Funds and Programmes

Dr Keith Elliott
keithelliott15@btinternet.com
FEBS Education Committee

Outline of talk

• Primarily talk about fellowships
  • FEBS
  • EMBO
  • Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
    • Part of EU Horizon 2020
  • European Research Council
  • Human Frontier Science Program
  • FEBS Young Scientists Forum

FEBS FELLOWSHIPS

Stipends and awards supporting research training and mobility of able young scientists

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS
• Long-term Fellowships (up to 3 years)
• Distinguished Young Investigator Award
• Follow-up Research Grant

PRE-/POST-DOCTORAL SHORT FELLOWSHIPS (up to 3 months)
• Short-term Fellowships
• Summer Fellowships
• Collaborative Experimental Scholarships for Central and Eastern Europe

www.febs.org

Candidate: Excellence, Passion for science
Program: Mobility
European dimension
Early part of career

➔ From one European Country to another European Country within the FEBS constituency
➔ Less than 6 months already in the country or in the institution
➔ Less than 3-years after PhD
➔ Career breaks may be considered
➔ Prefer 1st to 2nd post-docs

FEBS Long-term Fellowships

• Up to three years. Success ~ 7% in 2016
• Judged by full Committee
• Normally 1st post-doc
• Stipends, not salaries
• Variable amount depending on place (cost of living) and family charges
• 1 call, next deadline 1st October 2017

FEBS Long-term Fellowships

Evaluation

✓ Quality of candidate
✓ Quality of project
✓ Quality of host group

Suggestions:

➔ Importance of choosing well: reference letters
➔ Explain your situation and purpose clearly.
FEBS Short-term Fellowships
- For scientific collaboration, advanced training or employing techniques not available at the candidates' usual place of work.
- Fellowships are granted for periods of no longer than two or, in exceptional cases, three months.
- Applicants must have a PhD or PhD student with at least one published paper as a main author in an international scientific journal.
- They should normally be scientists with no more than six years post-doctoral experience.
- Applications at any time – at least 2 months before starting date

FEBS Collaborative Experimental Scholarships for Central & Eastern Europe
- Students engaged in research for a doctoral thesis in the currently depressed economies of Central and Eastern Europe – includes Belarus but not Lithuania
- Fellowships are granted for periods of no longer than two or, in exceptional cases, three months
- Applications at any time – at least 2 months before starting date
- High success rate – approx. 70%

FEBS Summer Fellowships
- Registered graduate students involved in laboratory work
- Early PhD students
- Should be used between July 1 and October 31
- Length of stay depends on proposed experiments
- € 3500, irrespective of length of stay
- No additional money for travel
- Deadline 1st April

EMBO Fellowships
- Long-Term Fellowships
- Short-Term Fellowships
- Advanced Fellowships

http://embo.org/funding-awards

Long-Term Fellowships
- Support for early career scientists (first post-doc)
- Post-doctoral training for up to 2 years

Eligibility
- First author publication in international, peer-reviewed journal
- Mobility i.e. change of country
- Within 3 years of obtaining PhD at time of application
- Less than 6 months at host lab
- Special consideration given to applicants with career breaks

*** READ THE GUIDELINES ***
**EMBO Fellowships**

**Long-Term Fellowships**
- No specific deadlines but:
  - Applications considered from 2nd Friday in February and 2nd Friday in August
- 200 fellowships awarded each year
- Current success rate of about 15%

**Application:**
- Research proposal (within scientific scope of EMBO)
- 2 references
- Acceptance letter from host supervisor

**Two-step evaluation:**
1. Pre-screening by the Fellowship Committee
2. Interview by EMBO Member or Young Investigator
   
   Decision: 14 – 15 weeks from evaluation deadline

**Benefits**
- Stipend and travel/mobility allowance; dependent allowance
- Parental leave; work part-time
- Contribution to childcare costs
- Lab Management course for senior post-docs
- Private pension scheme
- EMBO FellowsNet; Fellows' Meeting

**Short-Term Fellowships**
- For short-term research visits (1 week to 3 months)
- Transfer of technology, new skills and expertise
- Key criterion: Benefit to the home laboratory

**Eligibility**
- Mobility
  - Receiving and sending laboratory in an EMBC Member State
- Open to applicants from all career stages with minimum of 1 year experience as PhD student
- Mandatory return to home lab
  - Minimum 6 months

**Key facts**
- About 250 awards per year (about 50% success rate)
- Review by one EMBO Members or Young Investigators
- No deadlines
- Decision typically after 12 weeks

**Benefits**
- € 7,000 – 10,000 for 3 months (covers living and travel)

---

**EMBO Fellowships**

**– Long-Term Fellowships**
**– Short-Term Fellowships**
**– Advanced Fellowships**

http://embo.org/funding-awards
**EMBO Fellowships**

- Long-Term Fellowships
- Short-Term Fellowships
- Advanced Fellowships

[http://embo.org/funding-awards](http://embo.org/funding-awards)

**Advanced Fellowships**

- Experimental programme that provides additional 2-year funding for fellows who have demonstrated exceptional progress during their current postdoctoral work.
- Only five per year are awarded (15% success rate) but the number may be increased in the future.
- Fellows must stay in their current host laboratory
- Similar benefits to LTF: child allowance, parental leave, part-time work, EMBO fellows meeting, Lab Management Course for PIs.
- If the fellow starts an independent position in an institution inside an EMBC member state, the remaining stipend can be converted into a "start-up grant" up to 30,000 euros.

---

**Horizon 2020 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**

**MSCA Objective**

*Ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe’s intellectual capital in order to generate new skills, knowledge and innovation*

**Budget 2014-2020:** 6 162 million €

**Key features**

- Attract and retain research talent
- Develop state-of-the-art, innovative training schemes, consistent with the highly competitive and increasingly interdisciplinary requirements of research and innovation
- Promote sustainable career development in research and innovation
- Focus on delivering new knowledge and skills, in line with the key driver identified in the strategic programming approach
- Contribute to a strong partnership with MS via the co-funding mechanism

---

**Strategic programming approach**

- Open to all domains of research and innovation from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services
- Entirely bottom-up
- Participation of non-academic sector strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs
- Mobility as the key requirement - funding on condition participants move from one country to another
- (Almost) no nationality conditions
- Promotion of attractive working and employment conditions
- Particular attention to gender balance
- Public engagement of supported researchers
- 2016-2017: 10 calls foreseen -> one call per each MSC action per year + one call covering 2 years of European Researchers’ Night + NCP
**ITN**  
**Early-stage Researchers**  
**IF**  
**Experienced Researchers**  
**RISE**  
**Exchange of Staff**  
**COFUND**  

**MSCA: 4 Actions**

- Innovative Training Networks  
  Support for doctoral and early-stage training  
  European Training Networks, European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates

- Individual Fellowships  
  Support for experienced researchers undertaking international and inter-sector mobility: European Fellowships and Global Fellowships  
  Dedicated support for career restart, reintegration and society and enterprise

- Research and Innovation Staff Exchange  
  International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff

- Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes  
  - Doctoral programmes  
  - Fellowship programmes

**IF – European and Global**

**European Fellowships**  
- Fellows spend two years in a MS/AC research institution  
- Mobility required  
- Evaluation in 8 thematic panels  
- Reintegration of researchers who have been long-term outside Europe is supported by a different panel  
- There is also a Career Restart Panel for researchers who have not been active for at least a year  
- There is also a Society and Enterprise Panel for researchers who will carry out their project in a non-academic institution  
- Next call opens on 1st April and closes on 14th September 2017

**Global Fellowships**  
- Fellows spend two years in a research institution outside Europe  
- Mandatory return phase of 12 months to a European institution  
- Mobility required  
- Open to MS/AC nationals and ‘long-term residents’  
- Evaluation in 8 thematic panels

**Individual Fellowships (IF)**

**Objective**
- enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers  
- provide opportunities to acquire new knowledge, work on research projects in a European context or outside Europe, resume a career or return to Europe

**Scope**
- Individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers  
- European Fellowships or Global Fellowships  
- Career Restart Panel, Reintegration Panel and Society and Enterprise Panel

**Expected Impact**
- release the full potential of researchers and to catalyse significant development in their careers in both the academic and non-academic sectors  
- strengthen the contact network of the researcher and the host organisation

**IF – Main features**

- **Budget**: € 240.50 Million in 2014 (Global Fellowships: 29 Mio)  
  € 213 Million in 2015 (Global Fellowships: 27 Mio)

- Duration of projects: 2 years (IF Global: 3 years)

- Support to experienced researchers of any nationality (IF Global and IF Reintegration: nationals of EU MS/AC and long-term residents)

- Focus on career development, not necessarily experience

- Additional 3 or 6 month secondment option, within Europe and in another sector

- Same elements of award criteria for all proposals
For both European and Global fellowships the mobility rule is:

- At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date.
- In the Career Restart Panel, the Reintegration Panel and the Society and Enterprise Panel in IF, researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 3 years in the 5 years immediately prior to the relevant deadline for submission of proposals.

---

**Award criteria: IF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence (50%)</th>
<th>Impact (30%)</th>
<th>Implementation (20%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)</td>
<td>Enhancing research and innovation related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives</td>
<td>Social, economic and industrial relevance and impact of the work plan, including promotion of the education of users and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility and quality assurance of implementing the work plan for the development of innovation in light of the research objectives</td>
<td>Innovation and dissemination of work results</td>
<td>Appropriateness of the management, structures and processes, including quality management and risk management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility of the researcher to meet or exceed the expectations of the work plan, including professional maturity in research</td>
<td>Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources</td>
<td>Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research</td>
<td>Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination</td>
<td>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**European Research Council**

**ERC starting grant:**

- Aimed at researchers with 2-7 years PhD experience
- Focus on “frontier research”
- Focus on starting independent group
- Nationals of any country can apply to work in ERC member state
- Duration: up to 5 years, 1.5 million €/5 years
- Next call probably summer 2017, deadline late 2017
- [https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grants](https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grants)

---

**Human Frontiers Science Program: HFSP**

- Applicants may have held a PhD for max 3 years
- Either host or nationality of applicant from member country
- Strong focus on applicants changing field, strict rules excluding PhD supervisor/former co-authors etc as host, no “routine projects”
- Duration: 3 years; last year may be spent in host/home/3rd country (reintegration); 2 years break possible for further PostDoc between years 2 and 3 of fellowship
- Living/research/travel/relocation allowance
- Former fellows can apply for Career Development Award (3 additional years, can be spent in home country or different HFSP member country, to start independent career)
- Next deadline 10th/24th August 2017
- [http://www hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships](http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships)

---

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website**

- [http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions](http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions)
- Horizon 2020
- Participant Portal (applications)
- …or email
- Alan Craig

---

**FEBS Young Scientists Forum**

- Satellite of FEBS annual Congress
- 2 ½ days before the main Congress
- Around 100 young scientists selected
- Poster or oral presentation
- Plenary lectures
- Careers workshop
- Award includes:
  - Accommodation for YSF and main Congress
  - Food during YSF
  - Registration for Congress
  - 80% of travel costs

---

... and last but not least!
FEBS Young Scientists Forum

• Jerusalem, Israel 7th to 10th September 2017
• Congress 10th to 14th September 2017
• Prague, Czech Republic, July 2018
  • Applications probably open late 2017/early 2018
• Eligibility:
  • Up to 35 years of age
  • PhD student or post-doc within 5 years of PhD
  • Working in FEBS country
  • Member of FEBS constituent society
• See http://www.febs.org/our-activities/young-scientists-forum/

Thanks to:

• Alain Krol
  • FEBS – chair of Fellowships Committee
  • email a.krol@ibmc-cnrs.unistra.fr
• David del Álamo Rodríguez
  • EMBO
  • email david.delalamo@embo.org
• Alan Craig
  • EU – MSCA
  • email Alan.CRAIG@ec.europa.eu