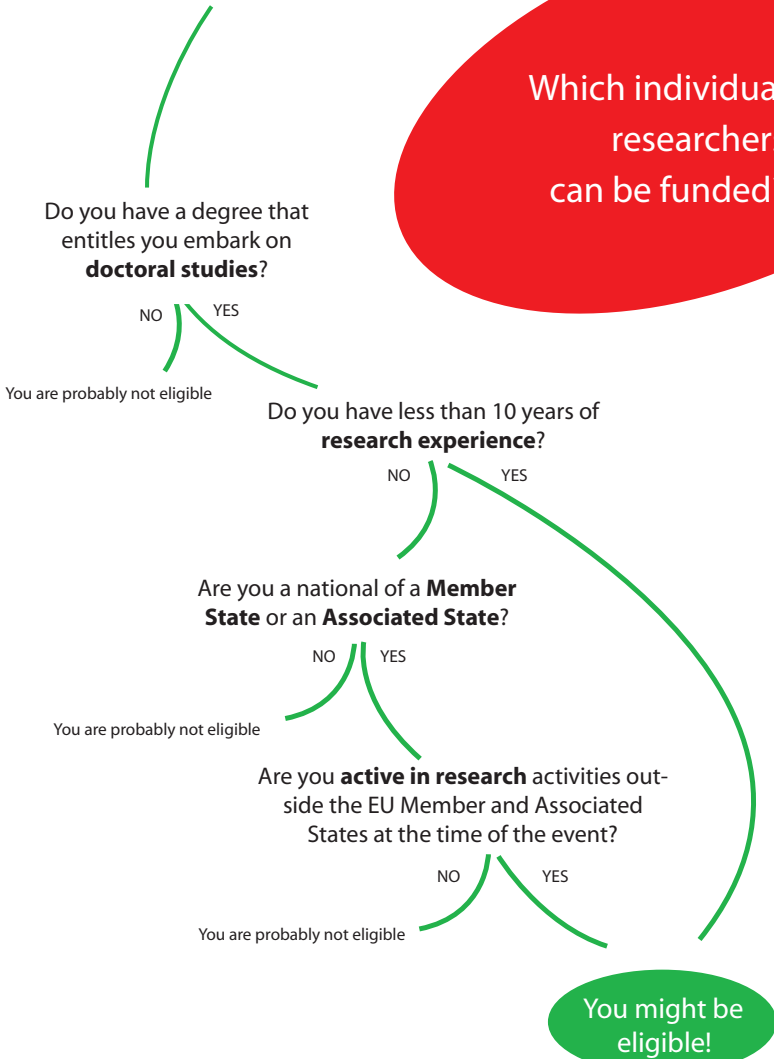


Are you eligible?

Which individual researchers can be funded?



To attend the EUA4X events 495 fellowships are offered to young researchers.

The researchers attending the events will not be contractors with the Commission, but they will be beneficiaries of the contract between the Commission and the Host.

The general definition of a **researcher** given in the Marie Curie Work Programme reads as follows: “As a general rule, a researcher is defined as a person active in research, including at a training level, of at least post-graduate or equivalent level”. (Work Programme, section 2.5.3)

Under the Marie Curie Actions, the different career pathways of researchers are taken into account by the adoption of new definitions that attach more importance to their research experience than simply their age.

Once a researcher has obtained a diploma that gives access to doctoral studies in the country in which the diploma was obtained (without having to acquire any further qualifications) the “clock” starts ticking. In the event that a researcher has taken a break from their research career for whatever reason (e.g. working outside research, family reasons, etc.), then the clock is stopped and only starts once they resume their research career.

On the basis of the specific **eligibility criteria** of the Marie Curie Programme researchers can be divided into 3 groups according to their level of experience:

- **Group 1** Early Stage Researchers;
- **Group 2** Experienced Researchers with up to 10 years of experience;
- **Group 3** Experienced Researchers with more than 10 years of experience, who are nationals of Member States or Associated States and active outside these states at the time of the event (for contact-building effect).

Experience Criteria

The Marie Curie Work Programme makes a distinction between **Early-stage** and **Experienced researchers**, on the basis of their experience in research.

Priority is given to Early-stage researchers.

Early-stage researchers are defined as: “researchers in the first 4 years (fulltime equivalent) of their research activity, including the period of research training. The reference period to qualify for an early stage training activity:

- is counted from the diploma giving access to doctoral studies (the degree must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies, without having to acquire any further qualifications) in the country in which the diploma was obtained,
- covers the first 4 years of experience in research or the period until a doctoral degree is obtained, whichever is shorter.

Persons who have obtained a doctorate are ineligible for the early stage actions, independently of the time taken to acquire it”. (Work Programme

section 2.5.3)

Experienced researchers are defined as: *i) researchers having at least 4 years of research experience (full-time equivalent) since gaining a university diploma giving them access to doctoral studies (the degree must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies, without having to acquire any further qualifications), in the country in which the degree/diploma was obtained or ii) researchers already in possession of a doctoral degree, independently of the time taken to acquire it". (Work Programme section 2.5.3)*

Transnational mobility

Eligible researchers can be nationals of the same state as that of the host organization. Early stage researchers and Experienced Researchers with up to 10 years of research experience may be nationals of any country (subject to the requirement for an international balance described below). Nevertheless, a special mobility condition applies to researchers with more than 10 years of research experience. These researchers must be active (in research) outside the Member States and Associated states at the time of the event in order to be eligible for funding.

International balance

The final distribution of nationalities at the time of the event must achieve an international balance in the following way: no more than 30% of the funded researchers (i.e. eligible) attending each

event may be nationals of third countries collectively; no more than 30% of the total number of researchers (i.e. eligible and non-eligible) attending each event may be nationals of the same Member State or Associated State, or nationals of third countries collectively).

Member States includes: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

Associated State means a State which is party to an international agreement with the Community under the terms or on the basis of which it makes a financial contribution to all or a part of FP6. In exchange its institutions participate and get funding on similar conditions as organizations from Member States. Currently the following countries are associated (some of the agreements have yet to be ratified): 3 Candidate Countries: (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey), Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.

The current status of the association agreements can be found under the following link: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/countries.html>

Gender Issue

The Marie Curie program: *"attempts, where possible, to reinforce and increase the place and role of women in science and research, both from the perspective of equal opportunities and*

gender relevance of the topics covered”.
(*Work Programme, Introduction, 3.e*)

The participation of women in the Marie Curie actions is particularly encouraged. A higher participation of women in research is a stated Community policy. The host organisations will strive for at least 40 % selection of women.

Eligibility information which helps to determine whether researchers may apply for funding can be also found at:
<http://www.eua4x.net/atelier/eligibility>