RESPIRE4
(Respiratory Science Promoted by International Research Exchanges 4)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Programme

OVERVIEW (as of 23 May 2019)

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 847462

CONTEXT:
The European Respiratory Society (ERS) is pleased to announce that the RESPIRE4 postdoctoral fellowship programme has been awarded co-funding by the European Union (EU) under the Horizon 2020 (H2020) / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) / COFUND programme as part of its wider ERS Fellowship programme.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Kindly note that this is a brief summary only. Please consult the ERS website for the latest news.

The Host Application process for hosts to pre-register on the RESPIRE4 Web Registry will be launched in late summer / autumn 2019 and further information will be available at this stage.

The full RESPIRE4 Application Guidelines and the online application platform will be available once the 1st call is launched in early 2020.

OBJECTIVES:
RESPIRE4 is an international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary programme providing Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral research fellowships to researchers with the potential to become the leaders of tomorrow in the respiratory field.

Particularly, the RESPIRE4 programme aims to:
- Promote excellent science in respiratory research in Europe and worldwide through transnational mobility and transfer of knowledge;
- Enable Europe to become a hub for the exchange of scientists, actively involved in respiratory medicine in both academia and non-academic\textsuperscript{1} sector;
- Foster the implementation of novel and innovative techniques and therapies as well as the development of new international collaborations; and
- Gather expertise from various fields, even those not traditionally associated with respiratory research, as well as foster career development.

TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host application process (to pre-register on the RESPIRE4 Web Host Registry)</td>
<td>From late summer / autumn 2019 (open until spring 2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESPIRE4 Web Host Registry operational</td>
<td>Early 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Launch of 1st call for applications</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
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<td>Expected deadline for 1st call of applications</td>
<td>1 May 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of results for 1st call</td>
<td>2nd half of July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starting date for 1st call fellows</td>
<td>September 2020 to January 2021</td>
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\textsuperscript{1} Non-academic sector means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No. 1290/2013 (EU definition)
SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES:

- RESPIRE4 offers two different types of research fellowships: **European Fellowships (24-months)** and **Global Fellowships (36-months)**, as highlighted in Annex I below. It builds on the lessons learnt and external evaluation of the RESPIRE1 (2009-2013), RESPIRE2 (2013-2018) and ongoing RESPIRE3 (2016 – 2021) programmes coordinated by ERS with co-funding from the EU.

- Candidates can **choose and develop** their own research project related to the **respiratory field** as well as the most suitable host centre(s). A pre-registered list of hosts in the form of a **RESPIRE4 Web Host Registry platform** will be available by early 2020 and will facilitate the applicants’ search for suitable centres. It will remain up to fellowship applicants to search and get in touch with the most suitable host centre to discuss a potential cooperation and to submit a fellowship application in cooperation with the host supervisor.

- Host centres will need to provide fellowship recipients with a **fixed-term employment contract** covering the duration of the fellowship, in line with EU requirements. A **competitive package** covers a yearly gross living allowance of around €60'000.- (multiplied by the country correction coefficient$^2$) as well as an additional €6'000.- gross mobility allowance. In addition, should they meet the EU definition$^3$, fellowship recipients may also receive an additional yearly gross family allowance of €6'000.- per person. These allowances$^4$ are transferred via the host centre and subject to taxation and deductions (e.g. employer/employee social deductions, pension, etc), depending on each country. No other funding will be provided (e.g. for research costs, overheads).

- RESPIRE4 places a significant emphasis on **career development and outreach** activities, with regard to support provided by the host centres (e.g. high-quality infrastructure, scientific mentoring, state-of-the-art facilities) as well as by ERS (e.g. mentoring programme, contribution towards attending ERS International Congress and Lung Science Conference, dedicated RESPIRE MeetUp, etc).

- All RESPIRE4 fellowship recipients have the opportunity to undertake **short secondments in the non-academic sector**, including industry, for a maximum of 6 months (single period or split into short periods), if appropriate and depending on their needs and research project, in agreement with the host centre.

- RESPIRE4 fellowship recipients will be selected through a two-step **evaluation process**, entailing peer-review of online applications (1st step) and skype interviews with shortlisted applicants (2nd step). The competitive evaluation process will be carried out in an open, merit-based, impartial, fair, equal and transparent manner based on scientific excellence. Applicants returning from career breaks$^5$ and with a host centre in a less represented country (MSCA COFUND scheme list$^6$) are particularly encouraged, in line with EU priorities.

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$^2$ The country correction coefficient will be based on the rates for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (MSCA IF).

$^3$ Within H2020, family is defined as persons linked to the researcher by 1) marriage or 2) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognized by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalized or 3) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher. The family status of a researcher will be determined at the deadline of the call and will not be revised thereafter.

$^4$ Applicants and host centres will need to discuss financial aspects (e.g. gross salary, funding towards research costs) at the application phase as a specific form will need to be filled out for this purpose.

$^5$ Definition: not active in research for a continuous period of 12 months within the 18 months immediately prior to the deadline for submissions of proposals.

$^6$ EU list of less represented countries in MSCA COFUND scheme (2018 call): Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine.
HOST APPLICATION / WEB HOST REGISTRY

- In order to potentially participate in the RESPIRE4 programme, host centres should submit a Host Application to be pre-registered on the RESPIRE4 Web Host Registry. Host centres will already need to commit to RESPIRE’s key scientific and administrative criteria via the Host Application process, due to open in late summer / autumn 2019.

- Potential fellowship applicants are also able to freely propose new centre(s) not listed as long as the latter submits a Host Application and meets the administrative / scientific criteria.

- On another note, host centres already registered for the previous RESPIRE programmes, will need to commit to the new RESPIRE4 administrative criteria but will benefit from a fast-track procedure as they already underwent the scientific review in the past.

- Further information about the Host Application process will follow in late summer / autumn 2019 on the ERS website. The new RESPIRE4 Web Host Registry will be available by early 2020.

KEY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- **Candidates from any discipline:** (e.g. life sciences, medicine, engineering, mathematics, information technology, etc.) meeting the eligibility criteria are highly encouraged to apply with a research proposal related to respiratory science, in line with key documents such as the ERS 10 Principles for Lung Health (2018).

- **Experienced researcher:** At the time of the call deadline, applicants need to be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited or seconded, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged.

- **Transnational mobility rule:** Researchers may have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the host centre country for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline. Time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

- **Publications:** Applicants must have at least one first-author (or co-author) paper published (or accepted for publication) in an international peer-reviewed journal by the call deadline.

- **Other funding:** No double funding is allowed and, in addition, RESPIRE4 fellowships cannot be combined with any other Horizon2020 funding. RESPIRE1, RESPIRE2 or RESPIRE3 past fellowship recipients are not eligible as the programme aims to support new researchers. Researchers that are already permanently employed by the host centre where the RESPIRE4 research training activities are planned may not be supported.

- Please also refer to Annex I hereunder summarizing the key features & eligibility for both European Fellowships and Global Fellowships.
## ANNEX I: EUROPEAN VS. GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS

Please find hereunder a summary with regard to the two types of fellowship offered. Kindly also refer to the above-mentioned general eligibility criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Brief description</th>
<th>Nationality (applicant)</th>
<th>Mobility rule (applicant)</th>
<th>Host Centres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESPIRE4 European Fellowship (EF)</strong></td>
<td>Open to researchers either coming to Europe (MS* or AC**) from any country in the world or moving within Europe (MS or AC)</td>
<td>Open to all nationalities</td>
<td>Transnational mobility rule applies to country where fellowship will be held</td>
<td>Mandatory: ONE pre-registered host centre based in Europe (MS or AC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exactly 24 months</strong></td>
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<td>Optional: if secondment in non-academic sector, it must be based in Europe (MS or AC)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESPIRE4 Global Fellowships (GF)</strong></td>
<td>Fellowship starts with outgoing phase in Third Country (TC)***</td>
<td>Nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC</td>
<td>Transnational mobility rule applies to country where the fellowship initial outgoing phase takes place (NOT the country of the return phase to Europe)</td>
<td>Mandatory: TWO pre-registered host centres as follows:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ followed by mandatory return phase to Europe (MS or AC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1) Initial outgoing phase: ONE pre-registered host centre based in TC</td>
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<td>Duration of TC initial outgoing phase is flexible, provided that return phase to Europe (MS or AC) may not be more than 50% of the total duration of the fellowship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ 2) Return phase: ONE pre-registered host centre based in Europe (MS or AC)</td>
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<td>For the return phase, it is possible to return to the any previous home centre or any other centre, provided it is in Europe (MS or AC)</td>
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<td>Optional: if secondment in non-academic sector, it can be based in MS, AC or TC</td>
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</tbody>
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**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

*1) Member states (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their overseas departments as well as Overseas Countries and Territories linked to MS. As of 23 May 2019, the UK is still considered as a MS but the situation may change in the future and this may affect the participation / status of the UK in H2020 and the RESPIRE programme.**

**2) H2020 Associate countries (AC) – means an associate country which is party to an international agreement with the Union, as identified in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/20132. The latest list of Associate Countries (as of 1 January 2017) can be found on the EU website: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf).**

**3) H2020 Third Country (TC) – Non-associated Third Countries (TC) are countries which are neither EU Member States (MS) nor associated to Horizon 2020 (AC).**