

ADMIRE MSCA-COFUND: *Advanced Materials Research Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme*

Call 2 Candidate Briefing

February 2022

HOST INSTITUTION



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Contents

- About ADMIRE and AMBER
- About MSCA
- Pay, living / working conditions, career development
- How to apply
- The review process, evaluation criteria
- Help / tips on proposal development



AMBER



ADMIRE Advanced Materials
Postdoctoral Fellowships

A Marie Skłodowska-
Curie **COFUND Action**,
hosted by AMBER

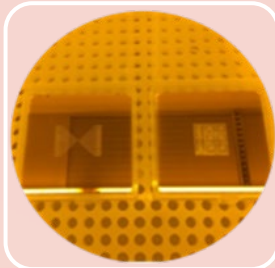
ADMIRE will fund at least **12
Postdoctoral Fellowships** of
24 months, awarded over
two calls for proposals

Call 2 will see 5
Fellows appointed

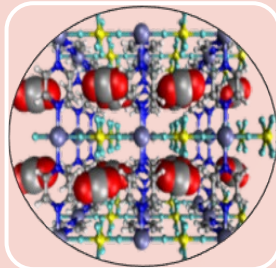
Support the **next generation of research leaders in
Europe in Advanced Materials Science**, facilitating high
quality research while providing opportunities to develop
skills and flexibility for an independent career in their field
of research, in academia or industry



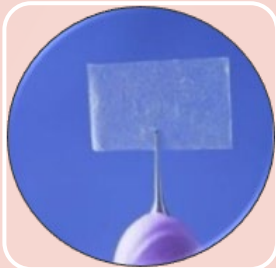
Research themes



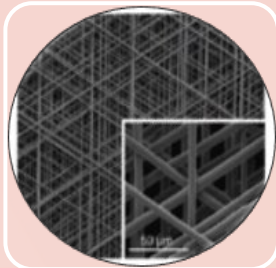
Materials for
ICT



Materials for
Energy



Materials for
Health



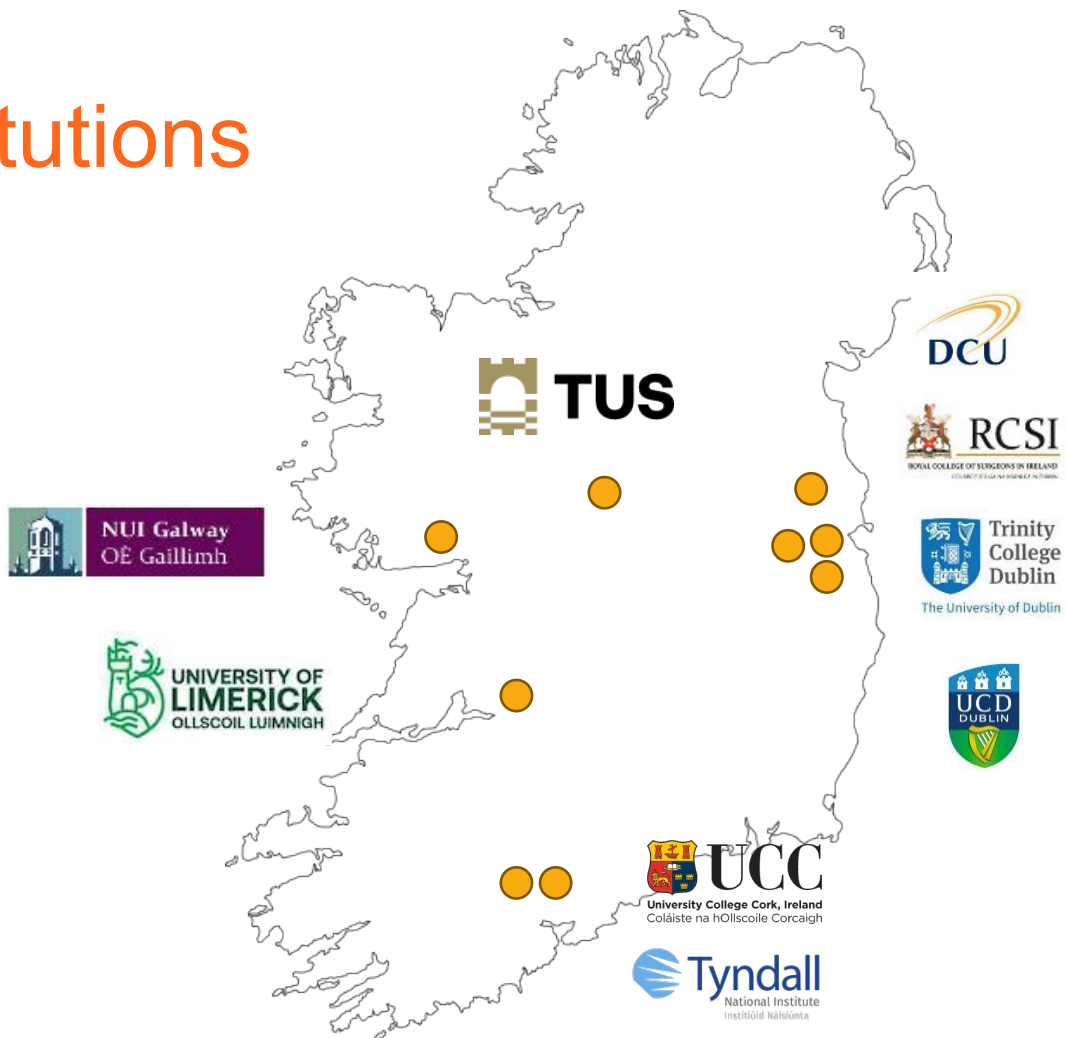
Engineered
Functional
Materials



Sustainable
Materials
and
Technologies



Host Institutions



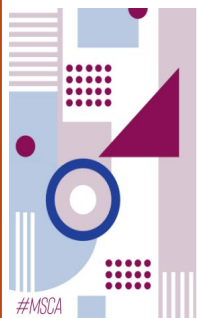
Key dates

Call Launch	01 February 2022
Candidate Information Webinar	28 February 2022
Application deadline	01 May 2022
Remote review	May - June 2022
Interviews*	June - July 2022
Awards*	August 2022
Anticipated employment start*	From October 2022

*These dates are tentative and may be subject to change



MSCA and COFUND



MSCA
INDIVIDUAL
FELLOWSHIPS
2020



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are bottom-up – any field, any supervisor, any host



ADMIRE Fellowships are co-funded by us – we limit the field, supervisors and host to the AMBER partners

- Review process based on IF, designed to be equitable and independent
- Addition of an interview stage, with independent panel member
- Eligible supervisors are AMBER PIs & FIs on SFI approved list on call launch
- New dedicated project manager to support Supervisors and Fellows



The award

See **Section 6**
of the *Guide*
for Applicants

- 2 year employment contract, fully funded by AMBER SFI grant and the EU
- Specific-purpose to execution of proposed project, reporting to named supervisor, at supervisor's institute
- Salary (indicative):
 - €43,100 living allowance + €6,500 mobility allowance + €5,400 family allowance
 - **Approximately €49,600 gross salary** without dependents, extra for families
- Net pay higher than usual; no pension applied to mobility/family allowances
- Budget for research costs: €10,500 per year (*€875 per month*)
- Centrally managed training programme



Working conditions

- You will be a contract researcher within the host institution
- Contract will outline duties and responsibilities **and** rights and entitlements as an employee
- Able to access appropriate local (institutional) and national supports (e.g., health services, employee assistance)
- More (general) details on working in Ireland:
 - euraxess.ie (Ireland's national euraxess portal)
 - citizensinformation.ie (Irish Government website on rights and entitlements)



Career Development

- Personal Career Development Plan
- Secondary supervision / mentoring
- Intersectoral / interdisciplinary exposure
- Centrally run training programme
 - Pathways to Funding
 - Winter school (AMBER January conference)
 - Will align with concurrent programmes – CDT, EngSurf Twinning Project, RISE



Application process

- All applications must be submitted online through <https://admire-msca.grantplatform.com/>
- Deadline for applications is 01 May 2022, 18:00 UTC
- Application includes 5 sections:
 - Applicant information; project description; proposal documents (uploads); ethics self-assessment; eligibility self assessment

See **Section 5**
of the *Guide for Applicants*

More guidance
is also found in
Appendix I and
Appendix II



Candidate and Application Eligibility

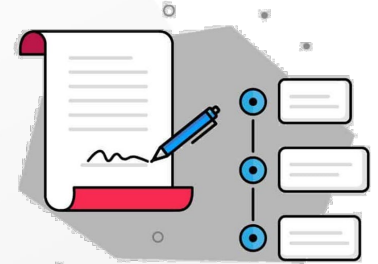
See **Section 4**
of the *Guide*
for *Applicants*

- On 01 May 2022, applicants must:
 - Be experienced researchers: **have completed a PhD**, or have **4 years equivalent experience**
 - Have spent **less than 12 months of the previous 36 in Ireland**
- Submit a complete proposal, following templates, including Applicant information; project description; proposal documents (uploads); ethics self-assessment; eligibility self assessment
- Proposal and interview in English
- Non-EU researchers will have permission to work under Hosting Agreement scheme



Application requirements

- 8-page proposal (plus title page and Gantt chart)
 - 3 sections: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- 5-page CV
- Ethics self-assessment and statement
- Templates and evaluation criteria published in *Guide for Applicants*



Please pay attention to formatting instructions!



Evaluation: Remote Review

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
	Sub-criteria	
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects.	Potential of Fellowship to enhance the future career prospects of the Fellow	Coherence & effectiveness of the work plan.
Appropriateness of individual training objectives, industry engagement and secondment	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks & resources
Appropriateness of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution, integration with AMBER mission and research themes	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk/data management
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence		
	Criterion Weighting	
50%	30%	20%
	Priority in case of ex aequo	
1	2	3



Evaluation: Interview

Motivation	Research experience and potential for growth	Convincing implementation and long-term career plan
Sub-criteria		
Researcher's motivation for the project; consideration of novelty, inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects.	Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence	Coherence & effectiveness of the work plan and capacity of the researcher to execute the plan at the host institute
Appropriate inclusion of industry engagement and secondment	Capacity of the researcher to exploit and disseminate project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks & resources
Motivation and capacity to integrate in the host and engage with the AMBER mission	Capacity of the researcher to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk/data management
		Coherence of long-term career plan
Criterion Weighting		
50%	30%	20%
Priority in case of ex aequo		
1	2	3



Scoring and weighting

- Minimum thresholds and an overall weighted score of 70% will apply

- **Thresholds:**

- Excellence: 3.5 / 5.0
- Impact: 3.5 / 5.0
- Implementation: 3.5 / 5.0

1	Poor: does not comply with the requirements contained by the criterion
2	Fair: complies with the requirements contained by the criterion partially or just generally
3	Good: complies generally with the requirements contained by the criterion, there are still strong deficiencies
4	Very good: complies with the requirements contained by the criterion, still there are few deficiencies
5	Excellent: strongly complies with the all requirements, any deficiencies of the application are just minor ones



Some key messages

- Read instructions carefully!
- Make sure your proposal follows the template and addresses all assessment criteria
- Make sure your CV is complete – gaps are permitted but should be explained to make sure eligibility can be determined
- If an ethics statement is required, be as clear as possible



Tips and Guidance

- MSCA PF applicants can submit to our call as well, with a few tweaks
- Anyone who moved to Ireland to since May 2021 can apply
- Applicant is under review, not supervisor: you must show personal motivation for project
- Career development, career potential, are important parts of proposal
- Industry engagement: secondment will strengthen proposal but definite arrangement not required; describe potential interaction, how it will benefit work, alignment with AMBER objectives and portfolio
- Understand open access, data management: use AMBER team for advice
- The process is designed to be independent of AMBER management.
- Be realistic about what you have in your labs, living conditions in your area: no surprises when they arrive



Useful References

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

- EURAXESS Mobility Portal

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

Check out the links in **Section 7** of the *Guide for Applicants!*



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in @ambercentreireland

FUNDED BY:

