Funding Opportunities in Europe for US based researchers

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Viktoria Bodnarova, Regional Representative, EURAXESS Links North America
EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion initiative
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
European Research Council Grants
Overview of EURAXESS initiatives

- recruitment tool with job opportunities, funding opportunities, grants, employment, etc.

- relocation assistance for researchers and their family

- information on the Charter and Code, pension, visa

- a networking tool for researchers of all nationalities outside Europe
EURAXESS Links North America

- Main focus: international mobility and career development of individual researchers
- Networking tool for researchers based in North America (US and Canada)
- Information on job vacancies and funding opportunities in Europe (MSCA, ERC)
- Promotional activities – events, workshops, seminars, career fairs
- Website, newsletter, social media (LinkedIn, Facebook)
- First point of contact before moving to Europe (link to EURAXESS Service Centers)
EURAXESS SHARE: BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS!
European-Funded Research and North America

New York, 27 March 2014 at Columbia University 9am–2.30pm
**click here to register!**

This event will present research projects that were successfully funded by the European Commission. Researchers interested in applying for EU funding schemes will have a unique opportunity to interact with recipients of such programs ...more info
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- **Support for two types of mobility:**
  - **European:** moving from outside Europe into Europe
  - Or moving within Europe
  - **Global:** moving from Europe to a country outside of Europe – NB compulsory return phase of one year (fully funded)
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- **Experience:** Support for two categories of researchers:

  - *Early Stage Researcher:* Less than 4 years of research experience*, and without a doctoral degree ("pre-doc")

  - *Experienced Researcher:* In possession of a doctoral degree or at least 4 years of research experience* ("post-doc")

  - *counted from the time when the individual is entitled to embark on a doctoral degree*
## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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| Co-funding of programmes    | **COFUND** | Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes:  
- doctoral programmes (ESR)  
- fellowship programmes (ER) |
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

2 ways to be supported:

◦ Apply for your own fellowship
  ◦ or
  ◦ Apply to a project
1. Apply for your own fellowship

Directly to the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

→ Post Doc level
Individual Fellowships
Post-doctoral fellowships for outstanding researchers

For experienced researchers
• In possession of a doctoral degree, or have 4 years of full-time research experience at the time of the call deadline
• Two types depending on the mobility of the researcher
  Within Europe - European Fellowships
  Outside Europe - Global Fellowships
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European Fellowships Researchers:

• International mobility within or into Member States (MS) and Associated Countries (AC)
  • Experienced researchers of any nationality
• Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline
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- Next call: March 2014
  - Opened: 12 March 2014
  - Closes: 11 September 2014
    - @ 17:00:00 CET
2. Apply to a project

→ PhD

limited opportunities currently available for first post doc also
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

Research training for PhD & (some) first PostDoc

• transnational network in multi/interdisciplinary and emerging fields
• training primarily through research on individual, personalised research projects
• complemented by substantial training modules in key transferable skills
  • Strong involvement of commercial entities in training
• Working with some of the best researchers in Europe and internationally
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How to apply for a fellowship

• All projects publish their vacancies on the Marie Curie website

• Eligibility criteria depend only on level of research experience and mobility

• Funding levels defined by the MSCA - employment contracts with full social security

• 3 year PhD training; max 24 months for post docs

!!! Check the MSCA website frequently !!!
The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition.

**Budget:** €13.09 billion (2014-2020) - 1.87 billion €/year

**Legislation**
- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- Excellence as the only criterion

**Strategy**
- Support for the individual scientist – no networks!
- Global peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities
Starting Grants
starters (2-7 years after PhD)
up to $2.7 Mio for 5 years

Consolidator Grants
consolidators (7-12 years after PhD) up to $3.7 Mio for 5 years

Advanced Grants
track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years up to $4.7 Mio for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept
bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation up to $200,000 for ERC grant holders for 18 months

Synergy Grants (2 exploratory calls)
2 – 4 Principal Investigators up to $20.4 Mio for 6 years
European Research Council

ERC calls are open to researchers of any nationality, age or current place of work in the world (with at least 50% of work time in Europe)

ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice
- to gain true financial autonomy for 5 years
- to negotiate with the host institution the best conditions of work
- to attract top team members (EU and non-EU) and collaborators
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (portability of grants)
- to attract additional funding and gain recognition; ERC is a quality label
"Excellence is the Sole Criterion of Evaluation"

Evaluation of excellent quality at two levels:

- **Excellence of the Research Project**
  - ✓ Ground-breaking nature
  - ✓ Potential impact
  - ✓ Scientific approach
  - ✓ Added-value of the Group (only Synergy Grant)

- **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**
  - ✓ Intellectual capacity
  - ✓ Creativity
  - ✓ Commitment

Referees and panels evaluate and score *each criterion*, and then rank the proposals according to these results.
Evaluation of Proposals

- The ERC Scientific Council is responsible for proposing independent experts
- Structure: 25 panels distributed across 3 scientific domains (10 Physical Sciences and Engineering, 9 Life Sciences and 6 Social Sciences and Humanities)

What makes ERC evaluation exceptional?

- Highly international participation in panels
- Full autonomy of panels to decide

Panel members and chairs based in **49 countries:**

- 26 EU Member States, 7 Associated Countries, 16 Non-ERA countries

Remote referees based in **87 countries**
European Research Council

- **OPEN CALLS:**
  - **ERC Starting Grant | ERC-2014-StG**
    Deadline Date: 25 Mar 2014
  - **ERC Consolidator Grant | ERC-2014-CoG**
    Deadline Date: 20 May 2014
  - **ERC Proof of Concept | ERC-2014-PoC**
    Deadline Dates: 1 Apr 2014 and 1 Oct 2014
Thank you for your attention!

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