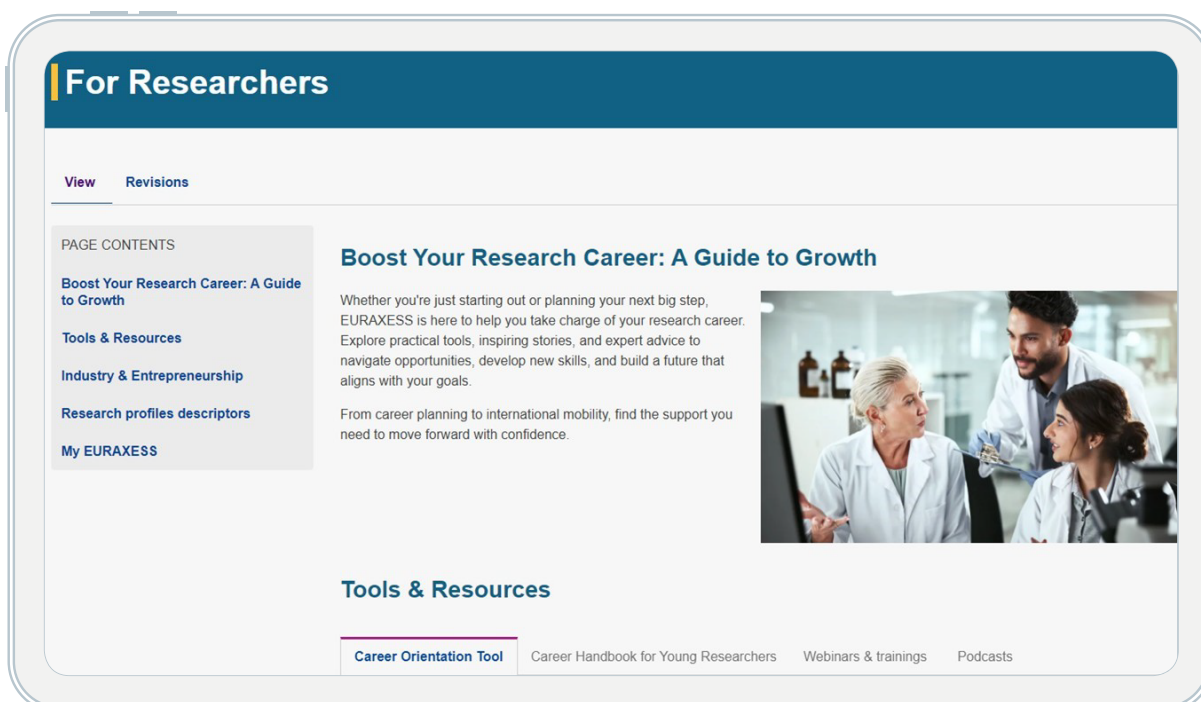
¹ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs>

² <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/information/coming-europe>

members in 600 centres and contact points in the 46 countries participating in EURAXESS respond to over 450,000 researchers' requests via phone or personally.



- The Partnering section³ provides an online networking tool to researchers and RPOs who have created a profile on the EURAXESS portal, which they can use to connect to other individuals or institutions to find talents or research collaboration.



- The Career Development section⁴ on the portal includes resources for both researchers, via training material, orientation tools and manuals, and research supporting organisations looking to establish career development services within their own institution.

³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/partnering>

⁴ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/career-development>

- The Worldwide section⁵ provides information and networking services to researchers from specific regions or countries outside of Europe, supported by an active team animating communities of researchers in the 8 different hubs.

• What is EURAXESS Korea

EURAXESS Worldwide, the international arm of EURAXESS, launched the Korea hub, in May 2018. It aims at increasing and improving researcher mobility and research cooperation between Korea and Europe by actively promoting funding opportunities under Horizon Europe. Its objectives are:

- To promote ERA from the angle of mobility and research funding opportunities and programmes available.
- To provide tailored and relevant information to Korea-based researchers: from PhD candidate level to professor level, all disciplines, in academia and industry.
- To create opportunities for networking for researchers; and
- To grow a community of international-minded researchers



• EURAXESS Korea's services to Korea-based researchers and institutions

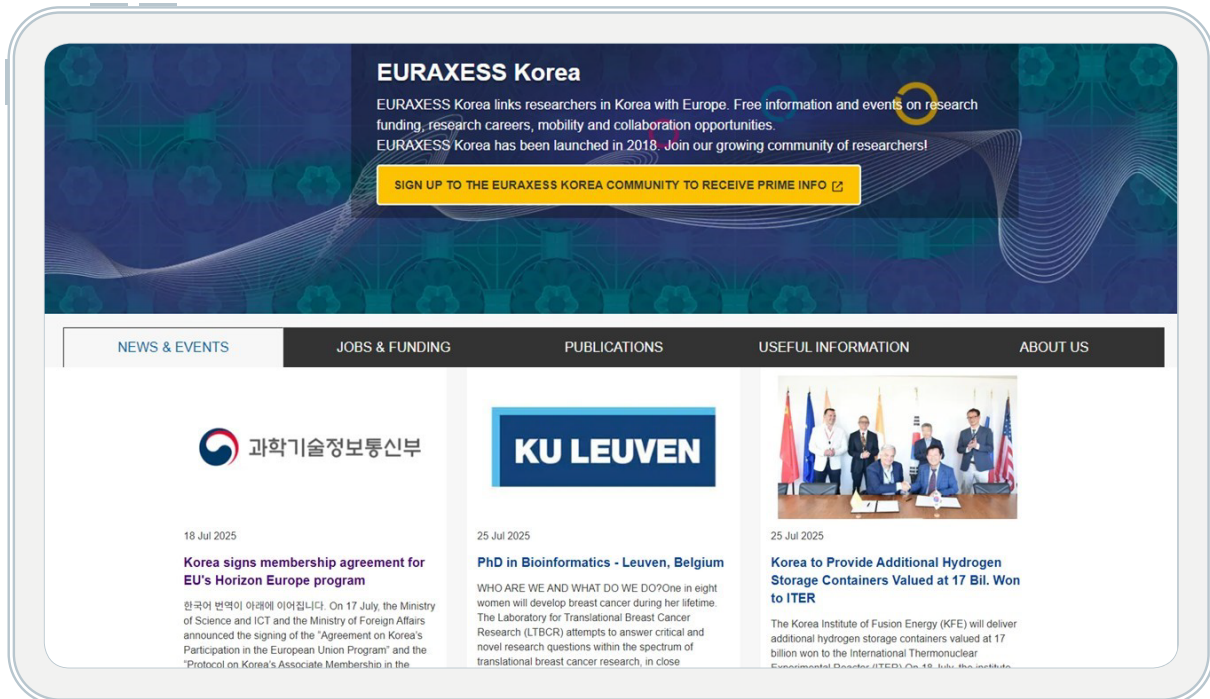
EURAXESS Korea mainly provides three services:

- Information services, through its website⁶ and social media (X: @EURAXESS_Korea) where funding, job opportunities, policy developments, events and networking opportunities of interest to Korean researchers and Korean RPOs are provided in the form of a curated newsfeed, both in English and Korean languages.
- Events and informative and seminars, where detailed explanation of EURAXESS services, and also European funding programmes such as Horizon Europe, European Research Council grants or Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grants is provided directly to students, researchers and research administrators. The EURAXESS Korea Tour serves as a platform for Korean institutions and European researchers ssto stimulate participation in mobility of research cooperation programmes with Europe.

⁵ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide>

⁶ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

- Community building activities aim at better information exchange between Korea-based researchers so as to increase Korea-Europe research exchanges.





Appendix

**MSCA PF
Host Institution
Catalogue 2025**



Preface

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA PF) programme is a prestigious EU funding scheme open to researchers of all nationalities. Recognizing its value, the KERC has been organizing the annual MSCA PF Online Workshop for Korea since 2023, in close collaboration with the European Commission DG EAC MSCA Unit, EURAXESS Korea, and other partners.

According to participant surveys, one of the main challenges Korean researchers face when applying for the MSCA PF is the lack of awareness about potential host institutions in Europe. To address this issue, in 2024 edition, we introduced a "Pitch Session", where host institutions interested in hosting Korean MSCA PF applicants were invited to present themselves and their research environments.

Building upon this initiative, we conceived this publication as a way to further support researchers in identifying potential host institutions. The contents of this "Host Catalogue" were compiled through an open call for submissions held in May 2025. All admissible submissions—those that followed the required template—have been included without any selection process.

We sincerely hope that this catalogue serves as a valuable resource not only for Korean researchers but also for MSCA PF applicants worldwide, contributing meaningfully to the strengthening of international research cooperation and fostering a deeper understanding of the European research landscape.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all who participated in and supported this initiative.

Yale Song & Jiyeon Lim



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Ghent,
Belgium

Facts & Figures

- Over €532 million in annual research expenditure (2023)
- **More than 150** European Research Council (ERC) grants awarded
- More than **8,000** peer-reviewed publications annually
- **90** spin-off companies and **1,273** patents (2011-2021)
- **11** faculties, **130** departments
- **50,000** students, with over **7,400** international students from more than **100** countries
- **1,543** professors and 1,731 postdoctoral researchers
- **#83** in Times Higher Education World Rankings (2025)
- **#30** in QS World University Rankings: Sustainability (2024)
- **#90** in Academic Ranking of World Universities (2024)

Ghent University

"Dare to Think" - Ghent University is an internationally renowned, open, pluralistic and socially engaged university in Belgium



1. About Us

Ghent University (UGent), established in 1817, is one of Europe's top public research universities, located in the historic and vibrant city of Ghent, Belgium. As a globally renowned institution, Ghent University consistently ranks among the top 100 universities worldwide and is celebrated for its dedication to academic excellence, pioneering scientific research, and societal impact. The university embraces a strong international outlook, promoting openness, inclusiveness, and sustainability as core values in both education and research.

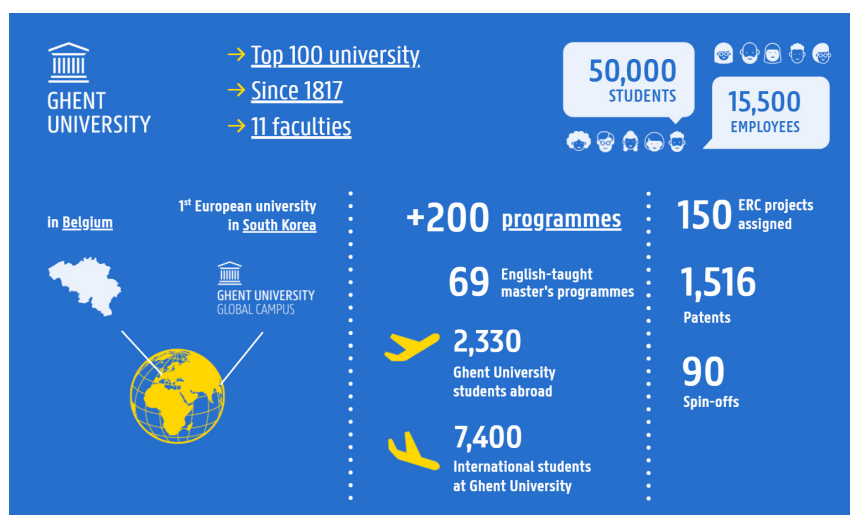
We're proud to say we are the first European university in South Korea, with Ghent University Global Campus.

Today, Ghent University hosts over 50,000 students, including more than 7,400 international students from over 100 countries, supported by a dedicated academic staff of 1,500 professors and 1,700+ postdoctoral researchers. The university comprises 11 faculties and more than 130 departments, offering an expansive and interdisciplinary academic ecosystem that spans sciences, (bioscience) engineering, life sciences and medicine, veterinary medicine, social sciences, arts, law, and humanities.

With a research budget exceeding €530 million annually, Ghent University is at the forefront of scientific innovation. It is home to numerous world-renowned research centers and spin-offs, boasting significant (academic) achievements in biotechnology, environmental science, engineering, ICT, food and agricultural sciences, health, and social sciences. The university plays a leading role in the European Research Area and has received over 150 European Research Council (ERC) grants, demonstrating its scientific leadership and impact.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** Use Ghent University's comprehensive research environment to collaborate across various disciplines, encouraging innovative research that addresses global challenges.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Access cutting-edge laboratories and research centers equipped with the latest technology to support your research endeavors.
- **Global Network:** Benefit from Ghent University's extensive international partnerships, including its Global Campus in South Korea, facilitating cross-cultural academic exchange.
- **Supportive Community:** Join a welcoming and inclusive community that values diversity and provides comprehensive support for international researchers.



3. Our Support for Applicants

Ghent University is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the application process:

- **Master Class:** Participate in a free online Master Class focusing on proposal preparation, eligibility criteria, and funding opportunities.
- **Personalized Guidance:** Receive assistance from Ghent University's dedicated EU Team, including proposal guidance, administrative support, and legal advice.
- **Supervisor Matching:** Get help in identifying and connecting with potential Ghent University supervisors aligned with your research interests.
- **Resource Access:** Make use of Ghent University's extensive range of writing tips, in-depth guidance, and recorded sessions to strengthen your application.

Major Research Areas

- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Engineering & Materials Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Health & Medical Sciences
- Veterinary Medicine

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.ugent.be/en

Social Media: @ugent

Contact: EU-team@ugent.be

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)
- Support Services: [Master Class for MSCA-PF applicants with Ghent University as their Host Institution](#)

Embark on a transformative research experience at Ghent University. Join a community where innovation thrives, and your potential knows no bounds.



KU LEUVEN

Leuven, Brussels,
Antwerp, Bruges,
Ghent, Geel, Sint-
Katelijne- Waver ,
Belgium

Facts & Figures

- Founded in 1425
- **#43** in Times Higher Education World University Ranking (2025)
- **#63** in QS World University Ranking (2025)
- **#78** in the ARWU Shanghai Ranking (2024)
- **Over €740 million** in annual research expenditure (2024)
- **#1** in Horizon Europe projects (**€268 million** EU contributions)
- **184** active spin-offs with **163** patents granted in 2023
- **65,000** students, with over **15,000** international students from over **150** countries
- **13,500** university staff with **7,000** PhD students

KU Leuven

Inspiring the outstanding - For 600 years, KU Leuven has been driven by unending curiosity and a search for knowledge.



1. About Us

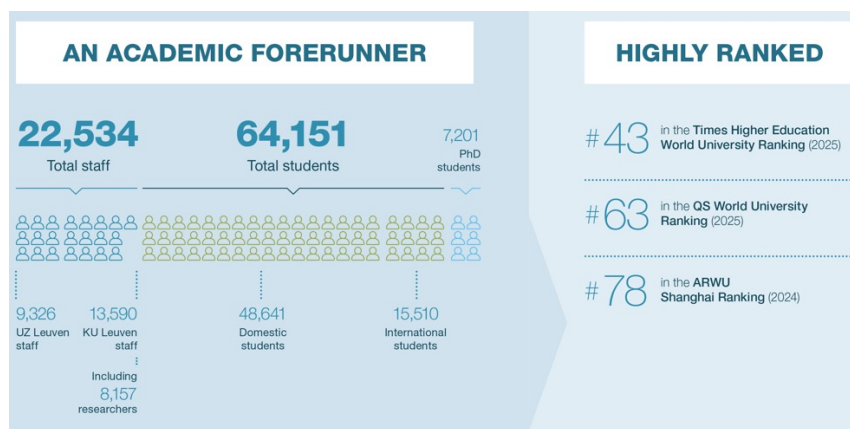
KU Leuven is a world top-50 university where more than 7,000 world-class researchers pursue their innate curiosity and sense of wonder. For 600 years, KU Leuven has been a home for free and independent inquiry within a supportive network of policies and services across 15 academic faculties. Our researchers' discoveries in turn lead to countless new insights and innovations that have led KU Leuven to be named the most innovative university in Europe.

Facilities at KU Leuven are amongst the best in class, including a BSL 3 Virology Lab, Portable Light Dome for multi-spectral analysis of ancient texts, and the 1.2m Mercator Telescope on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands. Leuven Research & Development (LRD) has been the leading European tech transfer office for the past 50 years, providing a vital link between our research and industrial expertise. Leuven itself is now an established destination for the larger knowledge economy; Imec, VIB and MindGate all have their headquarters in Leuven, alongside tech players, investment capital, highly educated employees, technology platforms, research parks and research networks.

Whilst located in the Dutch-speaking region of Flanders, thousands of researchers and fully 20% of our students work and study in English. The impressive English skills of local Belgians enable our researchers live and work with no limitations on communications or publications. Access to nearby cities by train facilitates cooperation with nearby universities, whilst the high quality of life and safety in Belgium create an environment conducive to quality research. The work of our many researchers is published in leading academic journals around the world, ensuring that our research informs, engages and benefits the public at large.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **A highly ranked university:** KU Leuven consistently ranks in the top-100 of all major university rankings. You will receive a world-class education no matter where your curiosity takes you, as all of KU Leuven's disciplines proudly belong to the top 100 of their field.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** In order to consolidate its position as the most innovative university in Europe (Reuters), KU Leuven continues to invest in its infrastructure.
- **Interdisciplinary research:** When it comes to doctorates, full-fledged interdisciplinary doctoral programmes have become rule rather than exception.
- **Innovation and engagement:** Inspiring the outstanding is in our DNA. We see research as an engagement with society. Our researchers are constantly questioning established understanding of the world.



3. Our Support for Applicants

KU Leuven will assist you with your application. Contact us at your earliest convenience to be able to receive full support:

- **Eligibility check:** let us check your eligibility. We can also provide information to find a suitable supervisor.
- **Master Class:** Participate in a free online Master Class (one webinar and two Q&A sessions) which is intended to get to know KU Leuven and consists of an in-depth proposal writing clinic.
- **Online platform:** Get access to our online community with various recordings on proposal writing and KU Leuven services, annotated templates and advice documents and share your experience with other applicants.
- **Feedback:** Receive personalized template-related feedback on your draft proposal and administrative advice.

15 Faculties

- Architecture
- Arts
- Bioscience Engineering
- Canon Law
- Economics and Business
- Engineering Science
- Engineering Technology
- Law and Criminology
- Medicine
- Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Philosophy
- Science
- Social Sciences
- Theology and Religious Studies

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.kuleuven.be/en

Social Media: @kuleuven

Contact: msca-pf@kuleuven.be

How to start your journey?

- Contact a suitable supervisor with your CV to discuss opportunities at KU Leuven
- [Look at our support for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)
- [Join the Master class for MSCA-PF applicants with KU Leuven as their Host Institution](#)



ULB UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES

Brussels,
Belgium
Charleroi,
Belgium

Facts & Figures

- 12 faculties, 39 000 enrolled students with over **32% of international students**, 40 bachelor's programmes, 178 Masters' programmes
- **3600** researchers and teachers, 2000 PhD candidates
- **200 research units**, 11 high-quality interdisciplinary research institutes
- **6 campuses**, including two outside of Brussels
- **#230** in QS World University Rankings (2025)
- 57 European Research Council (ERC) grants (awarded until May 2025)
- 58 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral fellows (awarded until May 2025)
- 29 active spin-offs in May 2025
- **4 Nobel Prizes** in Sciences, 2 Nobel Peace prizes

Université Libre de Bruxelles

A civic and multicultural university at the heart of Europe and the world



1. About Us

Founded in 1834, the Université libre de Bruxelles has a long-standing commitment to independent teaching and research, along with a firm engagement in the defense of democracy, individual freedoms, and human rights. Our core values are reflected by the **breadth and depth of ULB's international teaching and research collaborations.**

With one-third of its students and researchers coming from abroad, **multilingualism and multiculturalism** are a daily reality for ULB, as it is for Brussels. Under the impetus of the various European mobility programmes, ULB organizes many student exchanges, but also provides an increasing number of truly integrated courses, including the award of joint master's degrees and PhDs. Additionally, ULB coordinates or takes part in 5 Erasmus Mundus programmes and has more than 450 bilateral institutional cooperation agreements with partners all over the world. Our university is also part of the European University alliance CIVIS, bringing together a community of more than 470,000 students and 58,000 staff members.

With a research budget exceeding 210 million annually, ULB is committed to be a key focal point into the major world's issues requiring a transdisciplinary approach, with a view to excellence and sustainable development. With its long-held tradition of excellence, more than 200 research units, 10 interdisciplinary institutes, over 2,000 PhD candidates and more than 3,600 researchers and members of academic staff in all fields, ULB is a force to reckon with in building a foothold for tomorrow's society.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** the ULB's research fields are interdisciplinary and cover a large variety of fields. You can benefit from our university's transdisciplinary approach, and our extensive community of researchers and PhD Candidates (3600 researchers and teachers, +2000 PhD Candidates).
- **High-quality, independent research:** being an international researcher at ULB means pursuing your research in full independence, guided by the university's strong commitment to the principle of free inquiry. You will also benefit from an HR Excellence label in Research Award, a diverse international environment and a university with strong social commitment.
- **Existing collaboration with South Korean universities:** as of October 2024, we have signed 7 Bilateral institutional cooperation agreements with South Korean universities. 11 ULB students have been enrolled on mobility programmes in South Korea.
- **Global Network:** as a researcher, you can benefit from our university's extensive partnerships with some of the best universities and research institutes in the world (see part 1)

3. Our Support for Applicants

International post-docs worldwide are welcome at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB international welcome desk).

The ULB EU Liaison Office offers tailored support to postdoctoral researchers applying for **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships** with ULB as their host institution.

Applicants benefit from personalized guidance on proposal writing, including detailed feedback and proofreading. Our team is experienced in supporting international candidates and committed to helping you submit a competitive proposal.

For more information or to initiate your application process, please contact our EU Liaison Office at ulb-europe@ulb.be

Major Research Areas

Interdisciplinary university

- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Engineering & Materials Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Health & Medical Sciences

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://www.ulb.be/en/ulb-homepage>

Contact: ulb-europe@ulb.be

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)
- [Support Services: International researchers and PhD candidates coming to ULB](#)



Liège,
Belgium

Facts & Figures

- Over €226 million in annual research budget (2023)
- 11 faculties, 42 research units
- Over 26,000 students, with over 6,400 international students
- 15 ongoing European Research Council (ERC) grants
- Around 5,000 peer-reviewed publications annually
- 112 active spin-off companies , 4 launched in 2024
- 1493 cumulative patents granted
- 216 new third-party collaborative projects
- #396 in QS World University Rankings 2025
- 251-300th in Times Higher Education World Rankings (2024)
- #174 in QS World University Rankings: Sustainability (2024)
- 301-400th in Academic Ranking of World Universities (2024)

University of Liège

Shaping Tomorrow by Advancing Impact through Research and Innovation

As a public university open to the world and deeply engaged in the scientific, cultural, and economic development of its region, the University of Liège is committed to excellence, open science, and ethical research in pursuit of a sustainable future.



1. About Us

Founded in 1817, ULiège is a public university located in the French-speaking region of Belgium. With over 25,000 students (25% international) and 2,300 doctoral candidates (48% international), ULiège offers a vibrant academic environment across 11 faculties and three campuses in Liège, Gembloux, and Arlon.

ULiège employs 2,775 research and teaching staff, including 664 non-Belgian nationals, and is home to more than 40 interdisciplinary research units. With a research budget of €226 million, the university plays a leading role in the European Research Area, with over 100 Horizon Europe and H2020 projects and 15 ongoing ERC grants.

Renowned for its excellence in both fundamental and applied research, ULiège is committed to open science, research integrity, and sustainability. It is a European pioneer in Open Access, with over 225,000 publications freely available via its institutional repository, ORBi.

ULiège holds the European Commission's "HR Excellence in Research" label and has been implementing the HRS4R strategy since 2011 to enhance researchers' careers and working conditions. As a signatory of DORA and CoARA, the university actively promotes responsible research evaluation.

ULiège's international research reputation spans a broad scientific spectrum—from space science to human migration, from biomedical and veterinary sciences to agriculture and environmental sustainability. Its research centers are global leaders in their fields, equipped with cutting-edge technology and engaged in extensive international collaborations, driving innovation and societal impact across borders.

ULiège is globally connected, locally engaged, and welcomes collaboration across all fields of knowledge. Researchers joining ULiège benefit from a supportive, interdisciplinary, and inclusive environment where innovation, ethics, and international cooperation thrive.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Excellence Across Disciplines:** ULiège is a research-driven university recognised for its leadership in space science, health, sustainability, and social transformation—offering a vibrant ecosystem for interdisciplinary research.
- **Ethics, Openness & Inclusion:** As a pioneer in Open Science and holder of the “HR Excellence in Research” label, ULiège actively promotes research integrity, gender equity, and responsible evaluation (DORA & CoARA signatory).
- **Supportive Research Environment:** International researchers benefit from personalised guidance, mentorship, and mobility support—within a welcoming, human-scale university community.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Work in world-class labs and research centres equipped with advanced technologies and connected to industry, public institutions, and society.
- **Global Outlook, Local Engagement:** With 900+ international partners and a strong regional anchoring, ULiège combines global collaboration with societal relevance.

 11 Faculties	 4 campuses	 42 research units
 4,887 peer-reviewed publications	 946 partner institutions	 +3,500 graduates
 5,782 staff members	 1,685 research agreements	 549 million euro annual budget

3. Our Support for Applicants

ULiège is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants through the entire application process:

- **MasterClass:** Participate in a free online proposal preparation MasterClass.
- **One-on-one coaching:** Specific advice and proposal preparation support is provided by a dedicated MSCA grants adviser (msca@uliege.be)

Major Research Areas

- Astrophysics & Space Sciences
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Human Health
- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Engineering
- Advanced Materials
- Food, Agriculture & Forestry
- Data Science, Artificial Intelligence & Digital Technologies
- Health, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Veterinary Medicine & Animal Health
- Social Sciences & Humanities

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://www.recherche.uliege.be/>

Social Media: @universitedeliege

Contact: recherche@uliege.be

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)
- [Support Services: Masterclass for MSCA-PF applicants with Liège University as their Host Institution](#)

Join ULiège and shape tomorrow through meaningful research.



CoE MARBLE

Zagreb,
Croatia

Facts & Figures

- Initial 15M€ funding from Horizon Europe (2025-2030)
- €15M in complementary infrastructure funding
- 3 real-world pilot sites:
 - Smart Mussel Farm (Šibenik)
 - Smart Marina (Rijeka)
 - Autonomous Marine Vehicle Test Site (Šibenik)
- Cutting-edge labs: Prototyping Lab, Experimental Pool, Flying Arena, Digital Twin Room

CoE Marble

A leading hub for maritime robotics and sustainable blue economy innovation, advancing research and solutions in robotics, green endurance, IoT, and digital twins.



1. About Us

CoE MARBLE - Centre of Excellence in Maritime Robotics and Technologies for Sustainable Blue Economy - is a fully autonomous, non-profit research centre based in Zagreb, Croatia. Established with support from the European Commission under the Horizon Europe WIDERA programme, MARBLE is strategically partnered with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR).

Our mission is to power innovation in the sustainable blue economy through advanced robotics and digital technologies. With state-of-the-art facilities and a strong international foundation, we aim to position Croatia as a lighthouse of European excellence in maritime R&I.

MARBLE was built on the legacy of three highly productive research groups - LABUST, LARICS and LAMOR - at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (UNIZG-FER). The Centre integrates **over 15 years of experience in EU-funded R&D**, bringing together 11 professors, 10 postdoctoral researchers, and more than 15 PhD students, engineers, and staff.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Real-World Impact:** Access unique research infrastructure including live pilot sites and coastal labs.
- **Global Collaboration:** Work alongside international partners with broad experience.
- **Cutting-Edge Facilities:** Use of advanced robotics, AI, digital twinning, and energy systems platforms.
- **Strategic Location:** Work and live in Croatia's vibrant Mediterranean coast, a gateway to the Adriatic blue economy.
- **Fully Autonomous Centre:** Experience a flexible, innovation-driven research environment.



3. Our Support for Applicants

We provide full support to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants:

- **Proposal Development Support:** Dedicated scientific and administrative support during proposal preparation.
- **Mentorship:** Connect with experienced professors and senior researchers.
- **Infrastructure Access:** Early access to labs and pilot sites for proposal development.
- **Onboarding Assistance:** Relocation, integration, and career development support for postdocs.

Major Research Areas

- Maritime Robotics & Autonomous Systems
- Maritime Green Endurance
- Maritime Internet-of-Things
- Maritime Digital Twins

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://marble.eu/>

Social Media: [@marble](#)

Contact: marble@marble.eu

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)

Let us help you realize your next research chapter in the heart of Europe's blue innovation frontier.



THE CYPRUS INSTITUTE OF
NEUROLOGY & GENETICS

Nicosia,
CYPRUS

Facts & Figures

- Private, non-profit research, medical and academic centre
- **16** departments
- **7** postgraduate programmes
- **6,500** patients per year
- **85,000** services/examinations per year
- Quality controls
- ISO 17025, ISO 15189, CHKS Accreditation, College American Pathologists (CAP)
- Participates in **9** European Reference Networks
- **90** peer-reviewed publications per year
- **85** competitive research projects per year
- State-of-the-art new premises

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics

"3-Pilar Translational Center"



1. About Us

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics (CING) was established in 1990 as a private, non-profit center. It was created to meet the country's needs directly through specialized services and indirectly through research and academic programs. As a leading institution in neurology, genetics, biomedical, medical and related sciences, CING carries out fundamental and pioneering research, provides postgraduate education, and delivers specialized high-quality medical, clinical and laboratory services. With a mission to pursue excellence and a vision to shape the future of science, CING operates as a model for Translational Research, where clinical needs guide research directions and discoveries are applied to patient care. CING is considered one of the few innovative organizations in Cyprus.

CING has the largest and most advanced infrastructure in its fields, some of which are unique to the country. These facilities support research excellence and strengthen Cyprus's broader research and academic ecosystem. They also link research with business, help upgrade human capital and position Cyprus to lead international R&D initiatives.

CING consists of 16 departments and more than 220 staff, including 70 MD and PhD holders. About 75 postgraduate students are enrolled annually, with 30% being international.

CING offers over 500 services, treating 6,500 patients and providing 85,000 services/examinations yearly. It participates in 9 European Reference Networks to exchange knowledge and improve disease treatment and patient care. Its researchers receive competitive funding

from Cyprus, EU, US, and other European countries. Research output include international publications, conference presentations and awards.

CING offers 7 accredited MSc and PhD programs in Molecular Medicine, Medical Genetics, Neuroscience and Biotechnology. PhD students contribute through their research and publications. On average, 90 publications emerge annually from around 85 research projects, half competitively funded.

CING research outcome has led to patent applications (7) and consequently to licensing agreements (2) for commercialization. Funding is also acquired from companies around the world through collaboration agreements for specific research activities. The neurology clinics participate in worldwide clinical trials contributing to medical research and advance treatments to patients.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Unique Translational Research model.** CING operates as a unique translational model centre where research findings are translated into clinical practice and the needs of patients largely determine the direction of research. All for the benefit of patients and society.
- **Multidisciplinary care for patients.** Services to patients also include physiotherapy, social services and a neurological ward. Specialties in cardiology, pulmonology, psychology and dietician in combination with a neurophysiologist and a haematologist completes the comprehensive medical care package for the patients.
- **State-of-the-art facilities.** CING has the largest and most technologically developed infrastructure in Cyprus in its fields. Access to cutting-edge laboratories equipped with the latest technology support research endeavours and enables its ecosystem to collaborate with businesses, research and academic centres worldwide.
- **Upgrading and expanding.** CING is expanding with an 11,000m² building that will house 6 new research teams in emerging health fields and with a new physiotherapy unit including a therapeutic pool, aiming to provide comprehensive patient care to its patients.

3. Our Support for Applicants

CING is dedicated to supporting prospective applicants, offering comprehensive assistance throughout the application process. This includes personalized guidance, supervisor matching, advice on eligibility and funding, administrative support and proposal writing guidance.

Major Research Areas

- Life sciences and Biotechnology
- Neurological Disorders (e.g. Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Epilepsy)
- Genetic Disorders (e.g. CMT, Duchenne, Muscular Dystrophy, Myotonic Dystrophy, Thalassaemia)
- Cancer Genetics
- Bioinformatics
- Biostatistics

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.cing.ac.cy

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/NeuroGeneticsCy/>
(Facebook)

@cing_neurologygenetics
(Instagram)

@NeurologyGeneticsCyp (X)

@The Cyprus Institute of
Neurology & Genetics (LinkedIn)

General enquiries

Email: enquiries@cing.ac.cy

CING Postgraduate Education
Enquires

Email: education@cing.ac.cy

CING Research Programmes
Office

Email: research@cing.ac.cy



Vestec,
Czech
Republic

Facts & Figures

- **€15 million** in annual research expenditure (2024)
- **Awarded** European Research Council (ERC), MSCA, INFRA, and other EU and US grants.
- More than **80** peer-reviewed publications annually
- **7** patents (2015-2024)
- **13** research laboratories, **7** service laboratories
- **200** employees, with over **70** international researchers
- **50** PhD students
- **Top 5** in institutes of Czech Academy of Sciences (2024)
- **No. 1** in CAS institutes in awarded EU grants (€ per 1 scientist) (2021-2024)

Institute of Biotechnology CAS

Insight into structural, protein and cellular biology leads to new therapies



1. About Us

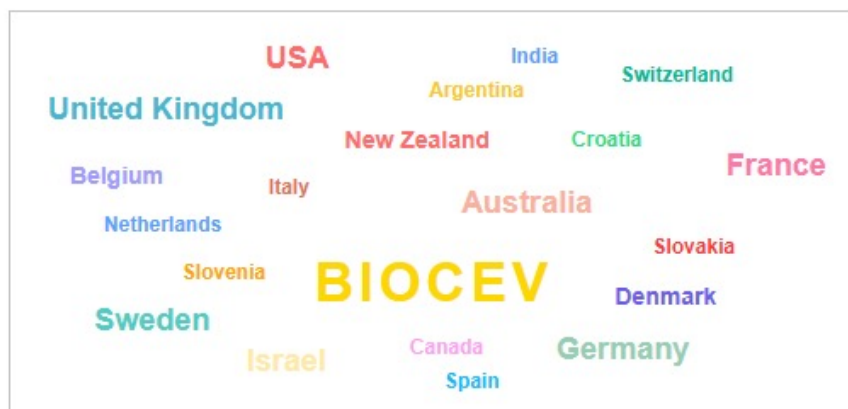
The Institute of Biotechnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (IBT) is a leading, dynamic research institute focusing on basic research on biomolecular mechanisms. Understanding these mechanisms contributes to developing new diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and innovative biotechnologies. The results from the various research groups are highly promising for treating numerous diseases and infections, such as different types of cancer, HIV, and bacterial infections. Additionally, studies such as those on fertility issues represent exciting avenues for developing new diagnostic strategies.

Since its establishment in 2008, IBT has proven its ability to grow and adapt to a changing research landscape. Its staff numbers have more than doubled to 200 since then. The institute aims to attract scientific talent from around the globe. A significant proportion of the staff are foreigners, young postdoctoral scientists, and PhD students. As the quality and quantity of its scientific output increases, IBT is steadily rated as one of the best institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences. IBT's funding level is exceptional, thanks to its high success rate with national and international grants, as well as its connections to the private sector.

The IBT is based at the BIOCEV research center in Vestec, a suburb of Prague, Czech Republic. BIOCEV is a center of excellence for basic research that offers interesting possibilities for synergy between its various research groups. BIOCEV includes five outstanding core facilities equipped with state-of-the-art instruments that provide above-standard research services.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Collaborative Research Ecosystem:** Engage with IBT's diverse academic environment to pursue groundbreaking research that tackles worldwide issues through interdisciplinary approaches.
- **State-of-the-Art Infrastructure:** Utilize excellent service laboratories, including 4 large research infrastructures sites, featuring cutting-edge equipment and technology.
- **Inclusive Academic Culture:** Join a diverse and supportive community dedicated to cultivating international talent and academic excellence. Enjoy great opportunities to interact with leading national and international scientists. Take advantage of the opportunity to freely choose the outreach activity that best suits you, whether it's student mentoring or PR and dissemination activities.
- **Worldwide Academic Reach:** Benefit from IBT's extensive international partnerships that span across continents, providing unparalleled access to collaborative research opportunities and direct connections to leading academic institutions worldwide.



3. Our Support for Applicants

The Institute of Biotechnology CAS provides support to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the submission process:

- **Connecting with Supervisors:** Explore supervision opportunities with IBT laboratories in your field of expertise.
- **Dedicated Support:** Work directly with IBT's EU funding specialists for comprehensive application support, including proposal development, administrative processes, and regulatory guidance.
- **Learning Materials:** Utilize CAS library of application resources, instructional content, and workshop recordings.

Major Research Areas

- Structural Biology
- Molecular Therapy
- Cell metabolism
- Tumour Resistance
- Biomolecular Recognition
- Structural Proteins
- Molecular Pathogenetics
- Reproductive Biology
- Gene Expression
- Ligand Engineering
- Structural Bioinformatics of Proteins
- Structure and Functions of Biomolecules
- Glial Biology and Omics Technologies

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.ibt.cas.cz/en/

Social Media: @ibt_cas

Contact: btu-office@ibt.cas.cz

Next-gen biotechnology - Join IBT CAS and turn your research dreams into European reality!



Prague,
Czech
Republic

Facts & Figures

- Around €50 million in annual research expenditure
- 9 European Research Council (ERC) grants undertaken since 2009
- More than 270 peer-reviewed publications annually
- 51 research groups, ~1000 employees, 40+ nationalities with ~25 % international
- 200+ PhD students, 200+ postdoctoral researchers
- HR Excellence in Research Award holder since 2021



IOCB Prague

IOCB Prague is an internationally renowned, open, and friendly institute in the heart of Europe, which emphasises meaningful research, impactful applications and an interdisciplinary collaborative approach



1. About Us

The IOCB Prague, established in 1953 and located in the historic yet vibrant city of Prague, Czechia, has a principal mission to promote exploratory and curiosity-driven research that integrates chemical, biological and physical disciplines. It is a premier research institute in the heart of Europe, with a mission to create breakthrough research advancing scientific knowledge, to foster research leading to real life applications impacting health and society, and to be a provider of excellent scientific training and education, all of these in partnership with global academic and industry players. In 2024 IOCB Boston was established in the USA, with IOCB being the first European institution to start a branch in the United States.

As a globally renowned institution, IOCB Prague is an interdisciplinary scientific institute with a blend of highly qualified and innovative chemists, biologists, biochemists and biophysicists that engage in frequent fruitful collaborations. It has developed a well-refined infrastructure with many excellent core facilities and state-of-the-art equipment. IOCB Prague hosts over 1,000 employees, including more than 250 international staff from over 40 countries, and hosting over 200 PhD students and over 200 postdoctoral researchers. Their work is supported by a group leader of one of the 51 research groups allocated to one of the CHEM, BIO or PHYS research clusters, and all research staff benefit from the support of dedicated administrative support, including grant writing and communication support, personnel, and financial project management.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** Help shape exciting research at the interface of chemistry, biology and medicine within IOCB Prague's collaborative research environment, fostering innovative research across disciplines.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Use cutting-edge laboratories and core facilities, including the newly opened world-class cryo-EM facility, to support your research efforts.
- **Global Collaborative Network:** Benefit from IOCB Prague's extensive international network, enabling you to incorporate meaningful collaborations into your project proposal.
- **Supportive Community:** Join a vibrant, English-speaking institute that values diversity and provides comprehensive support for international researchers, fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. A Postdoc Club and other community initiatives are active, and a series of transferable skills seminars supports personal career development.

IOCB in numbers

1K ~1 000 employees
(48% women)

40 nationalities

2 branches:
IOCB Prague (CZ)
IOCB Boston (USA)

40 research groups

200 postdocs

200 PhD students
(41% international)

10 core facilities

270 publications/
year

50 patents/year

3. Our Support for Applicants

IOCB Prague is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the application process:

- **Applicants' Workshop (usually in June):** Participate in a MSCA PF applicants' course focusing on proposal preparation, eligibility criteria, and funding opportunities.
- **Personalised Guidance:** Receive assistance from IOCB Prague's Project Office, including proposal guidance, administrative support, and legal advice.
- **Resource Access:** Use of IOCB Prague's extensive range of writing tips and in-depth guidance to strengthen your application. Benefit from the Project Office's access to and contacts with the MSCA National Contact Point, who provides further support materials to applicants with Czech host institutions.

Major Research Areas

- **CHEM:** organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, natural products, chemical biology, bioconjugates, drug design, photochemistry, materials chemistry, nanochemistry
- **BIO:** biochemistry, molecular biology, structural biology, cell biology, virology, pharmacology, physiology, chemical ecology, bioinformatics
- **PHYS:** theoretical chemistry, computational chemistry, molecular spectroscopy, analytical chemistry, advanced microscopy, NPR/EPR spectroscopy

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.iocb.cz

Social Media: [FB](#), [X](#), [LI](#), [IG](#), [YT](#), [spotify](#)

Virtual tour: bit.ly/virtual-IOCB

Research Yearbook 2022: bit.ly/research-IOCB-2022

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- [Apply for a postdoc at IOCB](#)
- Choose your mentor: select the [research group](#) to prepare your application with
- Support Services: Personalised guidance for applicants by the Project Office
- Peer support: contact Postdoc Club representatives

Start a new chapter in your research journey at IOCB Prague. Join a vibrant and supportive community where innovation thrives, and your ideas and career blossom.



TUL

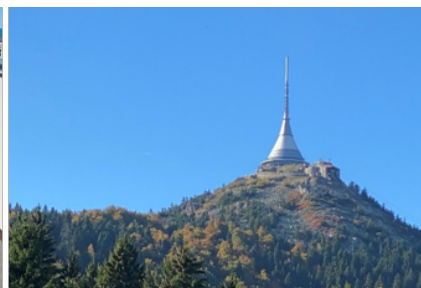
Liberec,
Czech
Republic

Facts & Figures

- Established in 1953
- **Leader organization in material science** (rank 6th /1300 in WoS)
- **World 's excellence in nanofiber technology**
- **More than 30 EU projects** – FP7, H2020, Horizon Europe and **MSCA Fellowships**
- **12 license agreements** in 2024
- **own spin-off company** Glassiteca
- **7 faculties, 1 institute**
- **7,000 students**, with over 12% international students from 40+ countries (2024)
- **422 FTE professors** with 8 % of foreigners, **103 FTE postdoctoral researchers** with 42% women (2024)
- #1200 in QS World University Rankings: Sustainability (2024)
- **60+ million USD** investment into campus modernization recently

Technical University of Liberec

Liberec University is a young, medium-sized multidisciplinary education center focused on practical aspects of learning and research applications.



1. About Us

Technical University of Liberec (TUL), established in 1953, is a young and medium sized university located in northern part of Czechia. The town of Liberec is situated in wonderful area just on the edge of Northern mountains. Thanks to its location, you experience a unique possibility to get from the natural preserve or ski slopes to a traditional theater in the city center within 15 minutes by public transport. It will impress you with hundreds of blooming rhododendrons and majestic oak forests as well as technical progressiveness and research opportunities. The TUL-based discovery of world-wide known Nanospider technology or the university spin-off company Glassiteca (transformation of glass waste into glassticine, multifunctional porous material) reflect just a portion of studied research fields. The University is an important partner for the automotive companies in the Czech Republic (Škoda Auto) and abroad. It is an important educational and research partner for healthcare and emergency rescue providers.

Nowadays, the TUL covers bachelor, master, and doctoral programs within seven faculties and one institute. **Faculty of Mechanical Engineering** focuses on R&D in polymers, bio- and nanomaterials, 3D technologies, machinery design, robotics and cybernetics, mechanics, tribology, nanostructures. **Faculty of Textile Engineering** R&D cover new materials – technologies, structures, and Art & Design activities. **Faculty of Science, Humanities, and Education** focuses on teaching, educating, and cultivating the society. **Faculty of Economics** R&D lays in family business, regional development, managing human resources and international trade. **Faculty of Arts and Architecture** focuses on architecture, urbanism, fine arts, and design. **Faculty of Mechatronics, Informatics and Interdisciplinary Studies** performs basic research with industry applications in: information technologies, mechatronics, robotics, applied sciences and nanotechnology. **Faculty of Health Studies** focuses research on biomedicine, nanoapplications, and infection prevention. **Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technologies and Innovation** focuses on chemistry, biology, computer science, mathematical modelling, environmental protection and energy management.

Faculty of Health Studies

This Faculty is the youngest member of the TUL family. It encompasses education in radiology, general nursing, paramedic, and **biomedical engineering**. Recently it established **R&D department** covering four main areas of research that are together linked via technology know-how: 1) cell **electrostimulation** on bioengineered materials; 2) **co-cultures** of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells; 3) miRNA-based **theranostics** in human pathologies; 4) bioproduced **nanoparticles** as vectors for nucleic acid delivery. Pathologies, our group is aiming for (but not limited to), are neurodegenerative diseases, skin disturbances, and solid tumors. Set up of our laboratories enables complex **studies on nano-bio interface** (including rare co-culture studies of eukaryotic and physiological or pathological microorganisms) useful for new material production, characterization, and its practical application or clinical trials.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** The TUL, consisting of several different units, offers unique interdisciplinary research possibilities aiming mainly towards technical development and biomedical applications. Research projects in unique laboratories. Joint basic and applied research projects.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Unique laboratories with modern equipment as well as students' laboratories provide a stable base for performing wide range of activities from cutting-edge basic research project to industrial innovations.
- **Global Network:** Within international cooperation, the TUL attained 79 active Memoranda of Understanding, 240 Bilateral Erasmus+ agreements, and Czech governmental scholarships for students from abroad.
- **Supportive Community:** A growing, modernized campus. Wide range of sport, and free-time facilities.

3. Our Support for Applicants

The TUL management provides complete project support for R&D and postdoctoral fellowship applicants:

- **Personalized Guidance:** Tailored assistance from the TUL EU - project manager including proposal guidance, administrative support, and legal advice.
- **Project Support:** Financial management and methodological support in the preparation of university-wide projects in close cooperation with teams at individual units.
- **Project Completion:** Assistance with methodology, instrumentation, and interdisciplinary networking provided by R&D supervisors and dedicated project management team.
- **Resource Access:** The TUL R&D management facilitates knowledge transfer, data management, and knowledge dissemination. The TUL offers multiple courses for personnel and carrier growth.

Major Research Areas

- Material science, nanotechnology
- Textile and nanofiber technology
- Biomedicine, healthcare
- Mechatronics, robotics
- Mechanical engineering
- Educating, cultivating the society
- Family business, regional development;
- Fine arts and architecture

Contact & Further Information

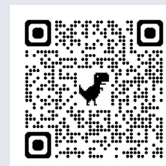
www.tul.cz/en

www.fzs.tul.cz/en

[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/TechnicalUniversityLiberec)

[TechnicalUniversityLiberec](https://www.instagram.com/tul_international_students/)

[instagram.com/tul_international_students/](https://www.instagram.com/tul_international_students/)



Contact:

international.fzs@tul.cz

For more details and to begin your application journey:

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#)

Support Services:

Open Access support

Open Science support

Open Data support

Project departments

Technology Transfer Agency

Join young and familiar institution with multidisciplinary research focus and great application potential for your research.



Aarhus,
Denmark

Facts & Figures

- Established in 1928
- **36,000** students
- **11,500** staff
- **5** faculties:
 - Faculty of Arts
 - Aarhus BSS
 - Faculty of Health
 - Faculty of Natural Sciences
 - Faculty of Technical Sciences
- Position in rankings:
 - Shanghai: **80** in the world
 - NTU: **102** in the world

Aarhus University

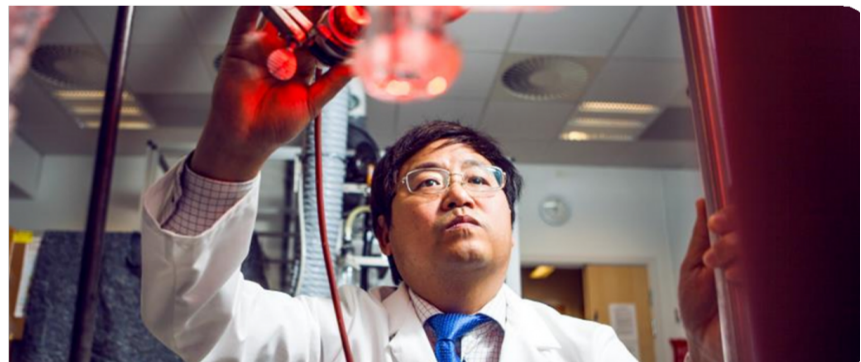


1. About Us

Aarhus University is a strong university that is internationally recognised for the high quality of its research, research-based degree programmes and public sector government consultancy, in addition to value-creating collaboration with private businesses, public sector institutions and civil society.

Aarhus University's academic portfolio is broad- ranging, from the classic university disciplines of the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and theology to business and engineering, educational theory and practice and the environmental and agricultural sciences.

This breadth gives the university a unique opportunity to combine strong disciplines in the creation of research breakthroughs, and to establish close collaboration with many sectors to the benefit of society as a whole.



Career Development

- Junior Research Association
- Yearly career development dialogue

Attractive Working Conditions

- Attractive salary
- Generous pension scheme
- High-quality social services

Good work-life Balance

- Flexible working conditions
- High level of autonomy

2. Why Choose Us?

- **State-of-the-art research facilities**

Aarhus University offers world-class research facilities and laboratories in a wide range of subjects. We have a strong tradition of multidisciplinary research for instance in one of our 42 major research centres.

- **Attractive working conditions**

International staff at AU emphasise favorable working conditions as an important motivation for working at Aarhus University. These include an attractive salary, a generous pension scheme and parental leave benefits. What's more, international academic staff members are eligible for tax breaks in many cases.

- **World champions in work-life balance**

Danish workplace culture stresses the importance of work-life balance, and AU is no exception. Researchers enjoy flexible working conditions and a high level of autonomy and self-determination. What's more, the municipality offers a range of high-quality social services that enhance the quality of life for internationals, including free healthcare and subsidised childcare and international schools.

3. Our Support for Applicants

AU and THE MSCA PF programme

AU is doing well in the competition for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships. We occupy the fourth place in Europe and our success rates are well above the EU average

AU Offers:

- We offer an MSCA PF Masterclass for applicants with AU as a host. The Masterclass includes:
 - A serie of webinars with presentations from support staff, MSCA PF grantee and MSCA PF evaluator
 - Individual reviews of proposals with detailed feedback
 - Online Library with all the material that you will need to prepare your proposal
- For further info please see: au.dk/fse

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.au.dk

Contact: MSCA.FSE@au.dk



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



Tartu,
Estonia

Facts & Figures

- 15 European Research Council (ERC) grants awarded to UT researchers
- Over **€100** million in annual research funding
- More than **2000** high-level publications annually
- Almost **50** research-driven spin-offs and tens of patents which support the introduction of innovative products and services to society
- **4** faculties, covering a broad range of disciplines
- **15,000** students, including over **1,500** international students from over **100** countries
- Ranked among the top 1% of the world's most highly cited universities in **15** research fields
- **#301-350** in Times Higher Education World Rankings (2025)
- **#358** in QS World University Rankings (2025)

University of Tartu

We have been transforming lives since 1632. Our research-based education is designed to prepare you to be the global leader of tomorrow.



1. About Us

The University of Tartu (UT), founded in 1632, is Estonia's flagship university, recognised internationally for its groundbreaking research and strong societal impact. As the only classical comprehensive university in Estonia, the UT encompasses four faculties: Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Medicine, and Science and Technology.

The UT ranks among the top 1% of the world's most highly cited universities in 15 research fields, including biochemistry, engineering, molecular biology, clinical medicine, neuroscience, psychology, and social sciences. The university is a key player in the European Research Area, serving as the lead partner in six Estonian Centres of Excellence in Research and a partner in four others, strengthening Estonia's scientific competitiveness internationally.

UT is also one of the largest development partners for the public and private sector in the Baltics and a partner of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. Estonia has the highest number of start-ups per capita in Europe, with many founded by UT alumni.

2. Why Choose Us?

- The UT fosters independent, high-impact research, enabling scholars to freely pursue their interests, as long as they adhere to the highest standards of excellence.
- With a workforce of 4,500 employees, half of whom are academic staff members, the University of Tartu offers a motivating working environment that enables researchers to excel in their fields.
- The UT's strong ties with the private sector provide opportunities for applied research and entrepreneurship, contributing to Europe's thriving start-up ecosystem.
- The University of Tartu [Research Dashboard](#) provides an overview of research directions, helping scholars connect with partners and explore collaboration opportunities.



3. Our Support for Applicants

The University of Tartu is committed to supporting MSCA PF applicants by providing resources to help them navigate the application process and integrate into the UT's research community:

- Research Dashboard - Explore the UT's research directions and connect with potential supervisors and collaborators.
- The mentoring programme of the University of Tartu connects successful alumni with active students to support their professional, academic, and personal development.
- To support researchers, the university offers various services to facilitate the application for research funding and the establishment of collaborative partnerships. The Grant Office, a dedicated support unit, assists researchers, teaching staff, and students in finding and applying for grants for both research and teaching development.

Major Research Areas

- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Engineering & Materials Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Health & Medical Sciences
- Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.ut.ee/en

Social Media: @unitartu

Contact: info@ut.ee

For more details and to begin your application journey:

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)

UT's research excellence is reflected in its top 1% ranking in 15 scientific fields, its strong international collaborations, and its role as a key partner in European research initiatives.



Helsinki,
Finland

Facts & Figures

- €341M in external research funding
- 55 Research Groups awarded grants by the European Research Council (ERC)
- 8,730 Scholarly articles per year (2024)
- 30 research-based spinouts and 60 active patent families (2024)
- 11 faculties, 8 research stations
- 31,426 students, with over 2,500 international students
- 650 professors and 999 postdoctoral researchers
- #107 in Times Higher Education World Rankings (2025)
- #18 in QS World University Rankings: Sustainability (2024)
- #99 in Academic Ranking of World Universities (2024)

University of Helsinki

"With the power of knowledge - for the world" - The University of Helsinki is Finland's largest and oldest academic institution and an innovative centre of science and thinking.



1. About Us

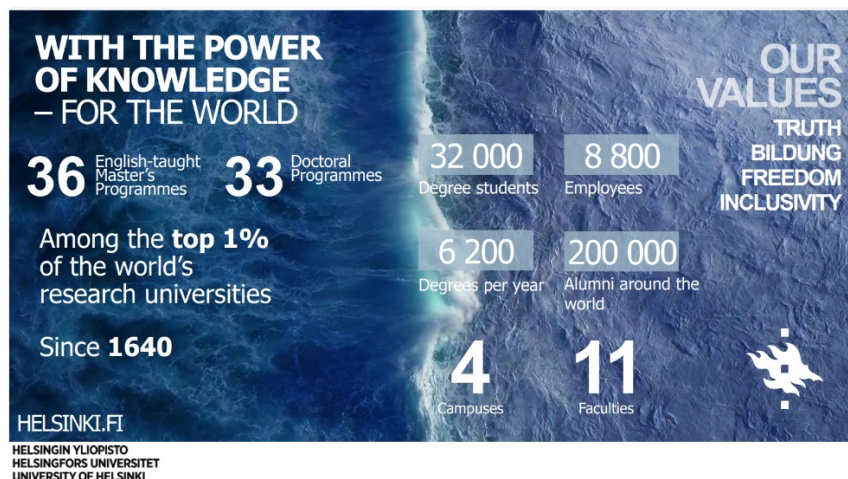
The University of Helsinki (UH), established in 1640, ranks among the top 1 % of research universities worldwide, and is located in the northern corner of Europe - in Helsinki, Finland. The multidisciplinary academic community at the University of Helsinki solves problems that affect us all, pioneering in world-class climate research and life science research. The university's strategy is based on four common values: truth, Bildung, freedom, and inclusivity. These values constitute the core of the university's identity.

Today, the University of Helsinki hosts over 30,000 degree students, including more than 2,500 international students, and has more than 57,000 students completing open university courses and studies that supplement degrees. The University of Helsinki is the employer of 8,800 staff members, out of whom 59 % are teaching and research staff. The university comprises 11 faculties and has 8 research stations. The academic offering of the University of Helsinki covers fields from natural sciences to social sciences and humanities. It includes agriculture and forestry, biological and environmental sciences, medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, law, theology, educational and social sciences, and humanities.

The University of Helsinki takes pride in its international engagement, as it is one of the founding members of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and actively contributes to the Una Europa university alliance. The university's international engagement is enhanced through meaningful partnerships and collaboration programmes.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **A wide range of multidisciplinary degree programmes:** The University of Helsinki offers bachelor, master and doctoral degrees with English as the language of instruction. Our multidisciplinary approach, academic freedom, and thousands of courses enable you to tailor your degree based on your interests and strengths.
- **For a better world:** Our goal is to produce high-impact knowledge that contributes to solving global challenges.
- **International and approachable environment:** Learn from world-class scholars, develop strong research skills, and build networks in an international environment.
- **Inspiring environments:** Enjoy the state-of-the-art laboratories and versatile classrooms, a network of research stations for field courses, and comprehensive ICT services with electronic learning platforms.



3. Our Support for Applicants

The University of Helsinki is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the application process:

- **Seminar Series:** Participate in an open drop-in seminar series focusing on proposal preparation, eligibility criteria, and funding opportunities.
- **Individual Support:** Receive assistance from the University of Helsinki's research funding team, including proposal guidance and review as well as administrative support.
- **Resources for applicants:** Make use of the University of Helsinki's extensive range of writing tips, in-depth guidance, and recorded sessions to strengthen your application.

Major Research Areas

- A meaningful life, human wellbeing and a healthy environment
- A humane and fair world
- A sustainable and viable future for our globe
- A universe of ideas and opportunities

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.helsinki.fi/en

Social Media: @
universityofhelsinki

Contact: researchfunding-services@helsinki.fi

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- Support Services: [Research funding services](#) | [University of Helsinki](#)



Berlin,
Germany

Facts & Figures

- Location: Berlin (HQ and branch offices) and Horstwalde (Test Site for Technical Safety)
- Established: **1871**
- Research Divisions: **10** Departments, which themselves are split into various Divisions and Sections
- Annual Budget: approx. **€199** million

BAM Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung

Safety in Technology and Chemistry



1. About Us

The Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM) is a senior scientific and technical Federal institute with responsibility to the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE). It tests, researches and advises to protect people, the environment and material goods.

Safety creates markets.

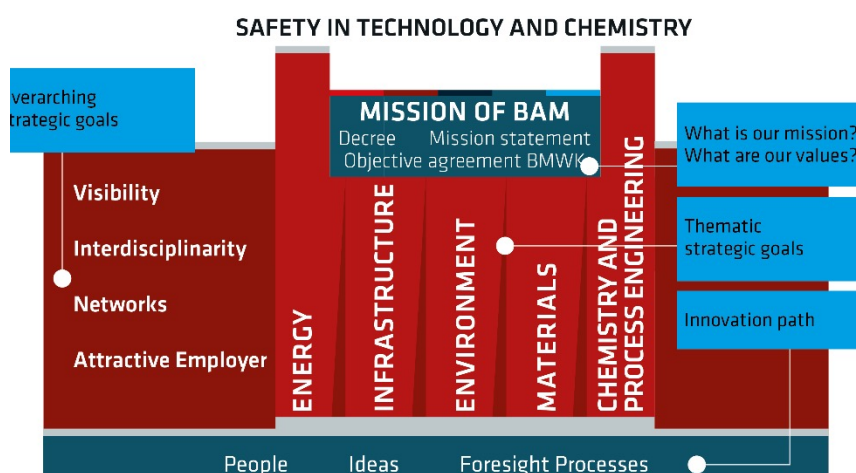
BAM sets and represents high standards for safety in technology and chemistry, both in Germany and globally, to strengthen the “Made in Germany” quality. Our mission is to ensure the safety of technologies, materials, storage and energy systems through cutting-edge research, rigorous testing, standardisation and regulatory science.

Around 1,550 people from over 55 nations work at BAM. Our work supports Germany’s innovation agenda, European policy goals and international regulatory frameworks. BAM combines deep scientific excellence with a strong commitment to public value, sustainability and global cooperation.

2. Why Choose Us?

BAM offers Korean postdoctoral researchers a unique entry point into Germany's scientific, technological and regulatory ecosystems. As a governmental research institute with both scientific and policy advisory mandates, BAM provides **direct impact pathways, from lab-scale innovation to full-scale standards and safety practices.**

We actively collaborate with Korean institutions across multiple research areas, including through the **H2Safe_Collaboration** project. These strong bilateral ties position us as an ideal host for Korean candidates working on safety in technology and chemistry.



3. Our Support for Applicants

BAM has an experienced team to guide applicants throughout the entire process. Our support includes:

- strategic matching with suitable supervisors and research divisions,
- proposal-writing guidance, including internal reviews and feedback,
- scientific and career development programs through [BAM Akademie](#) and [Menschen-Potentiale](#),
- access to BAM's vast infrastructure and networks,
- mentorship from senior scientists, and
- onboarding and integration in Berlin.

We offer a supportive and dynamic research environment where international researchers can thrive and shape their careers.

Research Facilities

- [State-of-the-art test site for technical safety](#)
- Interlaboratory tests
- Knowledge & technology transfer

BAM Publications

MSCA Track Record

Regular host for MSCA PFs, strong institutional experience.

Contact & Further Information

Website: [BAM Website](#)

LinkedIn: [Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung](#)

Contact: Gunnar.Tan@bam.de

Newsletter: [BAM Newsletter](#)

Annual Report: [BAM Report 2024/2025 "Progress with safety!"](#)



Jülich,
Germany

Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ)



Facts & Figures

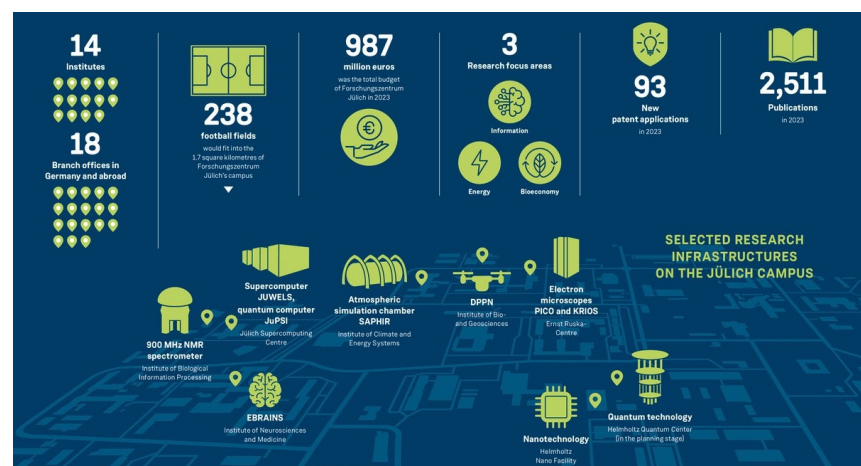
(as of 31 December 2023)

- Total €987 million budget
- 2,511 Publications
- 2,931 Scientists among 7,423 Employees from 114 countries
- 968 Doctoral researchers and 309 Postdocs
- 186 EU projects participation with over €177 million
- 14 Institutes and over 80 institute divisions

1. About Us

Shaping change: This is what drives us at Forschungszentrum Jülich. As a member of the Helmholtz Association with more than 7,500 employees, we conduct interdisciplinary research into a digitized society, a climate-friendly energy system, and a sustainable economy. We focus on natural, life, and engineering sciences in the fields of information, energy, and bioeconomy. We combine this with specialist expertise in high-performance computing and artificial intelligence using unique scientific infrastructures.

Forschungszentrum Jülich enjoys close collaborations with leading research institutions around the globe and is an integral member of numerous strategic partnerships as well as European research infrastructures. On an EU level, Forschungszentrum Jülich participates in 186 projects, including those of the EU funding programmes for research and innovation Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, and coordinates 34 of these projects. In 2023, we jointly published nearly 1,200 publications with international partners.



2. Why Choose Us?

We want to enthuse young people for science and give them the best possible support. They are the discoverers, innovators, and creators of tomorrow's world. Our goal is to promote excellence in education, in vocational training, and at all career stages, as well as to compete internationally in attracting the brightest minds. As part of this, we offer a wide array of opportunities for early-career scientists: events at the JuLab Schools Laboratory, future-oriented skilled occupations and dual study programmes, as well as structured post-graduate training and career support for young leaders. We offer the following benefits:

- **Interdisciplinary and international teams:** Interdisciplinary teams tackle issues from different perspectives - almost 50% of our researchers come from abroad.
- **Scientific infrastructure:** Supercomputers, magnetic resonance tomographs, atmospheric simulation chamber, scanning electron microscopes, clean rooms, a (digital) Central Library and much more.
- **Support for Early Career Scientists:** Career planning support from the Career Center and Postdoc Office and further support from JuDocs - Jülich Center for Doctoral Researchers and Supervisors.
- **Continuing professional development:** Internal and external training courses: language courses, interdisciplinary training and soft skills training (e.g. leadership and project management courses) and much more.
- **Work-life balance:** Good framework conditions for balancing work and care work, health care, further training or voluntary work, such as top sharing and family services.
- **Annual leave:** Up to 30 days of annual leave (depending on weekly working days) and regulated days off directly before or after certain public holidays (e.g. between Christmas and New Year).

3. Next steps for Applicants

The EU research funding team advises and supports Jülich's scientists and Board of Directors in relation to activities at the European level. Specifically for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship candidates, we offer the following:

- The first step is choosing a supervisor. Please use the links to institute homepages above and reach out to potential supervisors directly. We are available to provide guidance if you have any questions or need support getting starting in choosing a supervisor.
- Once a scientist at Forschungszentrum Jülich agrees to be your supervisor, we are happy to answer questions about the MSCA funding instrument in general or more specifically your proposal, including proofreading.
- Administrative support is provided by our department for External Funding Management

In order for us to offer optimal support, please initiate contact well in advance of the call deadline. The next deadline for MSCA PF proposals is **September 10, 2025**. We wish you the best of luck with your proposal and hope to see you soon!

Institute list

- [Ernst Ruska-Center for Microscopy and Spectroscopy with Electrons \(ER-C\)](#)
- [Institute for Advanced Simulation \(IAS\)](#)
- [Institute of Bio- and Geosciences \(IBG\)](#)
- [Institute of Biological Information Processing \(IBI\)](#)
- [Institute of Climate and Energy Systems \(ICE\)](#)
- [Institute of Energy Technologies \(IET\)](#)
- [Institute of Fusion Energy and Nuclear Waste Management \(INF\)](#)
- [Nuclear Physics Institute \(IKP\)](#)
- [Institute of Energy Materials and Devices \(IMD\)](#)
- [Institute for Sustainable Hydrogen Economy \(INW\)](#)
- [Institute of Neurosciences and Medicine \(INM\)](#)
- [Institute of Technology and Engineering \(ITE\)](#)
- [Jülich Centre for Neutron Science \(JCNS\)](#)
- [Peter Grünberg Institute \(PGI\)](#)

Contact & Further Information

Website:

<https://www.fz-juelich.de/en>

Contact: eu@fz-juelich.de

Supports:

[EU research funding, Funding Calender](#)



Leibniz Institute of
Ecological Urban and
Regional Development

Dresden,
Germany

Facts & Figures

- 150 staff (2024), 70% researchers
- €12.5 million budget p.a. (2024)
- Ø 60+ research projects p.a.
- Ø 140+ peer-reviewed publications p.a.
- 4 research areas & 7 research groups, 7 professorships

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER)

*We research for the sustainable transformation
of neighborhoods, cities and regions*



1. About Us

The IOER is a non-university public research center in Dresden (Germany) and a member of the Leibniz Association (97 institutes, 12.000 researchers, €2,3bn budget), funded by national and regional government.

We contribute to a spatial development that enables people to thrive within ecological boundaries while ensuring planetary justice.

As a leading center for advanced spatial sustainability sciences we develop scientific principles, analytical tools and instruments to initiate, accelerate and implement deep and comprehensive change towards sustainability. To this end, we conduct cross-scale research into the interactions and feedbacks between nature, people and technologies, as well as options for policy and planning.

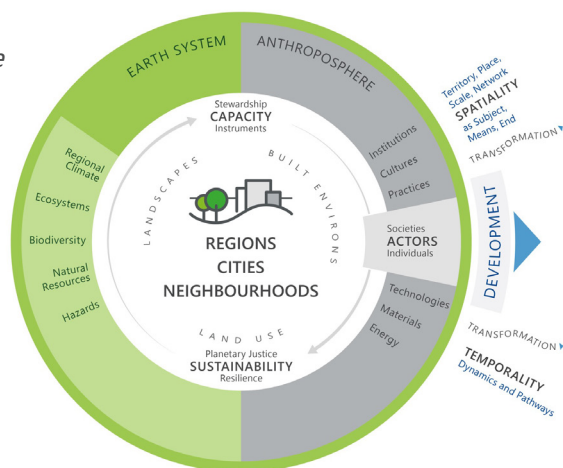
Our organizational design promotes scientific cooperation, knowledge integration and innovation. **Researchers from the spatial, environmental, social, economic, legal and engineering sciences work closely together.**

The IOER also operates a [Research Data Centre](#) (FDZ) for spatial analyses, modelling and simulation. In addition, it runs a permanent real-world laboratory located in a small border town (Görlitz): The [Interdisciplinary Centre for Transformative Urban Regeneration](#) (IZS). The IOER is also leading in the implementation of the large-scale [Leibniz Labs](#) addressing major societal challenges.

2. Why Choose Us?

- Leadership in integrated mono-, inter-, and transdisciplinary research approaches in the spatial sustainability sciences
- Active engagement in science, policy and practice networks at international, European and national levels
- Regular host for guest researchers from across the globe and in diverse funding programs
- Well established collaborations with Korean partners incl. the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) and the Korean Research Institute of Human Settlements (KRIHS)
- Inspiring, motivating and collaborative work environment, and an organization culture characterized by openness, trust, appreciation, creativity and learning

IOER research perspective
(Leitbild 2021)



3. Our Support for Applicants

The IOER offers a range of tailored support options for outstanding scientists whose MSCA proposals align with the institute's research program:

- **Integration:** Matching of applicants with our teams and supervisors, as well as network partners – according to individual research interests
- **Application writing:** Preparatory trainings including through the Leibniz Brussels Office and the partnering European Project Center, as well as individual advice and review of proposal designs
- **Research infrastructure:** Comprehensive support for all research activities ranging from administrative to library and data infrastructure services
- **Relocation:** Individual assistance regarding practical requirements

Research Areas (RA)

- **RA Transformative Capacities** investigates transformative change linked to neighborhoods, cities, and regions with a view to understanding preconditions and pathways for this change as well as sustainability impacts.
- **RA Landscape, Ecosystems and Biodiversity** deals with the analysis and evaluation of processes of landscape transformation. It develops strategies, concepts, instruments and incentives for the orientation and navigation of these processes.
- **RA Built Environment - Resources and Environmental Risks** investigates sustainability issues related to the use, development and materiality of the built environment and its spatial contexts as well as interactions with the environment.
- **RA Spatial Information and Modelling** develops and uses data-intensive and data-integrating approaches to describe, interpret and evaluate trends in settlement and open space development.

Contact & Further Information

Contact:
visiting-scholars@ioer.de

Websites:
www.ioer.de/en/
<https://ioer-fdz.de/en>
<https://izs-goerlitz.ioer.de/en/>

Linkedin: [linkedin.com/company/leibniz-ioer](https://www.linkedin.com/company/leibniz-ioer)



Jena,
Germany

Facts & Figures

- 456 Employees, 139 PhD-students, 55% international researchers and doctoral students from 42 countries
- €42 million in annual research expenditure (2024)
- 6 European Research Council (ERC) grants awarded
- More than 30 MSCA fellows (Postdoc and Doctoral candidates)
- More than 100 EU projects
- Member of the Leibniz Association

Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology

“Photonics for Life” - Leibniz IPHT is an internationally renowned research institute in the Optical Valley of Germany



1. About Us

The Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology (Leibniz-IPHT), based in the Optical Valley of Jena - City of Light, Germany, is a leading research institute at the interface of physics, life sciences, and medicine. As a member of the prestigious German Leibniz Association, Leibniz-IPHT is dedicated to cutting-edge research in photonic methods for life sciences and is internationally recognized for its interdisciplinary approach to translating optical technologies into real-world medical and industrial applications. The institute builds on Jena's long-standing tradition in optics and precision engineering, fostering innovation through strong partnerships with academia, clinics, and industry.

Leibniz-IPHT research activities focus on biophotonics, fiber optics, spectroscopy, microscopy, and data science, with applications ranging from cancer diagnostics and infectious disease detection to environmental monitoring and quantum technology. The institute hosts state-of-the-art laboratories, cleanroom facilities, and unique technological infrastructures for applied photonics research.

Leibniz-IPHT coordinates and participates in numerous national and European research initiatives, including Horizon Europe, and maintains long-standing collaborations with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the University Hospital Jena. The institute is committed to technology transfer, supporting start-ups and spin-offs and actively contributing to regional and European innovation ecosystems.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** Conduct cutting-edge research at the intersection of photonics, biomedicine, chemistry, and data science—ideal for addressing real-world challenges with strong societal impact.
- **Excellent Research Infrastructure:** Access state-of-the-art laboratories, cleanroom facilities, optical fiber drawing towers, advanced optical measurement systems—providing the perfect foundation for your scientific growth.
- **Strong European and Global Networks:** Benefit from extensive experience in coordinating and hosting MSCA fellows within Horizon Europe projects, supported by a collaborative and internationally connected research ecosystem.
- **Supportive and Inclusive Work Culture:** Join a diverse and dedicated team that values mentorship, career development, and work-life balance—embedded in the vibrant research hub of Jena, Germany.

3. Our Support for Applicants

Leibniz-IPHT actively supports Marie Skłodowska-Curie and ERC candidates throughout the application and implementation process:

- **Personalized Guidance:** Receive assistance from Leibniz IPHT dedicated EU Team including Germany National Contact Points experts, including proposal guidance, administrative support, and integration into interdisciplinary research teams.
- **Supervisor Matching:** Get help in identifying and connecting with potential Leibniz IPHT supervisors aligned with your research interests.
- **Resource Access:** Make use of our extensive range of writing support, in-depth guidance, to strengthen your application.

Major Research Areas

- Biomedical Microscopy and Imaging
- Multiscale Spectroscopy
- Ultrasensitive Detection
- Special Fiber Optics
- Nanoplasmonics
- Bioanalytical and - Medical Chip Systems
- Micro/nanotechnology
- Engineering and systems technology
- Artificial intelligence and photonic data science

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.leibniz-ipht.de

Contact: gabriele.hamm@leibniz-ipht.de

Embark on high-class research experience at the Jena Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology. Join a community where innovation thrives, and your potential knows no bounds.



dfki
ai

Bremen,
Germany

Facts & Figures

- Founded in 2006 as DFKI laboratory, as of 2009 third full DFKI location
- Approximately **140** staff members from diverse disciplines
- Up to **60** student assistants supporting various projects
- Director: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Frank Kirchner
- Close collaboration with the Robotics Group at the University of Bremen
- State-of-the-art research facilities, including the Robotics Exploration Laboratory

DFKI Robotics Innovation Center



1. About Us

The Robotics Innovation Center (RIC) is a dynamic research department within the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), located in Bremen. Established in 2006, RIC focuses on developing intelligent robotic systems for complex tasks on land, underwater and in space. The center emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together experts from computer science, engineering, biology, mathematics, linguistics, industrial design, electrical engineering, physics, and psychology.

RIC's mission is to rapidly transfer basic research results into real-world applications. The center works on projects commissioned by industry and publicly funded joint ventures, designing intelligent robots for various fields such as space exploration, underwater missions, electric mobility, logistics, production, consumer applications, search and rescue operations, security, and assistance and rehabilitation systems.

RIC also actively supports work-life balance by offering in-house childcare facilities for emergencies, ensuring that employees' children are cared for by qualified kindergarten teachers.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Expertise:** Collaborate with a diverse team of professionals across multiple disciplines.
- **Cutting-Edge Research Facilities:** Access to advanced laboratories, including the Robotics Exploration Laboratory with maritime and space simulation environments.
- **Real-World Impact:** Engage in projects that translate fundamental research into practical applications.
- **Collaborative Environment:** Work closely with academic institutions like the University of Bremen and industry partners.
- **Supportive Work Culture:** Benefit from initiatives that promote work-life balance and professional development.



3. Our Support for Applicants

RIC is committed to supporting researchers and applicants through:

- **Proposal Development Assistance:** Guidance in preparing strong research proposals.
- **Supervisor Matching:** Connecting applicants with suitable supervisors aligned with their research interests.
- **Workshops & Training:** Opportunities to participate in seminars on grant writing, research ethics, and project management.
- **Integration Services:** Support with relocation, onboarding, and settling in Bremen for international researchers.

Research Areas

Advanced AI Teams

- Mechanics & Control:
- Interaction & Learning:
- Quantum Computing:

Applied AI Teams

- Maritime
- Space
- Terrestrial
- Intelligent HealthCare Systems

Contact & Further Information

Website: robotik.dfki-bremen.de

Contact: robotik@dfki.de

For applications, please contact
ric-bewerbung@dfki.de



Budapest,
Hungary

Facts & Figures

- Funded in 1920
- 11 institutes, 4 doctoral schools
- 8,124 students, with over 1,800 international students from more than 100 countries
- 555 lecturers and researchers
- #350 in QS 2025 World Subject Rankings: Economics
- #351-400 in QS 2025 World Subject Rankings: Economics and Econometrics
- #301-400 in QS 2025 World Subject Rankings: Political Science and International Relations
- More than 600 peer-reviewed publications annually
- 110+ international and domestic grant applications annually
- 60 winning applications
- 28+ million EUR research project portfolio
- 100+ ongoing projects
- 210 international project partners

Corvinus University of Budapest

We advance research in economics, business administration, and social sciences which creates an impact in Central and Eastern Europe



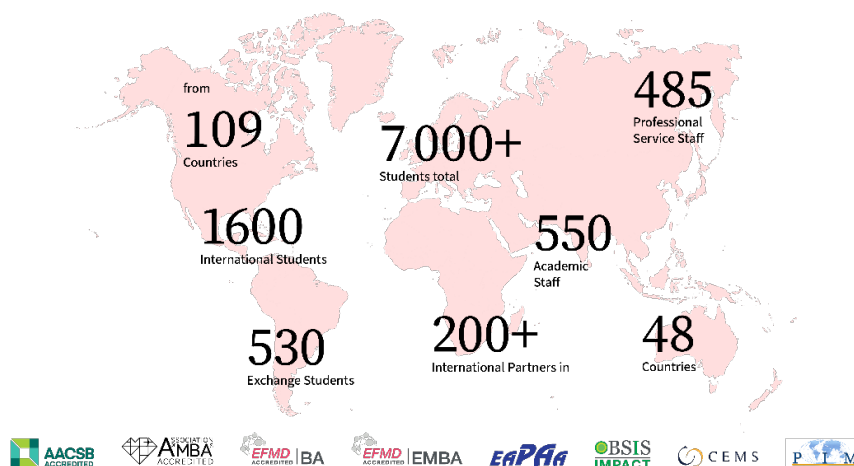
1. About Us

Corvinus University of Budapest is one of the major centres of excellence within East-Central Europe providing cutting-edge research and top-quality education in the fields of Economics, Management, Social and Political Sciences, Data Science and Business Informatics. The Financial Times lists Corvinus Business Programs as European TOP100, while Eduniversal ranks them as the best in Eastern Europe. The hubs of research within the university are its 50+ research centres and 4 accredited doctoral schools, which are embedded in international research communities.

Corvinus University of Budapest is proud to be a key partner in several international cutting-edge research and innovation projects aimed at addressing critical challenges across Europe. There are currently 36 international projects (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, IVF, Interreg, Biodiversa, DUT, etc.) and over 60 national research projects in which Corvinus is participating as a partner or coordinator.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** Corvinus University of Budapest is committed to advancing research in economics, business, and social sciences. With hundreds of national and 200+ international scientific projects delivered, we provide a vibrant academic setting. Our international conferences and seminars foster a dynamic research culture that attracts scholars from the Central European region and around the globe.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Opened in 2024, our new Gellért Campus features cutting-edge media labs and innovative spaces designed to support research and collaboration. Recognized as Hungary's greenest investment at the 2024 Sustainable World Conference, it combines sustainability with forward-looking technology.
- **Global Network:** Our thriving international community supports interdisciplinary collaboration and impactful research. The [Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies](#) (CIAS) is a cornerstone of research excellence at Corvinus University, fostering international collaboration and interdisciplinary dialogue. CIAS offers fellowship programs in four categories, bringing together researchers from diverse fields to drive innovation and elevate the university's global academic impact. Located in the heart of Budapest—one of Europe's most livable cities—we offer an inspiring environment for academic excellence.



3. Our Support for Applicants

The Centre for Grant and Project Management offers end-to-end support for domestic and international projects. From proposal development to financial management and reporting, our dedicated team ensures smooth coordination and expert assistance across all project phases.

Research Areas

- Business
- Management
- Economics and econometrics
- Social Sciences
- Political Science
- Global Studies
- Communications
- Sustainable Development
- Data Science and Business Informatics

Contact & Further Information

Website:
www.uni-corvinus.hu

Social Media:

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Instagram](#)

[TikTok](#)

[X](#)

Contact:
ergo@uni-corvinus.hu

More information on [Corvinus Research](#)



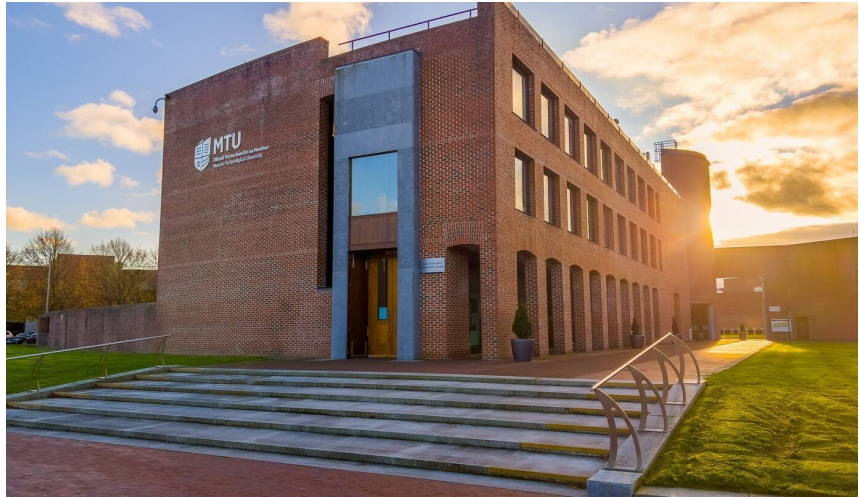
Cork,
Ireland

Facts & Figures

- Over €26.2 million in annual research expenditure (2023)
- More than 500 peer-reviewed publications annually
- 65 Start-Up companies and 44 patents
- 6 faculties, 27 departments
- 13 Research Centre and Groups
- 18,000 students, with over 1,000 international students from more than 125 countries

Munster Technological University (MTU)

MTU's Bishopstown Campus, one of six locations: Kerry North Campus; Cork School of Music; Crawford College of Art and Design; Kerry South Campus; and the National Maritime College of Ireland.



1. About Us

Munster Technological University (MTU) (www.mtu.ie) is a multi-campus technological university, with an extensive regional footprint of six campuses across Cork and Kerry in Ireland's South-West. With a **student population of 18,000**, MTU plays a pivotal role in the region's educational, economic, and innovation landscape.

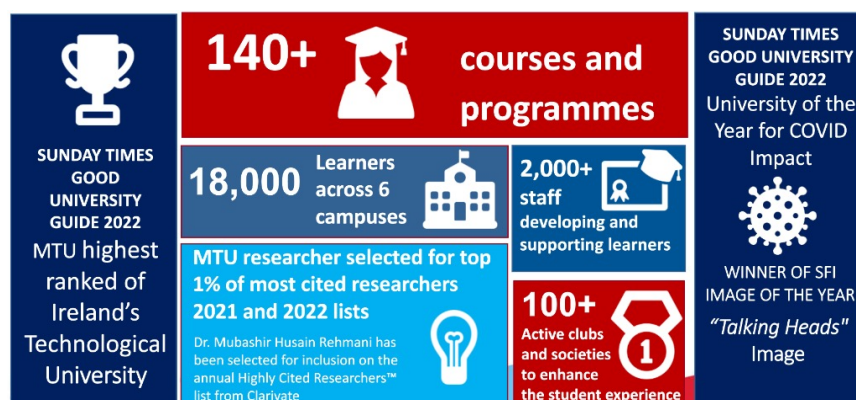
MTU has a clear mission to deliver “**Research to Impact**”, empowering researchers to address challenges and deliver meaningful, sustainable outcomes for society, industry and the environment. This mission is supported by a vibrant and growing research ecosystem, underpinned by interdisciplinary collaboration, industry engagement, and a strong commitment to societal relevance.

MTU has an **annual research expenditure of €26.2m (2023)** and has been awarded over €8m under the Horizon Europe programme. It operates one of Ireland's **largest incubation centres**, housing **65 startups** and contributing to the creation of over 2,500 jobs in the past decade. Its annual turnover exceeds €65m, reflecting its scale and impact.

MTU's vibrant, interdisciplinary research culture and strong commitment to career development make it an attractive environment for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Multidisciplinary Research with Real-World Impact:** MTU's "Research to Impact" ethos fosters collaboration across disciplines to address complex challenges in its major research areas.
- **A Growing, Supported Research and Innovation Community:** MTU is actively expanding and developing its research and innovation ecosystem. MSCA Fellows will join a collaborative, interdisciplinary research community that integrates postgraduates, postdocs and senior research leaders, supported by experienced advisory support offices. MTU's strong entrepreneurial culture also provides fertile ground for applied research, industry collaboration, and innovation-driven careers.
- **A Commitment to Human Resources Excellence in Research:** MTU holds the HRS4R (Excellence in Human Resources for Researchers) award and a Bronze Athena Swan Award, reflecting its commitment to researcher development, equality, and a supportive research environment.
- **Quality of Life and Location:** Located in the scenic and culturally vibrant South-West of Ireland, MTU offers an excellent quality of life, a welcoming atmosphere, and a strong sense of community — making it a great place to live, work, and conduct research.



3. Our Support for Applicants

- **Dedicated Proposal Development Support:** Guidance from Research Funding Specialists on proposal eligibility, structure, alignment with MSCA objectives, and with the evaluation criteria.
- **Targeted Impact and Project Management:** Support from Research Impact Coordinators and a Research Project Management Advisor to enhance impact elaboration and planning and to ensure project feasibility and efficient implementation.
- **Supervisor Matching and Collaborative Proposal Development:** Assistance to identify suitable supervisors and research teams, who will actively collaborate with applicants to co-develop competitive proposals.
- **Administrative Support:** Assistance to support proposal submission and relevant follow-up.

Major Research Areas

- Life Sciences and Wellbeing
- Physical and Engineering Sciences
- Information and Communication Technology
- Business, Entrepreneurship, and Social Sciences
- Creative and Performing Arts, Humanities, and Media

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.mtu.ie

Social Media: @MTU_ie

Contact: research@mtu.ie

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA PF)

Embark on a transformative research experience at MTU. Join a community focused on delivering excellent research with real-world impact.



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Milan,
Italy

Facts & Figures

- 36 European Research Council (ERC) and 90 MSCA grants awarded in Horizon Europe (since 2021)
- 119 spin-offs, 3,408 patents (2024)
- 12 departments
- 49,000 students, with 8,802 international students (2024)
- 1,812 professors and 1.335 collaborators (2024)
- #111 World's Best Universities, QS World University Ranking (2025)
- #21 QS World University Ranking by subject: Engineering (2025)
- #6 QS World University Ranking by subject: Design (2025)
- #7 QS World University Rankings by subject: Architecture (2025)

Politecnico di Milano

Since 1863, Italy's largest science-technology university, between scientific rigor and creativity



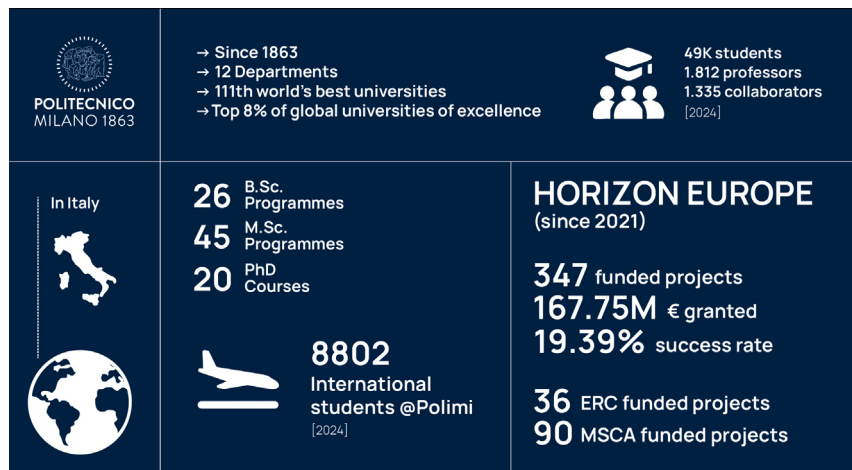
1. About Us

Politecnico di Milano (Polimi) is a state scientific-technological university established in 1863 that trains engineers, architects and industrial designers. Education is at Bachelor, Master's, and PhD level. Polimi has over 1,800 faculty and 49k students in 7 different campuses. Polimi is one of the leading Italian research centers characterized by the combination of theoretical bases of excellence and first-rate research infrastructures providing the possibility of wide variety of experimental research. Polimi is organized in 12 Departments including all main areas of engineering, architecture and industrial design.

Politecnico is the 21st university in the world for Engineering&Technology, the 6th university in the world for Art&Design and the 7th university in the world for Architecture/Built Environment. It is among the first 25 universities in the world for Civil & Structural Engineering; Electrical & Electronic Engineering; Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering. And among the first 50 in the world for Data Science & AI; Chemical Engineering; Materials Science; Mathematics.

Since 2015 Polimi holds the European "HR Excellence in Research" Logo, concerning the implementation of the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and of the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researcher: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hrs4r>

2. Our Figures



3. Our Support for Applicants

Politecnico di Milano is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the application process.

Masterclass: The aim of the Masterclass is to attract and train young and talented researchers to successfully apply to the European call appointing Politecnico di Milano as Host Institution. Promising candidates are invited to attend a full on-line course on the proposal writing and to make use of full support in the application writing process by POLIMI advisors. Candidate fellows and supervisors are guided throughout the whole application process.



Research Departments

- Mechanical Engineering
- Architecture and Urban Studies
- Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering
- Chemistry, Material and Chemical Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Design
- Electronics, Information and Bioengineering
- Energy
- Physics
- Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering

Contact & Further Information

Website:

www.polimi.it/en/

Contact: mscamasterclass@polimi.it

For more details and to begin your application journey:

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)



Milan,
Italy

Education

- Over **47.000** students enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes
- **1.320** faculty members
- **107** undergraduate, graduate and integrated degree programmes
- Over **190** specialising master's programmes, **59** postgraduate diploma programmes, **23** doctoral programmes
- Over **3.000** international students

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



1. About Us

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore is the largest Catholic university in Europe and the only Italian university with a national footprint, with campuses in Milan, Brescia, Cremona, Piacenza, and Rome – home also to the A. Gemelli University Hospital IRCCS.

Founded in Milan on 7 December 1921 by Father Agostino Gemelli and a group of prominent Catholic intellectuals, Università Cattolica has, since its inception, been committed to offering students not only a solid academic foundation and essential professional competencies, but also a multidisciplinary education with a global outlook.

The university distinguishes itself as a space of open, free, and interdisciplinary dialogue, where knowledge is viewed as a tool for personal development and for shaping new paradigms inspired by the common good and service to the individual. Teaching and research work in concert to design pathways that respond to contemporary challenges, informing public and political discourse and contributing to the country's cultural, scientific, and economic progress. Università Cattolica is recognised both nationally and internationally as a key agent of social transformation.

Today, more than 47,000 students benefit from educational programmes designed to integrate knowledge and skills in an innovative, transdisciplinary manner – preparing them for the complexities of the future.

Currently, over 1,500 research projects are underway, funded in part by the university and in part by public institutions, foundations, associations, and industry partners. Research is one of the pillars of the university's mission. The synergy between academic provision and research plays

a central role in advancing interdisciplinary knowledge anchored in scientific rigour. Each year, more than 4,300 publications are produced by professors, researchers, research fellows, and doctoral students – testifying to the university’s strong and ongoing commitment to the advancement of knowledge.

Through its dynamic research activity, growing network of academic partnerships, international accreditations, and extensive range of Dual Degree programmes, Università Cattolica has earned its place among Europe’s and the world’s most prestigious universities.

Alumni - Graduates of Università Cattolica

The Alumni Community of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, comprising over 300,000 graduates, master’s alumni, and PhD holders since 1921, represents an increasingly international network of individuals and professionals united by a strong and enduring bond with the university. Together with the “Amici Università Cattolica” Association, the Alumni are a vital part of the university community, bearing witness to its values and actively contributing to the development of society. Their engagement fosters a global network that strengthens intergenerational exchange and supports ongoing personal and professional growth.

2. Why Choose Us?

A Strong Interdisciplinary Approach

The integration of diverse disciplines encourages broader and more critical thinking, fostering cross-sectoral competencies that are increasingly valued in today’s world.

A Genuine Sense of Community

Students, academics, researchers, and staff are part of a vibrant and collaborative community founded on shared purpose, mutual respect, and meaningful relationships.

Synergy Between Teaching and Research

Teaching is continuously enriched by research, offering students direct engagement with cutting-edge projects and innovative methodologies.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Advanced laboratories and research centres provide students and researchers with access to leading technologies, supporting excellence in both learning and discovery.

Major Research Areas

- Approximately 1.500 ongoing research projects
- 142 research centres and departments across 10 scientific domains:
 - Mathematical and Computer Sciences
 - Physical Sciences
 - Biological Sciences
 - Medical Sciences
 - Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
 - Classical, Philological, Literary, and Historical-Artistic Studies
 - Historical, Philosophical, Educational, and Psychological Sciences
 - Legal Studies
 - Economic and Statistical Sciences
 - Political and Social Sciences
- 94 fixed-term research positions
- 217 research fellowships and 187 doctoral scholarships
- 160 projects funded by the European Union in research and innovation
- 8 PNRR-funded projects under “Mission 4: Education and Research, Component 2: From Research to Business”
- 173 PRIN 2022 projects and 54 PRIN 2022 PNRR projects



Vilnius,
Lithuania

Facts & Figures

- 15 academic units, the Astronomical Observatory, 3 Botanical Gardens and 2 University Hospitals
- Campuses in 3 cities
- 3 400+ academic staff
- 24 000+ students, with over 3 000 international students from more than 90 countries
- 160+ research groups
- 500+ research projects annually
- Member of the ARQUS European University Alliance

Vilnius University:

open to new ideas, dedicated to nurturing talent, faithful to traditions

HINC ITUR AD ASTRA - from here the way leads to the stars



1. About Us

Founded in 1579, Vilnius University (VU) combines centuries of academic excellence with a strong commitment to innovation and global collaboration. Today, it stands as the largest university in Lithuania, comprising 15 academic units, the earliest academic Library in the Baltics, the Astronomical Observatory, 3 Botanical Gardens, and 2 University Hospitals.

VU consistently ranks as the top university in the country, leading in both education and a broad range of fundamental and applied research. As one of Central and Eastern Europe's leading research institutions, VU offers a dynamic environment for cutting-edge research across disciplines and strong ties with a global network of partner universities. The university is home to vibrant research teams and state-of-the-art infrastructure, making it an ideal place for innovative scientific work.

The university actively encourages international talent and provides hands-on assistance for those applying for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA PF). From identifying the right host research group to fine-tuning your proposal, the VU Research Projects Office offers expert guidance every step of the way.



Cooperation with
200+ companies
every year



Among pioneers in
CRISPR-Cas
technology



Partnership with
CERN, EMBL,
LaserLab and others

2. How to Apply?

1. Finding a supervisor

Search for a suitable supervisor or a potential host faculty by browsing:

- VU researchers' hosting offers on [EURAXESS](#)
- [Websites of VU academic units](#)
- [Research Teams search](#)

2. Contacting a supervisor

Contact the supervisor directly (cc to research@cr.vu.lt) to express your interest in a joint MSCA PF application. Please include the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- [Proposal summary](#)

3. Endorsement of a candidate

Request an [endorsement](#) from the supervisor, send it to the VU Research Projects Office (research@cr.vu.lt) and start preparing your MSCA PF project proposal.

Boost your chances of success with ERA Fellowships!

ERA Fellowships offer an excellent second chance at securing funding. If you're applying for the European Postdoctoral Fellowship with a host institution in a widening country like Lithuania, and your proposal is not funded under the MSCA PF call due to budget limitations, it will automatically be considered for the ERA Fellowships call giving your project an additional opportunity to receive support.

3. Our Support for Applicants

- Assistance with eligibility checks.
- Help in finding a supervisor at VU.
- Support during the preparation and submission of the MSCA PF proposal.
- Personalised consultations and support in addressing applicants' questions.
- Proposal review.
- Providing guidance material with tips for proposal writing and information about VU, including details of its training, support services, and hosting arrangements.
- MSCA PF webinar dedicated to familiarising participants with the programme's rules of participation, application content and the experiences of successful VU MSCA PF applicants and/or access to the recorded material.

Research Areas

- Humanities
- Lithuanian Studies
- Structure and Development of Society
- Biological and Sociopsychological Cognition and Evolution of Man
- Healthy Man, Prevention, Diagnostics and Treatment of Diseases
- Genomics, Biomolecules and Biotechnologies
- Changes in Ecosystems, Protection, Natural Resources
- New Functional Materials and Derivatives
- Theoretical and Condensed Matter Physics
- Laser Physics and Light Technologies
- Fundamental and Applied Mathematics
- Informatics and Information Technologies

Contact & Further Information

Website:

www.vu.lt/en/

Social media:

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

[X](#)

Contact:

research@cr.vu.lt

[Information about MSCA PFs and the application process with VU](#)

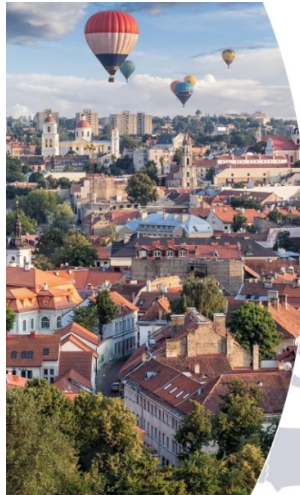
[University video presentation](#)



VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY

Kaunas,
Lithuania

Vytautas Magnus University



Facts & Figures

- 8,800 students
- 1,550 staff members
- 555 research publications (2024)
- 96% alumni employability
- 42 countries cooperating under Memoranda of Understanding
- 33 foreign languages offered at VMU
- Member of the European University Alliance "Transform4Europe"
- Institutional accreditation in 2023 with top scores of "Very Good"
- #2 in National University Rankings: science, art and sports, and academic staff achievements (2024)
- #43 in QS Europe University Rankings: Incoming Exchange Students (2024)

1. About Us

Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) is located in Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania, a country in Northern Europe.

VMU is a public institution that implements a liberal arts study policy and conducts relevant research activities aimed at contributing to society. Our mission is to be the community-based institution for science, arts, and study which continues the mission of the University of Lithuania established in Kaunas in 1922, creating liberal learning conditions for an individual, developing networks and taking an active part in the life of Lithuania to advance its future and foster global cultural and academic development.

The University offers bachelor, master and doctoral degree programmes, and studies are organized in 9 faculties (Informatics, Natural Sciences, Economics and Management, Law, Social Sciences, Political Science and Diplomacy, Humanities, Arts, Catholic Theology) and 3 Academies (Agriculture, Education, and Music).



2. Why Choose Us?

The University's researchers are highly qualified professionals whose expertise is recognized nationally, across Europe, and globally. The University is currently implementing over 300 international and national projects, including 30 ongoing projects under 'Horizon Europe' and 'Horizon 2020'. Incoming researchers will find a wide range of fields aligned with their scientific interests and are encouraged to join our research institute teams in areas that match their expertise:

- **Bioeconomy Research Institute:** The Institute focuses its research on climate-smart digital agriculture, forestry and water management; renewable energy resources; development and implementation of business innovations in the bioeconomy; sustainable food systems.
- **Research Institute of Natural and Technological Sciences:** The Institute performs interdisciplinary research on sustainable energy, climate change and anthropogenic impact on biodiversity and human health, data analysis, modelling and forecasting of systems and processes, cell and tissue biotechnology, genetic engineering, as well as scientific research on functional biomaterials, environmental/biodiversity protection and applied biology.
- **Educational Research Institute:** activities are organized according to the following research topics: neuroscience-based learning and health education; educational support, inclusion and wellbeing; educational systems, management and politics; modern methodologies of educational research and practice; research-based education and higher education; educational innovation and change.
- **Institute of Digital Resources and Interdisciplinary Research:** The Institute conducts language usage research and develops resources and technologies; performs machine learning research for language technologies; conducts applied psycho- and sociolinguistic research.
- **Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute:** At the Institute, the research covers several areas: sociocultural transformations and identities; resilient societies and inclusive politics; urban and regional transformations; methodology, datafication, methods and data - digitalisation, data and research methods, digital resilience.
- **Lithuanian Emigration Institute:** The Institute performs research in these areas: issues of preserving national identity in emigration; academic, political, and cultural Lithuanian activities in emigration; the Lithuanian diaspora in the international anti-communist movement; the historical development of international migration processes; the comparative development of post-soviet diasporas; diaspora relations with Lithuania.

3. Our Support for Applicants

The University offers researchers access to modern scientific infrastructure essential for high-quality research, including laboratories, advanced equipment, databases, and other key resources. Research projects are led by experienced supervisors with relevant expertise, who actively collaborate with partners from strategic sectors. <https://www.vdu.lt/en/>

Research Institutes

Research capacity is enhanced through an interdisciplinary approach, with activities organised at research institutes:

- Bioeconomy Research Institute
- Research Institute of Natural and Technological Sciences
- Educational Research Institute
- Institute of Digital Resources and Interdisciplinary Research
- Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute
- Lithuanian Emigration Institute

Contact & Further Information

Contact person:

Dr. Eglė Gerulaitienė egle.gerulaitiene@vdu.lt
Head of Project Management Unit
Vytautas Magnus University



ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA
UNIVERSITY of IAȘI

Iași,
Romania

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

Where academic tradition meets global innovation



Facts & Figures

- Over **140** national and international research projects (2024)
- More than **1,400** peer-reviewed publications annually indexed in WoS or IDB
- **15** faculties
- **25,175** students, with over **2,100** international students
- **776** full-time academic staff, **67** academic staff with fixed-term contracts, and **864** associate teaching staff
- **120** full-time researchers
- **#176** in World University Rankings for Innovation (2024)
- **#402*** in QS World University Rankings (2024) (*in Europe)
- **#401–500** Global Ranking of Academic Subjects - Physics (2024)
- **#608** in RankPro World University Rankings (2024)

1. About Us

A leading European university, the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași has been shaping the future of research and education since 1860. Located in Iași, Romania's cultural and intellectual hub, the university is a premier institution recognized for its deep-rooted academic tradition and forward-looking international vision. Founded in 1860, it holds the distinction of being the first modern university in Romania. Today, it is a distinguished center of academic excellence in Eastern Europe, renowned for its dedication to cultivating leadership, promoting scholarly research, and encouraging international collaboration. With over twenty-five thousand students, including an expanding international community, the university is celebrated for its inclusive learning environment, vibrant campus life, and dedication to excellence at all levels of study, from undergraduate programs to doctoral research and postdoctoral innovation.

A Destination of Choice for Ambitious Students and Researchers

Students and scholars at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași benefit from a rigorous academic curriculum, personalized mentorship, and access to state-of-the-art research facilities. The university offers a wide array of programs across its fifteen faculties, including natural and hard sciences, humanities, law, economics, and social sciences. Dedicated innovation hubs, research institutes, and interdisciplinary centers support researchers, allowing them to engage in cutting-edge scientific work and contribute to high-impact projects both locally and internationally.

Modern Research Facilities

The university has developed a wide network of research centers and institutes, offering students and researchers access to some of the most advanced equipment and resources in Romania.

2. Why Choose Us?

• Interdisciplinary Research Environment

The university fosters an open and collaborative academic ecosystem where **interdisciplinary work is not only encouraged but essential**. Students and researchers engage with peers and mentors across a range of scientific domains — from life sciences, quantum technologies, and artificial intelligence to cultural heritage, public policy, and climate science.

• State-of-the-Art Research Facilities

Recent investments in cutting-edge infrastructure have led to the creation of several internationally competitive centers:

- **CERNESIM**: Integrated Centre for Environmental Science Studies (<https://cernesim.uaic.ro/index.php/language/en/>)
- **RECENT AIR**: National Laboratory for Atmospheric Aerosol Investigation (<https://recent-air.uaic.ro/index.php>)
- **ARHEOINVEST**: Advanced Center for Archaeometry and Cultural Heritage (<http://arheoinvest.uaic.ro/>)
- **RAMTECH**: Research on Advanced Materials and Technologies (<https://ici.uaic.ro/departamente-si-centre/centrul-ramtech/>)
- **iTransfer**: Technology Transfer and Innovation Hub (<https://ittransfer.uaic.ro/index.html>)
- **RaaS**: Research as a Service Platform

These facilities are open to international students and researchers, offering access to equipment, data, and technical support for high-impact research.

• Global Academic Network

The university's internationalization strategy links students and faculty with a broad global network. Through partnerships across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, it supports joint degrees, research collaboration, and academic mobility. Highlights include:

- Membership in the **EC2U European Campus of City Universities**, fostering cross-border research
- Participation in **40+ COST Actions** for interdisciplinary cooperation and publication
- Involvement in major European programs like **Horizon Europe** and **Erasmus+**, and networks such as the **Coimbra Group**, **Utrecht Network**, and the **European University Association**

3. Our Support for Applicants

At Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, we know that international scholars need more than academics — they need support and a welcoming environment. That's why we offer:

- **Mentorship and supervisor matching**
- **Proposal and funding guidance**
- **Visa, housing, and relocation support**
- **Career development and research integration**
- **Language and cultural programs**, including Korean language courses and cultural activities through the ROK Center.

Whether you are applying for a **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship**, starting a doctorate, or joining a master's program, we are here to support your success.

Strong Academic Reputation

- Romania's **first modern university**, with a tradition of excellence since the 19th century
- Ranked among the **top universities in the region**
- Offers degrees at **bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral** levels
- Highly qualified professors and researchers with **standing international achievements**

Major Research Areas

- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Materials Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Social Sciences & Humanities

Contact & Further Information

- Website: www.uaic.ro
- Email: contact@uaic.ro
- Social Media: @UAICdinIASI | @uaiciasi

Begin your academic journey at **Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași** — where global ambitions thrive through academic excellence!



Bucharest
Romania

Facts & Figures

- PhD programmes – School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy (12 PhD Coordinators).
- Technological Transfer Center (CTT-ICF).
- Research staff: **101** (R1 – 12; R2 – 44; R3 – 27; R4 – 14).
- Projects and Grants Office: **2** experienced persons.
- Ongoing (2025): **8** Programmes; **23** Projects and **45** Topics.
- Monthly seminars with international invited researchers.
- More than **110** Articles ISI Ranking in prestigious publications (2024), including **6** reference books and chapters' book in the major research areas of IPC.
- Open Science practices.
- European and international cooperation.

“Ilie Murgulescu” Institute of Physical Chemistry

“It’s all about chemistry” – “Ilie Murgulescu” Institute of Physical Chemistry (IPC) is an institute of the research network of the Romanian Academy, under the coordination of the Chemical Sciences Department.



1. About Us

The “Ilie Murgulescu” Institute of Physical Chemistry (IPC) has a long tradition in fundamental and applied research in the field of physical chemistry, inorganic and coordination chemistry, and materials science. The organisational research structure of the IPC consists of 8 Laboratories: (1) Quantum Chemistry and Molecular Structure; (2) Chemical Thermodynamics; (3) Chemical Kinetics; (4) Surface Chemistry and Catalysis; (5) Electrochemistry and Corrosion; (6) Oxide Compounds and Materials Science; (7) Colloid Chemistry; (8) Coordination and Supramolecular Chemistry. Development, dissemination and valorization of knowledge and results obtained through fundamental and applied research in challenging areas of national and international interest are of major interest to researchers from the IPC. The IPC has a diversified research infrastructure: <https://eertis.eu/>. The IPC organises PhD programmes in various fields of chemistry and physical chemistry. For more information, check our website: <https://www.icf.ro/>.

IPC is an OITBpathway Partner for consulting services in the frame of the H2020 project SAFE-N-MEDTECH (Safety testing in the life cycle of nanotechnology-enabled medical technologies for health, GA: 814607).

IPC has six participations in COST Actions, the last one, as Main Proposer and member of the Management Committee: CA22107 – Bringing Experiment and Simulation Together in Crystal Structure Prediction (BEST-CSP).

IPC is the coordinator of the European project "Chemical host-guest molecular systems for health applications (OMRI for identification of inflammatory pathologies)" funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan worth approximately EUR 1.2 million.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** IPC has a strong collaboration across various disciplines. The transition from fundamental research to innovation in the wish to contribute to solving global challenges guides the entire activity.
- **Top laboratories at European level:** the research infrastructure of IPC laboratories meets the needs of complex projects.
- **European and international cooperation:** The IPC laboratories have top collaborations within the institutional partnerships of the Romanian Academy.
- **Supportive Community:** Experienced researchers and young postdocs and PhDs provide an open and inclusive working climate for international collaboration partners.

3. Our Support for Applicants

The Projects and Grants Office of the IPC offers reliable support for the participation of research teams in the European Union's research and innovation framework programmes, in national and international consortia.

Major Research Areas

- Studies of systems with biomedical applications
- Thermodynamics and quantum chemistry
- Chemical kinetics
- Surface and thin film science, catalytic processes and materials
- Electrode processes, corrosion and materials for electrochemical systems
- Materials science and advanced characterization methods
- Complex functional colloids
- Coordination compounds and (multi)functional hybrid / inorganic materials

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://www.icf.ro/>

Contact: office@icf.ro

Projects and Grants Office:
imhail@icf.ro

Social media:

[https://www.facebook.com/
share/15184Xb6SuZ/](https://www.facebook.com/share/15184Xb6SuZ/)



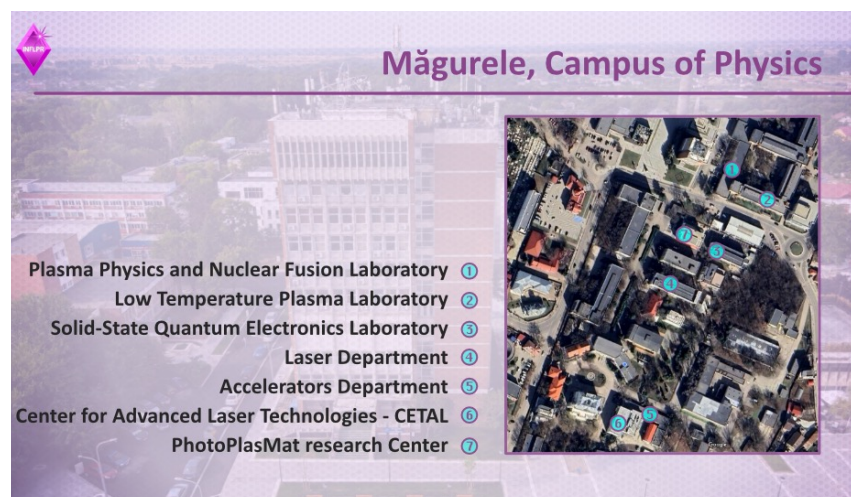
Măgurele
Romania

Facts & Figures

- Over 1,000 peer-reviewed publications (many in Q1/Q2 journals) between 2020-2024
- **More than 70** national and international projects per year, including Horizon Europe, ESA, CERN, and COST actions
- Total research revenue (2020-2024): over **€100** million
- Investments in research infrastructure: **~€15** million (2020-2024)
- **More than 300** researchers and engineers, including around **80** PhD students
- Strong record as partner in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships
- Direct access to one of the most powerful lasers in the world (1 PW) - hosted at the CETAL laser facility.

The National Institute for Laser, Plasma & Radiation Physics **INFLPR**

“Driven by science, fostering innovation” - INFLPR is a leading Romanian research institute, internationally connected and committed to scientific excellence



1. About Us

Founded in 1977 and reorganized in 1996 as a national research institute, the **National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (INFLPR)** is one of Romania's leading research institutions. With over 40 years of tradition, INFLPR carries out cutting-edge fundamental and applied research in **photonics, plasma physics, laser technologies, radiation physics, solid-state quantum electronics, and space science**.

INFLPR also includes a distinct legal branch - the **Institute of Space Science (ISS)** - focusing on advanced research in astrophysics, cosmology, gravitation, quantum communication, and satellite technology.

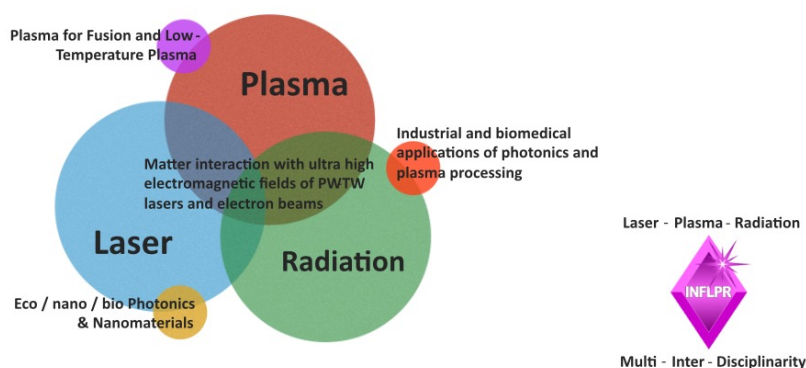
The institute is a member or partner in numerous strategic EU-level programs such as:

- The **EURATOM Horizon Europe Programme**, which supports the **EUROfusion** project for nuclear fusion;
- The European Horizon Europe project **Lasers4EU** for the period 2024-2028;
- The European Horizon Europe project **RIANA** for the period 2024-2028;
- The European QuantEra Programme and the **Quantum Technologies Flagship** - European research and innovation initiative;
- The research programmes of the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** INFLPR offers a comprehensive interdisciplinary research environment, fostering collaboration across physics, engineering, materials science, and life sciences to tackle complex scientific and societal challenges.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Researchers benefit from cutting-edge laboratories and large-scale infrastructures, including the unique FOTOPLASMAT Research Center, CETAL (Center for Advanced Laser Technologies) laser facility, enabling world-class experimental research.
- **Global Network:** INFLPR maintains strong international partnerships with leading research institutions in Europe, Korea, the USA, and beyond, promoting cross-cultural academic exchanges and collaborative projects.
- **Supportive Community:** Join an inclusive and dynamic research community at INFLPR that values diversity and provides personalized support for international researchers, including assistance with Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship applications.

Research directions



3. Our Support for Applicants

INFLPR is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the application process:

- **Expert Guidance** - Dedicated EU project office for proposal advice, budgeting, and compliance.
- **Supervisor Matching** - Access to top researchers in photonics, plasma, quantum, space, and medical technologies.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities** - Full access to CETAL laser center, high-performance labs, and ISS space infrastructure.
- **International Ecosystem** - Active collaborations with CERN, ESA, EUROfusion, Laserlab Europe, ELI.
- **Career Development** - Training, mentoring, and networking for long-term research success.

Major Research Areas

- Advanced Laser Technologies
- Applied Research on Hot Plasmas
- Low-Temperature Plasma Applications
- Nanotechnologies
- Accelerated Radiation and Particle Applications
- Biomedical & Environmental Applications
- Space Technologies

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.inflpr.ro

Social Media: www.facebook.com/INFLPR/

Contact: secretariat@inflpr.ro

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA PF)
- Support Services: Guidance in proposal preparation, supervisor matching, and institutional support for MSCA-PF applicants hosted by INFLPR

Join a dynamic scientific community where innovation, excellence, and international collaboration drive your research forward.



Bucharest
Romania

Facts & Figures

- **Established:** 1996
- **Headquarters:** Bucharest, Romania
- **National Footprint:** Branches in Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Piatra Neamt, field stations in Murighiol (Danube Delta) and Constanta
- **Governance:** Public research institute under the coordination of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization
- **People**
 - ~300 staff members
 - ~180 researchers, including senior scientists and early-stage researchers

National Institute of Research and Development for Biological Sciences



1. About Us

INCDSB's mission is excellence in life sciences research, assumed through the process of integrating interdisciplinary institutional research in the following core directions: 1) biomedicine / health, 2) agriculture, nutrition and food safety, 3) environment and biodiversity respectively 4) circular bioeconomy, and to ensure trans-disciplinary approach by four complementary fields (bioanalysis, bioinformatics, biotechnology and bioproducts and research in extreme environments) to the mentioned core directions. INCDSB's vision is to contribute, through cooperation with local and European partners to the understanding of the life processes and to provide sustainable solutions to the challenges occurring as result of environmental problems, health, depletion of natural resources, nutrition etc.

INCDSB is a strategic partner in the European research infrastructure DANUBIUS-RI, which is being developed in the Danube Delta and is expected to become fully operational by 2027. This landmark infrastructure supports interdisciplinary research of river - sea system and plays a key role in the green and digital transition. INCDSB aims to contribute to the achievement of the European Union's objectives on sustainable, knowledge-based development. Thus, through its inter- and trans-disciplinary research activities, INCDSB participates in achieving the objectives related to: (1) promoting strategic autonomy, by creating key-value chains to accelerate the green transition and focusing technologies and innovation on human needs; (2) the ecosystems and biodiversity

restoration; sustainable management of natural resources to ensure food security and a clean and healthy environment; (3) the transition to a sustainable European economy according to the principles of Europe's economic circularity and climate neutrality.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** INCDSB brings together biologists, chemists, engineers, and data scientists in collaborative teams focused on solving real-world challenges in agriculture, health, environment, and biotechnology.
- **State-of-the-Art Infrastructure:** Researchers benefit from access to modern laboratories and advanced equipment across our national network of facilities, enabling the development, testing, and validation of innovative bio-based technologies.
- **Innovation for Sustainability:** Researchers benefit from access to modern laboratories and advanced equipment across our national network of facilities, enabling the development, testing, and validation of innovative bio-based technologies.
- **Strong Industry and Academic Partnerships:** INCDSB collaborates actively with SMEs, universities, public institutions, and European networks, facilitating knowledge transfer and increasing the relevance and scalability of our research.
- **Experience in High-Level Projects:** We are involved in national and European research initiatives (e.g. Horizon Europe, DANUBIUS-RI), ensuring robust project management, visibility, and interdisciplinary integration.

3. Our Support for Applicants

Scientific Mentorship and Collaborative Supervision

We offer access to experienced researchers with expertise in biotechnology, biomaterials, bioresources, and environmental monitoring, ready to co-develop research ideas and support career development.

Access to Research Infrastructure

Applicants benefit from state-of-the-art laboratories and specialized equipment for experimental and analytical work across multiple domains of the life sciences.

Interdisciplinary Teams

INCDSB promotes collaboration across biology, chemistry, engineering, and environmental science, encouraging innovative, cross-sector approaches to complex research questions.

Institutional Commitment to Knowledge Transfer

We provide technical support and practical pathways for translating research results into applications through partnerships with SMEs, public agencies, and local communities.

Major Research Areas

- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Health & Medical Sciences

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://www.incdsb.ro/en/>

Social Media: @incdsb

Contact:

Splaiul Independentei 296
060031 Bucharest Romania

office@incdsb.ro

021-220.77.80

Fax: 021-220.76.95



Bucharest
Romania

Facts & Figures

(2019-2023)

- 67 researchers
- 516 ISI papers -36%Q1
- 22 books/chapters
- 500 scientific communications
- 5 patents granted
- 22 patents application, one international
- 11 gold medals for patents
- 7 excellence diplomas for projects or patents
- 19.228.645 Euro in research funding
- 8 international projects
- 4 structural funding projects
- 38 national projects
- 15 COST actions

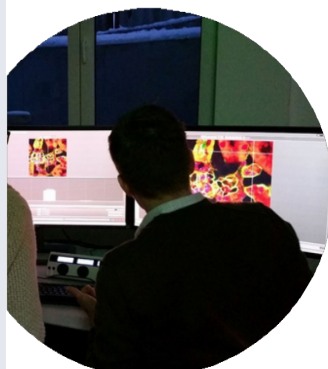
Victor Babeș National Institute Of Pathology



1. About Us

Victor Babeș National Institute of Pathology (www.ivb.ro) was founded in 1887 and, since then, it has been a reference center for medical research in Romania. Our mission is to discover the molecular and cellular mechanisms involved in various pathologies, from non-communicable diseases to tumor pathology. Our efforts are focused on identifying early diagnosis techniques as precisely as possible so that patients can benefit from personalized therapies. IVB provides specialized diagnostic services for patients and research services for companies and other institutions.

Victor Babeș Institute has modern laboratories for pathology, genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, electron microscopy and an authorized animal facility. Complementary techniques are available for cellular and molecular imaging at high resolution: cryo-EM, CEMOVIS, CLEM, single particle, confocal microscopy, STED super-resolution microscopy (<https://www.cell-imaging.ro>). Genomic analysis and proteomic technologies are also available.



2. Why Choose Us?

We address various topics of research in life sciences:

- High-resolution imaging of biological samples, from super-resolution fluorescence microscopy to cryo-electron microscopy.
- Evaluation of immune parameters to improve diagnosis, monitoring clinical evolution and personalization of therapy in skin diseases, mainly autoimmune dysregulation in psoriasis and skin cancers, both melanoma and non-melanoma
- Characterization of the effect of bacterial functional amyloid proteins and other amyloidogenic products of the intestinal microbiota on pathological protein aggregation in Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.
- Regeneration of skeletal muscle into normal and dystrophic muscles, with the aim of identifying new and potentially more reliable biomarkers of disease progression for chronic and genetic diseases.
- Immunooncology studies in animal models, with focus on NK cells.
- Identification of genomic imbalances and DNA sequence variations in neurodevelopmental disorders, with a focus on autism spectrum disorders, brain malformations, epilepsy, and unexplained intellectual disabilities.
- Redox biology applied to radio- and photodynamic therapies in cancer, as well as the interaction of ionizing radiation relevant to outer space, in collaboration with the innovative Extreme Light - Nuclear Physics infrastructure (ELI-NP, Romania)
- Molecular mechanisms in solid cancers, epigenetic mechanisms study through the use of patient-derived organoids and gene editing.

3. Our Support for Applicants

- **Email us:** Receive assistance from our team, including proposal guidance, administrative support, and legal advice
- **Supervisor Matching:** We will help you choose the supervisor aligned with your research interests.
- **Infrastructure Access:** All resources are available to expand your research

Major Research Areas

- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Health & Medical Sciences

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.ivb.ro

99-101 Splaiul Independentei
050096 Bucharest, Romania

Social Media: [linkedin.com/
company/victor-babes-national-
institute-of-pathology/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/victor-babes-national-institute-of-pathology/)

Contact: info@ivb.ro,
scientific.secretary@ivb.ro



kInIT
Kempelen Institute
of Intelligent Technologies

Bratislava,
Slovakia

Facts & Figures

- #1 private non-profit independent AI research institute in Slovakia
- Established in September 2020
- 15 European research projects
- 40+ industry projects yearly
- 100+ staff incl. PhD students and interns across 5 teams (4 research and 1 support team)
- 120+ project partners from 30+ countries
- 10+ PhD students
- HRS4R holder since 2025

Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies

“Harnessing research for humans & industries” - KInIT is an independent, non-profit research institute bridging the industry and academia



1. About Us

Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies (KInIT) is an independent, non-profit research institute focusing on supporting scientific excellence by bridging industry and academia. KInIT has repeatedly proven its excellence and potential, it encourages spreading knowledge, talent development, and responsible innovation. It advocates quality, ethics, and fairness and is active in policy advising.

KInIT builds on the long-standing academic excellence of three AI research groups, with strong support from the private sector, and inspired by similar institutes abroad. In 5 years of its existence, it has tripled its staff, acquired funding from 12 Horizon/Digital Europe projects (3 as coordinator), 5+ other international projects and 10+ national projects. It engaged with industry collaboration with 40+ industry partners and established project contacts with 120+ partners in 31 European countries, published 45% of scientific outputs on top venues (A/A*, Q1/Q2).

Its activities focus strongly on the society, from research topics (e.g., disinformation, language, environment), through advising and commenting on Slovak and EU policies, popularizing science, to nurturing young talent.

Acknowledged by the Slovak government, KInIT is gaining recognition for being a new institutional model for R&I in Slovakia, demonstrating alignment to the Slovak and European strategies.

2. Why Choose Us?

Boosting innovation in industry through excellent science Our long-term industry collaborations focus on applied research and the preparation of joint European projects.

Interdisciplinary research excellence supported by international collaborations. The extensive network allows us to collaborate in our projects with researchers from multiple disciplines, like history, psychology, social sciences, philosophy, information sciences, or journalism.

People and culture are at the top of our priorities. At our institute commitment to fostering personal growth and community building represent one of top priorities.

AI ethics and regulation activities help develop responsible R&D. We prepared and follow several guidelines, frameworks and processes for the assessment of ethical, legal and societal issues regarding the research activities.

KInIT is a part of Teaming for Excellence scheme. KInIT has been successful in the prestigious widening scheme focusing on upgrading the Institute to a leading research institution in the region with primary focus on Low Resource Artificial Intelligence.

Key principles of KInIT:



1. Create a culture inspired by models from abroad
2. Spread understanding of the importance of research for innovation
3. Link private sector experience with academic excellence
4. Research topics which affect society
5. Carry out basic research closely linked to applications
6. Encourage to experiment in way of functioning

3. Our Support for Applicants

For the grant applicant candidate, we will provide support in the administrative and financial issues of the application, a Host Support Letter. We will also provide support in the proposal writing stage, grant access to a range of support materials, seminars and guidelines on writing and planning to maximize the potential of the successful application.

We will offer the capacity of our **well-established research team** (ask for template-related feedback) and the **network of researchers** across Europe and USA. We will provide support for the **project management** covered by our Grant office. Our institute offers attractive career development opportunities and a **unique work environment** with a highly **personalized approach**.

Major Research Areas

- Human in the loop
- Learning with limited data
- Multilinguality & Transfer learning
- Multi-modal content processing
- Trustworthy & Explainable NLP
- Information credibility
- False information tackling
- Low resource machine learning
- Predictive modeling
- Recommender systems
- Natural language processing

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://kinit.sk/>

Social Media: [#KInIT](#)

Contact: info@kinit.sk

For more details and to begin your application journey: [MSCA@KInIT](#)

KInIT combines the excellent competencies of academic researchers and educators with innovative companies, their needs and experience.



UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
University of Ljubljana

Ljubljana,
Slovenia

Facts & Figures

- Ranks among **501 and 600** of the best universities in the world according to the Shanghai Ranking
- UL brings together **26** faculties and academies
- Enrolls **37,472** students with **3,828** international students
- Employs **7,138** teachers, researchers, assistant professors, and professional and administrative staff
- Over **350** Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral study programmes and **195** research programmes
- UL is involved in over **730** national and over **600** European and international research projects

University of Ljubljana

The oldest and the largest higher education and scientific research institution in Slovenia.



1. About Us

University of Ljubljana (UL), established in 1919, is the oldest and largest higher education and scientific research institution in Slovenia. The main building, the academies and many faculties are located in the city centre and the newer university buildings are located on the outskirts of Ljubljana, giving the university and its students an old-world feel in the city. UL is renowned for its quality social and natural sciences and technical study programmes.

Today, the University of Ljubljana enrolls over 37,000 students, including 3,828 international students, supported by a dedicated academic staff of 7,138 teachers, researchers, assistant professors, and professional and administrative staff. The university brings together 23 faculties and 3 academies and more than 350 study programmes that cover the areas of arts, nature, technology, social sciences, humanities, medicine, health sciences, and sport.

The University of Ljubljana is a research-intensive and excellent arts university, striving for excellence and international recognition in all areas of its activities. With over 4,600 registered researchers, the scientific research work accomplished includes top projects in the fields of arts, natural sciences, technology, social sciences and medicine. Exceptional achievements in the scientific field are being exchanged with fellow universities, science and research institutions and the economy sector. This is a contribution into Slovenian and global treasury of knowledge, from where knowledge is transmitted to students and other users.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Focus on high quality research:** UL implements and promotes basic, applied and developmental research and is pursuing excellence and the highest quality as well as the highest ethical criteria in all scientific fields and art.
- **Encouragement of interdisciplinarity:** UL encourages interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study, exchanges results of achievements in science and art with other universities and scientific research institutions, thus contributing to the Slovenian and world knowledge treasury.
- **Collaboration with various sectors:** UL cooperates with organizations from economy and service in public and private sector, with state organizations, local communities, and civil society. With this, cooperation accelerates the use of own research and educational achievements and contributes to social development.
- **Promotion of academic and institutional values:** UL promotes academic excellence and the highest possible quality, academic freedom, autonomy, humanism and human rights including equal possibilities and solidarity, and ethical and responsible attitude towards the world.

3. Our Support for Applicants

University of Ljubljana is offering dedicated support to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the application process:

- **MSCA PF Masterclass:** Applicants receive comprehensive information and guidance on proposal development.
- **Personalized Guidance:** We provide support throughout the entire application process, that entails project proposal reviews, ensuring that applicants and their supervisors are well-prepared for the proposal submission.
- **Resource Access:** Make use of University's extensive range of guidance also in the field of Open Science and Intellectual Property Rights.



Major Research Areas

- Arts
- Humanities and social sciences
- Natural sciences
- Technology
- Medicine

Contact & Further Information

Website: <https://www.uni-lj.si/>

Social Media

Instagram: @univerza_v_ljubljani

Facebook:

Univerza v Ljubljani / University of Ljubljana

Contact: rektorat@uni-lj.si

For more details and to begin your application journey, please contact us:

- msca@uni-lj.si



Maribor,
Slovenia

Facts & Figures

- Among the **4%** of the **best universities** in the world according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings
- **17** faculties, the University of Maribor Library and Student Dormitories
- **2,135** employees
- **1,349** researchers (2024)
- More than **15,000** students, with over **2,000** international students
- **178** study programs
- More than **1,000** peer-reviewed publications (2024)
- **51** research programs and **111** research groups
- **128** international research and development projects
- HR Excellence in Research Award

University of Maribor

"Create your future" - the University of Maribor is the second largest university in Slovenia where excellence is at home in every respect.



1. About Us

The University of Maribor (UM), established in 1975 and located in the beautiful city of Maribor, Slovenia, is recognized as a successful public research organization. Its primary mission is the dissemination and enrichment of knowledge. Interdisciplinarity is highly valued, as its 17 faculties cover natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, medicine, biotechnology, social sciences, humanities and many more. With more than 2,000 employees, of whom 1349 are researchers, and over 15,000 students (in the academic year 2024/2025) UM is also the key partner of ATHENA European university with 10 European universities, 96 Faculties, 160,000 students and 15,000 employees (in 2024). This cooperation strengthens our research and education strategies as well as encourages interdisciplinary innovation and technological progress for the benefit of society. UM is also an active member of EUA, EOSC, CoARA, the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information, the Slovenian Open Science Community, and many others.

By creating a working environment that promotes academic freedom, UM encourages top scientific achievements. The guiding principle in scientific research is the commitment to research excellence and international comparability in the wider research area. We are proud of our greatest scientific achievements, such as [HPC RIVR](#), [RIUM](#) and [MAHEPA](#). Our accomplishments literally reach into space ([TRISAT](#)). UM pays particular attention to students' involvement in research work and decision-making bodies. It is linked with the economy both in the field of knowledge and technology transfer into practice as well as in the field of connecting and networking students and graduates with employers in terms of transition to the labour market. UM is an institution offering numerous career development opportunities. The awareness that the university is made of people is present at all levels of education and research.

2. Why Choose Us?

- UM continuously invests in **state-of-the-art research infrastructure**, actively develops the principles of **open science**, strengthens international connectivity and **knowledge transfer** activities.
- We encourage **ethical behaviour** and responsible research practices as well as **involve students** in research work to address social challenges and support the economic progress of the region.
- Amazing location: **Slovenia** is a small but topographically diverse country with spectacular nature. Moreover, it is a clean, green and safe country. You can easily communicate since the level of English of most Slovenians is amazingly high. **Maribor** is located along the Drava River, surrounded by the green forests of Pohorje and picturesque wine-growing hills. It is the second largest city in Slovenia filled with lots of friendly people and cultural events.

3. Our Support for Applicants

Support during mobility

UM is part of the international EURAXESS network, the main purpose of which is comprehensive and high-quality support for researchers when moving between countries.

MSCA PF

UM is pleased to support postdoctoral researchers in their application for a [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship](#). We welcome collaboration with postdoctoral candidates who have a strong publication record and a complementary research agenda. Our university organizes online, and on-site specialized workshops and informational events aimed at preparing competitive applications, featuring invited experts and MSCA project recipients, in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and international specialists. Trainings include MSCA key topics, evaluation process, feedback, step-by-step guidance through evaluation criteria, and drafted proposals. We offer ongoing consultations and individual support in cooperation with the National Delegate and Contact Point for Horizon Europe MSCA, including a methodological pre-screening of project proposals. Moreover, we coordinate bilateral meetings with applicants, supervisors, and UM support staff.

ERC

UM offers comprehensive professional support for ERC applications that complements already established support mechanisms at national level. In frames of the support mechanism, UM is organizing specialized workshops and information events for the preparation of competitive applications with invited experts, National Contact Point for ERC as well as ERC projects winners. We strive to consider the real needs of researchers at all career stages (according to the type of the particular ERC call) and offer them assistance and full support in preparing the application form in cooperation with the National ERC Contact Point and external specialized providers.

Come and boost your research career with the University of Maribor!



Priority Research Fields

- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in Biomedicine (ERC LS)
- Materials and Technologies (ERC PE)
- Heritage Science and Climate Change (ERC SH)

Contact & Further Information

- Website: <https://www.um.si/en>

- Social Media:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[YouTube](#)

Contact: rektorat@um.si

- For more details:

[Getting ready for MSCA PF with UM](#)

[Mission, vision and strategic development](#)

[Strategy of the University of Maribor 2021-2030 \(video\)](#)



UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Barcelona,
Spain

UAB Figures 2024

- Over **40.000** students (>5000 international students)
- **10,000** researchers and teaching staff
- **68** Doctoral Programs
- **700** PhD dissertations / year
- **5.446** articles published (Clarivate Analytics WoS).
- **355** research agreements.
- **228** national research projects.
- **58** international research projects.
- **41** patents filed.
- **1** new company hosted at the UAB's Research Park.

Horizon Europe (2021-27)

- **2nd** University in Spain
- **75M€** in EU contribution
- **127** HEU projects (20 led by the UAB).
- **31** European Research Council Grants.
- **35** Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



1. About Us

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), located in Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), near Barcelona, is one of the major public universities in Spain. Since its foundation in 1968, the UAB has been acknowledged for its excellence in promoting quality in teaching and in attracting international talent. Its impact on research is also noteworthy. This excellence is reflected in its position in the most prestigious international rankings. In the 2025 edition of the QS World University Rankings, the UAB placed third among Spanish universities, 175th in the world ranking and 74th within Europe. UAB is part of one of the first alliances selected in the call for European Universities, ECIU University. ECIU University is working to put the challenges linked to SDG 11, proposed, and worked on together with society stakeholders through Challenge Based Learning and the Challenge Based Research, at the centre of the training and research activity.

The UAB is committed to improving the professional career of researchers in keeping with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct of the Recruitment of Researchers. This commitment has been recognized by the EC and in 2014 the UAB was awarded the HR Excellence in Research Logo. The UAB promotes new business projects, focuses on activities associated with local socio-economic needs, and disseminates newly acquired knowledge to collaborate in the social and economic development of the territory. The UAB's research covers extremely varied areas of knowledge: This wide range of disciplines, integrated into a single campus, helps to promote multi-disciplinary research. Apart from its own research groups, departments, institutes, research centres and research park, the UAB is the hub of the UAB Sphere. The UAB Sphere is a knowledge ecosystem that includes research centres, most of them situated on the UAB's campus. The UAB Sphere also integrates local businesses, authorities, and the largest hospital network in Catalonia.

2. Why Choose Us?

- The UAB has a strong international presence which promotes professional growth and offers opportunities for advancing your academic career.
- The UAB is located in Bellaterra, on a sustainable campus which is constantly evolving, with excellent connections to the city of Barcelona, infrastructures adapted to future challenges and to the wellbeing of its staff. The immediate surroundings form one of the most important scientific and technological hubs of southern Europe- the B30Hub (www.hubb30.cat).
- The UAB has a specific programme for the attractions of international talent. This strategic initiative aims to ensure a smooth generational transition of permanent research staff.
- As well as becoming a member of the university's staff, the UAB offers comprehensive support at the highest level for managing the research project and access to the its state-of-the-art technical and scientific facilities to promote research in the majority of scientific fields.
- The UAB works with a large number of research centres and hospitals, the UAB Sphere, and several research networks and companies to promote transdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer to generate an impact locally and globally.
- The UAB encourages innovation and entrepreneurship and offers all the necessary resources for carrying out innovative projects that respond to the current and future challenges of society and generate positive outcomes.



3. Our Support for Applicants

UAB (UAB) offers comprehensive support for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship and ERC applicants.

- Our Talent Attraction Program provides personalized guidance from the International Projects Office (OPI), covering proposal development, administrative tasks, and legal advice.
- We'll connect you with ideal UAB supervisors matching your research interests and provide extensive resources like writing tips and recorded sessions to maximize your application's impact.
- Let us help you secure your Horizon Europe grant at UAB!

Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

- 85M€ in EU contribution
- 191 Projects (35 led by the UAB)

Diverse Research Areas

- Animal nutrition and welfare
- Biotechnology and health
- Social sciences and humanities
- Materials and energy
- Environmental sciences and sustainability
- Information, and communication technology
- Veterinary Medicine

A UNIVERSITY COMMITTED TO TALENT AND POSITIVE CHANGE

Member of

[Alianza 4 Universidades](http://Alianza4Universidades)



ECIU



Talent attraction program

opi@uab.cat

talent@uab.cat

www.uab.cat/talent/en





Madrid,
Spain

KEY FIGURES 2025

- 2 Campuses
- 7 Faculties
- 1 Higher Technical School
- 67 Departments
- 2 On-Campus Residences
- 3 University Schools in Madrid
- 9 Libraries
- 16 Canteens and Restaurants
- 4 Sport Facilities Areas
- 30,355 Students
- 4,436 International Students
- 3,590 Students in Mobility Programs
- 4,763 Academic, Research and Administrative Staff
- 412 Research Projects
- 3,068 Scientific Publications
- 632 Theses
- 718 Patents
- 20 UAM Research Centers
- 6 Health Research Institutes
- 6 University Research Institutes
- 5 Mixed Research Institutes
- 2 IMDEA Institutes

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

*EMBARK ON YOUR RESEARCH CAREER IN THE HEART OF SPAIN
AT UAM — WHERE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE MEETS GLOBAL
COLLABORATION*



1. About Us

Founded in 1968, the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) has grown into **one of Spain's most prestigious public universities**, recognized internationally for its commitment to academic excellence, cutting-edge research, and social engagement. Located just 15 kilometers from the heart of Madrid, UAM offers a modern, integrated campus that fosters a dynamic, collaborative atmosphere for over 30,000 students and more than 2,500 faculty and researchers.

UAM combines a strong disciplinary tradition with a distinctly interdisciplinary orientation, making it a leader in multiple fields such as biomedicine, theoretical physics, materials science, environmental studies, and social sciences. The university maintains particularly close ties with the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), co-managing several elite joint research institutes, including the Institute for Theoretical Physics (IFT), the Institute of Biomedical Research (IIBM), and the Severo Ochoa Centre for Molecular Biology (CBMSO). These partnerships enrich the academic ecosystem and provide researchers with access to some of the best scientific facilities in Spain and Europe.

UAM is a proactive participant in Horizon Europe and has consistently secured competitive European funding, including ERC grants and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Its track record in international research cooperation reflects a deep institutional commitment to global academic exchange, innovation and capacity building.

Beyond research and academics, UAM is known for its inclusive and sustainability-focused campus. It has been repeatedly ranked as one of the most sustainable university in Spain by the **UI GreenMetric World University Rankings**, and its policies actively support green mobility, energy efficiency, and environmental awareness.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Strong European Funding Experience:** UAM has a high success rate in competitive European grants and provides extensive institutional support to applicants.
- **Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Research Environment:** Work with leading research groups across diverse domains and benefit from close partnerships with CSIC institutes.
- **Strategic Location in Madrid:** Being situated in Spain's capital city, UAM offers unparalleled access to governmental agencies, international embassies, scientific institutions, and multinational corporations.
- **Commitment to Open Science and Sustainability:** The university leads several initiatives in open access publishing, data transparency, and sustainable research practices.
- **Global Engagement:** UAM supports a thriving international community, with active participation in Erasmus+, CIVIS, and bilateral agreements with top universities worldwide.

3. UAM - Korea Collaboration

Since 2016, the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid has established strong and effective partnerships with leading **Korean universities** and research institutions, including Korea University and the **Korean History Education Society**. These collaborations position UAM as a strategic partner for joint projects under the Horizon Europe programme.

- Researchers from Korea and UAM have participated in two projects: *InvisiblesPlus* under Horizon 2020 programme, and currently, *MAKINGHISTORIES* under Horizon Europe programme. These partnerships have fostered a solid multidisciplinary network in key areas such as particle physics, cosmology, public history, heritage environments and historical reenactment studies.
- In addition to research cooperation, UAM actively promotes academic mobility through student exchange agreements, including Korea University, Seoul National University, and Hanyang University.

4. Our Support for Applicants

Our European and International Projects Office (OPEI) is deeply committed to guiding and supporting applicants for MSCA and ERC grants, offering:

- **Dedicated Pre-Award Support:** Personalized assistance from UAM's OPEI and Welcome Office for Researchers, including proposal review and submission guidance.
- **Mentorship & Supervisor Matching:** Access to experienced researchers and help in identifying suitable host research groups.
- **Proposal Development Resources:** Access to templates, workshops, and mock evaluations for ERC and MSCA applications.
- **Administrative and Legal Support:** Full assistance with budgeting, contracts, ethical issues, and integration into UAM's research environment.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY



Member of A-4U
The Alliance 4 Universities



Member of CIVIS
Europe's Civic University Alliance

FP7 (2007-2013)

97 Projects

€30.47M

Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

105 Projects

€39.61M

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

69 Projects

€20.57M

CONTACT

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convocatoriaseuropeas@uam.es

[@uammadrid](https://twitter.com/uammadrid)



uc3m

Universidad
Carlos III
de Madrid

Madrid,
Spain

Facts & Figures

- 47.6 million in annual research funding (2023): €35.9M from competitive programs; €10.9M from R&D contracts with industry and external entities; €0.8M from internal research programs.
- Over 144 Horizon 2020 projects awarded, including 15 ERC grants
- 65 active Horizon Europe projects (2024), including 3 ERCs, 19 MSCA grants, 18 coordinated projects
- 1 Science Park (Leganés Tecnológico) and 6 R&D+i Centers
- 141 Research Groups
- 24,641 students and 2,268 faculty members
- #35 in QS Top 50 Under 50 (2023)
- Top 10 Best Young Universities in Europe
- #130 in Global University Employability Ranking (GEURS 2025):
#59 in Europe
#4 in Spain
#1 in Madrid

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

UC3M is a young, dynamic, and highly international Spanish university committed to academic excellence, innovation, and social impact.



1. About Us

Founded in 1989, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M) is a dynamic public university located in the southern metropolitan area of Madrid, Spain. Despite its relatively young age, UC3M has established itself as one of the leading institutions in the Spanish higher education landscape, recognized for its commitment to **academic excellence, high-impact research, and internationalization**. UC3M comprises five academic centers across four campuses—Getafe, Leganés, Colmenarejo, and Puerta de Toledo—and offers a comprehensive range of programs: **38 Bachelor's degrees**, many bilinguals or in English, **113 Master's programs**, and **24 Doctoral programs**. The university serves a community of over **24,000 students** and is supported by **2,268 faculty members**.

Internationalization is a core pillar of UC3M's mission. The university is a member of prominent European alliances such as **YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe)**, **YERUN**, and **A4U**, fostering collaborative research, mobility, and shared innovation agendas. UC3M conducts research through a robust structure of **29 departments**, **28 research institutes**, and **141 research groups**. It is committed to Responsible Research and Innovation, Open Science, and gender equality, and holds the **HR Excellence in Research** award. Through its **Science Park**, the university fosters entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer, having supported over 150 start-ups and spin-offs. Sustainability and alignment with the **SDGs** are central to its research and institutional strategy. With a forward-looking strategy, UC3M is a hub of interdisciplinary knowledge and a bridge between academia, industry, and society—offering an ideal environment for research, collaboration, and innovation.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Connected and Dynamic Research Ecosystem:** UC3M offers an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment closely linked to industry, fostering impactful, real-world research.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Through its Science Park and support programs, the university cultivates start-ups, spin-offs, and a vibrant innovation culture.
- **Strong International Alliances:** As part of networks like YUFE, YERUN, and A4U, UC3M provides access to global research collaborations and mobility opportunities.
- **Mission-Driven Research:** UC3M promotes responsible, ethical, and sustainable research, empowering scholars to address the world's most pressing challenges.



3. Our Support for Applicants

UC3M is committed to supporting talented researchers in joining its vibrant research community:

- **Funding Opportunities:** Access a wide range of European, national, regional (Madrid), and institutional programs, including MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (with additional UC3M funding), MSCA Doctoral Networks, ATRAЕ, Ramón y Cajal, César Nombela, and ATRAЕ-UC3M, supporting initiatives such as [Choose Europe](#).
- **Training & Preparation:** Take part in free online training sessions focused on proposal development, eligibility requirements, and available funding schemes.
- **Tailored Support:** Benefit from personalized guidance provided by UC3M's Research Service - EU Team, offering expert advice on proposals, legal matters, and administrative procedures.
- **Resource Hub:** Strengthen your application with access to UC3M's writing guides, detailed instructions, and recorded workshops.

Major Research Areas

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Social Sciences and Law
- Economics and Business
- Humanities, Communication and Library Science
- **NEW!** Neuroscience and biomedical science
- Sustainability and SDG-related research
- Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

Contact & Further Information

Website: uc3m.es

Social Media: [@uc3m](https://twitter.com/uc3m)

Contact: si@uc3m.es

[UC3M Research and Innovation video](#)

For more details and to begin your application journey contact with UC3M Research Services: si@uc3m.es

Shape your future through research at UC3M. Become part of a dynamic, international community where knowledge meets innovation to create real-world impact.



Alcalá de
Henares, Madrid,
Spain

Facts & Figures

- **28,000** students, **2,000** teaching staff and **800** service and administration staff
- **3** campuses, **6** Research Institutes, **40** undergraduate degree programs and **78** postgraduate programs
- Among the world's best universities (QS World University Ranking, the Times Higher Education World University Ranking).
- First-ranked Spanish public university in teaching excellence (CYD Ranking).
- Top-ranked university for employability in Spain (Spanish Ministry of Education).

University of Alcalá

Both historic and avant-garde, the University of Alcalá (UAH) is a center of excellence in education and research.



1. About Us

The University of Alcalá is a public university with a commitment to teaching and research excellence, which it delivers by adapting its training provision to social change and social demands and by attracting and retaining talent. Its numbers among its priorities the fomenting of student employability; the implementation of socially responsible policies which strengthen its reputation as an open, integrating and committed institution; and the development of efficient, responsible and transparent management based on its accountability to the institution itself and to society.

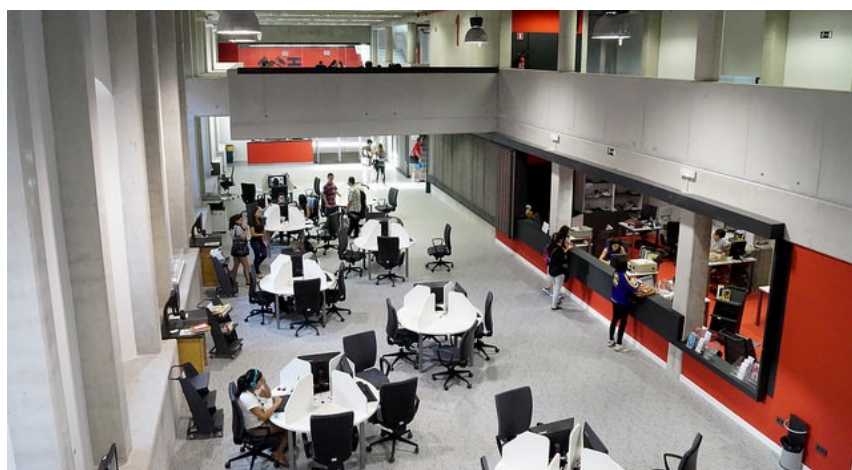
The UAH is one of Europe's most venerable universities and can trace its origin as far back as 1293 and the medieval Studia generalia. In 1499, Cardinal Cisneros founded the College of St Hildephonse with a view to creating a prototype university city which would act as a model for others in Ibero-America. Its unique university model and the conservation of its rich architectural and artistic heritage led to its declaration as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1998.

Included in the main national and international rankings, the UAH is among the world's best universities both in global terms and for indicators such as teaching, employability, internationalization, research output, equipment and infrastructures, sustainability and social commitment.

The University of Alcalá is also a world benchmark for the teaching of Spanish language and culture, Not for nothing is its historic Paraninfo or assembly hall the stage for award ceremonies of the stature of the Cervantes Prize for Literature in Spanish, the King of Spain's Human Rights Prize, or the "Camino Real" award.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Modern Infrastructure and Historic Campus:** Conduct your research in a unique setting that blends cutting-edge laboratories and research institutes with a UNESCO World Heritage Site campus, offering both technological excellence and rich academic tradition.
- **European and Global Engagement:** UAH is an active member of the European University Alliance EUGLOH (European University Alliance for Global Health), which connects leading institutions across Europe to foster transnational education, mobility, and collaborative research.
- **Interdisciplinary Research Environment:** Take advantage of the University of Alcalá's dynamic and cross-disciplinary research ecosystem.
- **Leaders in Attracting International Talent:** Our strong commitment to internationalization creates a diverse academic community fostering a truly global perspective in both education and research.



3. Our Support for Applicants

The European Projects Office at UAH provides comprehensive support to researchers interested in applying for an MSCA-PF, including:

- Helping you find a supervisor among our 181 research groups who matches your expertise and field.
- Offering guidance and feedback to refine your proposal.
- Providing access to useful resources and materials to assist you in preparing a strong application.
- Assisting you after funding approval, handling visas, work permits, legal documents, accommodation, and logistics to ensure a smooth transition to UAH.

Major Research Areas

- Arts and Humanities
- Sciences
- Health sciences
- Social and Legal sciences
- Engineering and Architecture

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.uah.es/en

Social Media: @uahes

Contact: proyectos.europeos@uah.es

For further details:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(MSCA PF\)](#)



Barcelona,
Spain

Facts & Figures

- The Spanish university with the most European Research Council (ERC) grants awarded
- 1st Spanish public university with the highest performance rate
- **10,140** undergraduate students in **27** programmes
- **1,180** Master's students in **31** programmes
- **1,347** doctoral students in **9** programmes
- **1,015** FTE teaching and research staff
- **3** campuses and **2** scientific research parks
- **#78** best university in Europe (THE, 2025)
- **#28** best young university in the world (THE, 2024)

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

"Think beyond. Innovate futures." -Universitat Pompeu Fabra is a public university based in Barcelona that is highly competitive in research and aims to transform education to respond to future challenges.



1. About Us

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), established in 1990 in Barcelona, is a dynamic public university renowned for its commitment to academic excellence and innovative research. Despite its relatively recent foundation, UPF has rapidly gained international recognition, recognized as a top university in Spain and among the leading young universities worldwide. Its dedication to high-quality education and research has positioned it as a hub for scholars seeking impactful academic environments.

UPF structures its research across eight departments, encompassing areas such as Medicine and Life Sciences, Political and Social Sciences, Communication, Law, Economics and Business, Humanities, Engineering, and Translation and Language Sciences. The university fosters interdisciplinary and innovative collaboration, encouraging researchers to engage across fields to generate impactful solutions to complex societal and global challenges.

We proudly hold the distinction of being the Spanish university with the most European Research Council (ERC) grants awarded, alongside achieving the highest performance rate among Spanish public universities. Furthermore, UPF actively participates in significant international networks and alliances, including The Guild and EUTOPIA, enhancing our global engagement and fostering transnational collaborative projects. UPF's strategic location in Barcelona, a global hub of culture, innovation and science, adds to its appeal as a leading research institution.

2. Why Choose Us?

- Universitat Pompeu Fabra UPF is an excellent host for researchers pursuing Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF), with a track record of hosting fellows across various disciplines. The university provides **comprehensive support** services, including **personalized guidance** on proposal writing, project development and integration into UPF's academic ecosystem. This infrastructure ensures that MSCA-PF fellows can focus on their research while benefiting from institutional backing.
- The university's research ecosystem is enriched by its affiliation with prominent research centers and institutes, such as the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), the Institute of Evolutionary Biology (IBE) or the Barcelona School of Economics (BSE). These collaborations offer MSCA-PF fellows access to **cutting-edge facilities** and a broad network of experts, enhancing the potential for impactful research outcomes.
- Choosing UPF for your MSCA-PF means joining a **vibrant academic community** committed to addressing pressing global issues through pioneering research and innovation. The university's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, international partnerships, and societal impact makes it an ideal host institution for researchers aiming to advance their careers and contribute to meaningful scientific advancements.

3. Our Support for Applicants

Universitat Pompeu Fabra's Research Service advisors are here to support your MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship application every step of the way:

- **Online MSCA-PF Infoday:** Join a free virtual session designed to guide you through proposal writing, eligibility requirements, and available funding options.
- **Tailored Guidance:** Benefit from expert assistance provided by UPF's research advisors, including help with your proposal, administrative procedures and legal matters.
- **Supervisor Connection:** Receive support in finding and reaching out to UPF supervisors who match your research goals.
- **Comprehensive Resources:** Access a wide array of tools such as writing advice, detailed guidance documents, and recorded webinars to enhance your application.

Major Research Areas

- Economics, Business and Governance
- Health & Life Sciences
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Cognitive Science & Brain Research
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Law, Politics & International Studies
- Life Sciences
- Computational Linguistics
- Language, Communication & Translation Studies
- Planetary Wellbeing & Global Challenges

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.upf.edu

Social Media: [@upf.edu](https://twitter.com/upf)

Contact: projectes.recerca@upf.edu

Begin a life-changing research journey at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Become part of a dynamic community driven by innovation, where your possibilities are limitless.



Stockholm,
Sweden

Karolinska Institutet is one of the world's leading medical universities. Our vision is to advance knowledge about life and strive towards better health for all. Largest university receiving funds from Cluster 1: Health in Horizon Europe.

KTH Royal Institute of Technology is Sweden's largest, and one of Europe's leading technical research and learning institutions and a key centre of intellectual talent and innovation.

As one of Europe's leading centres for human science and science, Stockholm University contributes to the development of a sustainable democratic society through knowledge, enlightenment and the pursuit of truth.

University Alliance Stockholm Trio



1. About Us

The University Alliance Stockholm Trio is a partnership between Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and Stockholm University that promote interdisciplinary research and education, and support joint actions regionally, nationally, and internationally. We contribute to making the Stockholm region world-leading in research, education, and innovation.

Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and Stockholm University offer one of the strongest academic environments in the world, making it attractive for international collaborations, leading researchers, and international students.

The three public universities located in Stockholm complement each other in terms of education and research. Subject areas range from medicine, technology, and natural sciences to law, social sciences, and humanities.

Through its joint representation in Brussels, the University Alliance Stockholm Trio supports participation in EU-funded research, education, and innovation programs, while engaging with policy development in these areas

2. Why Choose Us?

Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University together form one of the strongest academic environments in the world (top ten) with research and education spanning across a broad spectrum of disciplines, including medicine, law, architecture, engineering sciences and technology, the natural and social sciences, the humanities, and more.

The three universities are each leading in their respective fields in Europe and globally.

- Karolinska Institutet is one of the world's leading medical universities.
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology is one of Europe's leading technical research and learning institutions and a key centre of intellectual talent and innovation.
- Stockholm University is one of Europe's leading centres for natural sciences, humanities, social sciences and law.

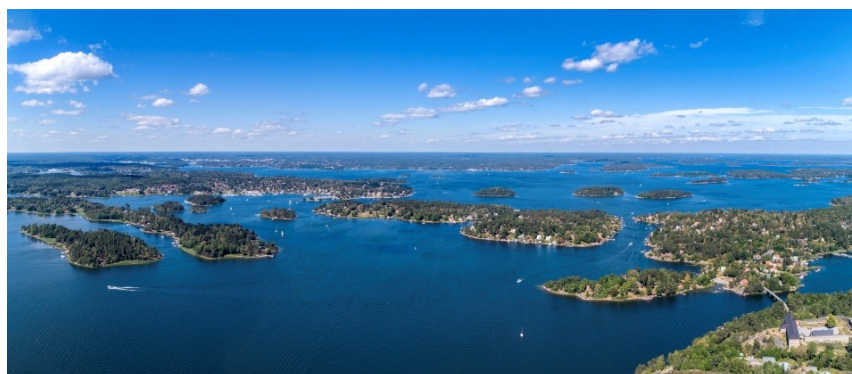
Sweden is known for its high standard of living, excellent healthcare, and work-life balance, making it an attractive destination for researchers and their families.

3. Our Support for Applicants

We can help you to find:

- a Principal Investigator/Supervisor and host research group
- an interesting research area covering all academic disciplines
- help during the process from before writing a proposal, during the writing of the proposal, when entering into agreements and during the ongoing project.

You will have the possibility to apply for special allowance from MSCA if you need to have long term leave such as parental leave, long term sick leave etc. In these special cases, the fellows need to discuss with their EU Project Officers.



Sweden has more islands than any country in the world and 24 000 are in the Stockholm area within easy access from the centre.

Facts & Figures

- **5000** enrolled in a doctoral program (29% of all doctoral education in Sweden)
- **50,000** students.
- **More than 85** European Research Council (ERC) grants awarded and **153** MSCA.
- **Largest 'university' receiving funds from Horizon Europe.**
- **Have produced more Unicorns (19) than any other 'university' in Europe.**

Major Research Areas

- Medicine
- Humanities
- Law
- Natural sciences
- Social sciences
- Engineering
- Architecture

Contact & Further Information

[MSCA PF application support at KTH](#)

MSCA contact point at KTH:
Xiaobing He, PhD, xiahe@kth.se

MSCA-PF application at
Karolinska Institutet

General information: [MSCA Postdoc Fellowships | Staff Portal](#)

Bootcamp (Proposal writing workshop) for those who have found a PI and will apply with KI as host organization [MSCA Postdocs Bootcamp 2025 | Staff Portal](#)

Contact person if applying with KI: ying.zhao@ki.se

MSCA-PF application at
Stockholm University

[Office for Research, Engagement and Innovation Services \(REIS\)](#)

CONTACT Viviana Stechina
viviana.stechina@su.se



Gothenburg,
Sweden

Facts & Figures

- Founded in 1891
- ~58 000 students
- ~6,800 employees
- 7 faculties and 38 departments
- >900 publications/year with international co-authors
- Member of the **EUTOPIA** university alliance
- Ranked #201-250th in Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025

University of Gothenburg

"Knowledge for a sustainable world"

The University of Gothenburg is a progressive university where academic freedom and social responsibility go hand in hand.



1. About Us

The University of Gothenburg (UGOT), founded in 1891, is one of the largest and most wide-ranging universities in the Nordic region. Located in Sweden's second-largest city, UGOT is a leading public research university that combines a strong tradition of academic excellence with social engagement and innovation.

With seven faculties and 38 departments, UGOT offers a comprehensive academic environment covering humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, education, IT, fine arts, and business, economics, and law. The university has over 57,000 students and 6,800 employees, including more than 700 postdoctoral researchers.

UGOT consistently ranks among the top 200 universities worldwide and plays a strong role in the European Research Area, participating actively in Horizon Europe and other international collaborations. In H2020, UGOT participated in approximately 160 projects, both as a coordinator and a partner, including approximately 70 MSCA projects of which 38 were MSCA-IFs. In Horizon Europe, UGOT has until now hosted 10 MSCA-DN projects, 28 MSCA-PF projects and 24 ERC projects.

The University has a strong commitment to sustainability, diversity, and internationalization and strategic partnerships with universities around the world. UGOT is also a member of the international university network EUTOPIA and part of SKERIC - a Swedish-Korean research and innovation collaboration - which fosters ties with Korean institutions and researchers.

2. Why Choose Us?

- **Interdisciplinary Excellence:** UGOT provides an open, collaborative environment across a broad academic spectrum, encouraging cross-disciplinary research and innovation.
- **Strong International Outlook:** Our global partnerships and strategic networks, including connections with Korea through SKERIC, promote research mobility and collaboration.
- **Supportive Research Environment:** Researchers benefit from state-of-the-art infrastructure, structured career support, and dedicated EU advisors to guide project development.
- **Welcoming Community:** UGOT is committed to inclusivity and sustainability, with a strong track record in hosting international scholars and postdoctoral fellows.



3. Our Support for Applicants

The University of Gothenburg actively supports MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants by providing:

- **Individualized guidance:** Support from the Research and Innovation Services Office with proposal development, administrative coordination, and EU project expertise.
- **Assistance in contacting suitable supervisors** across UGOT's seven faculties and numerous research centres.
- **Proposal resources:** Templates, examples, and practical tips tailored to MSCA-PF application success.
- **Ongoing advice:** From initial interest to submission, including help with eligibility and alignment with MSCA goals.

Major Research Areas

- Medical and Health Sciences
- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Marine and Climate Research
- Cultural Heritage
- Digitalization & Artificial Intelligence
- Equality & Sustainability in Research and Education
- Artistic Research

Contact & Further Information

Contact: Annika Wahlström - Research Advisor

Email: annika.wahlstrom@gu.se

Website: www.gu.se

Social media: [@uniofgothenburg](https://twitter.com/uniofgothenburg)

Join us at the University of Gothenburg and take your research to the next level in an inspiring and globally connected academic environment.



Lugano,
Svizzera

Università della Svizzera italiana

USI. Create freely, act responsibly.



Facts & Figures

QUICK FACTS

- 4 Campuses
- 5+1 Faculties
- 25 Institutes

EDUCATION

- 9 Bachelor's degrees
- 28 Master's degrees
- 13 Doctoral programmes
- 15 Advanced Studies programmes
- 1/7 Teacher / student ratio

RESEARCH

- 29,6 Millions of CHF of competitive research per year
- 591 Doctoral students
- 222 Ongoing projects
- 1226 Completed projects

RANKINGS

- 9th In the latest THE World's Best Small Universities ranking
- 44th In the latest THE Young University Rankings
- 251-300 In the latest THE World University Rankings

1. About Us

Established in 1996, Università della Svizzera italiana is a young university with a strong focus on research and quality teaching. USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: **quality, openness and responsibility**.

USI is one of the 12 certified public universities in Switzerland and member of **swissuniversities**. It is organised in six Faculties and is active in several study and research areas, among which: **architecture, communication sciences, computational science, data science, economics, health studies, humanities, informatics, law, medicine and biomedicine**.

USI is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality **interdisciplinary education** in which they can be fully engaged and take centre stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative.

The relatively small size of the campuses encourages the free flow and **open exchange of ideas**. USI encourages faculty, students and researchers to develop their potential, and appreciates their curiosity and **willingness to experiment** with new ways of thinking, learning, teaching and working.

Compared to its size, the outcomes of scientific research conducted at USI speaks to a remarkable dynamism that makes the university a cluster for scientific development in the region. USI and its affiliated research institutes (IDSIA, IRB, IOR, IRSOL, FTL) attract on average **30 million Swiss francs** of competitive research funds every year, mainly from the Swiss National Science Foundation and the European Union - with **30 prestigious ERC Grants, a Marcel Benoist Prize** (the Swiss "Nobel")

prize), several Pritzker Prizes, a Dreyfus Prize, a Robert Koch Award and a Sanofi-Pasteur Institute Award.

USI has 103 partner universities for academic mobility, and during the 2023/2024 academic year welcomed 113 incoming students.

2. Why Choose Us?

International faculty, small size, dynamic attitude and informal atmosphere, good infrastructures, connections to the labour market, and a favourable context within the Swiss university system - these are all elements that are much appreciated by students and that make for a rewarding study experience at USI.

There are many reasons to choose USI as Host Institution for your post-doc experience:

- A privileged relation with the academic staff
- Ideal conditions for training, a way forward to your future
- Free of charge Italian classes, where language meets culture
- Social activities to discover the region
- A small region in the centre of Europe, with a hub attracting the best talents

3. Our Support for Applicants

At Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), we are dedicated to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants throughout the entire application process.

Our Research Service hosts the regional [Euresearch](#) office, part of a Swiss non-profit organization funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Euresearch promotes and facilitates the participation of researchers, organizations, and companies in Switzerland in European research projects and programs. It connects researchers based in or coming to Switzerland and keep them updated on any upcoming calls for proposals and opportunities within the European research and innovation programmes.

Our support includes:

- **Institutional Support Help Desk:** entry point for information and step-by-step guidance in getting institutional endorsement for your project proposal.
- **Personalized Guidance:** One-on-one support at every stage of the application process, from proposal development to submission.
- **Training Resources:** Access to tailored training sessions, online tutorials, and other resources specifically designed for MSCA applicants.

We are committed to helping researchers submit competitive and successful proposals.

Major Research Areas

- architecture
- communication
- computational sciences
- data science
- economics
- health studies
- Humanitas
- informatics
- law
- medicine and biomedicine

Contact & Further Information

Website: www.usi.ch/en

[Research Service](#)

Contact: servizio.ricerca@usi.ch

For more details and to begin your application journey:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship \(MSCA PF\)](#)



Brunel
University
of London

London,
**United
Kingdom**

Facts & Figures

- More than €5.9million of European research funding awarded in the year to May 2025.
- 4 Colleges, 17 departments
- Over 14,000 students, with over 6,850 international students from more than 150 countries
- Member of the **University of London** federation
- 1st most International University in the UK (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025)
- 38th in the UK (QS World University Rankings 2025)
- **Top 40** UK research-intensive university (REF 2021)
- **Top 10%** for social and environmental impact in research (Times Higher Education Impact 2024)
- **Top 20%** for contributions to collaborative research (Knowledge Exchange Framework 2024)
- **72.7%** of our research is world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2021)

Brunel University of London



1. About Us

Since being established in 1966, Brunel has risen to impressive heights and our reputation has grown year on year. Now a university of over 14,000 students and a member of the University of London (UoL) federation, our distinctive approach is to combine academic rigour with practical and entrepreneurial teaching and learning which was pioneered by Isambard Kingdom Brunel himself. Fast-forward to today, our distinct foundations remain at the heart of the university. Brunel is one of the UK's foremost technical universities and has a rich history of world-leading research, innovation and teaching excellence which provides our students with an outstanding, research-led education that sets them up to excel in their future careers. Brunel now ranks in the top 40 UK research-intensive universities Brunel is one the UK's leading winners of funding for university industry links.

Brunel's journey is one of innovation and excellence, constantly pushing the boundaries of knowledge, demonstrating our commitment to bringing meaningful change to society; and empowering our students to lead that charge. Brunel is home to world-renowned research centre, Brunel Centre for Advanced Solidification Technology (BCAST) and boasts significant academic achievements in environmental science, engineering, human rights, advanced materials and manufacturing, sustainability and energy, health and more. The university plays a leading role in the European Research Area and has received over 23 million pounds of European research funding in Horizon Europe alone. Our single, suburban campus sits in an economic hotspot in West London, on the edge of a global city and just minutes away from one of the world's most directly and internationally connected airports - London Heathrow. Brunel is one of the most international universities (ranked 1st most international university in the UK) with staff, students, and alumni from all over the world, with a rich and diverse community which reflects the enormous breadth of social, cultural, educational and political identities.

2. Why Choose Us?

Interdisciplinary Research: Use Brunel's comprehensive research environment to collaborate across various disciplines, encouraging innovative research that addresses global challenges.

State-of-the-Art Facilities: Access cutting-edge laboratories and world-leading research centres equipped with the latest technology to support your research endeavours.

Global Engagement: Benefit from Brunel's extensive international partnerships which facilitate cross-cultural academic exchange and study abroad.

International Access & London Location: 20 minutes from Heathrow Airport and 40 minutes to Central London via the tube.

Campus University: Brunel is the only university in London with a single suburban campus that includes accommodation. All you need in once place.

Supportive and Diverse Community: Join a welcoming and diverse community that values inclusiveness and provides comprehensive support for international researchers and students.



3. Our Support for Applicants

Brunel is committed to supporting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship and ERC research applicants throughout the entire application process.

Personalized Guidance: Receive assistance from Brunel dedicated EU Team, including proposal guidance, administrative support, and legal advice

Supervisor Matching: Get help in identifying and connecting with potential Brunel University supervisors aligned with your research interests.

Resource Access: extensive range of writing tips and in-depth guidance to strengthen your application

Brunel has extensive experience of participating in MSCA schemes and hosting MSCA Postdoctoral Fellows, currently holding nine MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, nine Staff Exchanges and two Doctoral Networks.

Strategic Challenge Areas

- Communities
- Digital
- Health
- Manufacturing
- Sustainability

Home of BCAST - Brunel Centre for Advanced Solidification Technology. A world-leading research centre focusing on metallurgy of light alloys

Contact & Further Information

Website: [Brunel University of London](https://www.brunel.ac.uk)

Social Media: [@Bruneluni](https://twitter.com/Bruneluni)
[Research Support and Development Office](https://www.brunel.ac.uk/research-support-and-development-office/)

Research & Support and Development Office Contacts:
Yulia.Matskevich@Brunel.ac.uk
Deana.Thomas@brunel.ac.uk



Coventry,
United
Kingdom

Facts & Figures

- 5 QS Star rating
- Rated Gold and **ranked 2nd** in the UK Teaching Evaluation Framework (TEF)
- **7,400** employees employed across the international university group
- **29,495** students enrolled across UK campuses including **12,380** international students
- More than **20,000** students studying in campuses overseas and with our TNE partners
- Shortlisted for UK University of the Year in **2021** by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide
- Top Modern University in the Midlands (The Guardian University Guide **2022**)
- Ranked joint top Modern University for career prospects (The Guardian University Guide **2021** and **2022**)

Coventry University

"We are a dynamic, global and transformational University Group. Creating Better Futures we will be world-leading in all that we do."



1. About Us

Coventry University has roots as far back as 1843. Since gaining university status in 1992, it has worked tirelessly to become a global enterprise, establishing multiple campuses and initiatives across the world, including the Coventry University Group. Our international focus is in-line with our mission statement, from delivering inclusive and impactful global education for our learners, to addressing societal challenges through our research and innovation. Coventry University was **ranked in the top 75 in the Times Higher Education Europe Teaching Rankings league table 2019**. The Europe Teaching Rankings scores universities across the continent based on feedback from students and on global academic reputation, among other measures. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework Coventry University climbed into the top half of UK research institutions in the Times Higher Education (THE) power ranking.

It was **shortlisted for "University of the Year" in 2021** by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021. In the Guardian University Guide 2022 it was the top Modern University in the Midlands. The QS Stars Ratings 2020 gave Coventry University 5 stars overall. Coventry University has currently **29,495 students enrolled including 12,380 international students** and employs 2,425 academic staff members in the UK alone and 7,400 employees across all 6 continents where Coventry University has a presence. Coventry University recorded **£17m (€21.25m) in research income** from national and international funders in 2023-24. The University has a strong track record in Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and also holds current live grants from MSCA schemes including Postdoctoral Fellowships, Staff Exchanges and Doctoral Networks.

2. Why Choose Us?

- Our 17 Research Centres cover a diverse range of areas including arts and communities, future mobility and data, health and wellbeing, peace and security, clean growth and sustainability, and business and finance. Each centre is nationally and internationally recognised.
- We also deliver our courses through partner providers in over 30 countries, and our global hubs build and foster in-country business links and connections.
- Our global hubs in Belgium, Rwanda, Singapore, China, and India connect regional communities and build lasting international partnerships. Coventry University is also the only British university with a campus in Poland.

Research is supported through four transdisciplinary challenge-led research themes:

Health and Community Wellbeing: Generating life transforming, integrated, equitable and sustainable health and community care solution

Human-Centred AI: Harnessing AI and digital technologies to revolutionise the way we live, learn, work and communicate

Societal and Cultural Resilience: Developing evidence and insights that help to prepare for, respond to, and recover from societal challenges.

Sustainability and Clean Growth: Developing smart, data-based and efficient approaches to sustainability, circular economies and decarbonisation

3. Our Support for Applicants

Coventry University offers a comprehensive package of support for potential MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship candidates.

- **Matching service** (via MSCA@coventry.ac.uk) to connect potential fellows with supervisors experienced in their area of interest
- Dedicated support from the University's Research Funding & Development Team for fellows and supervisors developing and submitting a proposal.
- Further support through drop-in sessions, in-depth masterclasses, and the opportunity to hear from past award holders.
- **Proposal peer review** from experienced academics bringing knowledge of the scheme and subject area

With over 30 years of experience in European and international affairs and an in-depth knowledge of EU policy, **Coventry University's specialist Brussels Hub team** supports the University's research and innovation activity by helping to build consortia, linking with institutions across Europe, and engaging with a plethora of EU networks. The Hub is well connected to the UK Mission to the EU, businesses and other stakeholders, and a wide range of EU Institutions.

Major Research Areas

- Agroecology, Water & Resilience
- Arts, Memory & Communities
- Business in Society
- Computational Science & Mathematical Modelling
- Creative Economies
- Dance
- E-Mobility & Clean Growth
- Financial & Corporate Integrity
- Fluid & Complex Systems
- Future Transport & Cities
- Global Learning
- Health & Life Sciences
- Healthcare & Communities
- Intelligent Healthcare
- Manufacturing & Materials
- Physical Activity, Sport & Exercise
- Postdigital Cultures
- Peace & Security

Contact & Further Information

Website:

<https://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/coventry-university-research-innovation>

Contact: Research Funding & Development Team

RFD.RS@coventry.ac.uk

Director- Coventry University Brussels Hub

gregg.jones@coventry.ac.uk

For more information about applying to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme with Coventry University as the Host Institution:

- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships at Coventry University](#)
- Contact MSCA@coventry.ac.uk for information about upcoming masterclasses

호라이즌 유럽 필라1 신청 가이드북

Horizon Europe Pillar 1
Application Guidebook