ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (MSCA)
INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS 2020 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 individual 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 best talented researchers to successfully apply for MSCA Individual Fellowships with the University of Macerata:
  - as host institution in case of a European Fellowship; OR
  - as return host institution in case of a Global Fellowship.
- to support and train the best talented researchers from the University of Macerata, willing to apply for a MSCA-Global fellowship with the University of Macerata as return host institution;
- 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) Individual Fellowship applications (call ID MSCA-IF-2020).

ART. 2 - MSCA INDIVIDUAL 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. 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.

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.

A list of potential UNIMC supervisors (including description of their research profile) who are available to host a MSCA fellow can be found at the following link http://ricerca.unimc.it/it/finanziamenti/marie-curie-if-2020-unimc

Should you not find a suitable profile of supervisor in the above mentioned list, you can contact other faculty members in order to check their availability.

MSCA Fellowships take the form of European Fellowships or Global Fellowships.
European Fellowships are based on a research secondment lasting at least 12 months and maximum 24 months, to a research institution located in a EU Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Country.

Global Fellowships are based on a research secondment to a third country, lasting at least 12 months and maximum 24 months, and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. For the purposes of the call, third countries are all the countries that are not EU Member States or Associated Countries (the list of Associated countries is available at https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf).

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://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-if-2020

ART. 3 – FUNDING SCHEMES

This call for expressions of interest is composed by 2 funding schemes:

**Funding scheme 1: support to researchers who are “external” to the University of Macerata**

This scheme supports and trains up to 10 researchers willing to submit a MSCA Individual fellowship, choosing UNIMC as host institution for a European fellowship, OR as return host institution for a Global fellowship. Researchers applying for this scheme MUST not follow under the characteristics of art. 4 (Who can apply), Funding scheme 2, point 1, i.e. they must be “external” to the University of Macerata.

Within this funding scheme, selected applicants:
- will receive travel and accommodation funding (maximum 1000 EUR per participant) in order to attend the Master Class MSCA-IF organized in Macerata from 25 to 27 May 2020 (3 days). During the master class applicants will be offered a specific training on how to write a successful MSCA application form, held by MSCA experts (the course will be held in English);
- will meet their Marie Curie Supervisor at UNIMC during the above mentioned stay in Macerata, in order to better define the content of the MSCA proposal to be submitted to the EU Commission within September 2020;
- will receive, throughout the application phase, mentorship and coaching by UNIMC grant office on how to elaborate the project proposal to be submitted to the EU Commission.

Participation to the MSCA masterclass, mentorship and coaching is compulsory.

**Funding scheme 2: support to researchers from the University of Macerata**

This scheme supports and trains up to 5 researchers who, at the time of the deadline of this announcement, have or have had in the past a non permanent contract with the University of Macerata (based on the provisions of art. 4, funding scheme 2, point 1) willing to apply for a MSCA individual fellowship – Global fellowship, choosing UNIMC as return host institution.

Within this funding scheme, selected applicants:
- will attend the Master Class MSCA-IF organized in Macerata from 25 to 27 May 2020 (3 days). During the master class applicants will be offered a specific training on how to write a successful MSCA application form, held by MSCA experts (the course will be held in English);
- will receive travel and accommodation funding (maximum 1500 EUR per participant) to visit the selected host institution at the third country in order to meet their Marie Curie Supervisor and better define the content of the MSCA proposal to be submitted to the EU Commission within September 2020. The stay at the third country host institution will last max. 2 weeks.
- will receive, throughout the application phase, mentorship and coaching by UNIMC grant office on how to elaborate the project proposal to be submitted to the EU Commission.

Participation to the MSCA masterclass, mentorship and coaching is compulsory.

**ART. 4 - WHO CAN APPLY**

**Funding scheme 1: support to researchers who are “external” to the University of Macerata**

In order to apply for funding scheme 1, applicants must meet all the criteria listed below:

1. Applicants must have a PhD (or equivalent research experience of at least four years’ full time research experience)
2. 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)
3. The applicants must formally commit to compete in the forthcoming MSCA-IF- 2020 call for proposal and choose the University of Macerata as their (return) Host Institution.

**Funding scheme 2: support to researchers from the University of Macerata**

In order to apply for funding scheme 2, applicants must meet all the criteria listed below (criteria 1,2,3,4,5):

1. By the deadline of the present announcement (31th March 2020), applicants must meet at least one of the following sub-criteria, giving evidence of the fact that the applicant is “from the University of Macerata”.
   a) They are PhD students of a doctoral course of the University of Macerata and they have already deposited their dissertation, with the positive feedback from the PhD board (Collegio dei docenti) allowing the dissertation to be refereed.
   b) They possess a Doctoral degree released by the University of Macerata and they do not have a permanent position in another research institution or university
   c) They have an on-going “assegno di ricerca” (temporary research position) at the University of Macerata
   d) They had in the past an “assegno di ricerca” (temporary research position) at the University of Macerata and they do not have a permanent position in another research institution or university.
2. Applicants will have to possess a PhD degree (or equivalent research experience of at least four years’ full time research experience) by the deadline of the EU call MSCA-IF-2020 (i.e. 9th September 2020).
3. Applicants can be of any nationality but must not have lived or worked in the country chosen as third country host institution for more than 12 months during the three years up to the closing date of the call (MSCA mobility rule)
4. The applicants must formally commit to compete in the forthcoming MSCA-IF-2020, Global fellowship call for proposal and choose the University of Macerata as their return host institution.

5. Applicants must not hold the following positions at UNIMC: Full professor, Associate professor, permanent Researcher, Researcher of Type A and B.

For both funding schemes:
- no age and nationality restrictions are foreseen
- all criteria must be met by the time of the MSCA call deadline (September 9th 2020), except for the criterion no 1 of the funding scheme 2, which must be met by the time of this announcement for expressions of interest (31th March 2020).

ART. 5 - APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of interest must be sent to UNIMC exclusively via the on-line form available at the following link: http://ricerca.unimc.it/it/finanziamenti/marie-curie-if-2020-unimc, no later than 1.00 pm (Rome Time) on 31 March 2020. Expressions of interest sent using methods other than the indicated online form will not be evaluated.

Applications package must include:
- application form
- CV elaborated according to the provided template
- proposal, describing the project idea of the MSCA proposal, that the applicant intends to submit in response to the MSCA – IF-2020 (to be elaborated according to the provided template)
- Letter of acceptance duly signed by a Supervisor at the University of Macerata, elaborated according to the provided template
- Researcher’s Declaration of Commitment, elaborated according to the provided template
- a copy of valid ID or passport.

Templates are available for download at http://ricerca.unimc.it/it/finanziamenti/marie-curie-if-2020-unimc

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, applications will have to:
- include a request for grant duly signed
- include only attachments in pdf format
- be accompanied by all the attachments specified in the art. 5 of this announcement and elaborated according to the provided templates
- be submitted within the deadline and via the available on line form
- be presented by those who are 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 2 external experts in EU project management (to be appointed by the Rector) 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Potential for enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total maximum score to be assigned</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selection results will be notified to all applicants by e-mail no later than 15th April 2020.

ART. 8 – FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Funding scheme 1: support to researchers external to the University of Macerata
Travel and accommodation costs related to the stay in Macerata to attend the Masterclass incurred by selected applicants will be covered by the University of Macerata (up to maximum amount of 1.000 euro per candidate).

Funding scheme 2: support to researchers from the University of Macerata
Travel and accommodation costs related to the stay at the third country host institution incurred by selected applicants will be covered by the University of Macerata (up to maximum amount of 1.500 euro per candidate).

Selected applicants will participate to the Masterclass MSCA and will benefit of mentorship and coaching (see art. 3) for free.

The University of Macerata does not undertake any financial obligation towards the selected applicants if the proposal submitted to the European Commission in reply to the call MSCA- IF-2020 is not funded by the EU Commission.
ART. 9 – DEADLINES AND TIMELINE

31th March, 2020 – 1 p.m. CET time (Rome time)
Deadline for applying to this announcement.

15th April, 2020
The applicants receive an e-mail with the results of their application.

25th - 27th May, 2020
Marie Skłodowska-Curie masterclass at UNIMC for selected applicants for both funding scheme 1 and 2

June-July 2020
Within this period selected applicants for funding scheme 2 will spend a max. 15-days period at the chosen Third country host institution.

May - September, 2020
The participants of the masterclass, supported by their supervisors and the Grant office prepare the proposals.

9th September, 2020
Deadline at the European Commission for submission of Marie Curie Individual Fellowship proposals.

February 2021
Results on funded Marie Curie Individual Fellowships are announced by the European Commission.

ART. 10 – 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