MSCA- PF 2025 Workshop –
Tips and information for a Successful Application

EU & Global Research Development Team

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Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Maths & Physics

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Chemistry and Chemical Engineering; Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Natural and Built Environment (architecture, planning & Civil Engineering

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Biology, Psychology Natural and Built Environment (Geography, Arch& Paleo)

Nina Shiel
AHSS Faculty

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AGENDA

Approx Time	Presentation Topic	Presenter
10.30 – 11.10	Overview of fellowships and application process. Part B1, Excellence section	Mary Harte, RDM, EU & Global Research Development Manager
11.10 – 11.15	Support and training available for Fellows at the QUB Postdoctoral Development Centre (PDC)	Lisa Douglas, PDC Officer
	10 min break	
11.30 – 11.40	Part B1, Impact section	Mary Harte
11.40 – 11.50	Public Engagement activities at QUB	Donna Rogers, Public Engagement Manager, MHLS
11.50 – 11.55	Commercialisation of research at QUB	Gareth Caves – Commercialisation Manager
11.55 – 12.15	Part B1- Implementation section and B2 overview	Mary Harte
15 min Q	Questions	

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1. MSCA Fellowship Basics

Success Rates

2021 – 13.8%

2022 – 17.5%

2023 – 15.8%

2024 – 16.6%

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MSCA-PF

The objective of the fellowship is to enable Fellows to enhance their skills leading to improved career prospects within academia and beyond.

Strong focus on **international, interdisciplinarity** and **intersectoral experience.**

- Development of a research project that uses the **complementary** expertise of the Supervisor and Fellow.
- Add in optional secondments which are in line with project objectives and add value to the fellowship.
- Focus on skills development and training.

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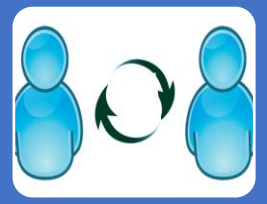

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Eligibility

- **Fellow's career stage** - Fellow must be in possession of a doctoral degree (have successfully defended their doctoral thesis). Have a max of 8 yrs research experience from date of Doctoral degree award (Guidelines 8 yr rule and Calculator tool).

- **Mobility Rule:** Fellow must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work or study), in the country of the host institution– ie UK, for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before call deadline,.

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Intersectoral Activity - Secondments and Non Academic Placement

Both are optional, their added value will be assessed by reviewers and may impact final score. **However applicants who do not include them will not be penalised.**

Secondment

- **Worldwide** for up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration They should be in **line with the project objectives**, add significant **value to the fellowship.**
- It can be done in a **single period** or be divided into **shorter mobility periods**
- Can be done in **academic and/or non-academic sector** organisations (broad remit of non-academic sector - industry, civil society, government etc).
- Should have a supervisor at the secondment organisation

Non Academic Placement

- An additional (up to) 6-month **Non-Academic** Placement in an organisation in an EU MS or AC can be added on to the end of the fellowship. This should demonstrate added value for the project and the career development of the fellow.

Also……..

Short Visits (days)

Spontaneous trips outside your organisation eg data collection, shadowing, training workshops in the academic or nonacademic sector.

Co-Supervision

Additional Supervisor to complement your main supervisors expertise – can enable interdisciplinary aspect of project.

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2. Online application process - EU Funding and Tenders site

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Overview of Application

Applications are submitted on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal

ONLINE FORM

Part A - Information on project, participants, Budget, Ethics and Security

Part B Technical Description

UPLOADED APPLICATION FORM

Part B1

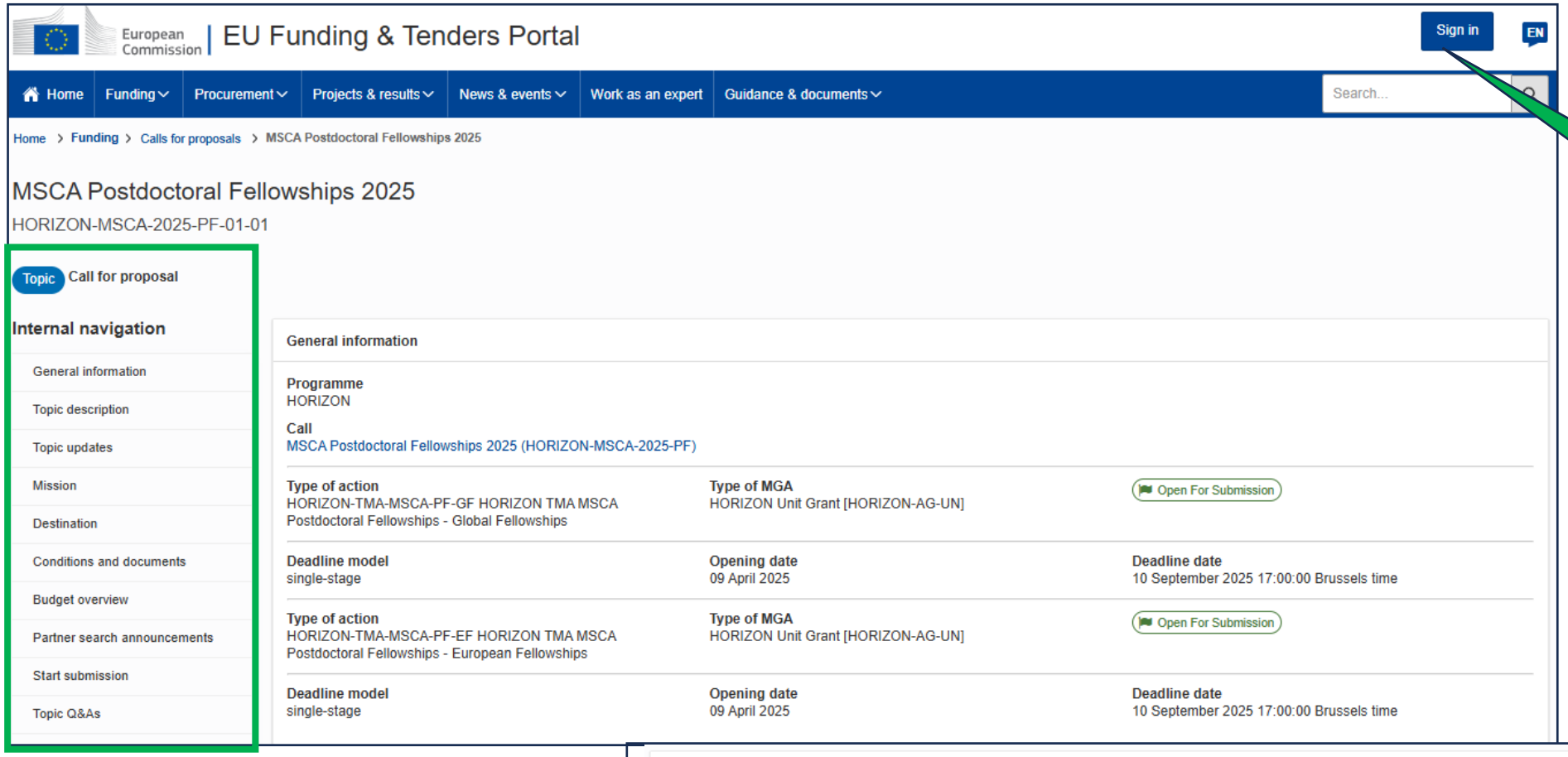
Excellence
Impact
Implementation

10 Pages

Part B2

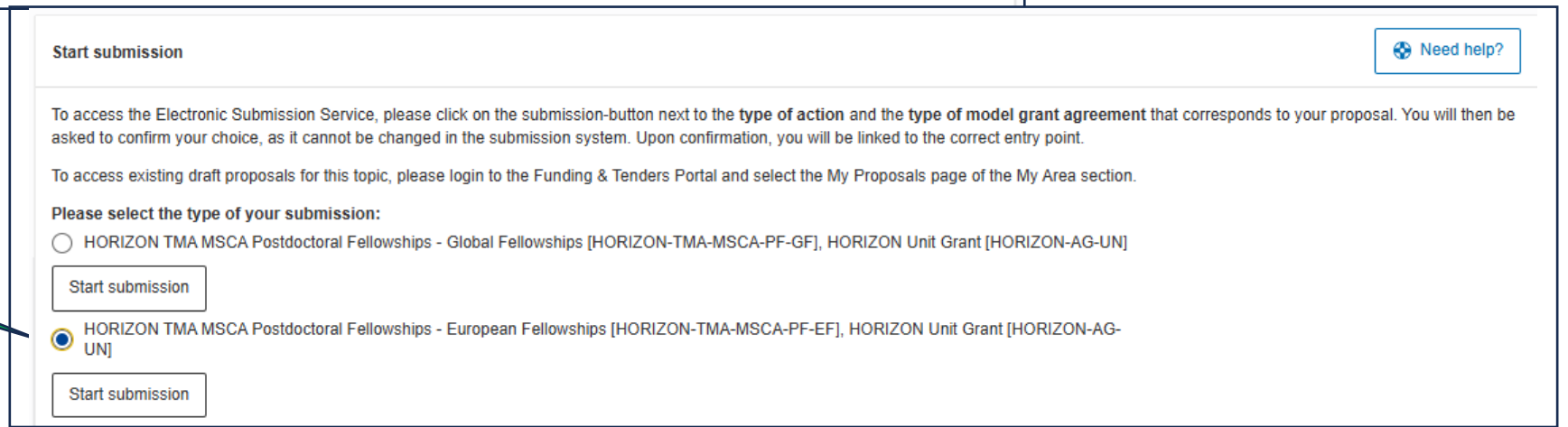
Researcher CV
Capacity of the Host Organisation/s
Ethics and security
MSCA Green charter

First Screen EU Funding and Tenders Portal

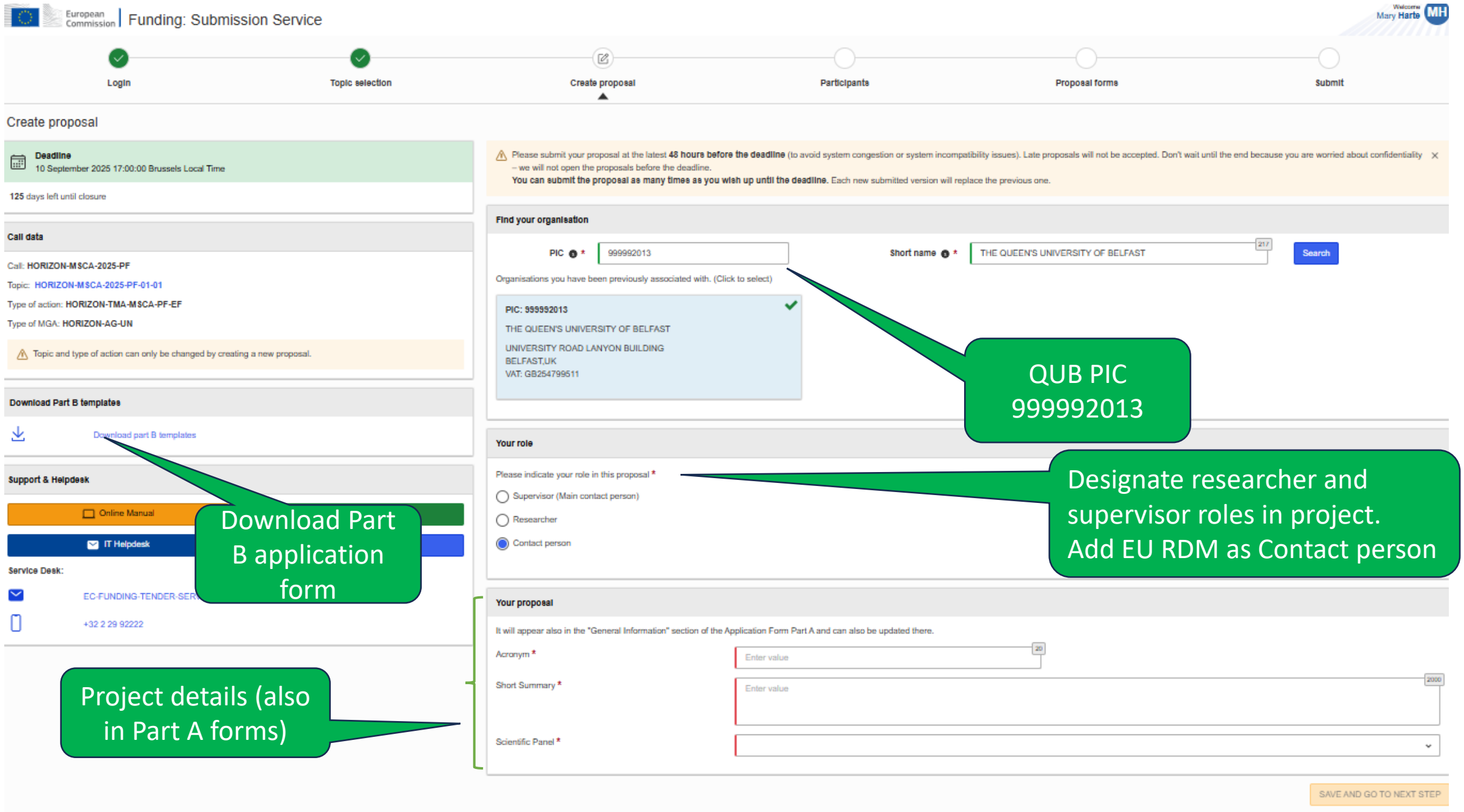


Sign in or Register

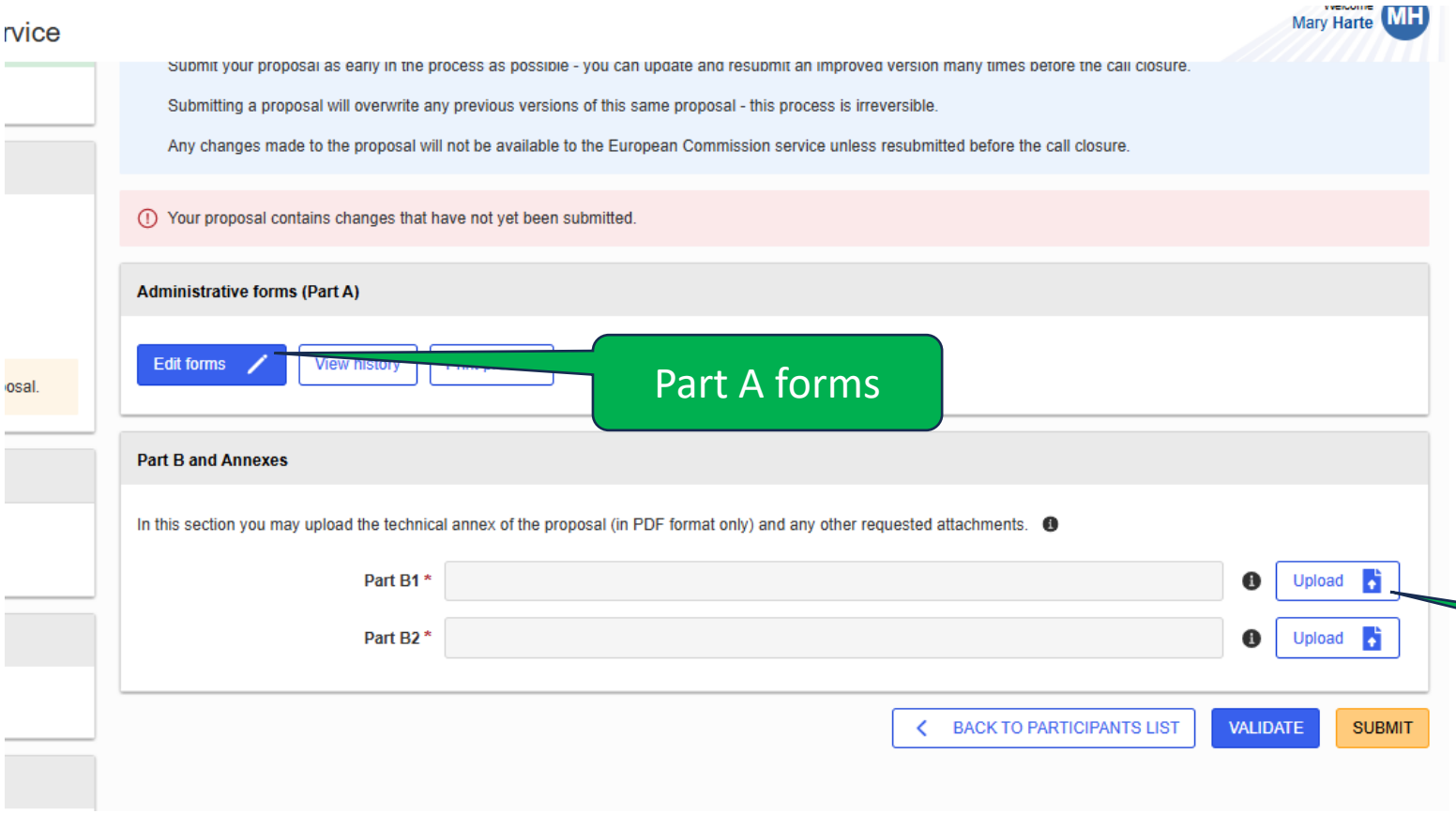
Application to the EF scheme



Second Screen



Third Screen



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3. Part A Form

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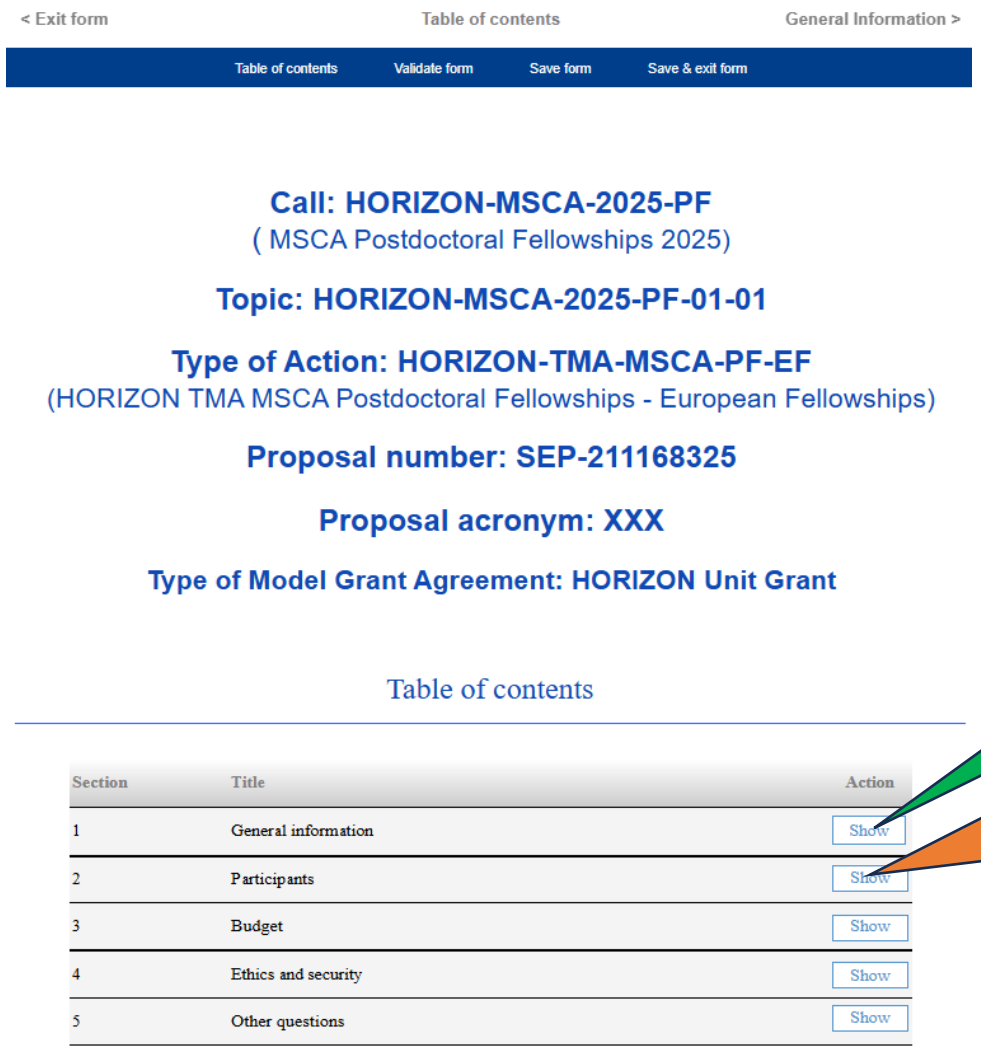
Part A Form - online



General information

- Acronym
- Title
- Scientific Area – choice of 8 panels
- Descriptor – up to 5 MSCA Key words (used to assign reviewers)
- Abstract

Participants

- Host department, supervisor and researcher information
- Researcher PhD>8yrs >a pop up box with additional info required to justify time spent
- Researcher place of activity/residence in previous 5 yrs
- 5 publications and 5 most relevant projects and Infrastructure - these relate to QUB the host institution
- Tick yes for QUB Gender Equality Plan (GEP)

Abstract/Short Summary (2000 Characters)

Will be the first thing read by your reviewers

You need to sell your project to make them want to read the rest of your application

Summary of entire fellowship

WHAT you are going to do
WHY are you doing it – IMPORTANCE
HOW you are going to do it
What will be the **impact on your career of the fellowship**

Do at the end and spend time to make it clear and concise

Budget

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month					Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Living Allowance*	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance**	Long-term Leave Allowance**	Special Needs Allowance**	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

Constitutes the salary of the recruited MSCA PF

Covers costs related to the training, career development and research of the PF.

Covers general costs of the host institution(s), connected to organising and implementing the fellowship

*multiplied by the country correction coefficient (CCC)
** can be applied at any time (as and when needed)

Online budget table autofills

Application forms

Proposal ID SEP-211168325
Acronym XXX

3 - Budget

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* Yes No

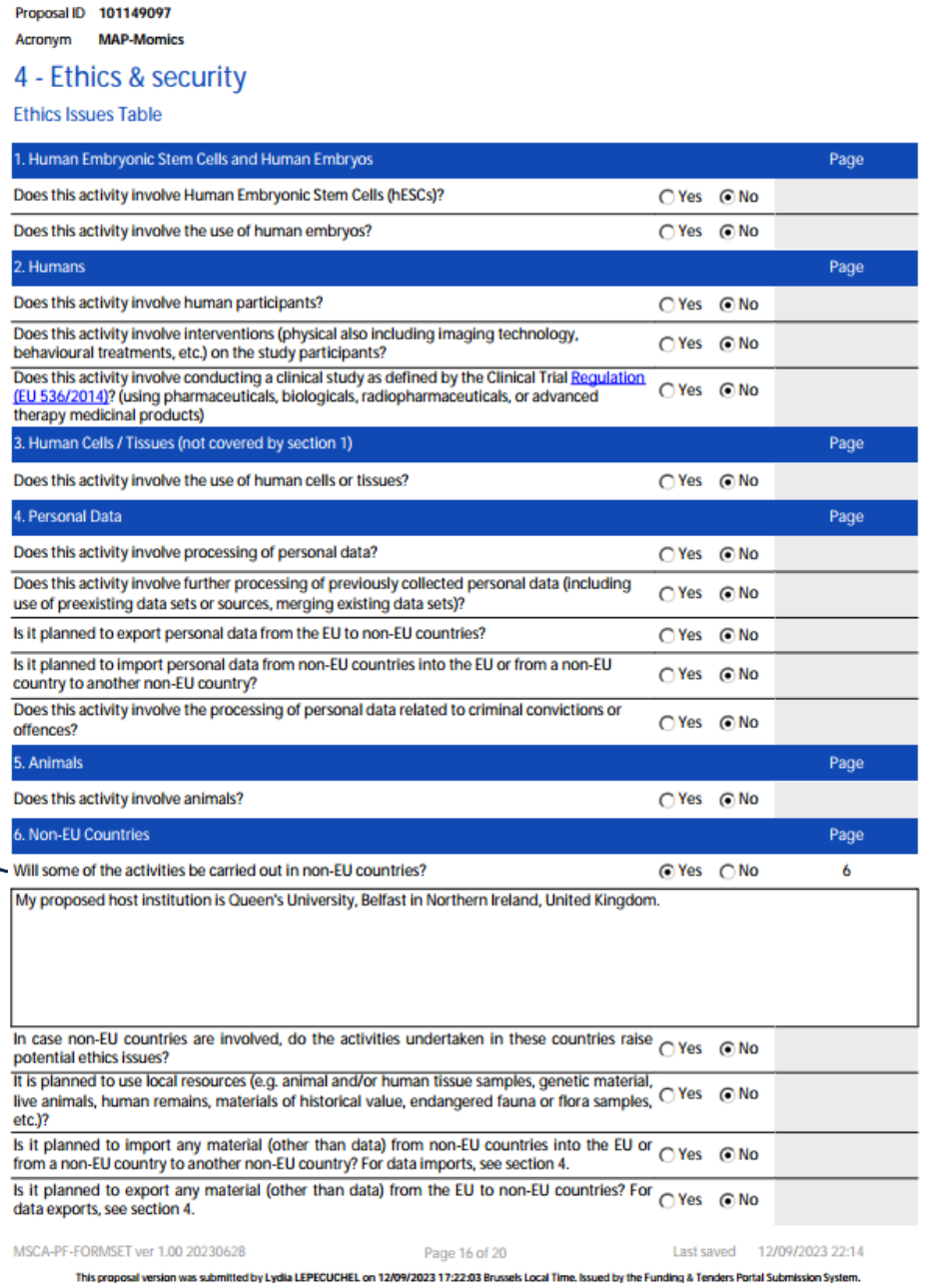
Duration of fellowship *	Country in which fellowship will take place
24	United Kingdom

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Fellowship	1.417	24	203707.92	17040.00	0.00	24000.00	15600.00	260347.92
Total			203707.92	17040.00	0.00	24000.00	15600.00	260347.92

Ethics and Security

UK applicants tick “yes” to non-EU activity

Answering yes for some questions will require further information. You should reference the appropriate pg in part B1/B2 where the ethical issue is addressed.



Proposal ID 101149097
Acronym MAP-Momics

4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos			Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	○ Yes	◉ No	
2. Humans			**Page**
Does this activity involve human participants?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	○ Yes	◉ No	
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)			**Page**
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	○ Yes	◉ No	
4. Personal Data			**Page**
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	○ Yes	◉ No	
5. Animals			**Page**
Does this activity involve animals?	○ Yes	◉ No	
6. Non-EU Countries			**Page**
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	◉ Yes	○ No	6
My proposed host institution is Queen's University, Belfast in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom.			
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	○ Yes	◉ No	
It is planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4.	○ Yes	◉ No	
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.	○ Yes	◉ No	

This proposal version was submitted by Lydia LEPECUCHEL on 12/09/2023 17:22:03 Brussels Local Time. Issued by the Funding & Tenders Portal Submission System.

Part B application

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Part B Technical Description

Part B1

Excellence
Impact
Implementation

10 Pages

Part B2

Researcher CV
Capacity of the Host Organisation/s
Ethics and security
MSCA Green charter
No page limit

Horizon Europe Programme

Instructions, please remove

Standard Application Form

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Postdoctoral Fellowships (HE MSCA PF)

Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 4.1
09 April 2025

PART B TEMPLATE

---------- Start of page count (max 10 pages) ----------

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Part B-1

1. Excellence #@REL-EVA-RE@#

1.1 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)

Insert here text for your proposal

1.2 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 of open science practices).

Insert here text for your proposal

1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

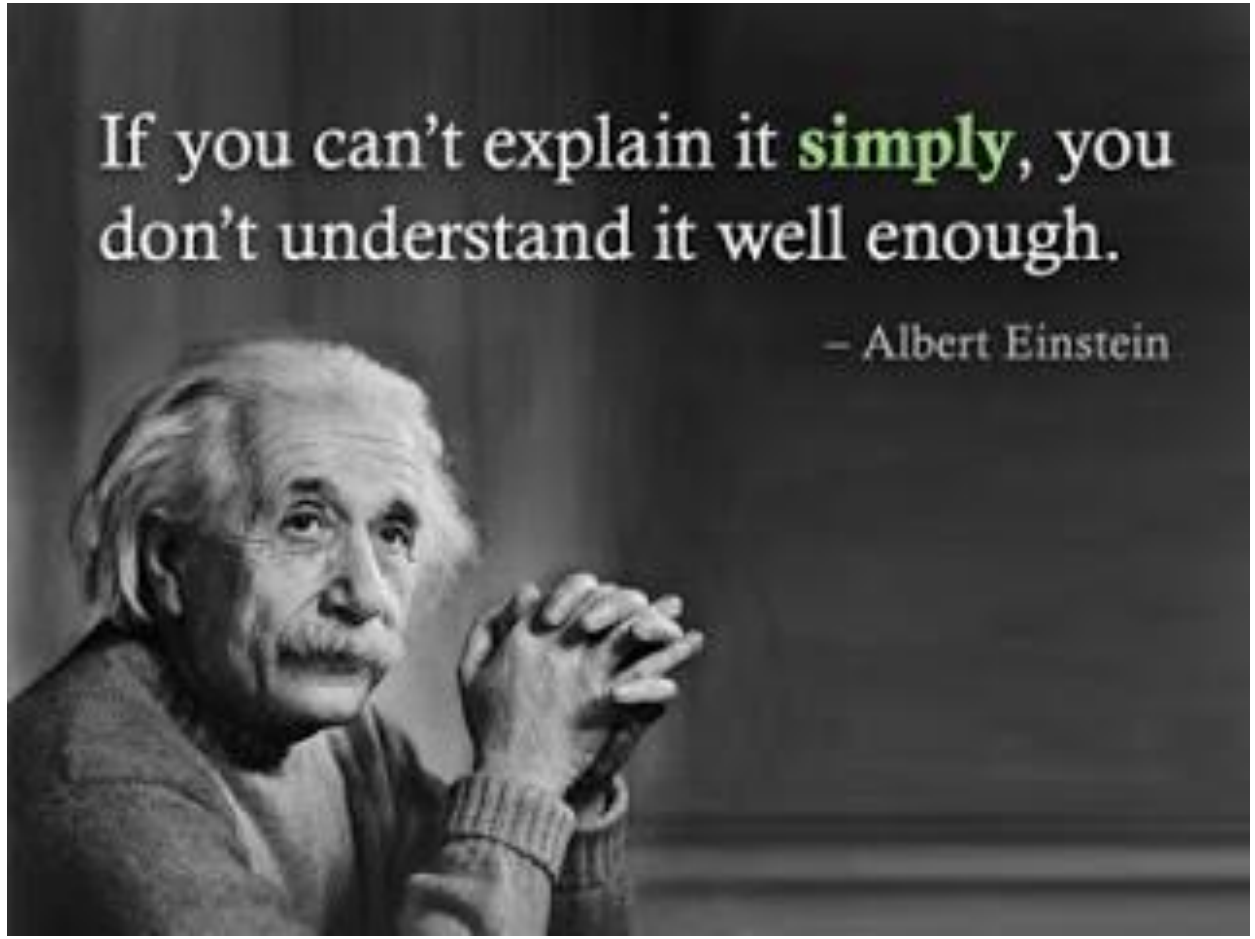
Insert here text for your proposal

1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills

Insert here text for your proposal

Layout

- **Use the 2025 proposal template and headings. Do not delete codes.**
- **Address all points in the questions**
- Make your proposal easy to read and make it stand out for an evaluator (up to 40 proposals to review)
- **Emphasize key points in bold or highlighted text**
- Break up blocks of text with diagrams and tables
- **Keep technical jargon/acronymns to a minimum – your reviewer may not be expert in your precise area**
- Avoid long sentences
- **Put literature references at bottom or in footnotes, font size 8 or 9**


If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.
– Albert Einstein

Best applications are co-developed. Fellow and Host

Research grant writing in progress.

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Image - University of Cambridge management technology policy

Evaluation Process

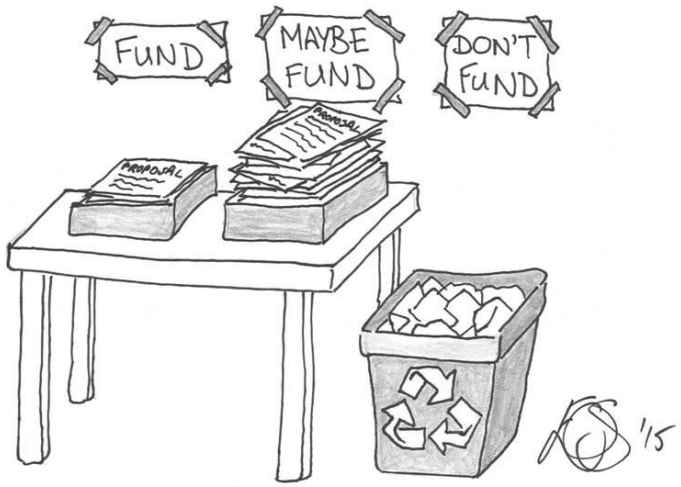
Receipt of Proposals

Allocated to 3 reviewers based on 5 descriptors and MSCA key words used

Individual Evaluation Reports done

3 Evaluators form a Consensus Group

Discuss and agree score and comments and draft a consensus report



Review panel categories.

Review Panel Produce a Ranked list of proposals

Proposals funded in ranking order.
Need to score 90-95+ depending on panel.

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Part B1 - Questions mirror the evaluation criteria

Excellence – 50%

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)

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 of open science practices).

Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills

Impact – 30%

Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts

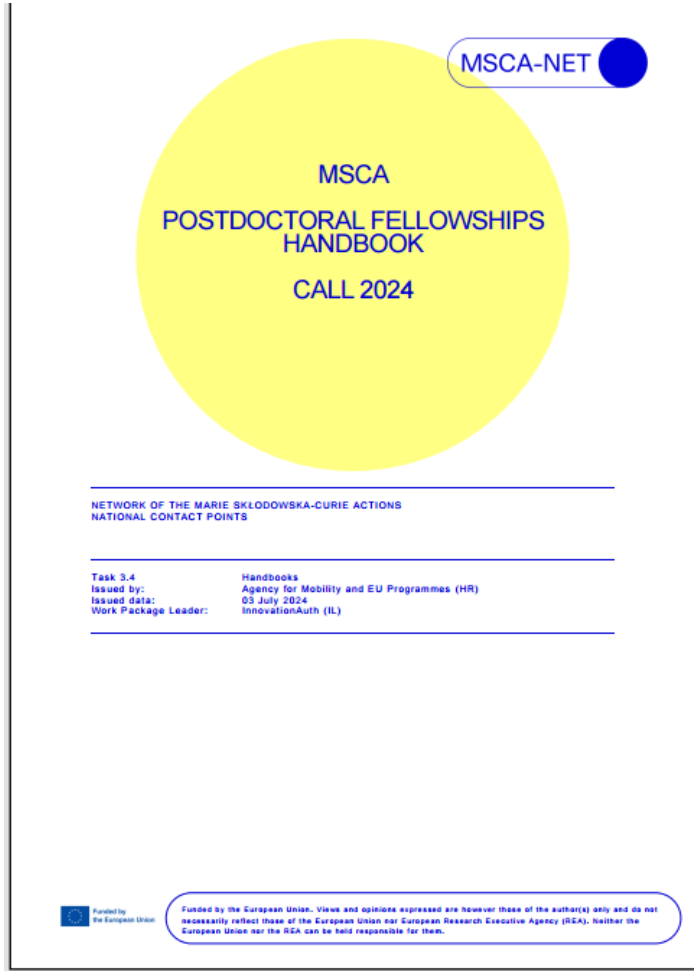
Quality and Efficieny of Implementation – 20%

Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements

Each section will be scored out of 5 and will be subject to the weighting factor indicated

✶MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Handbook ✶



MSCA-NET

MSCA

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS HANDBOOK

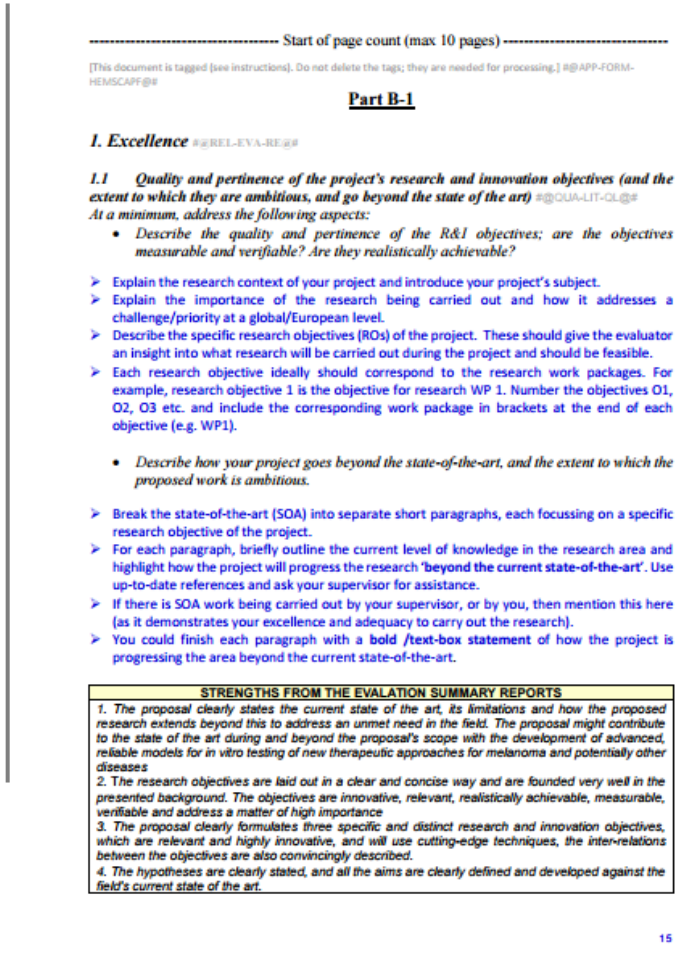
CALL 2024

NETWORK OF THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Task 3.4 Handbooks
Issued by: Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (HR)
Issued data: 03 July 2024
Work Package Leader: InnovationAuth (IL)

Funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union nor European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the REA can be held responsible for them.



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Part B-1

1. Excellence #@REL-EVA-RE@#

1.1 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) #@QUA-LIT-QL@#

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- *Describe the quality and pertinence of the R&I objectives; are the objectives measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable?*

- Explain the research context of your project and introduce your project's subject.
- Explain the importance of the research being carried out and how it addresses a challenge/priority at a global/European level.
- Describe the specific research objectives (ROs) of the project. These should give the evaluator an insight into what research will be carried out during the project and should be feasible.
- Each research objective ideally should correspond to the research work packages. For example, research objective 1 is the objective for research WP 1. Number the objectives O1, O2, O3 etc. and include the corresponding work package in brackets at the end of each objective (e.g. WP1).

- *Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious.*

- Break the state-of-the-art (SOA) into separate short paragraphs, each focussing on a specific research objective of the project.
- For each paragraph, briefly outline the current level of knowledge in the research area and highlight how the project will progress the research **'beyond the current state-of-the-art'**. Use up-to-date references and ask your supervisor for assistance.
- If there is SOA work being carried out by your supervisor, or by you, then mention this here (as it demonstrates your excellence and adequacy to carry out the research).
- You could finish each paragraph with a **bold /text-box statement** of how the project is progressing the area beyond the current state-of-the-art.

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALATION SUMMARY REPORTS

1. The proposal clearly states the current state of the art, its limitations and how the proposed research extends beyond this to address an unmet need in the field. The proposal might contribute to the state of the art during and beyond the proposal's scope with the development of advanced, reliable models for in vitro testing of new therapeutic approaches for melanoma and potentially other diseases
2. The research objectives are laid out in a clear and concise way and are founded very well in the presented background. The objectives are innovative, relevant, realistically achievable, measurable, verifiable and address a matter of high importance
3. The proposal clearly formulates three specific and distinct research and innovation objectives, which are relevant and highly innovative, and will use cutting-edge techniques, the inter-relations between the objectives are also convincingly described.
4. The hypotheses are clearly stated, and all the aims are clearly defined and developed against the field's current state of the art.

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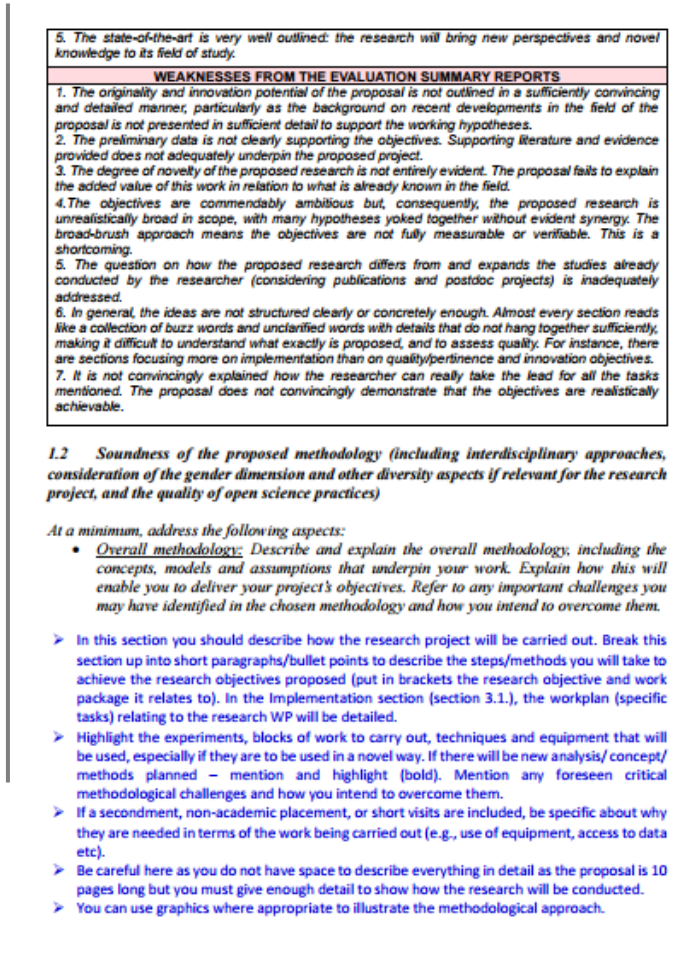

5. The state-of-the-art is very well outlined: the research will bring new perspectives and novel knowledge to its field of study.

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

1. The originality and innovation potential of the proposal is not outlined in a sufficiently convincing and detailed manner, particularly as the background on recent developments in the field of the proposal is not presented in sufficient detail to support the working hypotheses.
2. The preliminary data is not clearly supporting the objectives. Supporting literature and evidence provided does not adequately underpin the proposed project.
3. The degree of novelty of the proposed research is not entirely evident. The proposal fails to explain the added value of this work in relation to what is already known in the field.
4.The objectives are commendably ambitious but, consequently, the proposed research is unrealistically broad in scope, with many hypotheses yoked together without evident synergy. The broad-brush approach means the objectives are not fully measurable or verifiable. This is a shortcoming.
5. The question on how the proposed research differs from and expands the studies already conducted by the researcher (considering publications and postdoc projects) is inadequately addressed.
6. In general, the ideas are not structured clearly or concretely enough. Almost every section reads like a collection of buzz words and unclarified words with details that do not hang together sufficiently, making it difficult to understand what exactly is proposed, and to assess quality. For instance, there are sections focusing more on implementation than on quality/pertinence and innovation objectives.
7. It is not convincingly explained how the researcher can really take the lead for all the tasks mentioned. The proposal does not convincingly demonstrate that the objectives are realistically achievable.

1.2 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 of open science practices)

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- *Overall methodology: Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. Explain how this will enable you to deliver your project's objectives. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology and how you intend to overcome them.*

- In this section you should describe how the research project will be carried out. Break this section up into short paragraphs/bullet points to describe the steps/methods you will take to achieve the research objectives proposed (put in brackets the research objective and work package it relates to). In the Implementation section (section 3.1.), the workplan (specific tasks) relating to the research WP will be detailed.
- Highlight the experiments, blocks of work to carry out, techniques and equipment that will be used, especially if they are to be used in a novel way. If there will be new analysis/ concept/ methods planned – mention and highlight (bold). Mention any foreseen critical methodological challenges and how you intend to overcome them.
- If a secondment, non-academic placement, or short visits are included, be specific about why they are needed in terms of the work being carried out (e.g., use of equipment, access to data etc).
- Be careful here as you do not have space to describe everything in detail as the proposal is 10 pages long but you must give enough detail to show how the research will be conducted.
- You can use graphics where appropriate to illustrate the methodological approach.

[2024 MSCA PF hand book]

Part B1: Excellence (50%) – 6 - 6.5 pages

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B1: Excellence (50%)

1.1 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)

- Ease the evaluator into the application - put the simple picture up front –

In a few sentences what is the challenge, what is the overall aim of your project. What is the expected impact of your project.

Now the evaluator has the big picture, go back and put in the detail.

- Why is the challenge important – statistics to illustrate the scale of it. Is it a policy priority for the EU or globally

- What are your objectives (around 2-3 research objectives) to address this challenge

- What is the current state of the art of work in the field.

- How does your proposed work go beyond current state of the art, include any relevant previous work by Fellow/supervisor.

B1: Excellence (50%)

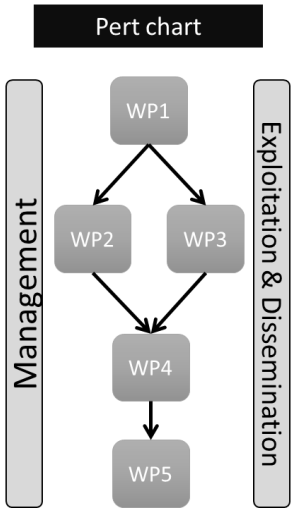
1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

- Discuss the work you will carry out to address each objective. Each objective (O) is addressed in a Work Package (WP).

- What are the experiments/techniques/approaches you will use. Why this approach?
  Mention any equipment/samples/resources/expertise that is uniquely available at QUB

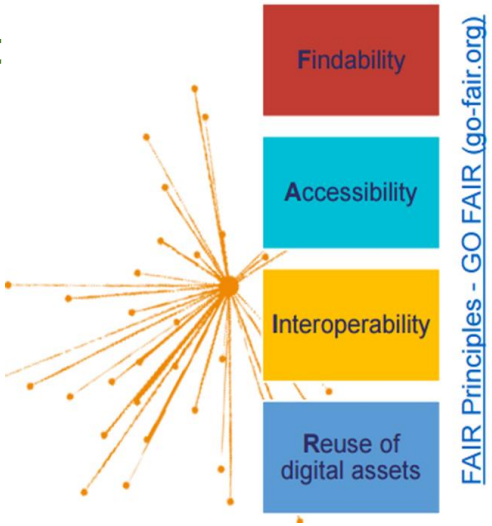
- If you will go on a secondment/short visit/second supervisor explain here why they are needed for the project

- Discuss interdisciplinary aspects (level 1 MSCA key words).
  If you don't think an interdisciplinary approach is relevant, then explain why



B1: Excellence (50%)

- Gender dimension and other diversity aspects. Take gender into account in the design of your research eg will the results be equally relevant to all. (MSCA-net handbook)
- Use of any AI tools - If you plan to make use of Artificial Intelligence in your project, the evaluators will evaluate the technical robustness of the proposed system
- Open science approach – early and open sharing of research – MSCA-net handbook
- Data Management – how will your data be managed according to FAIR principles. Data management plan is a mandatory deliverable of fellowship, at this stage summarize aspects of data management that you will take into account in the project



1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

➢ Supervision

- Quality and experience of supervisor (and any co-supervisors) – see MSCA net handbook

➢ Training and Two way transfer of knowledge

Host to Researcher: **Training activities for the researcher**

- Identify your weaknesses in your current set of skills and then describe training and opportunities at QUB that fit your scientific and transferable skills needs.
- Mention Career development plan will be prepared at the beginning of fellowship

Researcher to Host

- What complementary skills/expertise/networks will the fellow bring to your host PI, their group and wider School. How will you transfer those skills – seminar, workshop, demonstration etc

Relevant Guidelines : MSCA Guidelines on supervision; **European Charter for Researchers**

B1: Excellence (50%)

Skills Audit – training activities for Researcher

Now	The Future	My MSCA Fellowship….
1. Skills I have….	**2. Where do I want to be?…. What skills are needed for that role?….**	**3. Skills and training I will gain during my MSCA Fellowship….**
Write down all the research specific (technical) and transferrable skills you are competent in / have received training in…. • • • • • • • • •	Where do you want to be in the future career? Which sector? What role? Now list the skills you will need in that position…. • • • •	Now fill in the gaps…… This should form the basis for the training & career development plan for your MSCA fellowship. • • • • • •

B1: Excellence (50%)

Skills Development & Training

Training needs should be aligned to the Fellows career plans

- **Research skills** through research project & expertise of supervisor and wider school

- **Transferable skills** - communication, grant writing, entrepreneurship, IPR management, project management, supervisory, leadership, teaching experience
  - ➢ Queen's Postdoctoral Development Centre
  - ➢ QUB Fellowship Academy – for holders of prestigious fellowships. Automatic membership for MSCA –PD Fellows - provide bespoke training, mentorship and networking opportunities

- Participation in dissemination, outreach activities

- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge e.g. through **secondments during fellowship and/or non-academic placement at end.**

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1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills

- Why are you the best person for this fellowship? You will be evaluated according to your career stage
- Chose key highlights from your CV (part B2 section 4), to showcase your abilities.

Lisa Douglas, Postdoctoral Development Centre (PDC) Officer

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

The Postdoctoral Development Centre at Queen's University Belfast

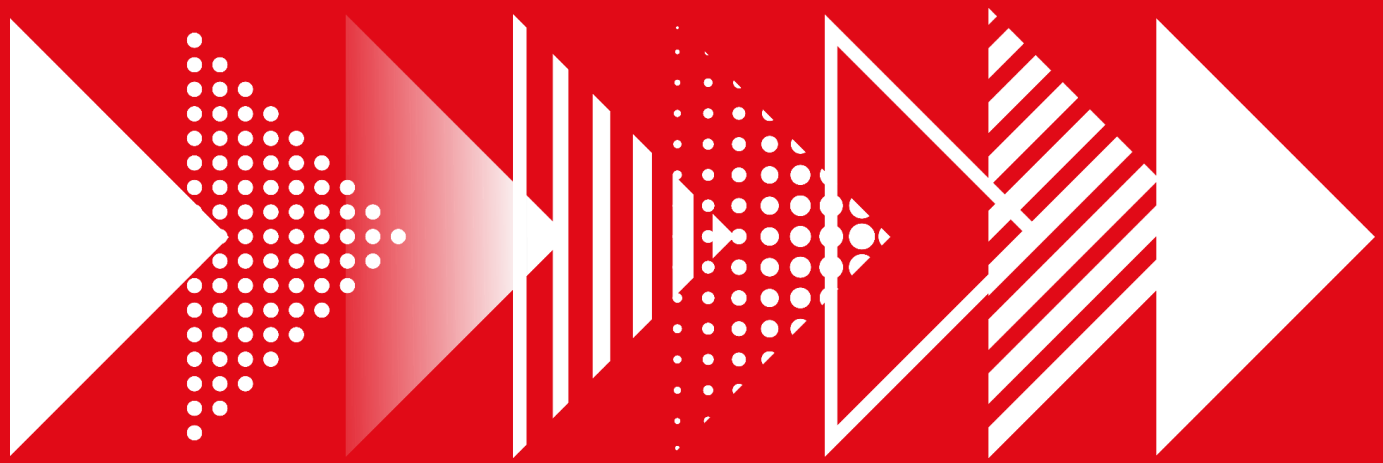
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship Workshop - Tips and Information for a Successful Application

Dr Lisa Douglas, Postdoctoral Development Centre Officer

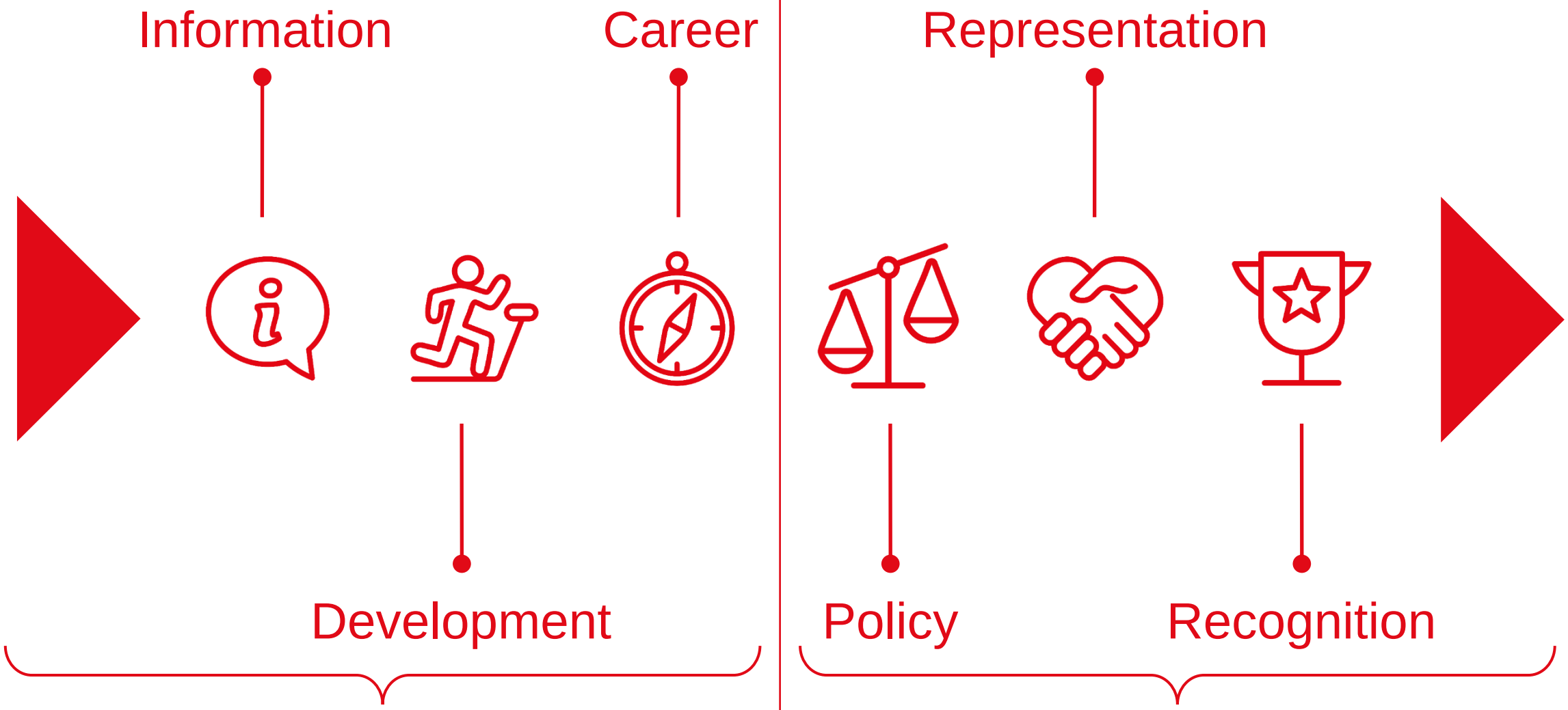
29 May 2025

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

POSTDOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Supporting postdoctoral researchers to progress their career



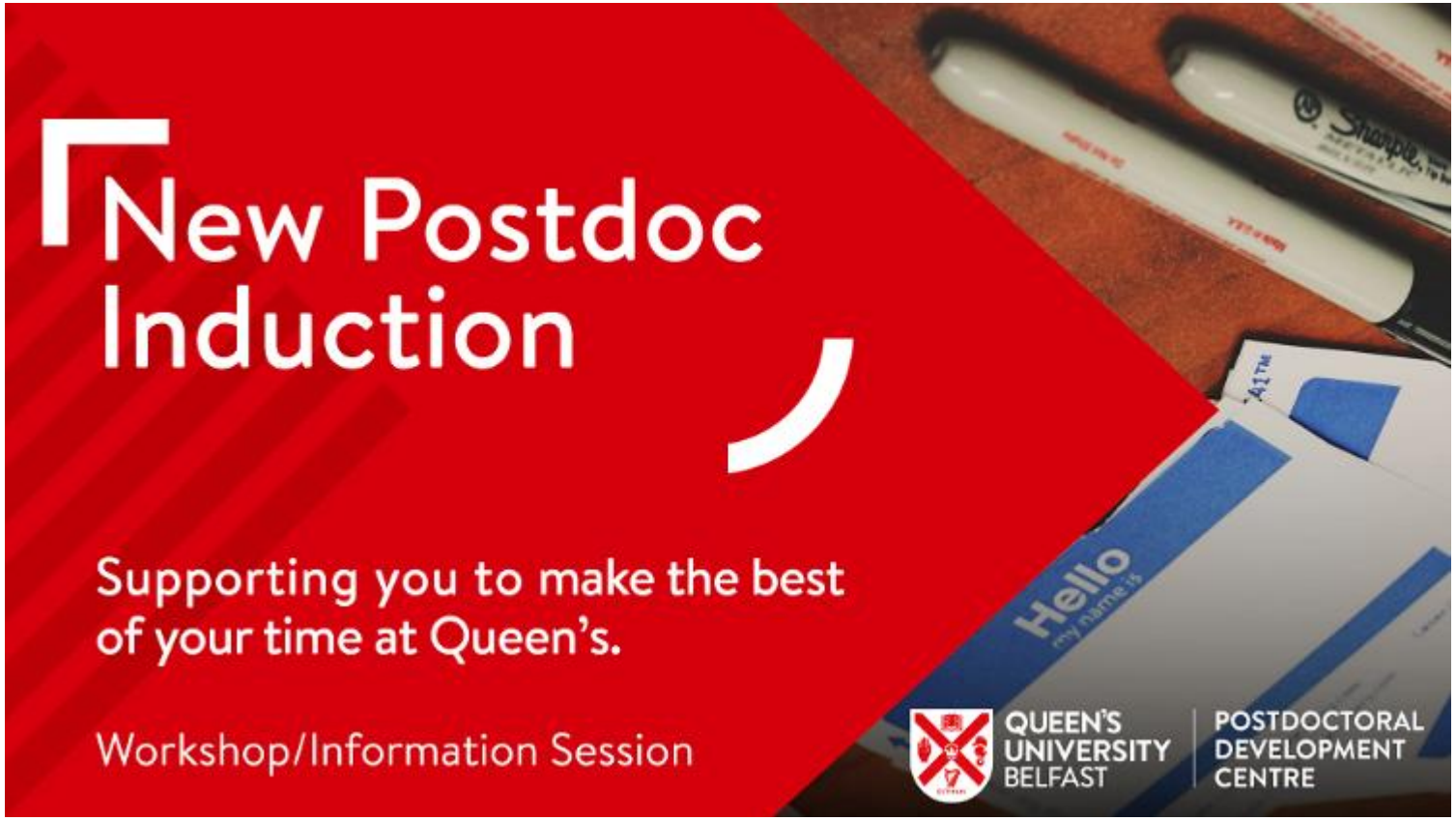
Resources

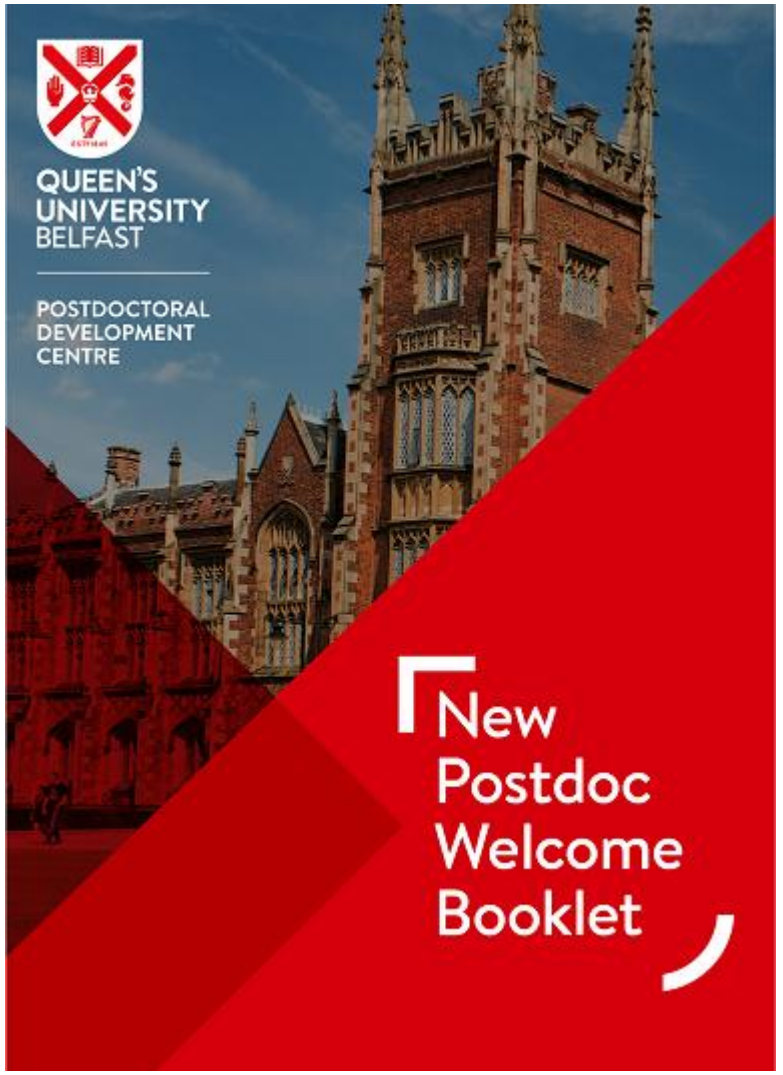
Providing bespoke workshops, events etc.

Culture

Promoting a supportive environment

Welcoming





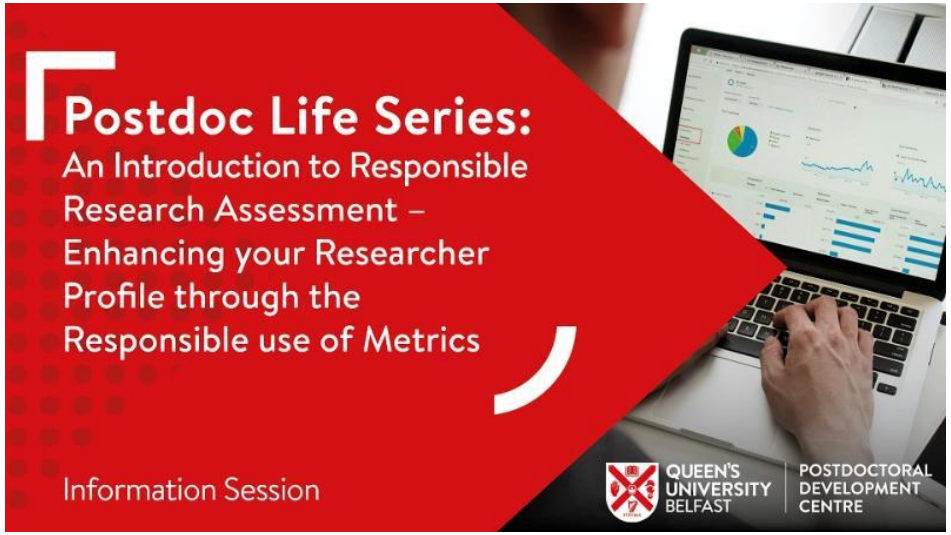
[Prospective postdoc | Postdoctoral Development Centre]

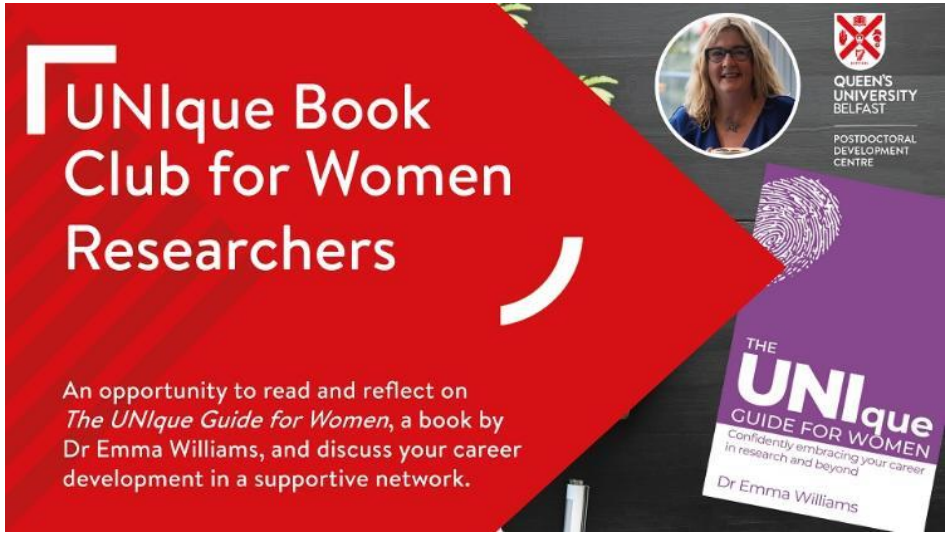
[New postdoc | Postdoctoral Development Centre]

Workshops

[Workshops and events | Postdoctoral Development Centre]

Other Programmes / Information Sessions





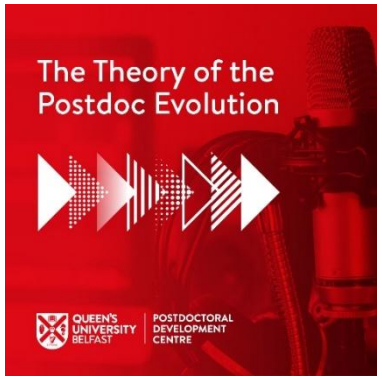
Information sessions and related content | Postdoctoral Development Centre

Career support

Dedicated Research Careers & Employability Officer

Personalised support

- Interview preparation & mock interviews
- CV feedback
- 1:1 chat



PDC Podcast

- **Career Exploration:** 'live podcasts' with guests from academia and industry

Policy and processes: professional and career development

10

Days per year

for career development

Dedicated time for career development

- Entitlement for all research staff
- For activities not directly related to the contracted role (e.g. career exploration, shadowing, teaching, CV/interview prep, fellowship writing…)

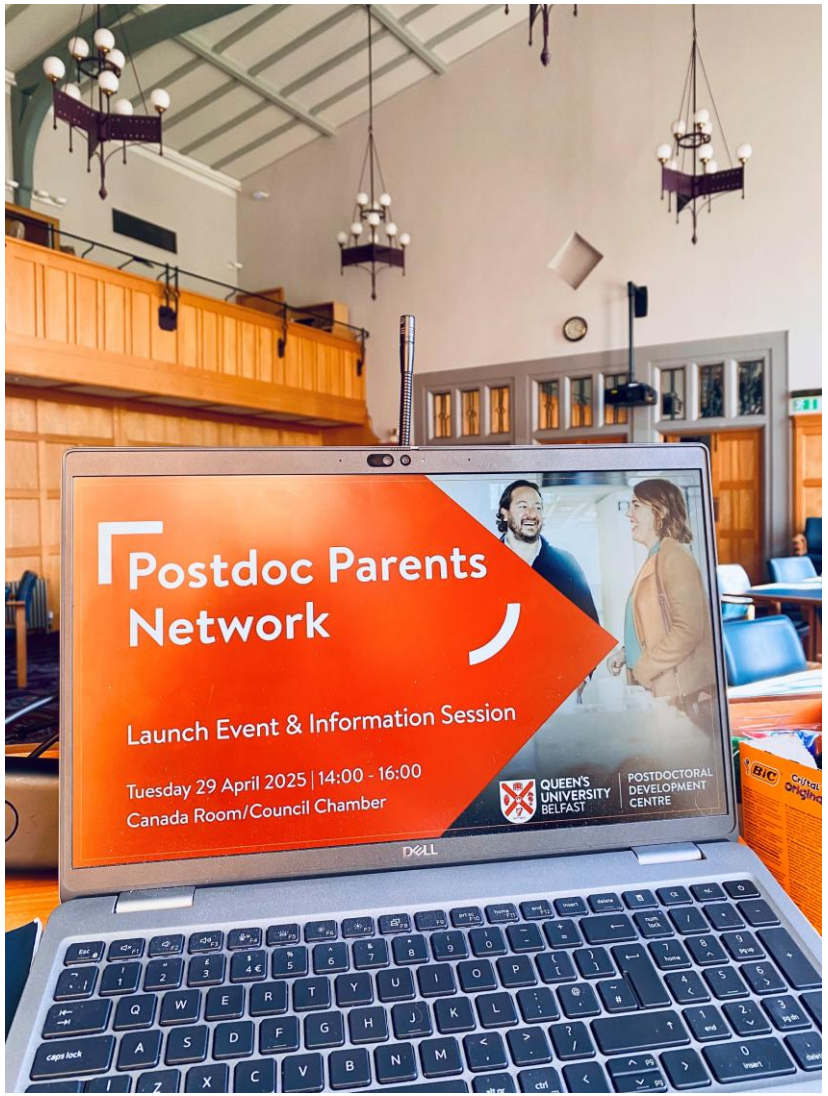
Improving the research staff PDR

- More adapted form
- Better guidance for reviewees and reviewers
- Focus on career and development
- Embed ‘10 days’ planning and reporting
- Rolled out in 2024 after successful pilot

Community & Belonging

THE POSTDOC SOCIETY WELCOMES ALL POSTDOCS AND RESEARCH STAFF AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST.

Launched a Postdoc Parents Network in April 2025



Recognition

- Showing off your research e.g. Postdoc Showcase
- Annual National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) celebrations
- **Annual PDC Postdoc Awards**

Break

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Part B1: 2. Impact (30%)

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Impact on your career

2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

➢ What is your career goal and how does this fellowship contribute to achieving it?

Discuss what you will achieve from all aspects of the fellowship – project, collaborations, transferable skills training, secondments (if applicable) and how this will enable your career goal

Maximising the Impact of your project

2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

	Dissemination Awareness raising of project results to professionals who will use the results of your work	**Exploitation** Commercialising your results or input into policy	**Communication-Public Engagement** Inform society of the benefits of your project
Activity	• Publications • Presentations at conferences • Website • Open access data and publications – QUB Research Portal	• Commercialisation – IP protection, licensing , spin outs • Policy engagement – Queens Policy Engagement - QPOL	• Festivals and events • Schools

B1: 2. Impact (30%)

2.3 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts

Be realistic in the assessment of future expected impact, and make it specific for your project and keep it proportionate to the action.

Scientific

What new knowledge will your project create and how will this benefit your/wider fields of research

Economic

- Contribution to increased productivity/growth
- Commercialisation potential

Societal

https://sdgtoolkit.org/what-is-it

B1: 2. Impact (30%)

Donna Rogers – Public Engagement Manager

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

MSCA-PD Fellowship Workshop

Public Engagement Opportunities

Dr Donna Rogers
Public Engagement Manager
Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences

d.rogers@qub.ac.uk
Engagement Hub | About | Queen's University Belfast
@qubengagemhls_d

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH & LIFE SCIENES

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

FACULTY SCHOOLS

FROM DISCOVERY TO RECOVERY

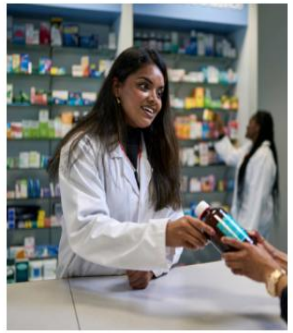
MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

School site

LIVING FOR THE FUTURE

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

School site



OBSERVATION TO INTERVENTION

PHARMACY

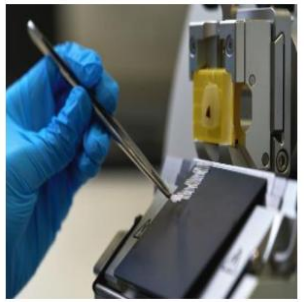
School site

MODERN HEALTHCARE

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

School site

RESEARCH



CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Institute for Global Food Security

LEADING CANCER RESEARCH

PATRICK G JOHNSTON CENTRE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research

WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

WELLCOME-WOLFSON INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE

Wellcome-Wolfson Institute For Experimental Medicine

FROM DISCOVERY TO RECOVERY

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Centre for Public Health

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

"Public engagement describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit"

Our vision

'....to excite, inspire and influence the public, from potential new students and hungry lifelong learners to policy influencers and decision makers by showing and sharing what we do in ways that arouse curiosity, awaken a love of discovery, and broaden the understanding of the journey from discovery to recovery.'

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SCHOOLS & TEACHERS ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGED RESEARCH

PERSONAL & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL ENGAGEMENT

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS ENGAGEMENT

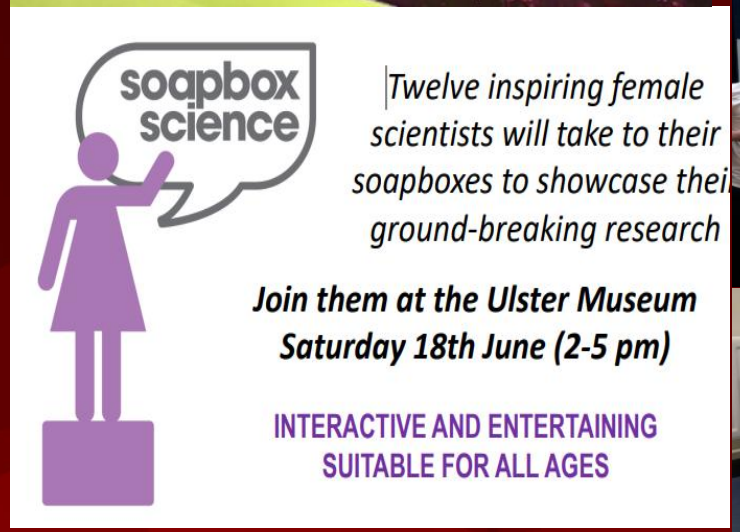
Providing central support, co-ordination and oversight of schools engagement activities, supporting teacher CPD and promoting NI STEM Agenda

- Teacher CPD Programmes
- UAR Animal Research Conversation
- Science Summer School
- Science Festival Schools programme
- STEM Ambassador Co-ordination
- UniStem Day
- WP Activities Co-ordination
- Nuffield Placement Scheme
- Bespoke schools Engagement

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Identifying, facilitating and delivering a series of programmes and activities to showcase FMHLS research, increasing 'Science Capital' and STEM aspiration of public audiences

- .
- NI Science Festival
- New Scientist Live
- Pint of Science
- Soapbox Science
- Maritime Festival
- STEM Village Airshow



BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Supporting the Public Engagement Unit in its programme of Business Engagement events and building a portfolio of discipline/ sector specific events/partners.

- Balmoral Show
- Business in the Community
- Advanced Healthcare Awards
- TEDX
- STEM NI Advisory Panel
- Dementia Friendly South Belfast
- Science Festival Board
- Association for Science Educators

PERSONAL AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (PPI)

Ensuring active participation of patients and the general public in healthcare decision-making, research, service design, and policy development, ensuring that healthcare services and research are shaped by the experiences and perspectives of those directly affected.

CANTEEN Study

CANTEEN
SCHOOL FOOD STUDY

In the CANTEEN study a team of researchers are working together to find out more about school meals and free school meals (FSM) in secondary schools.

If you have any questions, the best way to contact the research team is via the CANTEEN study email address:

canteenstudy@qub.ac.uk

canteenstudy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ENGAGED RESEARCH

Brokering and supporting opportunities for researchers to collaborate and co-create with potential users of research outputs and innovations

- Policy Engagement Training
- BRCD Engagement
- FMHLs Enterprise and Innovation events
- Bespoke PER projects and Initiatives

KEY PRIORITES FOR FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Within Strategy 2030, a key priority for Faculty Engagement is to develop FMHLS as a centre of excellence for public engagement, to showcase the quality and impact of research undertaken within the Faculty and contribute to the delivery of the strategic priorities and the University's civic mission agenda.

- **Faculty PE Network** to bring Schools expertise and resourcing together, to identify best practice and to promote collaboration across the Faculty
- **PE Development Programme** to boost skills and knowledge in developing, delivering and evaluating high quality PE across each of the Faculty Engagement streams

B1: 2. Impact (30%)

Gareth Caves, Commercialisation Manager

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

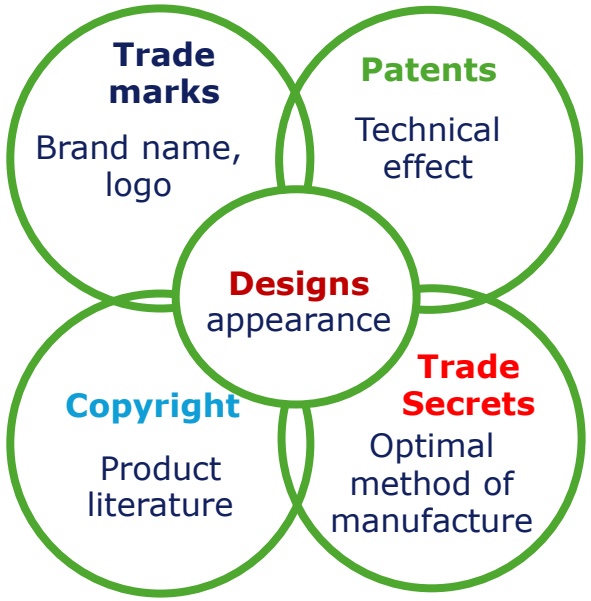
Intellectual Property and Research Exploitation

Gareth Caves
Commercialisation Manager – Net Zero, Engineering & Physical Sciences

Types of Intellectual Property

IP **protects** the **value** in innovation

- **Patents** protect inventions, e.g. how a product is made or works
- **Trade marks** protect branding
- **Copyright** protects creative works
- **Design rights** protect the appearance of a product
- **Trade secrets**, know-how, database rights, plant breeders' rights…



New products can usually be protected by more than one type of IP

Types of Intellectual Property

Registered rights

- Patents, trade marks, registered designs, plant variety rights
- Need to apply in each country where you want protection
- No need to show copying

Unregistered rights

- Copyright, design right, trade secrets
- Automatically created, no need to file application
- Should keep good records to show that you came up with the idea and when
- Only infringed if the right has been copied

Patents

What are patents?

- Protect inventions
- Bargain: tell the world about your invention in exchange for a “monopoly right” of up to 20 years
- Territorial: companies need a patent in every country where they want protection
- There are some general rules that are very similar around the world
- Some rules about what is patentable change between countries

Requirements

What can be patented

- Ideas of technical character – products, devices, processes, methods

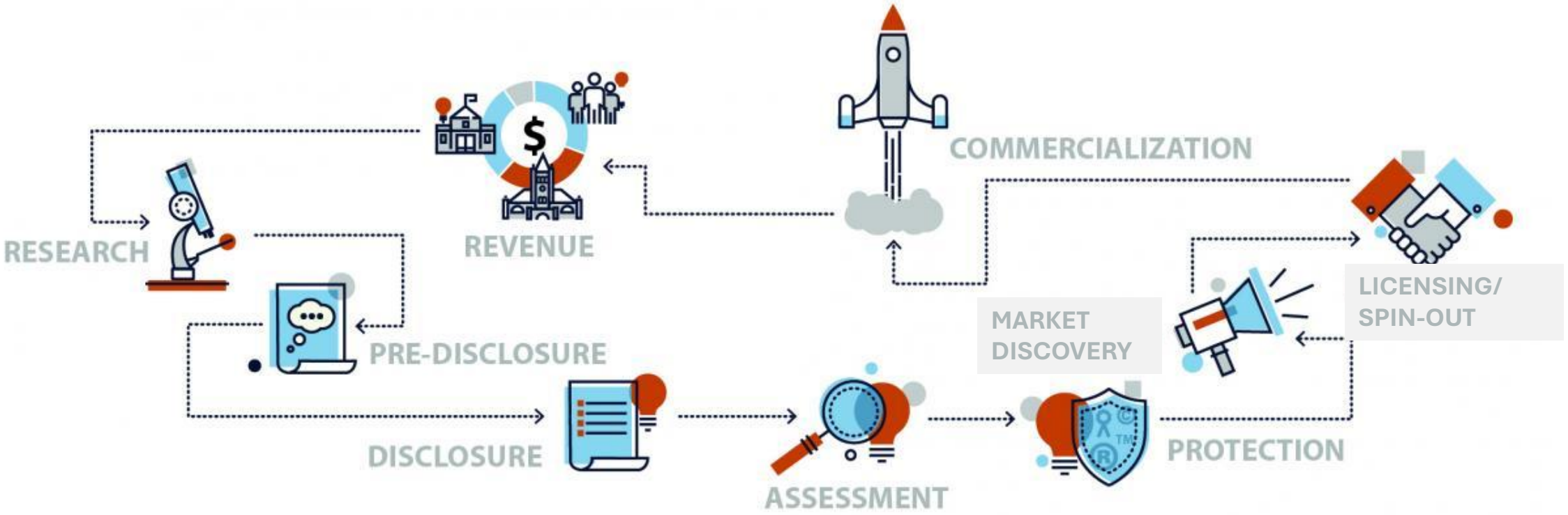
- The idea must be:
  - New (i.e. novel)
  - Not obvious (i.e. inventive)
  - Industrially applicable (i.e. useful)

IF AN IDEA HAS ALREADY BEEN PUBLICLY DISCLOSED IT WILL NOT BE NEW AND CANNOT BE PATENTED

Know-how/trade secrets

- Anything that gives a business an advantage because it's secret
- Not everything is worth/able to be patented
  - Some inputs are difficult to reverse engineer from an end product
  - You may not want to publish your "secret recipe"
- Know-how/trade secrets can be licensed too
- Can have indefinite duration (if kept confidential)
  - Coca-Cola recipe
- When considering licensing deals, TTO need to know about know-how
- Patent licensing can be conditional on licensing any know-how involved in working the invention

Commercialisation Process



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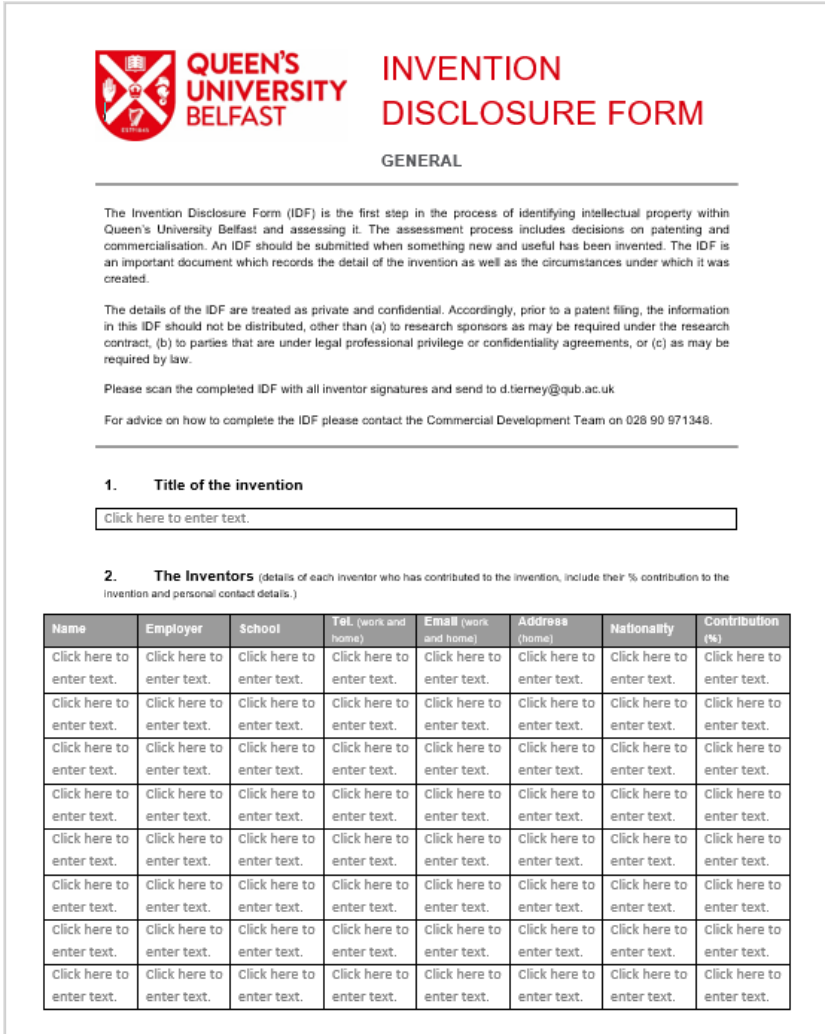
Commercialisation Process: Step 1 - Disclosure



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INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

GENERAL

The Invention Disclosure Form (IDF) is the first step in the process of identifying intellectual property within Queen's University Belfast and assessing it. The assessment process includes decisions on patenting and commercialisation. An IDF should be submitted when something new and useful has been invented. The IDF is an important document which records the detail of the invention as well as the circumstances under which it was created.

The details of the IDF are treated as private and confidential. Accordingly, prior to a patent filing, the information in this IDF should not be distributed, other than (a) to research sponsors as may be required under the research contract, (b) to parties that are under legal professional privilege or confidentiality agreements, or (c) as may be required by law.

Please scan the completed IDF with all inventor signatures and send to d.tierney@qub.ac.uk

For advice on how to complete the IDF please contact the Commercial Development Team on 028 90 971348.

1. **Title of the invention**

Click here to enter text.

2. **The Inventors** (details of each inventor who has contributed to the invention, include their % contribution to the invention and personal contact details.)

Name	Employer	School	Tel. (work and home)	Email (work and home)	Address (home)	Nationality	Contribution (%)
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- Confidential Disclosure – IDF
- Screening and Assessment
- Identify further funding
- Pitch to interested third parties regarding partnership, sponsorship and technology licensing* ***UNDER CONFIDENTIALITY***

*subject to TRL of technology

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Commercialisation Process: Assessment & Protection

MURGITROYD

HGF Intellectual Property Specialists

Mathys & Squire

Barker Brettell Intellectual Property

FRKELLY

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Commercialisation Process: Customer/Market Discovery

- Structured programmes are available
- Validation of your invention in the marketplace
- Entrepreneurial training and mentoring
- Trade shows
- Meeting potential customers, investors and collaborators

Innovate UK

Invest Northern Ireland

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Commercialisation of IP

Typically there are three avenues for the commercialisation of University generated IP:

- Licensing – Royalty payments to IP owner in exchange for permission to use IP
- Sale involving assignment of IP rights for a sum
- Working the IP right/Spin-out

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IP and Commercial Development Team (TTO)

Matthew Wilson
Head of IP & Commercial Development

Gareth Caves
Commercial Development Manager (Net Zero & Physical Sciences)

Eimear Barrett
Commercial Development Manager (MHLS & Social Sciences)

Rebekah Tougher
Commercial Development Manager (EEECS/ECIT/ Digital)

Vacant
Licence Manager

Maria Colligan
IP & Commercial Development Officer

Michaela Hewitt
IP & Commercialisation Administrator

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Part B1: 3. Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (20%)

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Implementation (20%)

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages (WP)

Usually about 5 WPs:

WP1-3 : Research WPs

WP4: Dissemination and Public Engagement

WP5: Project management (eg review meetings) and Training Activities

Align WP to Objectives
Align with section 1.2 Methodology

WP 1. Objective X it aligns to. Title. Month X-X

Tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T 1.3 – put in timing (**M1- M5).** Key things you will carry out to complete the WP

Deliverables: D 1.1, D1.2, D1.3. When will they be delivered **(M6)** etc. An output produced by the work completed in the WP, eg a report, a paper, data set, technical diagram.

Milestones: M1.1, M1.2, M1.3. When will they occur **(M6)** etc. Allow the project progress to be monitored. They represent key points in the project, eg the achievement of a key result, so that the next stage of project can be moved onto. Could also be the point in a project when a decision has to be made eg you have tested a few technologies and the decision has been made to select one for use in the rest of the project.

Risks: Could include here for each WP or put in separate section

Implementation (20%)

Risk Analysis: Research is inherently risky.
State a few of the key risks, the degree of their impact on the project, the likelihood of them occurring. What you will do to reduce the impact of the risk.
They should be project specific and realistic

WP	Description of Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy
WP1	xxxx	4	1	xxxxx
WP2				
WP3				
WP4				

Impact on project if risk occurs: 1-5
Likelihood of risk occurring: 1-5

Gantt Chart - example

Implementation (20%)

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
WP1													M1.1							M1.2				
Task 1.1							D1.1																	
Task 1.2													D1.2											
Task 1.3																			D1.3					
Task 1.4																					D1.4			
WP2								M2.1											M2.2					
Task 1.1						D2.1																		
Task 1.2											D2.1													
Task 1.3																		D2.3						
Task 1.4																				D2.4				
WP3								M2.3														M2.4		
Task 1.1					D3.1																			
Task 1.2																	D3.2							
Task 1.3																				D3.3				
Task 1.4																								D3.4
WP4 DPE										D4.1			D4.2										D4.3	
WP5 PMT			D5.1			D5.2, 5.3												D5.4						

Ensure your Gantt Chart aligns with your written text in your Work Packages

Implementation (20%)

3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements

Hosting arrangements: Description of the research group and how you will be integrated into the **research** group, and wider QUB. Describe Support Services available.
MSCA Handbook

QUB Department	Service
People and Culture, International Staff Support	Visa and advice on relocating to Belfast
Postdoctoral Development Centre	Training, career advice and becoming part of QUB postdoc community
Finance and Payroll	Advise on budget and payroll issues
Research Development Team	Advise, support and training for research applications
Research Governance, Ethics and integrity Team	Advise on ethical and trusted research aspects of research projects
Commercialisation team	Exploitation of results, and innovation programmes

Implementation (20%)

★Quality of the participating organisation- overlap with Part B-2 section 5.2
Majority of discussion should be on facilities, expertise and quality of your hosting group/department
- Some facts on wider QUB

Queen's is a member of the Russell Group of 24 world-leading UK research-intensive Universities and ranked 37th in the sector in REF 2021 (Times Higher Education), with 88% of research activity at Queen's judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent

Gender Equality: Queen's holds a prestigious Athena SWAN Gold Award, along with 15 Departmental Awards (3 Gold, 6 Silver and 6 Bronze).

Queen's ranked in the top 4% worldwide for Sustainability in esteemed 2024 QS Sustainability Rankings

3500 people are employed in 42 active spin out companies (Queen's Research and Enterprise, 2023)

Queen's is ranked 2nd in the UK for entrepreneurial impact (Octopus Ventures, 2022)

Part B2

Section 4
CV of Researcher

Use the template provided

Show you have the skills and experience commensurate with your career stage

6. Additional Ethics information that could not be included in Part A

7. Additional information on security screening that wasn't included in part A

Section 5
5.2 Capacity of the Participating Organisation

- **Key research facilities, infrastructure and equipment**
- **Previous and current involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects**: QUB has been awarded 60 Horizon Europe projects worth over €28 Million including 25 MSCA awards (9 Doctoral Networks, 7 Staff Exchanges, and 9 Postdoctoral Fellowships). QUB had 125 Horizon 2020 projects (worth a combined €50 M) including 63 Marie Curie Actions: 31 Individual Fellowships, 21 ITNs (6 as coordinator), 9 RISE, and coordinated 2 institutional level COFUND Doctoral Programme schemes.

8. Environmental Considerations in light of MSCA Green Charter

Should be project focused – some facts on QUB sustainability

QUB Sustainability; Signatory to the UKRI Concordat for the Environmental sustainability of Research and Innovation; Queens Net Zero Plan. 68 laboratories already have LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework) accreditation, and there is an ongoing programme of roll out of the programme with the aim of 100% laboratory accreditation across the university.

Useful Resources

MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships call open on EU funding and Tenders Portal

MSCA-PD handbook 2024. The 2025 handbook should be out soon

MSCA Work Program 2023- 2025

Seed funding: for travel to QUB for fellows to help with the preparation of a MSCA-PD application. £500 within Europe and £1000 outside of Europe. Contact your EU RDM for more information

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

EU & Global Research Development Team

Patricia McCrory
Schools of Medicine; Nursing & Midwifery; Pharmacy

Ryan Gabel
Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Maths & Physics

Mary Harte
Chemistry and Chemical Engineering; Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Natural and Built Environment (architecture, planning & Civil Engineering

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Questions?

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