Focus on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) for LAC researchers and institutions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are European grants offered to researchers at all career stages and in all scientific areas* and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility.

The expected impact of the MSCA in Horizon 2020 includes the support of ca. 65,000 researchers, including 25,000 PhD candidates, ca. 200,000 scientific publications in high impact peer-reviewed journals, and ca. 1,500 patent applications. The MSCA will enable up to 15,000 non-EU researchers to start or pursue their careers in Europe by 2020.

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*All research areas can be funded except those covered by the EURATOM Treaty.

The different funding schemes within the MSCA are shown in Figure 2:

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<th>Innovative Training Networks</th>
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Latin American and Caribbean individual researchers are eligible to funding.

Organisations from any sector and country, including LAC countries can participate in MSCA projects.

Only organisations from the Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago are not eligible for direct funding. It is suggested that Brazilian and Mexican organisations check their local co-funding schemes to support their participation (here for Brazil, and here for Mexico).
MSCA - What’s in it for Latin American and Caribbean researchers and institutions?

1. Innovative Training Networks (ITN) is the main European doctoral training programme, putting a special emphasis on non-academic sector participation and the innovation dimension.

LAC research institutions: This action is meant primarily for organisations such as universities, research centres or companies, that propose a research training network. Organisations from LAC can join the consortia to submit a proposal.

Latin American and Caribbean researchers: can apply to the PhD positions created by these networks, including Industrial Doctorate and Joint Doctorate. They are advertised on the Euraxess Job portal.

2. Individual Fellowships (IF) are for experienced researchers to undertake their own research project at a host organisation in another country, thus gaining new skills through advanced training and possibly, intersectoral mobility.

Researchers based in LAC can apply for a European fellowship to perform a research stay of up to 2 years in Europe, choosing to apply either for a re-integration grant, a scientific grant or a society & enterprise grant in the non-academic sector.

Researchers based in Europe can apply for a global fellowship to carry out research in a third country such as any Latin American or Caribbean state and return to Europe. They can also apply to a European fellowship for mobility within the EU or associated countries.

Research institutions from LAC (all countries) are eligible to host post-doctoral researchers coming from the European Union and Associated countries (EU/AC).

3. Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) enables international and intersectoral collaboration, based on short-term staff exchanges between organisations worldwide. The RISE programme is the successor programme of the previous IRSES programme.

LAC research institutions can join a consortia as partner. Institutions from Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago can join but can't receive direct funding from the European Commission for the secondment of their researchers.

4. Co-Funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND) calls are open to European research (funding) institutions. Organisations from LAC can be partner organisations in a proposal. COFUND supports many high-quality fellowships or doctoral programme positions, which include transnational mobility.

Researchers from LAC: doctoral candidates can apply directly to the co-funded vacancies advertised on the Euraxess Job portal while experienced researchers apply directly with the funding organisations.
Summary of opportunities

Latin American and Caribbean researchers can:

- Undertake a PhD in Europe offered by an Innovative Training Network (ITN) or under a COFUND programme (look for positions on the Euraxess Job portal)
- Carry out a post-doctoral research in Europe for up to two years (IF/European Fellowship)
- Move from a European country to another for a post-doctoral research if they are already based in Europe (IF/European Fellowship)
- Take part in a research and innovation project and spend one to 12 months at a partner institution in Europe (RISE)

Latin American and Caribbean research institutions, being public or private, academic or not, can:

- Host a EU-based researcher for up to 2 years for free (IF/Global Fellowship)
- Take part in a research and innovation project and thus receive researchers from European partner institutions and send their own staff and researchers on secondments to spend one to 12 months at a partner institution in Europe (RISE)
- Take part in a consortia of complementary institutions to offer an innovative doctoral training (ITN).

Timetable of 2019 calls:

All MSCA calls are annual and advertised on the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal.

MSCA ITN calls are open to institutions only.

MSCA IF are open to individual researchers. They apply in partnership with a host institution based in any European member state or country associated to Horizon 2020. In case of Global Fellowships, institutions in LAC will be considered as “partner organisations”.

MSCA RISE are open to institutions such as universities, research centres or companies from everywhere in the world.

MSCA COFUND are open to European funding organisations.