

# The Paris Region Fellowship Programme

## Frequently Asked Questions – **V1.1**

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## 1. PURPOSE

- This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document provides quick answers based on the Application Guide of the ParisRegionFP programme, and is updated with new questions, depending on enquiries received from the applicants. **IMPORTANT:** The most recent version of the Application Guide available on the Sciencescall platform at : <https://parisregionfp.sciencescall.org/> remains the reference document and should be carefully and fully read before applying.
- If any questions persist after reading the Guide and the FAQ, please contact : [prfp@iledefrance.fr](mailto:prfp@iledefrance.fr)

## 2. HISTORY OF CHANGES

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Changes</b>
V1.0	16/7/2020	Initial document
V1.1	21/7/2020	Precision on age limit (none)

## 3. MAIN DEFINITIONS

### 3.1. Programme, and its actors

**Academic sector** refers to public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organizations for whom one of the main objectives is to pursue research or technological development, and international European interest organizations as they are defined in Article 2.1(12) of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013.

**Beneficiary** (= The Paris Region/ILE DE FRANCE (RIF)) is the legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and has the responsibility for the proper implementation of the action.

**Domains of Major Interest (DMI) / Domaines d'Intérêt Majeur (DIM) in French:** Paris Region labelled strategic and thematic research networks with a critical mass of researchers, laboratories and equipment. The DMIs are funded by the Region up to a total of 20 M€ per year. They are of regional, national and international interest, since Paris Region represents 40% of French scientific forces. Current DMIs include ACAV+, MAP, MATH'INNOV, ONEHEALTH, RESPORÉ, SIRTEQ, QI2, THERAPIE GENIQUE, ELICIT, RFSI, ISLAM (PhASIF), GEROND'IF, STCN

**Host organization:** The legal entity employing, supervising and training the fellow during the fellowship.

**Non-academic or extra-academic sector** means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013.

**Partner organizations** (= organizations in Paris Region linked to the project by signed charter) contribute to the implementation of the action, but do not sign the Grant Agreement. The partner organizations of the programme are given in the website of the programme [parisregion.eu/parisregionfp](http://parisregion.eu/parisregionfp).

**Secondment:** Short research stays up to 3 months over the 2-year fellowship, notably at the extra-academic partner organizations (or at other actor(s) not partner of the programme). See Application Guidelines Section 10.2 Secondments for further details.

**Work Programme:** Part 3 (Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020. European Commission Decision C(2019)4575 of 2 July 2019

### 3.2. Applicant

**Experienced Researcher (ER) or Fellow** must at the date of recruitment, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience (see below).

**Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Research Experience** is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree entitling him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged. Periods of inactivity in research (e.g. unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or long-term sick leave) do not count towards the time of research experience, according to the European Commission's (EC) definition. Each applicant that has not yet her/his PhD diploma need to fill in the full-time equivalent research experience (Table 1.4) in the Application Form.

**Medical Doctor (MD)** studies are not considered as equivalent to PhD studies in the context of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. For applicants with an MD, the requirement of 4 years of full-time research experience therefore applies (unless they have also been awarded a PhD).

**Mobility Rule:** Researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the co-funded programme's call deadline. Time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention<sup>1</sup>, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

## 4. GENERAL AND ELIGIBILITY ASPECTS

**Q: Can applicants from any nationality apply?**

**A:** Yes, no restriction on nationality will be applied.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.3 Equal opportunities.

**Q: Are there any restrictions of age?**

**A:** No, there are no age limits that will be applied.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.3 Equal opportunities.

**Q: What are the requirements in terms of transnational mobility?**

**A:** The applicant must move (or have moved) from their present country to France. More specifically, applicants must comply with the mandatory Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility rule: Applicants must demonstrate transnational mobility and must not have resided nor carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline (e.g. October 21st, 2020 for the 1st call). Time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.2 Eligibility.

**Q: When can the fellowship start?**

**A:** The fellowship and the research project must start at the earliest on April, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and at the latest on September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. No exception is allowed for these dates.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.7 Research project and timeline.

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<sup>1</sup> 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol

**Q: How long should the fellowship research project last?**

**A:** The fellowship research project should last exactly 24 months.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.7 Research project and timeline.

**Q: I am currently in the process of finalizing my PhD studies, but I have not yet done my oral dissertation/defense or my PhD has been finalized but I have not yet received my diploma/official certificate. Am I still eligible?**

**A:** At the time of recruitment (between April, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at the latest), applicants need to be in possession of a doctoral degree (PhD holders) OR demonstrate having at least the equivalent of 4 years full-time research experience. In this case, as the PhD has not been completed/ no PhD diploma is yet available, it is important that the candidate fill in very carefully the Table 1.4 in the Application Form for the full-time research experience, and indicates the envisaged PhD obtention date and starting date wished for the fellowship. Please notice that the full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree, which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in France, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged. Periods of inactivity in research (e.g. unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or long-term sick leave) do not count towards the time of research experience, according to the EU definition.

In addition, if the PhD is at the finalization stage with only the oral dissertation/defense missing or it has been officially completed/awarded and only the official certificate is missing, candidates must ask their university/institute for a confirmation (e.g. signed letter on headed paper) that the PhD oral dissertation has been planned on a particular date or that the PhD has been formally awarded. Candidates can then upload this confirmation letter in the application online platform. The candidate should then subsequently send a copy of the official certificate as soon as available. On the other hand, if – by the planned recruitment date (at the latest September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021) – a decision has yet to be taken with regard to the PhD (e.g. dissertation/defense postponed, approval not finalized, etc), then the PhD would not be considered as awarded yet and the candidate may be deemed ineligible (unless s/he can prove 4 years of full-time research experience).

See Application Guidelines Section 5.2 Eligibility.

**Q: How shall I select the host organization?**

Based on individual-driven mobility, each applicant will freely choose a research topic and an appropriate host (and secondment) organization(s) and supervisor(s) fitting their scientific interest. It will be up to the applicants to search and contact the most suitable host organization/ laboratory (and secondment organization(s)) and supervisor(s) to discuss a potential cooperation and the research project.

To facilitate the search, the names and contact information of the laboratories linked to the Domains of Major Interest (DMI) are available on the call platform <https://parisregionfp.sciencescall.org/>. The file is located under "Overview". The programme accepts also host laboratories situated in the Paris Region, even if they are not part of a DMI.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.6 Selection of host organization and 5.7 Research project and timeline.

**Q: I am currently based at the host organization. Am I eligible to apply?**

**A:** Candidates already in France/ at their host organization may be eligible provided: (i) that they strictly comply with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility rule and (ii) that they are not permanently employed by the host organization prior to applying. Should they be eligible, they will nevertheless need to put forward a strong case and valid rationale (e.g. best organization for their project, added value for career development etc.) for their choice, the aim of the fellowships being to promote transnational mobility, launch new projects, and establish new collaborations.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.2 Eligibility.

**Q: Can I apply for several research projects with either the same or different host organization?**

No, under each call, an applicant can only submit one application. In case of multiple submission, only the first application is selected for evaluation, and the others are discarded.

However, there are no restrictions in terms of the number of fellowship applications in which a host organization is involved within the same call.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.1 General requirements.

**Q: Can I apply simultaneously for the Paris Region Fellowship and for a MSCA Individual Fellowship (or any other fellowship or grant)?**

Yes, however, you need to notify the on-going grant applications in your CV/Track Record in "Funding received so far, and on-going fellowship and grant applications". However, no double funding is possible nor any concurrent combination of a ParisRegionFP fellowship with any other MSCA funding (e.g. IF, ITN, etc), H2020 funding or other grants with other funding bodies, within the same timeframe is permitted, if several applications are successful, a choice must be made.

See Application Guidelines Section 5.4 Other fellowships and double funding.

**Q: Can I apply for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call of fellowship in 2021 if my application for the 1<sup>st</sup> call in 2020 is not accepted?**

**A:** Yes, if the eligibility / integrity etc. conditions are still valid, a candidate that has not been retained in the 1<sup>st</sup> call of fellowship, is free to apply for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call.

See Application Guidelines Section 7.3 Organization of the process.

## 5. APPLICATION PROCESS

**Q: What is the application deadline?**

**A:** The deadline for the first call is October, 21st, 2020 (17:00 CET). There will be no extension granted. It is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the call deadline to avoid any last-minute problems (e.g. technical, etc), which cannot be considered as extenuating circumstances. It is the responsibility of the fellowship applicant to ensure that there is sufficient time for submission, including contacting the host and collecting all the required documents and signatures.

See Application Guidelines Section 7.1 Key dates.

**Q: How do I apply?**

**A:** Application, with all supporting documents, must be submitted in English through the Sciencecall platform at address: <https://parisregionfp.sciencescall.org/> (via CCSD codes). The applications provided by any other means (except the Recommendation letters that will be sent by email by the person providing the letter) will be not taken into account. Further information, notably a short guide, and information on logistic & living conditions in Paris Region can be found from the programme's webpage <https://parisregion.eu/parisregionfp.html>.

See Application Guidelines Section 6 Application process via the platform.

**Q: What if I do not have a CCSD account or I have forgotten my password?**

**A:** Applicants can quickly and easily create a CCSD account for free (or reactivate a login), from the call page: <https://parisregionfp.sciencescall.org/>. Check the "login" button, and then "Create account" or "Lost password?" on the right-hand side of the screen. For information, the login details are the same as for the French HAL system (<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/>).

See Application Guidelines Section 6.1 Creation of an account and submission process.

**Q: What documents need to be submitted for the application? In what format the documents need to be submitted?**

The applicants are asked to fill in and upload a number of documents by the application deadline. These are listed in section 6.2 of the Application Guidelines, within the Application Form itself (section Documents requested and further information) and in the call platform <https://parisregionfp.sciencescall.org/> (section Application documents). Some of the forms / documents need to be signed. The applicant is responsible for uploading all the necessary documents on the application form by the deadline, therefore s/he should leave plenty of time for this process and have all documents ready well in advance.

All documents to be submitted need to be uploaded in pdf format.

See Application Guidelines Section 6.2 Documents to be provided in the application.

**Q: Can the 2 Recommendation Letters be uploaded together with the other documents or sent by email by the applicant?**

**A:** No, the letters shall be sent by mail to [prfp@iledefrance.fr](mailto:prfp@iledefrance.fr) by the person providing the letter before the call deadline October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This is very important in order to avoid the application being ineligible. No reminder is sent by the Paris Region in case of missing letters, the applicant is responsible for timely submission, and recontacting the person(s) providing the letters if needed.

See Application Guidelines Section 6.2 Documents to be provided in the application.

## 6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

**Q: How and when will my application be evaluated, and selected?**

**A:** The evaluation and selection process will consist of the following steps/ timing:

- Launching of the call: July, 1st, 2020
- Closing of the call: October, 21st, 2020 at 17:00 CET
- Eligibility and ethics check: October, 2020
- Review of applications by 3 international/ independent experts: November, 2020
- Applications ranked and shortlisted: December, 2020
- Interview of shortlisted (max 60) applicants (15-minute presentation and 15-minute discussion via video conference): Planned at the moment between January, 11th and 22nd, 2021 (can be subject to changes)
- Funding decision and feedback to applicants: February, 2021
- Possible start of the fellowship: Between April, 1st, 2021 and September, 1st, 2021

See Application Guidelines Section 7 Evaluation and selection process.

## 7. FELLOWSHIP CONDITIONS

**Q: What is covered by the fellowship grant?**

**A:** The ParisRegionFP fellowship provides for the benefit of the selected fellows the following allowances: a living, a mobility, a travel, and a research allowance. If the applicant's estimated total research budget is above the indicated allowances, supplementary budget needs to be justified/ agreed with the host organization already at the application phase. In addition to the above categories, the ParisRegionFP programme budget covers also the cost of the network-wide training programme, and administrative costs, used directly by Paris Region for these expenses.

See Application Guidelines Section 8.1 Grant allowances.

**For any enquiries, please refer to Application Guidelines. Please contact [prfp@iledefrance.fr](mailto:prfp@iledefrance.fr) only after consulting the Guidelines or this FAQ. Kindly submit your questions well in advance to ensure adequate time to reply.**