ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (MSCA)
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2022 APPLICATIONS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MACERATA

ART. 1 - OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this announcement for expressions of interest is to increase the level of excellence and internationalization of the University of Macerata (UNIMC), by fostering the choice of the University of Macerata as hosting institution for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships and by increasing the success rate of the University in this specific EU funding programme.

Specific objectives of this announcement are:

- to attract and train the most talented researchers to successfully apply for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship with the University of Macerata:
  - as host institution in case of a European Postdoctoral Fellowship; OR
  - as return host institution in case of a Global Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- to foster the international dimension of research at UNIMC.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, the University of Macerata invites expressions of interest for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral fellowship applications (call ID HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01)

ART. 2 – MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MACERATA

The University of Macerata focuses exclusively on Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities. Its mission is to contribute to the development of people and society through the added value that social and human sciences bring to the understanding of complex socioeconomic and political issues, within an interdisciplinary perspective. Recently, the University of Macerata has launched a revision of its strategic plan to embrace the transition from “Innovation and humanism” to “Digital Humanism”. Key priority actions are to promote innovation in its research and teaching initiatives, with new degree courses (with a huge involvement of local stakeholders) as well as research and innovation programs inspired by the need to provide more digital knowledge and skills to students and researchers. The University intends to promote interdisciplinary and intersectoral exposure between SSH/humanities and STEM and fill the technological gap, providing more close cooperation with the local economic system and job market.

The University is composed by 5 departments, that are: i) Department of Law, ii) Department of Political Science, Communication and International Relations, iii) Department of Economics and Law, iv) Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, v) Department of Humanities. The University of Macerata has been awarded with the Excellence in Research logo for implementing the principles of the European Researchers’ Charter and the Code of Conduct for the employment of researchers.

Every proposal must be supported by a faculty member of the University of Macerata as Scientific Supervisor.
A list of UNIMC Supervisors (including description of their research profile) who are willing to host a MSCA fellow can be found at the following link https://www.unimc.it/en/research-bck/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-unimc-2022

Please note that this list of Supervisors is not binding; should you not find a matching profile of a Supervisor in this list, please search in the complete list of the faculty members of the University of Macerata in order to enquire about their willingness to support your project: http://docenti.unimc.it/front-page?set_language=en&cl=en

There are two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: European Fellowships or Global Fellowships.

- **European Fellowships** are based on a research period lasting at least 12 months and maximum 24 months to be spent in a research institution located in a EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- **Global Fellowships** are based on a research period spent in a research institution located in a Third country, lasting at least 12 months and maximum 24 months, plus a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host institution. For the purposes of the call, Third countries are all the countries that are not EU Member States or Associated Countries.

Currently, the list of Associated countries in Horizon Europe is available at the following URL: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/international-cooperation#countries-and-regions

MSCA fellowships are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The MSCA Fellowship provides an allowance to cover living, travel and family costs. In addition, the EU contributes to the training, networking and research costs of the fellow, as well as to the management and indirect costs of the project. The grant is awarded to the host organisation.

More information on the MSCA actions is available at https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships

**ART. 3 – SUPPORT AND FUNDING PROVIDED**

This call for expressions of interest is aimed to support and train up to 20 researchers willing to submit a MSCA Postdoctoral fellowship, choosing UNIMC as host institution for a European fellowship, OR as return host institution for a Global fellowship.

Selected applicants:
- will attend the Masterclass MSCA@UNIMC 2022 organized on-site at the University of Macerata from 23rd May to 3rd June 2022. During the Masterclass, the applicants will be offered specific training on how to write a successful MSCA proposal, held by MSCA experts (the course will be held in English) and will meet their Supervisors at UNIMC, in order to better define the content of the MSCA proposal. By the end of the Masterclass, all the participants will have to produce a concept note of their proposal idea, which will in the following months be developed into a project to submit by the MSCA call deadline (14 September 2022). This concept note is supposed to be elaborated based on the knowledge acquired during the Masterclass.
- will receive, throughout the application phase, mentorship and coaching by the UNIMC Grant Office on how to elaborate the project proposal to be submitted to the EU Commission in reply to the call for proposal MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships – year 2022;
- will receive funding (maximum 500 EUR per participant) in order to cover the costs related to the services of linguistic proof-reading (English language) of the proposal to be submitted to the EU Commission in reply to the call for proposal MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships – year 2022.

It must be noted that the financial contribution for proof-reading costs will be covered by the University of Macerata provided that:

- The selected applicant has actually attended the Masterclass MSCA@UNIMC 2022
- The selected applicant has actually benefitted of the services of mentorship and coaching provided by the University of Macerata
- The selected applicant has actually submitted a proposal in reply to the call MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships – year 2022 on the European Commission Funding and Tender Portal.

Participation to the Masterclass MSCA@UNIMC 2022, mentorship, coaching and proof-reading of the proposal are compulsory. Moreover, the mentorship and coaching support and the funding for proof reading will not be provided to the applicants that have not attended the Masterclass.

The University of Macerata will not undertake any further financial obligation towards the selected applicants if the proposal submitted to the European Commission is not funded by the EU Commission.

**Additional funding**

The first 10 candidates resident outside Italy which have been awarded with the highest scores in the ranking list will receive travel and accommodation funding (maximum 1.500 euro per participant) in order to attend the Masterclass MSCA@UNIMC 2022. The organization of travel and accommodation during the Masterclass will be a responsibility of the participant.

The University has the right to extend this additional funding to further 2 candidates, who are “researchers at risk” (see definition under art. 4 of this announcement).

It must be remarked that the funding will be transferred to the candidates provided that they have actually attended the Masterclass MSCA@UNIMC 2022 (at least 75% of the total hours) and have prepared the first draft of the proposal by using the template foreseen by the EU Commission for the call for proposal MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships – year 2022 (maximum length 10 pages). The stay in Macerata is expected to last 2 consecutive weeks, i.e. from 23rd May to 3rd June 2022.

**ART. 4 - WHO CAN APPLY**

**Applicants must meet all the criteria listed below:**

1. Applicants must have a doctoral degree at the time of the deadline of the MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships call 2022 (14th September 2022). Please note that if the doctoral degree has still to be
awarded, applicants must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis within the above mentioned deadline.

2. At the time of the deadline of the MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships call 2022, applicants must have a maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date when the researcher obtained a doctoral degree. Years of experience outside research and career breaks (e.g. due to parental leave), will not be taken into account.

3. Applicants must not have lived or worked in Italy for more than 12 months during the three years up to the closing date of the call (MSCA mobility rule for those applying for a European fellowship) OR must not have lived or worked in the chosen Third country for more than 12 months during the three years up to the closing date of the call (MSCA mobility rule for those applying for a Global fellowship).

4. The applicants must formally commit to compete in the forthcoming MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships year 2022 call for proposal and choose the University of Macerata as their (return) Host Institution.

5. As to applicants for Global fellowships, they must be nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries of at least five consecutive years. For the sake of clarity, it must be clear that no nationality restrictions are foreseen for applicants to the European Fellowships.

All the above criteria must be met by the deadline of the MSCA – Postdoctoral fellowships year 2022 call deadline (September 14th, 2022).

No age or research domains restrictions apply.

We encourage researchers at risk, with particular attention to those from Ukraine, to participate and to contact the Grant office for receiving specific advice and guidance (see contact details under art. 9). For the sake of clarity, “Researchers at risk include researchers, scholars and scientists at all stages of their careers who are experiencing threats to their life, liberty or research career, and those who are forced to flee or have been displaced because of such threats” (see definition included in “Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Guidelines for Inclusion of Researchers at Risk”, European Commission, 2021)

ART. 5 - APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of interest must be sent to UNIMC exclusively via the online platform at the following link: https://www.unimc.it/en/research-bck/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-unimc-2022

no later than 1.00 pm (Rome Time) on May, 2nd 2022. Expressions of interest sent using methods other than the indicated online form will not be evaluated.

Applications package must include:
1. application form
2. CV elaborated according to the provided template
3. proposal, describing the project idea of the MSCA proposal, that the applicant intends to submit in response to the MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships – year 2022 (to be elaborated according to the provided template).
4. Letter of acceptance duly signed by a Supervisor at the University of Macerata, elaborated according to the provided template.
5. Researcher’s Declaration of Commitment, elaborated according to the provided template
6. A copy of a valid ID or passport

The templates for this application are available for download at https://www.unimc.it/en/research-bck/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-unimc-2022

Applicants will be notified by e-mail about the receipt of their application.

ART. 6 - ELIGIBILITY CHECK

In order to be taken into account for evaluation, the applications will have to:
- Include application form duly signed
- Be accompanied by all the attachments specified in the art. 5 of this announcement and elaborated according to the templates provided
- Include only documents in pdf format
- Be submitted within the deadline and via the available on-line platform
- Be presented by applicants eligible to candidate for this announcement, as indicated in art. 4.

The Grant office will check that the expressions of interest meet the eligibility criteria.

ART. 7 - SELECTION PROCEDURE AND RESULTS

All eligible applications will be assessed by a Selection panel composed by 3 experts in EU project management and by the identified Supervisor at UNIMC according to the criteria and thresholds indicated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection criteria</th>
<th>Maximum score</th>
<th>Minimum threshold</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects, link to the challenge of the digital humanities</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Quality of the supervision in the team/institution</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Potential for enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
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Interviews will be held online in the period from 3rd May to 12th May 2022. Dates will be duly communicated to the candidates.

When scores are equal, priority will be given to proposals including a link to the challenge of digital humanities. Selection results will be notified to all applicants by e-mail no later than May, 13th 2022.

ART. 8 – DEADLINES AND TIMELINE

May 2nd, 2022 – 1 p.m. CET time (Rome time)
Deadline for applying to this announcement.

May 13th, 2022
The applicants receive an e-mail with the results of their application.

23rd May – 3rd June, 2022
Masterclass MSCA@UNIMC 2022 for selected applicants

June- September, 2022
The participants of the masterclass, supported by their Supervisors and the Grant office, prepare the proposals.

14th September, 2022
Deadline at the European Commission for submission of Marie Curie Individual Fellowship proposals.

February 2023
Results on funded Marie Curie Individual Fellowships are announced by the European Commission.

ART. 9 – CONTACTS

UNIMC Grant office’s head, Barbara Chiucconi, is responsible for procedures related to this call for expressions of interest.

For request of clarifications related to this call you can contact:

Grant office, Laura Concetti – ricerca.internazionale@unimc.it

Call for expression of interest’s reference number: 2020-UNMCCLE-03/13.00019