



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate T - Implementation of activities to outsource  
The Director

Brussels, 03. 03. 2009  
RTD.T/TL/sa D(2009) 513564

*Sent by e-mail only*

**Subject: Eligibility of Tuition Fees in Marie Curie Action Cost Statements in FP7**

Dear co-ordinator,

Tuition fees charged by universities for Early Stage Researchers (ESR) registered for Ph.D. studies generally cover a series of costs including student registration, access to student services (library, computing, etc.), teaching, supervision, examination and graduation (where appropriate).

In other terms, the costs covered by the tuition fees could be included in the categories of eligible expenses defined in the FP7 contractual rules, particularly those expenses indicated under columns E ("Contribution to the research training/transfer of knowledge programme expenses") and H ("Contribution to overheads") concerning the activities carried out by the host organisation and more marginally under column D ("Contribution to the participation expenses of eligible researchers") with regard to the activities carried out by the researcher.

Although the tuition fee is not a separate eligible cost category *per se*, the services provided through the tuition fee (training, tutoring, assistance, use of infrastructure and facilities, etc.) are eligible costs under the appropriate heading of the community financial contribution.

Such an approach implies several consequences with regard to Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN):

- The allowances under columns A, B, and C must be used entirely for the direct benefit of the fellow and no deductions for tuition fees are possible under any circumstances from these categories, nor can any additional payments be demanded directly or indirectly from the Fellow to cover his/her training costs;
- Services described in the training project (and reflected in the contract with the Commission) must effectively be provided to the Fellow whether or not these are covered by the tuition fees (training, tutoring, teaching, supervision, etc.). In cases where tuition fees are levied, the host institution must clearly identify which activities are included in the fees;

- No double payment for the same event or activity is permitted, i.e. expenses for other training or research activities will be considered eligible costs only if additional to those already covered by the tuition fees.

If the conditions mentioned above are met, the amount of the tuition fees could be charged under columns D, E and H of the Community financial contribution. However, it should be noted that the contribution under these columns is also intended for the payment of other costs that might not be covered by the tuition fees but to which the researchers are entitled (e.g. research costs, conference attendance, training actions not comprised in the tuition fees etc.).

In summary, the host must guarantee that once the costs linked to the tuition fees are paid, coverage will be provided for any other training activities as well as for the costs of the research project incurred by the fellow.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Lennon', written in black ink.

T. Lennon