



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn



CAROLINE
Collaborative Research Fellowships
for a Responsive and Innovative Europe



CAROLINE:
**Collaborative Research Fellowships for a
Responsive and Innovative Europe**

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND

Call 2 – CAROLINE 2018

Webinar 14th September 2017

WELCOME!

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE

- Presenter: Dr Andrea Valova, Programme Manager, Irish Research Council
- Live Webinar: slides with voice-over
- Webinar will be recorded (assuming no technical glitches) and made available
- You may use the Questions facility on your dashboard to submit (polite) questions. These will be recorded. We expect to answer some of these in real-time, they will however feed into our next FAQs document which will be published as soon as possible on the [scheme website](#)
- Webinar will finish by 12pm.
- If you have questions after the webinar finishes, please contact the research office of your proposed Irish home host institutions. If the research office needs assistance with answering your question, they will submit it to the Council and we will answer it in the next FAQ document. Deadline for submitting questions for the FAQ process is 28th September.
- The Council will not answer questions received after the above FAQ deadline.

CAROLINE

CAROLINE is a research fellowship programme for postdoctoral / experienced researchers (see T&Cs for definitions)

The programme has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 713279

CAROLINE Fellows are Irish Research Council and MSCA Fellows.

Aims of CAROLINE programme

To support suitable highly qualified experienced researchers in any discipline to:

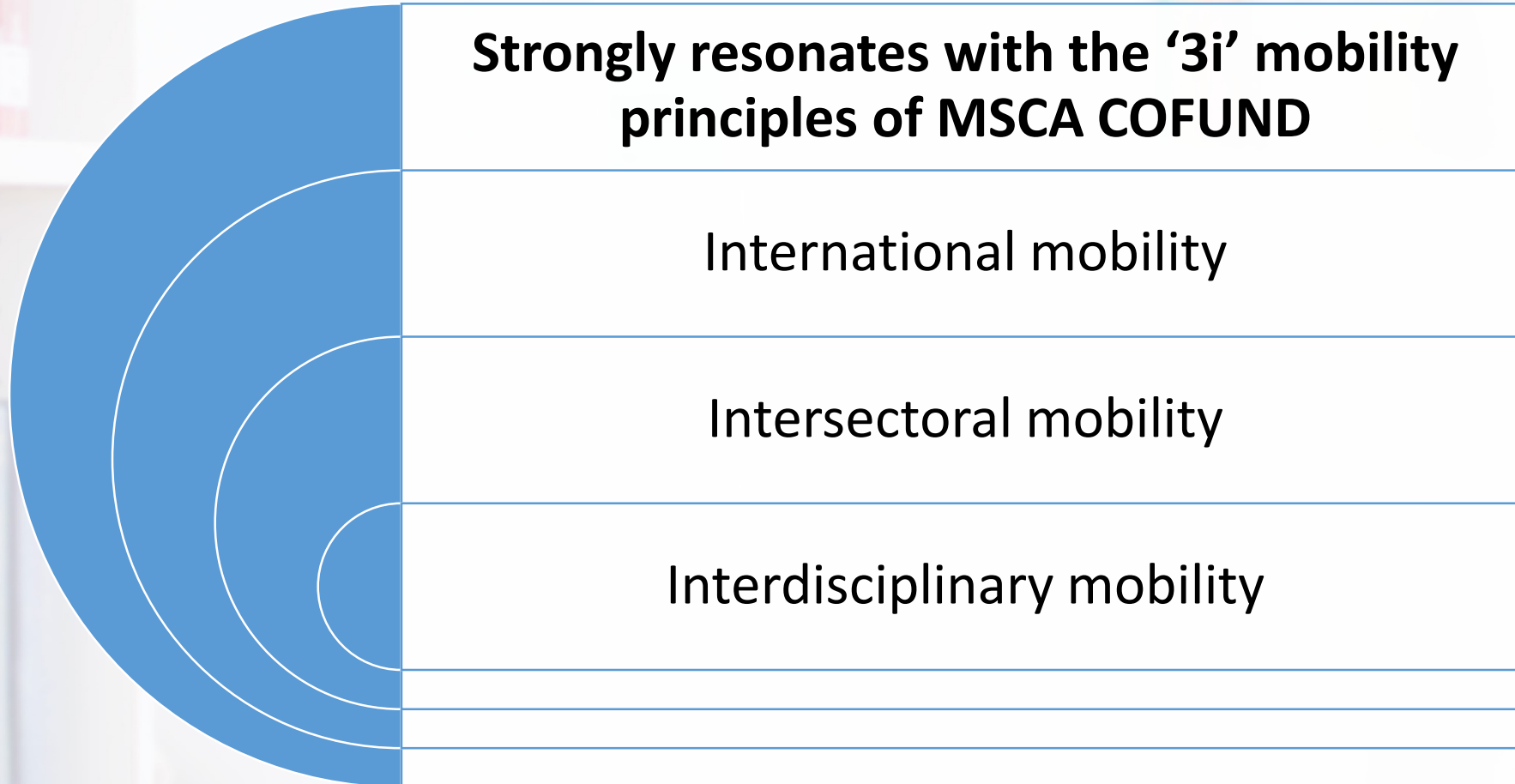
- conduct research relevant to the overarching theme of global sustainable development as set out under the [United Nations 2030 Agenda](#)
- engage in international collaboration with suitable NGOs or IOs;
- experience and benefit from intersectoral and international mobility;
- avail of relevant training and career development opportunities;
- increase their chances of gaining a future senior research position, including in the non-academic sector.



The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development

<http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/uploads/SDGs-GlobalGoalsForSustainableDevelopment-05.jpg>

Why the SDGs



International mobility

Universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike

Flow of excellent researchers between different countries will be important for progress on the goals

Intersectoral mobility

Civil society and international organisations key to Agenda 2030

Research can enhance impact and effectiveness of NGOs/IOs

Interdisciplinary mobility

Agenda 2030 balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental

Achieving the SDGs and overcoming challenges will require interdisciplinary approaches from the research community, nationally and internationally

What's different about a MSCA Fellowship?

- Completing a Marie Curie Fellowship (MCF) does have definite beneficial impacts on a researcher's career prospects. On several career and professional achievement indicators, MC former fellows score more positively than non-fellows
- MC fellows reported that MCF contributed significantly to....key career 'drivers', such as (i) access to high quality research facilities and labs, (ii) enlarging their professional network and (iii) improving their interdisciplinary skills.
- All other factors considered – MC fellows' publications are more-often cited than the Control Group's, and are more frequently published on influential scientific journals.
- MC fellows are more successful than non-fellows in applying for European Research Council (ERC) competitive grants for high quality research.

What's different about a MSCA Fellowship?

- MC fellows achieve professorship titles more frequently than others, but somehow later in their career, and are more likely than the CG of leading a team of researchers, i.e. holding a principal investigator position.
- MC fellows are more satisfied with their job than the CG, and this is true in general and for each individual aspect considered.
- MCFs appear to have some impact in closing the gender gap, for instance with respect to chances of being appointed as Associate Professor, Professor or Principal Investigator

Source: European Commission (2014) *Marie Curie researchers and their long-term career development: A comparative study. Final Report.*

What do former IRC/IRCHSS/IRCSET MSCA COFUND Fellows say?

“COFUND has given a policy dimension to my research. Based on my international experience, I have been in a position to offer advice to national legislators, policy-makers, political parties, interest groups and the media”

- CARA awardee

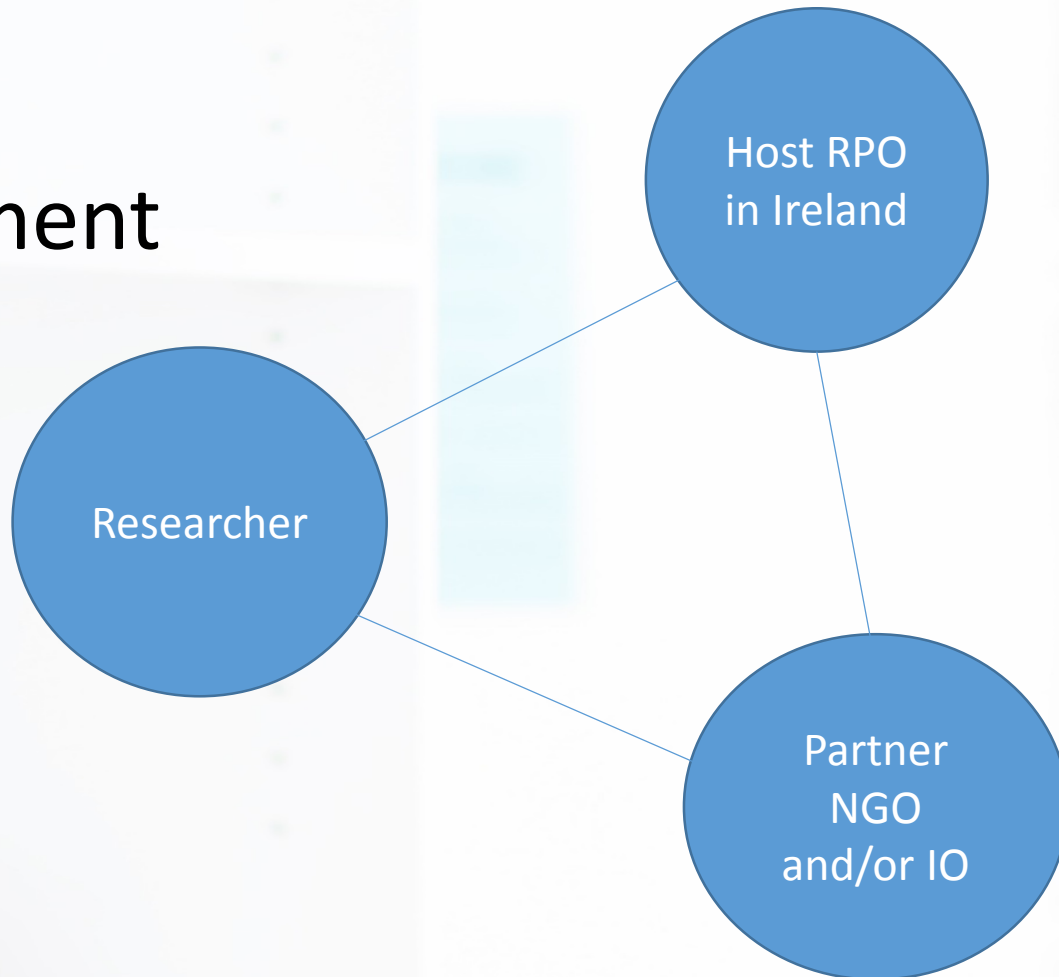
What do former IRC/IRCHSS/IRCSET MSCA COFUND Fellows say?

“Perhaps the most profound impact of the fellowship, however, relates to how it shaped my attitude to research, providing me with a fresh and international perspective on research practice – how to carry out high-quality research and manage a research lab effectively and efficiently, and with initiative and leadership.”

- INSPIRE awardee

Basic structure of CAROLINE

Career
Development



Tripartite
Research
Collaboration

Knowledge Transfer

Impact

All Disciplines

Two types of CAROLINE Fellowships (1/2)

International Fellowships

- 3 years
- Hosted by an eligible research performing organisation (RPO) in Ireland, with academic mentor
- First two years secondment to a partner NGO or IO outside Ireland, with secondment mentor
- Third year with RPO in Ireland
- Optional placement(s) to NGOs/IOs during both the outward and return phase can be proposed (up to a max. of 6 months in each case), with placement mentor(s)

Outward
Phase

Return Phase

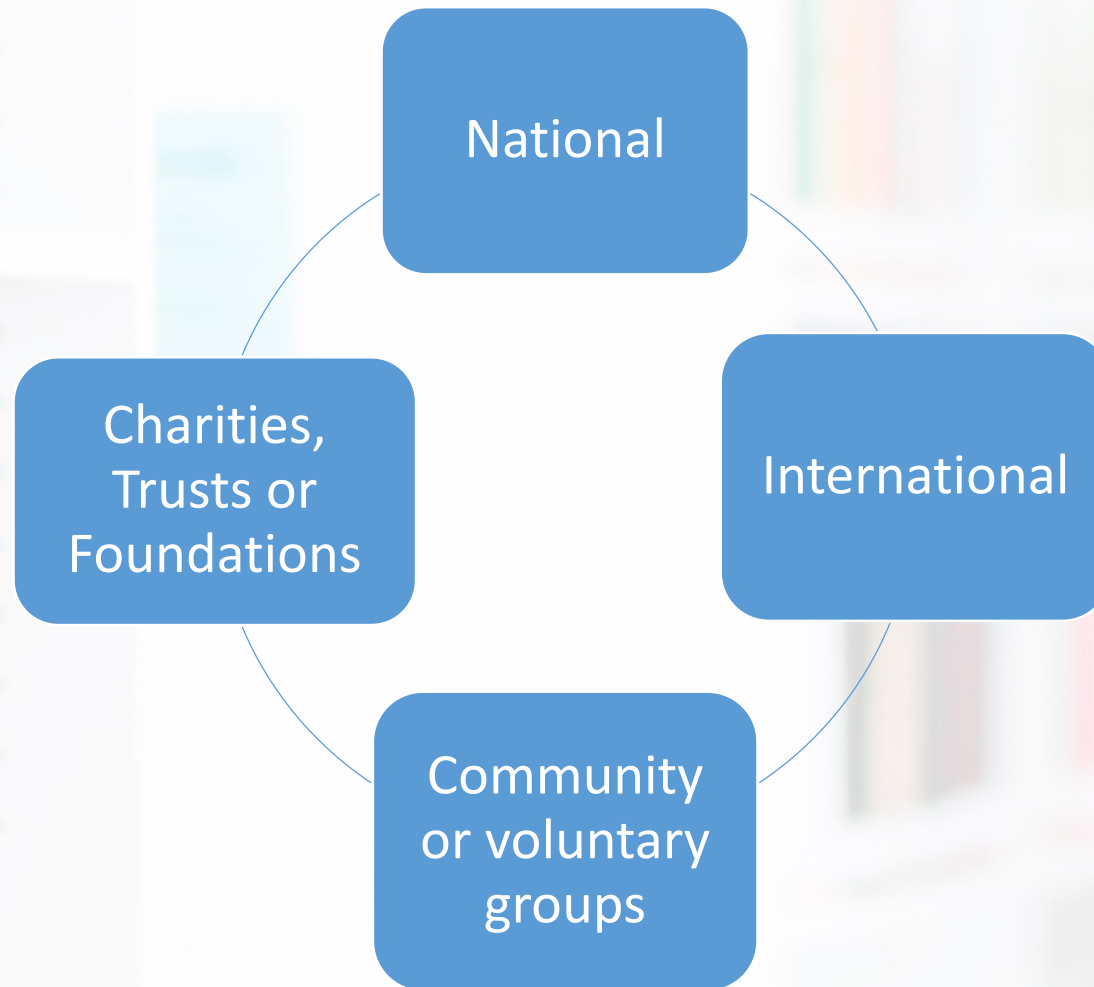
Two types of CAROLINE Fellowships (2/2)

Irish Fellowships

- 2 years
- Hosted by an eligible (RPO) in Ireland, with academic mentor
- Mandatory secondment to an eligible NGO or IO in Ireland (between 6 and 12 months), with secondment mentor
- Optional placement to NGOs/IOs (up to 3 months) can be proposed, with secondment mentor

Partner organisations: NGOs

Different terminology in different countries, e.g. 'not-for-profit', 'civic' or 'civil' society organisations



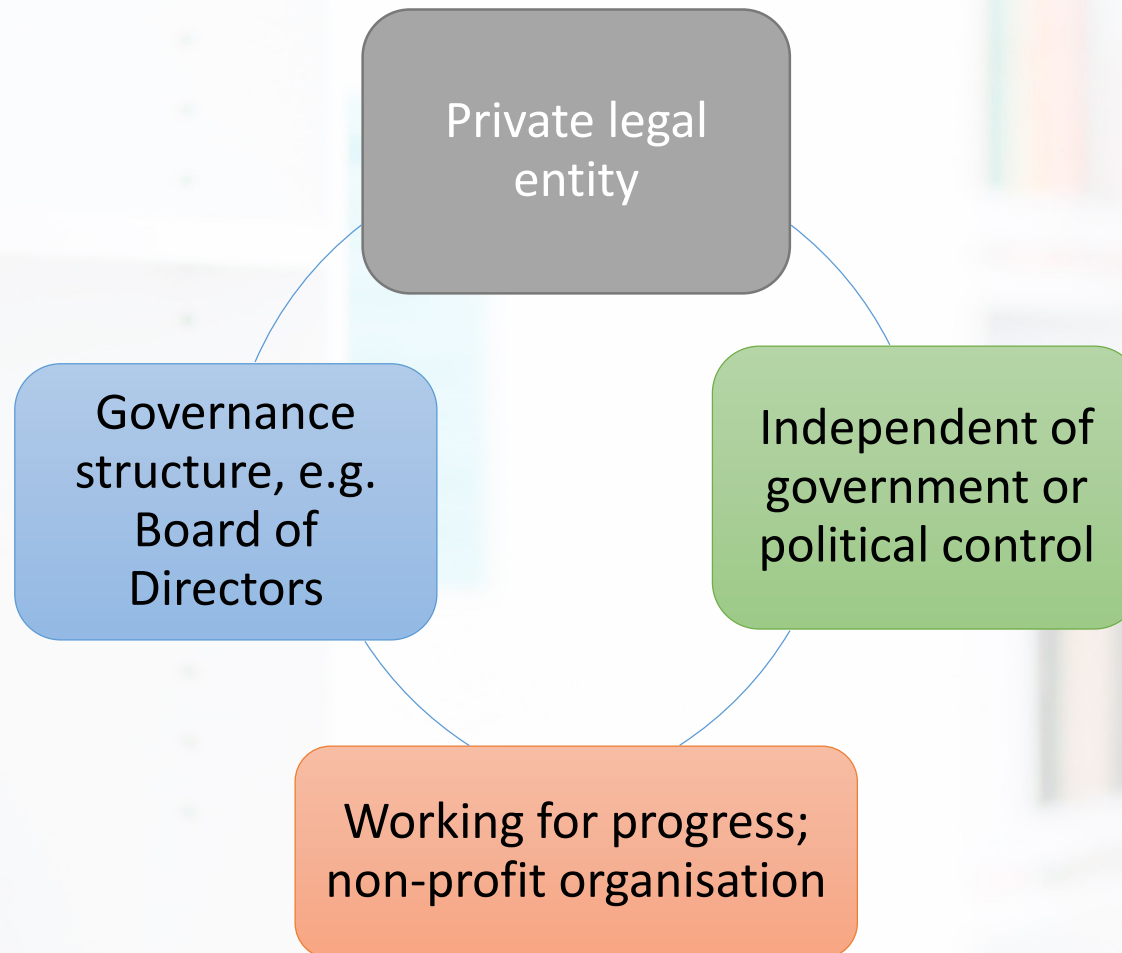
In Ireland the term 'NGOs' generally refers to organisations working in developing countries. CAROLINE is using a broader definition of NGOs.

Dochas

The Irish Association of Non-Governmental
Development Organisations



Common features of eligible NGOs



NGOs may be in receipt of public funds, but must retain their independent status

See CAROLINE Call 2 Terms and Conditions clause 1.18 and 1.17 for relevant definitions

Examples of international NGOs

Doctors
without
Borders

Amnesty
International

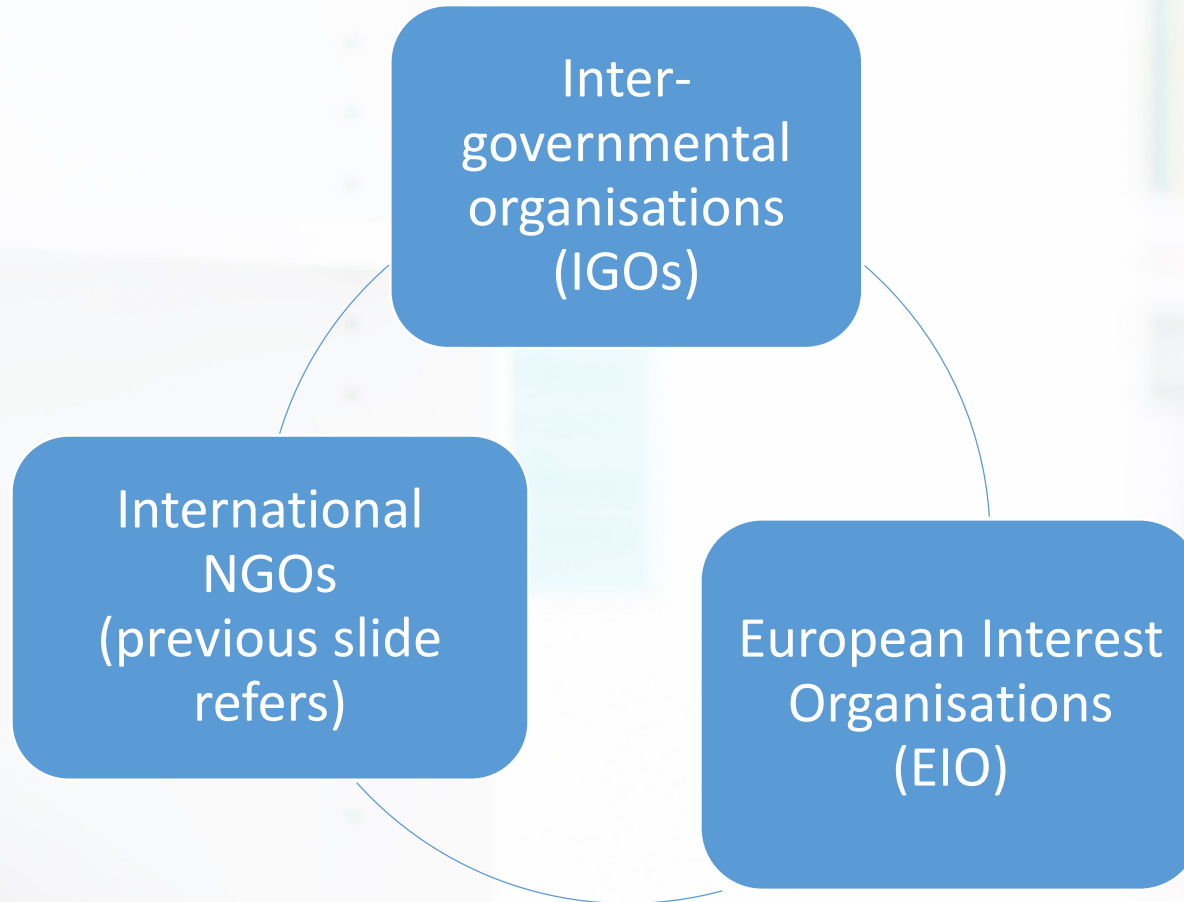
Action Aid

World Vision
International

Greenpeace

WWF

Partner organisations: International organisations



Research intensity of international organisations varies according to mission – some are primarily focused on research

See CAROLINE Call 2 Terms and Conditions clause 1.15 and 1.17 for relevant definitions

Some examples of inter-governmental organisations

UNDP

UNESCO

ILO

WHO

IPCC

IOM

Some examples of European Interest Organisations

CERN

EMBL

Institut Laue-
Langevin (ILL)

Guidance for determining eligibility of proposed main partner organisation

- Check definitions in the Terms and conditions
- Refer to aims of the scheme: if secondment would not provide intersectoral mobility, organisation is not eligible to act as main partner organisation
- Eligibility checks will be performed after application process is completed
- Note: relevant documentary evidence will be required at award stage

Optional placements

For training and/or research purposes

Placements to entities other than NGOs or IOs can be considered, e.g. SMEs

Must be justified and their benefit demonstrated

Salaries for fellows

Salary will be determined by the location of the Fellow and the associated country correction coefficient as specified in H2020 MSCA regulation applicable to the scheme.
Note: there are no adjustments for higher cost of living in capital cities etc.

Allowances rates per year

Living €55,800 (adjusted by applicable coefficient)
Mobility €7,200 (years 1 and 2)
Family €6,000

Amounts include applicable statutory contributions and deductions.

Examples of country correction coefficients

France: 111.0%
Romania: 68.3%
Ethiopia: 85.2%
Ireland: 113.5%

NOTE: Salary paid during placement is not adjusted for the country of placement. It will be calculated using the country correction coefficient applicable to the country where the fellow would have been if the placement had not been undertaken.

Package also includes

Allocation for research, training and networking of €9,600 per annum

Contribution to partner organisation for overheads of €1,752 per annum

Health insurance for those not in possession of EHIC Card

Paid maternity leave in line with Irish policy

IRC-led,
centralised
training also

Important to note rules in three key areas

“Experienced researcher” status

Mobility rules (applicant)

Country rules (partner organisations)

Experienced researcher status

- **Type 1:** applicant in possession of doctoral degree at the time of recruitment, and the degree was not awarded more than 7 years* before the time of recruitment.
- **Type 2:** applicant with at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience at the time of recruitment.

TIME OF RECRUITMET: 15th February 2018

*eligible career breaks are taken into consideration

Documentary evidence confirming “experienced researcher” status will be required from all successful applicants.

Applicant Mobility rules: International Fellowships

To be eligible, researchers must not have resided or have had undertaken their main activity in the country of the proposed secondment for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to recruitment.

This requirement also applies to optional placements.

Applicant Mobility rules: Irish Fellowship

To be eligible, researchers must not have resided or have had undertaken their main activity in the Republic of Ireland for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to recruitment.

This requirement also applies to optional placements.

Country rules – partner organisations

Applicants who are EU member state/associated country nationals: partner NGOs or IOs can be located in any country worldwide.

Applicants who are not EU MS/AC nationals: to undertake secondment or placement outside of EU, such applicants must be long-term residents of EU MS/AC, which means having completed a period of full-time research activity of at least 5 consecutive years prior the time of recruitment.

Note: for Irish fellowship, the main partner organisation must be Ireland-based.

Important Dates

CAROLINE CALL 2

FAQ deadline 16:00 (GMT) 28 September 2017

Applicant deadline 16:00 (GMT) 12 October 2017

Referee, academic mentor, referee, secondment mentor and placement mentor deadline 16:00 (GMT) 19 October 2017

Research office endorsement deadline 16:00 (GMT) 26 October 2017

Expected timeline

CAROLINE CALL 2

“Time of recruitment”

15 February 2018

Result notification

end of February 2018

Deadline for submission of agreements between home host organisations and main partner organisations to the Council

30 April 2018

Awarded Irish Fellowships will run for two years from

1 June 2018 to 31 May 2020

Awarded International Fellowships will run for three years from

1 June 2018 to 31 May 2021

CAROLINE Application preparation and submission process

<http://www.research.ie/funding/caroline2>

**Academic mentor
affiliated with
eligible Home host
organisation (Higher
Education Institution or
Research Performing
Organisation in Ireland)**



**Secondment mentor
affiliated with eligible
Main partner
organisation*
(Eligible Non-governmental
organisation or International
Organisation)**



Academic
mentor
submits
statement



Institutional
Research Office
endorses
application

**Applicant prepares
application using
online application
system**



**Applicant submits
application**



Main partner
organisation
registers in online
application system*



Secondment
mentor
submits
statement*

**2 Referees
submit
reference**

*If optional placement is proposed, placement mentor and placement partner organisation participate in the process in the same way as secondment mentor and main partner organisation

The Research Office (RO)

Applicants should contact the Research Office in their proposed home host organisation for information and clarification on the call and for institutional proposal preparation support.

Questions regarding the application process should be addressed to the RO. If the RO is unable to answer a query, they should send the query to the Council to be answered through the Frequently Asked Questions process.

In the case of a technical issue with the OLS, please read the online [Guide](#). If the technical issue is not clarified, only then should you email caroline@research.ie with details of the issues encountered.

Registrations of prospective CAROLINE partner organisations

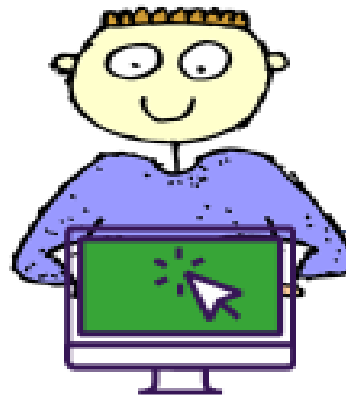
OPTIONAL
STEP

Organisation completes the "Expression of Interest" form

Eligibility of organisation to participate as Main Partner Organisation verified by IRC

Eligible organisation promoted on Council's website (but NOT listed in online system)

Applicant learns about organisations interested in participating in the scheme and can approach them about fellowship



Organisation completes the "Registration in Online System" form

Organisation added to online system (but eligibility NOT verified at this stage of the process)

Applicants can add organisation to their application

MANDATORY
STEP

What do past CAROLINE applicants say

Have a plan B for your proposed partner organisation. Check that they are in the position to comply with the scheme rules and can accept you for secondment – speak with HR and other relevant departments, not only with your proposed mentor.

Liaise early and often enough with the research office of the proposed home host organisation.

Do a project plan for all the different elements of the application with dates by when things have to be completed and share this with your application 'team' so everyone's on the same page.

Start negotiations regarding agreement between your home host organisation and main partner organisation before results are released. It will take much longer than expected.

What did CAROLINE call 1 international assessors say

Importance of innovative nature and excellence, relevance to SDGs

Consideration of ethical issues and sex/gender dimension not integrated

References too general

Information about host institutions' research environment too general

See Guide for applicants for additional assessors' feedback

Evaluation criteria for proposals

EXCELLENCE

IMPACT

IMPLEMENTATION

Details in the [Guide for applicants](#)

Applications will be deemed ineligible if:

More than one application is submitted (even if only one application is endorsed by an eligible home host organisation)

An application has not been submitted via the online application system (OLS) - no hardcopies or email forms will be accepted

An application is late or otherwise submitted subsequent to the advertised applicant closing date of 12th October 2017

An application does not have all of the required participant forms (academic mentor, secondment mentor, two referee forms, and, if applicable the optional placement mentor(s) form) completed and submitted via the OLS only by 19th October 2017

An application is incomplete; exceeds the word/page limits; includes requested materials in a format other than PDF; or includes additional materials other than those requested

The application is not endorsed by the applicant's proposed home host organisation via the OLS only on the Council website www.research.ie by the deadline of 26th October 2017

Requirements for successful applicants

Strict deadlines – end of funding determined by agreement with European Commission

Fellowship start date 1st June 2018 – no flexibility!

Originals or certified copies of transcripts and other relevant documentary evidence will be required from successful applicants before awards are confirmed

Agreement between home host organisation and main partner organisation must be signed by 30/04/2018. Time consuming process – should be initiated before offers are made

Offers will be withdrawn if requirements/deadlines not met or if there are discrepancies between information provided in application form and documentary evidence

Thank you for your attention

Please liaise with the research office with your proposed home host organisation if you have enquiries.

Email us on caroline@research.ie if you experience issues with online application system.



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