

ForBio: MSCA-IF Training Program

About

The Research School in Biosystematics is organizing a training program for incoming and outgoing fellows applying for postdoctoral research grants from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) Individual Fellows program (https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about/individual-fellowships_en). The program includes match-making (if necessary, see course page for potential hosts) between fellows and hosts, coaching, an intensive 3-day workshop at the Natural History Museum in Oslo, writing support, peer review, and liaison with EU coordination offices.

Goal of the MSCA-IF program

Enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers in biosystematics, in a broad sense, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Target group

Academically-engaged senior PhD students, postdocs and junior researchers. Including IF programs ER-ST (Standard European), ER-CAR (Career Restart Grant), ER-SE (Society and Enterprise), ER-RI (Reintegration), and GF (Global). We aim to have a mixed group of incoming and outgoing fellows.

Deadlines 2017

May 15 th	Registration for training program (fellows apply with host), and submission of concept note developed with host
May 17 th	Decision on acceptance for Oslo workshop
June 12-14 th	MSCA intensive training in Oslo
August 1 st	Circulation of draft proposal to workshop team
August 20 th	Proposal peer review submission deadline
August 27 th	Feedback from review and subsequent revision
September 1 st	Continuous support
September 14 th	Submission of MSCA-IF proposals

Workshop (Week 24, June 12-14th)

At Natural History Museum, Oslo, participation pending acceptance of concept note. MSCA-IF workshop taught by Kwintessence Consulting (<http://www.kwintessence.eu>) with focus on Excellence, Impact and Implementation. Three day intensive format with individual and group work. This workshop will include information from the Norwegian Research Council, the UiO EU office, and talks by MSCA-IF alumni about their experiences, suggestions, and ideas. Hosts of accepted fellows can attend as well.

- Day 1 focus on program with invited contributions from NFR, UiO EU office, and MatNat EU office. Evening program with invited talks by MSCA IF alumni giving insider hints on their application and a vision on how the MSCA has affected their careers.

- Day 2 and 3 focus on Excellence, Impact and Implementation. Mixed lecture and working group format. The fellow working groups write together and exchange ideas. These will be put together to avoid direct competition in topics. **For the program of day 2 and 3, see next pages.**
- Day 4 and 5. Incoming fellows will be given the opportunity to work another two days with their hosts, funded by the workshop. Outgoing fellows are finished at the end of day 3.

Please consider the following about MSCA-IF fellowships

- Two (or three for GF) year competitive postdoctoral research fellowships
- Specific mobility requirements
- Think about the goal above when picking a host and project
- Hosts for incoming fellows include research organisations from the private and public sector, including universities, private industry, consultancy companies, and government sector hosts.
- Project can also include *secondments* to the private and public sector, including those listed above and other universities.
- Some potential hosts for incoming fellows are listed on the course homepage.
- Outgoing fellows need to identify their foreign host or shortlist potential hosts.

Costs and registration

The course fee includes organization, consultants, invited alumni, lunches, proposal peer review and coaching. Outgoing ForBio members can attend free of charge, and ForBio will cover travel and accommodation for members based in Norway and most incoming fellows to Norway. PES2020 funds from the Norwegian Research Council to stimulate getting H2020 funding will be available to incoming and outgoing fellows linked to Norway-based hosts and ForBio will use these funds to cover the course, accommodation and travel. ForBio associates and incoming fellows going to countries other than Norway will need to pay 5 000 Nkr for the course, in addition to their own travel and accommodation.

Programme for Marie Curie IF workshop ForBio

Date: June 13 and 14, 2017

Trainer: Alie Kwint, Kwintessence

Tuesday 13 June 2017

9.15	Registration and Coffee / tea
9.30	Tour de table
10.00 (coffee/tea break included)	A strategy for writing a competitive IF proposal – reflect before you write The two basics: the researcher and impact on the researcher Understanding impact Cross-cutting issues
12.30	Lunch
13.30 (coffee/tea break included)	Writing a competitive IF proposal Section 1 – Excellence 1.1 Quality and credibility of the Research / Innovation Action 1.2 Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host <i>Group work 1: career objectives and training / transfer of knowledge</i> 1.3 Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution 1.4 Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence (later in program!)
	Section 2 - Impact 2.1 Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher <i>Group work 2: How will the excellency of your project impact your career?</i> 2.2 Exploitation and Dissemination 2.3 Communication
16.00-18.00	Open session with pizza to discuss your plans and get feedback from trainers and participants

Wednesday 14 June 2017

9.15	Registration and Coffee / tea
9.30	Refresher on the previous course day
9.45 (coffee/tea a break included)	Section 3 – Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation 3.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan <i>Group work 3: definition of Work Packages, Deliverables and Milestones</i> 3.2 Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources 3.3 Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management 3.4 Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
12.30	Lunch

13.30 (coffee/tea break included)	Section 4 – CV of the Experienced Researcher Importance and content of the CV Table for postgraduate research experience <i>Group work 4: analysis of CV</i> <i>Group work 5: return to section 1.4: combining project, training, CV and impact</i>
	Section 5 – Capacity of the Participating Organisations Example, tips for inclusion and where to find the information
	Section 6 – Ethical Issues
	Section 7 – Letters of Commitment (GF only)
16.00	Feedback on the day and end of course day