



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA**

**AREA RICERCA**

U.O. SUPPORTO ALLA RICERCA EUROPEA E INTERNAZIONALE

## **ART. 1 – PURPOSE OF THIS CALL**

The MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2023 fellowship aims at attracting motivated and talented researchers of any nationality who will choose the University of Parma (UNIPR) as Host Organisation for Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships' applications, thus contributing to increase the level of excellence and internationalization as well as the success rate of the University in this EU programme.

Specific objectives of this call are:

- to provide high-quality training to the selected researchers who will develop excellent and innovative ideas to apply for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship where UNIPR will act as:
  - Host Organisation in case of a European Postdoctoral Fellowship OR
  - Host Organisation in the return phase in case of a Global Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- to foster the international dimension of research at UNIPR.

For this purpose, UNIPR invites experienced researchers to join the MSCA Bootcamp in Parma on 5-7 June, 2023 in view of the submission of an application for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship call HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01-01 (i.e. by 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023).

## **ART. 2 – RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARMA**

UNIPR ([www.unipr.it](http://www.unipr.it)) is one of the oldest universities in the world and it hosts top-level scientific research in hard and life sciences, engineering, medicine, economics and humanities. UNIPR has 99 degree programs (11 international degree programs taught in English), 21 PhD programs and 53 master programs coordinated within nine departments. It is member of several university associations and networks in Europe, including the recently awarded "EU Green" alliance of European universities, and the researchers at UNIPR are also differently involved in ESFRI Research Infrastructures that provide access to services in different domains. UNIPR has centralized and unit-based support facilities and excellent research and meeting infrastructure. UNIPR constantly strives for innovation and improvement, favouring the path towards a culture of quality through the active participation of all stakeholders, the growth of the sense of belonging to the institution of the entire university community and the full exploitation of "human capital".

The University is organised in 9 departments, namely:

- i) Department of Chemistry, Life Sciences and Environmental Sustainability
- ii) Department of Economics and Management
- iii) Department of Engineering and Architecture
- iv) Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Cultural Industries
- v) Department of Law, Politics and International Studies
- vi) Department of Mathematical, Physical and Computer Sciences
- vii) Department of Medicine and Surgery
- viii) Department of Veterinary Science
- ix) Department of Food and Drug.

The University of Parma has retained its position among the 30 top performing universities in Italy in the last EU framework programme having been awarded more than 50 projects in Horizon 2020. In particular, in



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Horizon 2020 UNIPR has been awarded 17 MSCA (7 MSCA-ITN, 6 MSCA-IF and 4 MSCA-RISE). As for participation in Horizon Europe, 10 projects have been funded so far including 1 MSCA Doctoral Network.

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships targets researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities abroad and acquire new skills in order to develop their careers and foster excellence in research.

There are two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships:

- *European Fellowships* are based on a research period lasting minimum 12 months and maximum 24 months to be spent in a research organisation located in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country (i.e. UNIPR). These fellowships are open to researchers of any nationality either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within the EU;
- *Global Fellowships* allow researchers to spend a research period between 12 and 24 months in a research organisation located outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries, followed by a mandatory 12-month return period to a European Host Organisation (i.e. UNIPR). These fellowships are open to European nationals or long-term residents coming from EU Member States or Associated Countries.

The MSCA Fellowship provides a living, mobility and family allowance. In addition, the EU contributes to the research, training and networking 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://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships> and specific information on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 is available at <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-2023>

Every application to MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2023 must be supported by a faculty member of the University of Parma who will act as Scientific Supervisor. A list of potential UNIPR Supervisors (including detailed description of their profile and research fields) who are willing to supervise and support a MSCA fellow can be found [here](#).

### **ART. 3 – PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

The initiative's goal is to provide coaching and training to 20 selected researchers willing to submit an application for MSCA Postdoctoral fellowship, indicating UNIPR as their Host Organisation.

Selected researchers:

- will actively participate in the MSCA Bootcamp organized **on-site** at the University of Parma **from 5<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**. During the Bootcamp, MSCA experts will advise participants about writing a successful MSCA proposal. All sessions will be in English. During the Bootcamp, the selected researchers will meet their associated Supervisors at UNIPR in order to start developing their MSCA proposal. After the Bootcamp, the participants together with their Supervisors will produce a draft of their research proposal to be evaluated by UNIPR within **15<sup>th</sup> July 2023**. The draft will be later developed into the final project to be submitted to the European Commission by the MSCA call deadline (**13<sup>th</sup> September 2023**);



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- will receive, during the opening period of the MSCA call for proposals, full support by the European and International Research Unit at UNIPR and by their Supervisors on how to elaborate the project proposal;
- will receive the payment of a one-month fellowship of **1.000, 00 €** only after attending the MSCA Bootcamp on site and submitting the draft of the project proposal by the predetermined deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

All the selected applicants will have to apply for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023, HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01-01 call by submitting a final project by the call deadline.

Please be aware the University of Parma will not undertake any further financial obligation towards the selected applicants if the proposal submitted to the European Commission will not be funded.

## ART. 4 – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Supported researchers can be of any nationality. No age or research domains restrictions apply.

In accordance with the eligibility criteria for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, researchers interested in participating in the MSCA Bootcamp at UNIPR must meet all the criteria listed below:

1. Applicants must be postdoctoral researchers at the date of the call deadline (13<sup>th</sup> September 2023), i.e. in a possession of a doctoral degree. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline.
2. At the call deadline, supported researchers must be within 8 years fulltime equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree. Years of experience outside research and career breaks (e.g. due to parental leave), will not count towards the amount of research experience.
3. Recruited researchers must comply with the following mobility rule: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country (Italy) of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or the Host Organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.
4. Researchers going to a third country (Global Postdoctoral Fellowship) or researchers who wish to reintegrate to Europe (i.e. in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country), must be nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries of at least five consecutive years.
5. The applicants must formally commit to compete in the forthcoming MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships year 2023 call for proposal and choose the University of Parma as their Host Organisation.

All the above criteria must be met by the deadline of the MSCA – Postdoctoral fellowships year 2023 call deadline (September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023).



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We warmly encourage researchers at risk<sup>1</sup> to participate in this initiative and to contact the European and International Research Unit to receive support and guidance (see contact details under art. 9).

## **ART. 5 – HOW TO APPLY**

Applicants must fill in the online application form available at this [link](#) before **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 12 p.m. (CET time)**. Please note that UNIPR will neither accept nor evaluate any application received by different means.

In order to duly complete the application, applicants are required to upload the following documents:

1. CV and research-educational track record;
2. Short proposal which outlines the applicant's main research idea, that will be further developed in the MSCA full proposal in response to the MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships call – year 2023;
3. Supervisor Acceptance Letter, duly signed by a Supervisor at UNIPR;
4. Researcher Commitment;
5. A copy of a valid ID or passport.

Documents in items 1-4 should be written according to the specific instructions provided in the templates made available for download by UNIPR at the following link: <https://www.unipr.it/bandi-ateneo-ricerca-internazionale-0>.

Applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail once they successfully submit their application.

## **ART. 6 – PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY CHECK**

The European and International Research Unit will carry out a preliminary check to verify that applicants meet eligibility requirements before evaluating the application in its entirety.

In order to be taken into account for evaluation, the applicants must make sure to:

- Submit the online application form within the set deadline, duly filled out in all its parts,
- Submit all the attachments specified in the art. 5 of this call, drafted according to the templates provided and in PDF format only;
- Meet all the eligibility requirements, as indicated in art. 4.

## **ART. 7 - SELECTION PROCEDURE AND RESULTS**

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<sup>1</sup> Researchers at risk include researchers, scholars and scientists at all stages of their careers who are experiencing threats to their life, liberty or research career, and those who are forced to flee or have been displaced because of such threats (European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions : guidelines for inclusion of researchers at risk*, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/364922>)



All eligible applications (considering both the short proposal and CV and track records of the candidates) will be assessed by a selection panel appointed by University's Rector. Assessment will be based on the criteria, scoring and thresholds indicated in the following sections.

Selection criteria
1. Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art).</li><li>Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality and appropriateness of open science practices).</li><li>Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills.</li></ul>
2. Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Estimated scientific, environmental, and social impacts.</li><li>Potential for enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship.</li></ul>
3. Hosting team and supervisor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the hosting team at UNIPR in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and international mobility.</li><li>Quality and appropriateness of the supervisor.</li></ul>

Scoring for each of the 3 selection criteria must be in the range from 0-5. 0.1 marks may be given.

0 — The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 — Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 — Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 — Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 — Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 — Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The threshold for the individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 10 points.

Selection results will be notified to all applicants by e-mail no later than April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## ART. 8 – DEADLINES AND TIMELINE

- February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Publication of this call
- March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 12 p.m. (CET time) - Deadline for applying to this call
- April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - The applicants receive an e-mail with the results of their application
- From June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - MSCA Bootcamp@UNIPR for selected applicants



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- June- September 2023 - The participants of the MSCA Bootcamp, supported by their Supervisors and the EU and International Research office, prepare the project proposals.
- July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Deadline for the submission of a draft project proposal to UNIPR.
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5 p.m. (CET time) - Deadline for submission of Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship proposals to the European Commission (call ID HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01-01).

## ART. 9 – CONTACTS AT UNIPR

Responsible person for procedures related to this call: Silvia Tavernini - Head of European and International Research Unit.

For information of questions related to this call you can contact the [European and International Research Unit](#) at [ricerca.internazionale@unipr.it](mailto:ricerca.internazionale@unipr.it)

Call reference: MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2023.