

Young Researchers - FUNDING OF MSCA SEAL OF EXCELLENCE INFO SHEET

Purpose and financial allocation

The Ministry of University and Research (MUR) funds the first edition of the 247 call with **220 million euros**, of which **60 million euros** are aimed to support **200 young researchers awarded with a MSCA-IF and MSCA-PF 2021 grant**.

“Young researcher” being defined as a researcher of any nationality benefiting from European grants of excellence, such as ERC Starting Grant and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual and Postdoctoral Fellowships, as well as a researcher of any nationality who has obtained a “Seal of Excellence” following the participation in MSCA-IF and MSCA-PF calls, as part of the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Framework Programs.

Who can apply?

Researchers of any nationality who have been awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships or Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-IF and MSCA PF) grant, within the scope of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Framework Programmes:

- ✓ **Who have concluded their MSCA project at the time of submitting the application for funding and in any case no more than 48 months prior to the date of publication of the Notice.**
- ✓ Who will submit a proposal that is complementary or consequential to the MSCA project activities,
- ✓ Whose project includes the commitment to an ERC application, with the applicant as PI and the Host Institution as implementing entity.

Application Process

Eligible candidates must submit an application dossier, complete with all the mandatory documents, **via the MUR GEA portal <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it>. The ultimate deadline for submission is October 25, 2022 – h12:00 pm.**

Selection Process

- Candidates choosing UniPD as Host Institution must contact a Department consistent with their research area and obtain a declaration support of their application.
- The Host Institution appoints an **Evaluation Committee** that carries out the evaluation of submitted projects. The assessment (Evaluation Report) is made on the basis of **Scientific adequacy, Impact and Implementation criteria**, worth 5 points each. Eligible proposals must score at least **9/15** (and higher than 1/5 in all criteria).
- **The Evaluation Committee releases an Evaluation Report** for the submitted projects and the Host Institution signs a **Preliminary Agreement** with the eligible candidates.
- **The Ministry draws up and publishes online the list of the selected applicants** and associated Host Institutions, ranked in descending order of score, based on the Evaluation Report.

Key dates - timeline:

- **Before 15 October 2022:** candidates make contact with their Host Department of choice at the University of Padua to obtain a declaration of support to the application.
- **15 October 2022:** deadline for the submission of project proposals to UniPD as Host Institution (individual.grants@unipd.it), complete with the above-mentioned declaration of support.
- **By 21 October 2022:** **UniPD Evaluation Committee releases the Evaluation Report.** Successful candidates may then contact their Host Department for the mandatory Preliminary Agreement signature.
- **25 October 2022 - h. 12.00 pm (Italian Time):** ultimate deadline for the submission on MUR's portal: <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it>.

Duration and financial allowance

- The activities of the project must be carried out over a maximum period of **36 months** from the date of signature of the contract and in any case **by December 20, 2025**.
- The grant provided will correspond to a maximum of **300,000 euros** for each project proposal.
- The requested grant will be provided as a "lump sum", for amounts lower than 200,000 euros, or on the basis of the economic-financial plan for amounts greater than or equal to 200,000 euros.

Budget – Eligible costs

- Salary for the permanence of the applicant at the Host Institution (max 36 months) and collaborators specifically working for the project proposal.
- Tools, equipment, services, communication activities and other costs.
- General expenses: eligible at a flat rate of 7% of direct costs, excluding subcontracts.

Employment conditions

The researchers will be offered a contract as fixed-term researcher pursuant to art. 24, paragraph 3, letter a), of Law no. 240 of December 30, 2010 with direct call as **RTDA**. **The contract should be signed in any case by December 20, 2022.**

Useful links on MUR's website

FAQ's (updated regularly): [link](#)
Applicant's documents and attachments: [link](#)

Contacts and links at the University of Padua

International Research Office: individual.grants@unipd.it
UniPD as Host Institution, application instructions: [link](#)