

# MSC FELLOWSHIPS

*Max Weber Programme 2018 - 2019*

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# My M(S)CF experience

- Individual research grant for 2 years, starting in September 2013, EUI
  - Change FP7 / Horizon 2020
- Applied once (first time lucky 😊)
  - Don't be afraid to fail – many people receive valuable feedback and improve the application next time.
- Score: 92 pts
- Total amount of time invested: 5/6 weeks

# Why a MSCF?

- **Pros**

- Prestigious, good for CV
- “Proven record of attracting funding for research”
- Research fellowship - no teaching, but you can gain teaching experience (as required)
- Training and transfer of knowledge – building your profile

- **Cons**

- Competitive: 3856 applications, aprox. 614 funded (15%) Cut-off thresholds: 2012 IEF in Soc Sci 91.7
- Application period: April-September
- Check if your host has internal deadlines (EUI – yes)
- Application form : lengthy (but SHORTER in Horizon 2020), detailed, specific; technical
- Time consuming

*If you want to do it, make sure you do it properly. Otherwise, you will waste a lot of precious time and nerves.*

# Practical Suggestions 1

## Choice matters!!

### 1. CHOICE OF HOST

- Needs to have good institutional capacities
- Good for hosting international fellows
- Scholars relevant for your topic in the department

### 2. SUPERVISOR

- Relevant in your field
- Good match for your project
- How working with him/her will help you advance in your career
- Make the first move - contact;))

# Practical Suggestions 2

- Have a clear and coherent research project
  - Get feedback from your colleagues / supervisor
- Convince the reviewers that you have clear professional objectives
  - Get feedback from your colleagues
- Follow the template like a mantra
  - Ask a friend to assess your proposal
  - Ask a colleague who applied before for their ESR

# Practical Suggestions 3

*It is not enough to think sth is clear. Make it clear. **AND WRITE IT IN THE APPLICATION***

*E.G. The EUI is a fantastic place for research (**Not enough**)*

- *Ranking*
- *Hosted XX MC Fellows*
- *Has a crèche*
- *Has a language courses: French, English, Spanish, German ...*
- *Has a library with XXX,XXX books, articles*
- *Has XXXX centre that is good for your topic*
- *Professors XYZ work there and they can be helpful because ...*
- *Network of institutions cooperating with that one*
- *Communication*

# What to focus on 1 (Excellence)

## **1.1. Quality and credibility of the research/innovation action**

- Introduction, state-of-the-art, objectives and overview of the action
- Research methodology and approach
- Contribution
- Interdisciplinary and gender aspects

## **1.2 Clarity and quality of training and transfer of knowledge**

- How will you benefit from the host institution?
- How will the institution benefit from you?



# ... contd...

## **1.3 Quality of the supervision and institutional integration**

- Qualifications and experience of the supervisor
  - experience with the topic
  - projects
  - publications
  - networks
- Hosting arrangements

## **1.4 Capacity of the researcher to reach and re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research**

- Convince them this is exactly what you need in terms of training, publications, communication, networks

**Make sure you relate EVERYTHING back to YOUR PROJECT**

# What to focus on 2 (Impact)

- **2.1. Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher**
  - expected impact of the planned research and training on career prospects after the fellowship.
  - Value added
  - Skills and competences - how will these make you more successful?

**BE SPECIFIC**

## **2.2. Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the action results**

- How will you communicate your research (academic and non-academic audiences)

## **2.3. Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences**

- How will you improve the general public's understanding of science

# What to focus on 3 (Implementation)

- **3.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan**
  - Gantt chart, work packages, deliverables, milestones

**WRITE A CREDIBLE STORY, BE REALISTIC**
- **3.2. Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources**
  - How the work planning and the resources mobilised will ensure that the research and training objectives will be reached.
  - Why the amount of person-months is appropriate in relation to the activities proposed.
- **3.3. Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including quality management and risk management**
  - Organisation and management structure, progress monitoring mechanisms to ensure that objectives are reached
  - Risks and Plan B
- **3.4. Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)**
  - Give a description of each legal entity and its main tasks.
  - Explain why the fellowship has the maximum chance of a successful outcome. SEP

# CV

- Books, articles, chapters in edited volumes (& translations).
- Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools.
- Teaching skills
- Research projects, funding, leading research teams
- Conference/Workshop/Panel organisation
- Academic leadership
- Impact, communication and dissemination
- Prizes and Awards.

# Tips and Tricks

- Blindly follow application headings and sub-headings (!)
  - Get a look at someone else's application
  - Double-check it against the evaluation guidelines
  - Make it visually appealing (I'm not joking 😊)
- Get support from the Marie Curie services of the future host institution (!)
  - They can be helpful with the implementation bits
- Find MSCF Blogs, talk to previous MSCF

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