MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027

ART. 1 – PURPOSE OF THIS CALL

The MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 (MSCA Bootcamp) 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 research proposals to apply for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship where UNIPR will act as:
  - Host Organisation in case of a European Postdoctoral Fellowship OR
  - Host Organisation of the return phase in case of a Global Postdoctoral Fellowship
- to foster the international dimension of research at UNIPR.

For this purpose, UNIPR invites researchers to join the MSCA Bootcamp in Parma from 10 to 12 May 2027 as a first step towards the submission of an application for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship call HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01-01 (deadline of the call: 8 September 2027).

ART. 2 – RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARMA

UNIPR (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 offers 109 degree programs (18 international degree programs taught in English), 23 PhD programs, 41 specialisation schools and 51 master programmes. It is a member of several university associations and networks in Europe, including the "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 centralised 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 10 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 Engineering for Industrial Systems and Technologies
v) Department of Food and Drug
vi) Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Cultural Industries
vii) Department of Law, Politics and International Studies
viii) Department of Mathematical, Physical and Computer Sciences
ix) Department of Medicine and Surgery
x) Department of Veterinary Science.

The University of Parma has retained its position among the 30 top-performing institutions in Italy in the current EU framework programme[1] thanks to the award of more than 70 projects in Horizon Europe, 48 of which belong to Pillar I – Excellent Science. In particular, in Horizon Europe UNIPR has been awarded 9 ERC grants and 39 MSCA grants, with 20 Postdoctoral Fellowships as Host Institution[2].

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships target excellent researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities in a Host Organisation 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* provide for a research period lasting minimum 12 months and maximum 24 months to be spent by the researcher in a research organisation located in an EU Member State (i.e. UNIPR) or Horizon Europe Associated Country. 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 the fellow with a living allowance, mobility allowance, and family allowance (if applicable). 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/about-msca.

Every application to the MSCA Bootcamp must be made jointly by the researcher and 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 MSCA Bootcamp's goal is to provide coaching and training for up to 25 selected researchers willing to submit an application for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship 2027 call, indicating UNIPR as their Host Organisation.

Selected researchers:

[1] The ranking of the University of Parma among Italian universities in terms of the number of European projects won under the Horizon Europe program is available on the European Commission's Research and Innovation community platform, CORDIS (European Commission, *Organisation Profile*, CORDIS - Horizon Dashboard, 2026, https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/dc5f6f40-c9de-4c40-8648-015d6ff21342/sheet/3bcd6df0-d32a-4593-b4fa-0f9529c8ffb0/state/analysis).

[2] The data regarding MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships hosted by the University of Parma under Horizon Europe is available here: https://www.unipr.it/ricerca/opportunita-di-finanziamento/ricerca-internazionale/progetti-finanziati.

- will actively participate in the MSCA Bootcamp organised **on site** at the University of Parma **from 10 to 12 May 2027**. During the MSCA Bootcamp, MSCA experts will advise participants about writing a successful MSCA proposal. All sessions will be in English. During the event, dedicated sessions will be organised for the selected researchers and their prospective UNIPR Supervisors in order for them to start working on their MSCA project proposal. After the MSCA Bootcamp, the participants, together with their supervisors, must produce, using the official European Commission templates, a first draft of part B1 of the project proposal (consisting of the sections: Excellence, Impact and Implementation) by **4 July 2027,** and a draft of part B2 (consisting of the sections: CV of the researcher, Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s), Additional ethics information (if applicable), Additional information on security screening (if applicable), Environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter) by **18 July 2027,** for evaluation by UNIPR. The drafts will subsequently be further developed into the final project to be submitted to the European Commission by the MSCA call deadline (**8 September 2027**);
- will attend 1 webinar on the rules for participation to the call, which will be held before the on-site event (end of April 2027). Detailed information will be given only to the selected applicants;
- who would like to work on the project proposal with their supervisors may also stay at UNIPR on 13 May 2027, as part of the MSCA Bootcamp activities, by prior arrangement with their supervisors;
- will receive, during the opening period of the MSCA call for proposals, full support by the European and International Research Unit at UNIPR, their supervisors and external experts on how to elaborate the project proposal;
- will receive, if applicable, a reimbursement of expenses as defined in Art. 4.

All the selected applicants must apply for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2027, HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01-01 call by submitting their final proposal by the call deadline.

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 – REIMBURSEMENT

Selected applicants will receive a reimbursement up to a maximum of 1.500 euros for researchers coming to Parma from European countries (Annex 2) and up to 2.000 euros for researchers coming from non-European countries, in order to cover Bootcamp-related costs (i.e., travel and accommodation).

Reimbursement will be paid **only** if the selected applicants have attended the MSCA Bootcamp **on site** and **submitted the drafts of part B1 and part B2 of the project proposal using the official European Commission templates** by the **aforementioned deadlines (Art. 3).**

Reimbursement will be processed in compliance with the "Regolamento missioni e relativi rimborsi spese" of the University of Parma and the "Guidelines for reimbursement of expenses" (Annex 3).

ART. 5 – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Supported researchers can be of any nationality, although specific eligibility restrictions apply for MSCA Global Postdoctoral Fellowships. No age or research domains restrictions apply.

In accordance with the eligibility criteria set in the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call, 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 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call deadline, i.e. in 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 so they will be eligible to apply. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call deadline.
2. At the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call deadline, supported researchers must have a maximum of 8 years full-time 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. For nationals or long-term residents[3] of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to pursue their research career in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, years of experience in research in third countries will not be considered in the above maximum.
3. Recruited researchers must comply with the mobility rule: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (Italy, 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 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 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.
5. The applicants must formally commit to compete in the forthcoming MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2027 call for proposals and choose the University of Parma as their Host Organisation.
6. Researchers who submitted an application for the previous MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP editions, regardless of the outcome of the selection process, cannot apply to the MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 call.
7. Researchers who submitted an application for the previous MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship calls with UNIPR as Host Institution, regardless of the score received, cannot apply to the MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 call.

ART. 6 – HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must fill in the online application form available at this link by **24 January 2027 23:59 CET**. Please note that **UNIPR will neither accept nor evaluate any application received by different means or after the set deadline**.

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

1. Researcher's commitment

[3] 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.

2. Information on the researcher and the proposal
3. Information on the supervisor and acceptance letter
4. A copy of a valid ID or passport[4]
5. MSCA PF Self-Assessment Tool: 8 years of research experience[5] (if necessary)

Documents in items 1-3 must be produced using the templates made available for download by UNIPR at this link.

All documents that are illegible or produced using templates other than those provided by UNIPR or which do not comply with the instructions will not be taken into consideration.

ART. 7 – 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 Art. 6 of this call, drafted according to the templates provided and in PDF format only;
- Meet all the eligibility requirements, as indicated in Art. 5.

ART. 8 - SELECTION PROCEDURE AND RESULTS

All eligible applications will be assessed by a selection panel appointed by the university's rector.
The selection panel will evaluate information reported on the forms "*Information on the researcher and the proposal*" and "*Information on the supervisor and acceptance letter*" related to the following sections:

- Researcher presentation (CV; Track record).
- Proposal presentation (Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objective and the extent to which they are ambitious and go beyond the state of the art; Soundness of the proposed methodology; Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills; Quality of the knowledge transfer from the researcher to the host institution).
- Supervisor presentation (Quality and appropriateness of the supervisor; Level of experience in supervising; Quality of the knowledge transfer from the supervisor to the researcher).

Scoring for each of the three sections will be in the range from 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest). 0.1 marks may be given. The threshold for the individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 10 points.

[4] The ID document must be valid and readable

[5] This file must be completed and uploaded only by applicants who had experience outside research and career breaks (e.g., due to parental leave, compulsory national service etc.), in order to assess the 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the first doctoral degree (Download the MSCA PF Self-Assessment Tool here)

Candidates who meet both the individual and overall thresholds will be placed on a ranking list in descending order of their total score, calculated as the sum of the scores awarded for the three sections. A maximum of 25 candidates will be admitted to the MSCA Bootcamp, following the order of the ranking list and subject to verification of the eligibility requirements set out in Article 5. Any remaining candidates who meet the thresholds will be placed on a reserve list in the same ranking order.
In the event of equal total scores, priority will be given to the candidate whose gender is underrepresented among the participants already selected. For this purpose, places will be allocated in descending order of score and the gender representation criterion will be applied successively to each tied place, taking account of the candidates already admitted at that stage. If this criterion does not resolve the tie, priority will be given to the younger candidate, based on date of birth.
If an admitted candidate declines or withdraws, the University may offer the vacant place to the next eligible candidate on the reserve list, following its established order and subject to verification of eligibility under Art. 5. Replacement candidates must confirm acceptance within the deadline specified in the University's notification. If they decline or fail to respond within that deadline, the place may be offered to the next candidate on the reserve list. Replacements may be made until the start of the on-site Bootcamp, provided that participation can still be organised.

Selection results will be notified to all applicants by e-mail in **March 2027**.

ART. 9 – DEADLINES AND TIMELINE

- November 2026 – Publication of this call
- 24 January 2027, 23:59 CET – Deadline for applying to this call
- March 2027 – The applicants receive an e-mail with the results of their applications
- April 2027 – Mandatory webinar (approx. 1:30 hours) – date to be decided
- From 10 to 12 May 2027 – MSCA Bootcamp for selected applicants
- 13 May 2027 – one-to-one work with the supervisor (optional event, to be agreed before the MSCA Bootcamp)
- May-September 2027 – The participants in the MSCA Bootcamp, supported by their Supervisors and the European and International Research Unit, prepare the project proposals
- 4 July 2027 – Deadline for submitting the complete draft of Part B1 of the project proposal to UNIPR
- 18 July 2027 – Deadline for submitting the complete draft of Part B2 of the project proposal to UNIPR
- 8 September 2027 – Deadline for submitting the full MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship proposals to the European Commission through the Funding & Tenders Portal (call ID HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01-01).

ART. 10 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Personal data provided by candidates or otherwise acquired by the University will be processed for the purposes of managing this call and for other purposes compatible with this procedure.
The data will be processed by the University of Parma, which, as data controller, will provide the interested party with the information pursuant to Art. 13 of the EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) in accordance with the information notice available at the following link:

https://www.unipr.it/en/privacy-protezione-dati. The University may use external parties, duly appointed as data processors, to carry out the procedure.
Providing these data is mandatory to assess the participation requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the selection process. Participants are entitled to the rights specified in Articles 15 et seq. of the above EU Regulation 2016/679, as detailed in the above information notice.

ART. 11 – CONTACTS AT UNIPR

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

For information or questions related to this call you can contact the European and International Research Unit at ricerca.internazionale@unipr.it

Call reference: MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027.

Annex 1 – Agenda (to be confirmed)
Annex 2 – European countries
Annex 3 - Guidelines for reimbursement of expenses

Annex 1 – Agenda

MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 – AGENDA

DAY 1 – 10.05.27		
09:00 09:30	• Welcome breakfast and registration	European and International Research Unit
09:30 10:00	• Greetings from the Rector • Introduction to the University of Parma, its research activities, and the city • Past bootcamp experience and goals of the MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 • What we will do in the next days	Prof. Paolo Martelli - Rector Prof. Daniele Del Rio – Pro-Rector for research and technology transfer Prof. Stefano Carretta – Rector's delegate for European and international research Dr. Silvia Tavernini – Head of the European and International Research Unit
10:00 11:00	• Fellows' presentation	Selected researchers
	Coffee break	
11:30 12:30	• Roundtable with former MSCA@UNIPR fellows and supervisors	TBD
	Lunch	
14:00 14:30	• Proposal structure and terminology	European and International Research Unit
14:30 16:30	• Template Part B1: Excellence section	European and International Research Unit
16:30 17:30	• Interactive session	European and International Research Unit
	Aperitivo!	
DAY 2 – 11.05.27		
9:30 11:15	• Template Part B1: Impact section	European and International Research Unit
	Coffee break	
11:30 12:30	• Template Part B1: Implementation section • Writing tips	European and International Research Unit
	Lunch	
13:30 14:30	• Template Part B2	European and International Research Unit
14:30 17:00	• Interactive session	European and International Research Unit
20:00	Dinner	
DAY 3 – 12.05.27		
09:30 12:30	• Meet your supervisor on campus and review with us your proposal	Researchers and supervisors

	(Coffee when needed)	
	Lunch	
14:00 15:00	• Evaluation process: how it works, award criteria, evaluation grid, what to focus on	Prof. Fabio Sonvico – MSCA Reviewer
15:00 17:00	• Part A & Submission procedure	European and International Research Unit
17:00 17:30	• Q&A and conclusion	European and International Research Unit

Introductory webinar pre-Bootcamp – April 2027		
12:00 13:30	• Horizon Europe - introduction • MSCA PF: an overview • Bootcamp practical information	European and International Research Unit

Annex 2: European countries

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Kazakhstan
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Vatican City

Annex 3 - Guidelines for reimbursement of expenses

1. Introduction

1.1 The University of Parma will provide reimbursement for travel and accommodation expenses. Subsistence expenses will not be reimbursed. Meals included in the agenda will be offered to participants. Free breakfast and an Italian-style aperitivo will be provided to the selected researchers on 10 May 2027, as well as lunch from 10 to 12 May. A social dinner will also be offered to the selected researchers and their supervisors on 11 May 2027 (Annex 1).

1.2 Reimbursement will be granted only to selected applicants who have fulfilled both of the following requirements:

- attended the MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 on site;
- prepared the first drafts of Part B1 and part B2 of the project proposal using the official European Commission templates and sent them to ricerca.internazionale@unipr.it by the respective deadlines of 4 July and 18 July 2027.

1.3 Selected applicants will receive a reimbursement of expenses up to a maximum of 1.500 euros for researchers coming to Parma from European countries (Annex 2) and up to 2.000 euros for researchers coming from non-European countries.

1.4 The MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 will take place in Parma from 10 to 12 May 2027. Travel to and from Parma and accommodation in Parma required for participation are eligible for reimbursement, including arrival on 9 May and departure on 13 May 2027. Selected applicants may also remain in Parma on 13 May 2027 for an optional day of one-to-one work with their supervisors. In this case, the eligible period extends to departure on 14 May 2027, including accommodation for the night of 13–14 May. The eligible travel dates and overnight stays are specified in the following Articles 2 and 3. All reimbursements remain subject to the overall limits and conditions set out in these guidelines.

1.5 Fellows living in Parma are not entitled to any reimbursement.

2. Travel costs

2.1 Travel expenses incurred for journeys from the applicant's place of residence/domicile to Parma and back will be reimbursed only when public transport is used. Taxi will be reimbursed only if public transport was not available. Visa-related expenses are also eligible for reimbursement.

2.2 Eligible travel includes the outward journey to attend the Bootcamp, with arrival in Parma on or after 9 May 2027, and the return journey departing from Parma no later than 13 May 2027. For selected applicants who remain in Parma to work with their supervisors on 13 May 2027, the return journey may depart from Parma on 14 May 2027. Travel costs must be limited to those strictly necessary for participation in the Bootcamp and, where applicable, the optional day with the supervisor.

2.3 Additional costs arising from personal extensions of the journey or stay are not eligible for reimbursement. The optional day with the supervisor on 13 May 2027 and the associated return journey on 14 May 2027 do not constitute a personal extension.

3. Accommodation costs

3.1 Accommodation expenses in Parma will be reimbursed on the basis of the actual room costs incurred, including any compulsory local taxes and breakfast if included in the accommodation rate, up to 250 euros per night.

3.2 Eligible overnight stays are those required for participation in the Bootcamp, from the night of 9–10 May up to and including the night of 12–13 May 2027 (a maximum of four nights). For selected applicants who remain in Parma to work with their supervisors on 13 May 2027, the night of 13–14 May is also eligible, allowing departure on 14 May 2027 (a maximum of five nights in total). Accommodation costs outside these periods or relating to personal extensions are not eligible. The overall reimbursement limits set out in Art. 1 continue to apply.

4. Reimbursement rules

4.1 In order to get the reimbursement, selected applicants must send to ricerca.internazionale@unipr.it the following supporting documents:

- *Payment of fees and/or reimbursement of expenses to personnel invited by the university to participate in symposia, seminars, conferences* form (to be made using the specific template which will be provided after the end of the MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2027 by the European and International Research Unit);
- **Original invoices or other document certifying the expenses incurred** (e.g. purchase of plane ticket, boarding pass, train/bus ticket, hotel receipt etc.), and evidence of their related traceable payment (e.g. **bank transfer, credit card, and other types of electronic payment**). The documentation submitted for reimbursement must contain all the elements through which it is possible to unequivocally trace the service provider, the type and date of service, reference to the person entitled to reimbursement, when possible.

4.2 Avoid cash payments since, according to Italian national regulations, expenses paid in cash may be subject to taxation, and use traceable payment (e.g. ATM or debit cards, credit cards, prepaid cards, bank or postal transfers etc.).

4.3 The transfers will be made in euros. In the case of a bank account in a foreign currency, the exchange rate will be the one operated by the banking institution. Currency exchange losses will not be refunded.

4.4 Reimbursement of expenses must be requested within thirty days after the submission of both Part B1 and Part B2 drafts.

5. Liability

5.1 UNIPR shall not be liable for any material, non-material or physical damage suffered by fellows in the course of their journey, unless such harm is directly attributable to UNIPR.