



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowship Applications

The International Centre for Reproductive Health (Department of Public Health & Primary Care, Ghent University, Belgium) invites expressions of interest for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowship applications for the **September 2019** deadline. Selected candidates will receive mentorship from ICRH in applying for an Individual Fellowship based at their premises.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) is a multidisciplinary research centre operating within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Ghent University. It is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on Sexual and Reproductive Health, directed by Prof. Dr. Olivier Degomme. ICRH is one of the largest academic units of its kind in Europe and enjoys a high-level profile both nationally and internationally.

As an academic institution, ICRH's activities revolve around three axes of research, capacity building and service delivery. Within these activities, ICRH's topical focus covers: (1) contraception, maternal and newborn health, (2) interpersonal violence, (3) harmful cultural practices, and (4) sexually transmitted infections (i.e. human papillomavirus, HIV). ICRH orients its focus towards the sexual and reproductive needs and rights of adolescents, migrants, and other vulnerable populations.

ICRH was established by Prof. Marleen Temmerman in 1994 in response to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, Cairo, 1994), where reproductive rights were strongly put on the international agenda. In the ICPD Programme of Action, signing governments agreed to provide universal access to family planning, SRH services and reproductive rights. Women's equality and empowerment were defined as global priorities. It is with these goals in mind that, over the past 20 years, ICRH has provided extensive technical assistance to national and international departments of health in the fields of HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections/diseases (STIs/STDs), barrier methods, family planning, maternal and neonatal, harmful traditional practices, and sexual and gender-based violence.



MSCA INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) aim to enhance the career development and training of researchers through international and intersectoral mobility.

ICRH will support European Fellowships, which:

- are open to researchers moving within Europe, as well as those coming in from other parts of the world
- can restart a research career after a break, such as parental leave
- can help researchers coming back to Europe find a new position
- last for one to two years

The Fellowship provides an allowance to cover living, travel and family costs. In addition, the EU contributes to the training, networking and research costs of the fellow, as well as to the management and indirect costs of the project. The grant is awarded to the host organisation.

The Ghent University is experienced at hosting Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (see: <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/research-ugent/trackrecord/trackrecord-h2020/msca-h2020>).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- Be postdoctoral researchers of any nationality (applicants need a doctoral degree or at least four years' full-time research experience by the time of the call deadline);
- Not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Belgium for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline, unless the exceptions below apply;
- Be available to attend the free Master Class for MSCA-IF candidates at the Ghent University from 7-9 May 2019. More information <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/postdoc/msca-masterclass.htm>.

All research areas can be funded. ICRH engages in multidisciplinary research related to sexual and reproductive health. While all proposals are welcome, ICRH is particularly interested in research related to SRH policy development and/or implementation and/or maternal health.

ICRH welcomes applications from highly competitive candidates with some post doctoral research experience and will give preference to applicants with 10 or more journal publications.

Exceptions to the general mobility rule:

- For the IF Career Restart Panel or Reintegration Panel, researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity in Belgium for more than three years in the five years immediately before the reference date.
 - For the reintegration panel, there must be direct mobility to the country of the beneficiary in Europe from a third country (compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account).



- For the career restart panel, researchers must not have been active in research for a continuous period of at least 12 months within the 18 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission.
- For IF European Fellowships (EF) Reintegration Panel: the researchers must be nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries. Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries of at least 5 consecutive years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of interest should be sent via email to Dr. Katrina Perehudoff (katrina.perehudoff@ugent.be) and be received by **7 March 2019**. Applications should include:

- a cover letter explaining how the candidate satisfies the eligibility criteria;
- an up-to-date CV including a publications list; and
- an one-page overview of the research proposal (half page), and the candidate's motivation for choosing ICRH at the Ghent University (half page).

Following the deadline, selected candidates will be invited to apply to the free Master Class for MSCA-IF applicants (deadline 11 March 2019). If selected, travel and accommodation funding (maximum 1000 EUR per participant) will be provided for candidates to attend the MSCA-IF Master Class is from 7-9 May 2019 at the Ghent University. Throughout the application phase, ICRH will provide mentorship and coaching.