Concept note for

MSCA Master Class 2025

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025

**Purpose:** This document is intended as a helpful tool to get you started and make a summary of your project idea/proposal. It is also very useful for discussing your project with potential supervisors, trainers, collaborators and funding advisers.

**How to:** Try to fill out all the parts, and contact the Research Support / Forschungsförderung if you have any questions in the process. Use bullet points, and be specific, brief and honest.

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| --- | --- |
| Given name(s), surname(s), gender (female/male/diverse) |  |
| **The Concept** | |
| Do you have a project title?  Do you have an acronym?  It should be informative, accessible, and memorable. |  |
| Describe your basic idea in a concise way  (“10 seconds elevator pitch”). |  |
| What are the key objectives that you want to achieve?  Try to develop **SMART** objectives:  **S**pecific  **M**easurable  **A**chievable (attainable).  **R**elevant (reasonable, realistic)  **T**ime bound (time limited)  1 sentence for each objective |  |
| Is this an inter-/multi-/intradisciplinary project? How and what different disciplines are you combining? |  |
| Which of your proposed research tasks will be the most challenging, and why? What is your contingency plan? |  |
| Which aspects of your proposed research are original, novel, and go beyond the state-of-the-art in your own specific research field? |  |
| **The Impact** | |
| Why is your topic important and relevant to do right now? Why hasn’t someone else done it already? |  |
| What are the big unaddressed challenges of your research field with relation to this project? |  |
| Who could potentially use and apply your project outputs?  Think of both researchers and stakeholders. Address scientific, economic/technological and societal impacts of your project. |  |
| **European dimension** | |
| What are the benefits to Europe?  Why is this project internationally important and excellent? |  |
| **The Novelty and Innovation** | |
| What are the scientific breakthroughs of the project? |  |
| What new methodologies will you develop? What new applications of existing methods do you want to find? |  |
| **The fellow** | |
| Why do you want to do this particular project? |  |
| How will you demonstrate that you are among the top 10 per cent within your research field? |  |
| How is this project different from what you have done before? Remember that It should not be a direct continuation of your PhD. |  |
| What are your career goals? Name a few and be specific. |  |
| **National and international partners/collaborators**  HAVEs (names of definitive collaborators)  MAY HAVEs (names of likely collaborators)  NEED (types of organisations the project needs)  Also consider: Why these specifically? Are they the best ones in their field? |  |
| **The host institution and the associated partners** | |
| Have you already contacted a potential supervisor at your host institution? If not, do it now! |  |
| What is your training plan at the host/partner institution? Discuss options with your supervisor.  Describe the applicability of the training and experience for your future career.  Think of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host institution.  Consider fundraising events, specialised workshops in your field, teaching, courses, soft skills, data management, etc., offered by your host/partner institution |  |
| Do you plan a short-term secondment and/or a non-academic placement? They are highly recommended by the EU. Have you already contacted the supervisors in the associated partner institutions? |  |

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