

## Writing a competitive MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

### BACKGROUND

This training addresses future applicants and will teach them with a hands-on approach how to write a competitive MSCA PF proposal. The training will put applicants in a good position to write a strong and successful MSCA PF proposal. This is very much needed due to the competitive nature of the program.

Ongoing support to the applicants during the proposal preparation is important. Therefore, we invite support staff and supervisors to participate in the training.

### PROGRAMME

The training provides participants with a thorough understanding of the program, its rules and of the expected impacts. The training discusses all parts of the proposal template, as well as topics that underlie these parts, such as an introduction to Impact and Career Development. Throughout the training, we refer to and explain the 3 evaluation criteria as a guiding principle. We provide examples, and we challenge the participants to reflect on their own skills and expertise and plans. The training set-up complies with the GDPR.

### METHODOLOGY

The training will be offered as an interactive e-learning training, and will take place through our e-learning platform MSCA Academy (hosted on moodlecloud). Participants will get access through individual access keys, and will receive information on how to use the platform. They will have access to the platform until the day after the call deadline. Specific dates for Group Work and wrap-up session will be agreed with the host organisation.

Each training will be offered to participants from one single host organisation. This allows participants to take part freely and for support staff to contribute.

#### *The training has the following elements:*

- **~15 video lectures (~3h45)** (short videos in which we explain how to prepare the writing of the proposal, and how to write the different parts of the proposal).
- Participation in **2 interactive group work exercises** with up to 13 people, and in a final **interactive wrap-up session** for the entire group, support staff and trainer.
- Opportunity to **ask questions to the trainer**, leading to a **FAQ** that will be published on the e-learning platform.
- **Support material** will be provided on the platform, including a **Proposal Outline** template. In this document, the participants will be able to design the outline of their proposal as we go through the different parts of the proposal. After the course, they can use the outline as the basis for their proposal.



# MSCA Academy



LEARNING  
TRAINING

## Writing a successful MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

### THE PROGRAMME

#### Getting started

Introduction of the trainers, How does the course work, Explanation of the Proposal Outline.

#### Proposal preparation

*Video lectures* 'An overview and the rules' and 'Think before you write'.

#### Part B1 – section 1 – Excellence

*Video lectures* 'The research project', 'Career Development' and 'Training and Supervision'.

*Group work* on Career Development Objectives and Training Plan.

#### Part B1 – section 2 – Impact

*Video lectures* 'Introduction to Impact, 'Credibility of the measures to enhance career perspectives', 'Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication' and 'Expected scientific, societal and economic impact'.

#### Part B1 – section 3 – Implementation

*Video lectures* 'Workplan and risk assessment' and 'Quality and capacity of the institutions'.

*Group work* on 'The work plan'

#### Part B2

*Video lectures* 'CV of the researcher', 'Capacities, Ethics & Security, 'Letters of Commitment' and 'Cross-cutting issues'.

#### Part A

*Video lecture* 'Abstract'

#### Wrap-up Session

### TRAINERS

The training is prepared by and will be given by Dr. Juliane Sauer (Oxygeneum) and Mrs. Alie Kwint (Kwintessence). We guarantee the training implementation via mutual back-up and, if needed, qualified additional trainers.

Both Alie and Julie are former Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points (The Netherlands/Switzerland).

Between them, they have more than 30 years of experience in supporting MSCA applicants: writing proposals, proofreading and editing proposals, coordinating and managing projects, and providing trainings and workshops.



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