



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIAMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Quick Guide for Applicants to the MedTrain+ Marie Skłodowska- Curie Fellowship Programme at CÚRAM

Call 2, 2023

Index:

1	CÚRAM MedTrain+ Programme.....	2
2	Eligibility Criteria.....	2
3	Selection of Fellows.....	2
3.1	Evaluation Criteria - Research Proposal	2
3.2	Evaluation Criteria - Interview.....	3
3.3	Overview of Selection Process.....	3
4	Application Templates for Call 2 (2023)	4
4.1	Online Forms.....	4
4.1.1	Application Registration, Title and Abstract, & Personal Details	4
4.1.2	Ethics	4
4.2	PDFs to Upload.....	4
4.2.1	Academic CV.....	4
4.2.2	Research Proposal	5



Co-funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Excellent Science programme under the MarieSkłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 101081457

1 CÚRAM MedTrain+ Programme

- MedTrain+ is a fellowship program at CÚRAM, SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices.
- Three-year fellowships to researchers in Medical Device Research and Development.
- Research areas include: Biomaterials and Drug Delivery Devices, MedTech AI, Machine Learning, Medical Imaging and Soft Robotics, Immunoengineering, Education and Public Engagement (EPE) and Science Advocacy Programmes.
- **The project must underpin Neuroscience as an area for research except for Education and Public Engagement (EPE) and Science Advocacy Programmes and Regulatory.**
- Enhance researchers' creativity, entrepreneurship, and innovation through advanced training and international and inter-sectoral mobility.
- Fellows will be based at one of ten CÚRAM academic organizations: [University of Galway \(GALWAY\)](#), [University College Dublin \(UCD\)](#), [The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland \(RCSI\)](#), [Trinity College Dublin \(TCD\)](#), [University of Limerick \(UL\)](#), [Dublin City University \(DCU\)](#), [Technological University of the Shannon \(TUS\)](#), [University College Cork \(UCC\)](#), [National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training \(NIBRT\)](#) and [Technological University Dublin \(TU Dublin\)](#).

2 Eligibility Criteria

- **In the detailed Guide for applicants.**

3 Selection of Fellows

Table 1: Evaluation criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Weightings
Research proposal	50%
Interview	50%

3.1 Evaluation Criteria - Research Proposal

Table 2: Proposal award criteria and sub-criteria.

Excellence	Impact	QEI
Ambitious and innovative research objectives beyond the current state of the art	Credible measures to enhance researcher's career prospects and skills development	Effective work plan, risk assessment, and appropriate allocation of efforts
Sound methodology, including interdisciplinary approaches and consideration of diversity aspects	Quality measures to maximize outcomes and impacts, as outlined in the dissemination and exploitation plan	High-quality host institutions and participating organizations, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the supervision, training, and the three-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher, the host & Secondment	Feasibility of secondment research ideas, timeline, and host suitability	Appropriate management structures and procedures, including risk management
Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competencies, skills with research Proposal, CURAM's relevance	Enhancement of the Irish medical devices industry	Potential for licensing or spin-out opportunities through the research
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		
1	2	3
Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i>		
An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score		



This project has received funding from Horizon Europe's Excellent Science programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action grant agreement No 101081457.

QEI: Quality and efficiency of the implementation

The evaluation process for the research proposals involves three criteria: "excellence," "impact," and "quality and efficiency of the implementation." Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5, with scores awarded by three independent experts (Peer-Review Panel) for each proposal.

Following is a breakdown of the scores and their corresponding descriptions:

0: Proposal fails, 1: Poor, 2: Fair, 3: Good, 4: Very Good, 5: Excellent.

The total score will be subject to a threshold of 70%. Weightings for Research proposal will be 50%.

3.2 Evaluation Criteria – Interview

- The candidates' interview process will be in English, either in person or via teleconferencing at mutually convenient times and methods.
- The panel will assess candidates based on the award criteria outlined in Table 3, using Marks as per weighting.
- Each candidate must deliver a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation titled: **“Research Proposal overview (with Gantt chart), Hands-On Experience & Gaps relevant to Research proposal and Career Trajectory”** of the candidate in alignment with the research proposal and fellowship opportunity. This will be followed by a 35-minute Questions and Answers session, as detailed in Table 3
- **Overall weightings for the Interview will be 50%.**

Table 3: Interview award criteria, sub-criteria, and scoring.

Level 1

Competencies (Knowledge, skills and behaviours)
Presentation & Communication skills [P & I]
Dissemination & Communicating research. Publications, Conferences, IP, Patents etc. [CV]
Ability to respond to questions raised by expert reviewers in the Evaluation Summary Report [I]
Discipline-specific knowledge of the research environment. [P, I, RP, CV]
Motivation and ambition are evaluated by the quality of the candidate's professional and career development plan. [P & I]
Overall Assessment

Level 2

Competencies (Knowledge, skills and behaviours)
Presentation and communication skills and ability to respond to questions raised by expert reviewers in the Evaluation Summary Report [P & I]
Dissemination & Communicating research. Publications, Conferences, IP, Patents etc. [CV]
Evidence of Grant Funding [CV & I]
Discipline-specific knowledge of the research environment. [P, I, RP, CV]
Motivation and ambition are evaluated by the quality of the candidate's professional and career development plan. [P & I]
Overall Assessment

3.3 Overview of the Selection Process



***Call & Timelines: Subject to change based on the participation of No of candidates.**

Figure 1: Overview of the selection process

4 Application Templates for Call 2 (2023)

- All applications for the MedTrain+ Fellowship Programme must be submitted via the [online application system](https://medtrainplus2023.exordo.com/login) (<https://medtrainplus2023.exordo.com/login>), which can be accessed from the MedTrain+ website (www.medtrainplus.eu).

4.1 Online Forms

4.1.1 Application Registration, Title & Abstract & Personal details

Before submitting an application, all applicants are required to register with the online system. To register, the candidate is required to enter the following details:

The candidate will be then asked to enter a password, which will be needed to log in on subsequent occasions.

After registration, the candidate can proceed with a) Title and Abstract: After selecting call 1 (in Step 1 'Track'), one needs to input the following information on the proposal (in Step 2 'Title & Abstract') b) Personal Details: The next (in Step 3*) will be prompted to enter your applicant details.

* Select a PI from within the list of research themes (in Step 4, 'Topics'). In case the candidate doesn't have the PI list, please reach out to medtrainplus@Curamdevices.ie

The candidate will be asked (in Step 5, 'Additional Info') to confirm you meet the research experience and mobility eligibility criteria. The candidate will then be required to upload your Academic CV.

4.1.2 Ethics

- Step 5, 'Additional Info', also includes the following ethics questions yes/no answers. If stated 'yes' to any of the questions, there are follow-up questions and sections for further information.
- In the final step (Step 6 'Paper'), you are required to upload your research proposal.

4.2 PDFs to Upload

4.2.1 Academic CV

- Maximum of 5 pages, including publications, Arial font, size 11.
- Includes details of academic and research records, explain gaps or unconventional paths.
- Includes information on publications, presentations, organization of conferences, research expeditions, patents, industrial innovation, prizes and awards, funding received, supervising and mentoring activities, and other relevant items.
- Professional experience (most recent first, with exact dates in format dd/mm/yyyy).
- Education, including PhD award date (most recent first, with exact dates in format: dd/mm/yyyy).

4.2.2 Research Proposal

- Maximum of 10 pages.
- Arial font, size 11 for the main text, size 10 for tables, font size 8 or 9 for literature references.
- Cover sheet (1 page) with applicant name, project title, and project summary (120-250 words).
- Project rationale, aims, and approach (approx. 3 pages) covering background, objectives, research methodology, originality, innovative aspects, gender dimension, diversity aspects, and interdisciplinary aspects.
- Implementation (3-4 pages) with work plan, deliverables, milestones, allocation of tasks and resources, potential risks, contingency plans.
- Career development (1-2 pages) including personal career development plan, immediate and long-term.
- Career goals, acquisition of new knowledge and skills, relevance to employment outside academia
- Secondment (approx. half a page) describing the secondment organization's capacity, gaining knowledge/skills, knowledge sharing
- Sections on excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of implementation, evaluating specific aspects related to the project's objectives, open science practices, supervision and training, the impact of the fellowship and research, career perspectives and employability, and contribution to expected impacts
- Host institutions and participating organizations section discussing hosting arrangements and integration of the researcher in the team

Please refer to a detailed Guide for applicants, which captures detailed aspects of the application.