

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA-PF)

Seal of Excellence

Internal call for Expression of Interest 2026 (MSCA-PF SoE 2026)

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1. Aim of the Action

The Action is promoted within the framework of the 2022-2027 University of Trento Strategic Plan, in particular of the Action aimed at strengthening the research quality of individual researchers.

The Action will offer a two-year research contract at UniTrento, at the Department/Center identified in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA PF) 2025 proposal, to researchers who:

- submitted a proposal to the Horizon Europe MSCA-PF call 2025 with UniTrento as host institution, and
- have been awarded the Seal of Excellence¹, and
- were scored not more than 2/100 below the panel cut off score for funding of the specific Evaluation Panel² in the MSCA-PF call 2025.

The two-year research contract will be aimed at implementing the research activity indicated in the submitted MSCA-PF project proposal.

The budget devoted to the 2026 call will allow to support maximum one MSCA-PF SoE research contract for 2 years.

2. Eligible applicants

The internal selection is addressed to eligible Postdoc Applicants who:

- submitted a proposal to the Horizon Europe MSCA-PF call 2025 with UniTrento as Host Institution and have been awarded the Seal of Excellence;
- have been scored not more than 2/100 below the specific panel cut off score for funding;
- are eligible according to the MSCA-PF 2025 eligibility rules (including mobility rule and number of years after the award of the first Phd);
- meet the requirements set forth in the University Regulation n. 1161 of 30 September 2025 “Regolamento unico per il conferimento di contratti di ricerca, incarichi post-doc e incarichi di ricerca di cui agli artt. 22, 22 bis e 22 ter l. 240/2010”.

¹ The Seal of Excellence is a quality label awarded to proposals submitted to Horizon Europe – MSCA-PF which scored 85% or higher in the assessment and could not be funded due to a lack of budget.

² The EC evaluation Panel that evaluated the MSCA PF proposal and indicated a final score in the Evaluation Summary Report. The Panels cut off scores are published in page dedicated to the MSCA PF 2025 call in the EU F&T portal.

3. Submission

The eligible Applicant must submit the following documentation:

- An Expression of interest, signed by the Applicant, the Supervisor of the MSCA-PF 2025 proposal and the Director of the Department/Center where the research activity will take place (see the template in the application form);
- A Declaration of compliance with the University Regulation n. 1161 of 30 September 2025 “Regolamento unico per il conferimento di contratti di ricerca, incarichi post-doc e incarichi di ricerca di cui agli artt. 22, 22 bis e 22 ter l. 240/2010” (see the template in the application form).

Applications must be submitted in PDF format using the attached application form and sent to the following email address: research.support@unitn.it, within **May 4th 2026 at 12:00 PM (noon)**.

Please specify in the email subject: UniTrento MSCA_SoE2026_name and surname of the applicant_Name of the Department/Center.

For further information and/or clarifications, please contact the research office: research.support@unitn.it.

4. Evaluation procedure

In accordance with the aims and the objectives of the Seal of Excellence - MSCA, a ranking of eligible applications will be made based on the scores already assigned by the European Commission as indicated in the Evaluation Summary Report of the projects. Only applications that scored not more than 2/100 below the specific panel cut off score for funding in the MSCA-PF call 2025 will be considered eligible for funding. An internal Evaluation Commission, composed by at least three University Professors, one for each ERC scientific domain, will select one proposal to be funded according to evaluation criteria established by the Commission itself.

The secretary of the Committee will be identified among the staff of the Research Support Division. The Research Support Division will communicate the outcome of the assessment within 45 days after the call deadline.

In the event of a successful selection, the activation of the research contract must also be approved by the Departmental Board (or Center Board) where the research activity will take place.

5. Funding

The MSCA Seal of Excellence funding covers the costs for a research contract (according to the University Regulation n. 1161 of 30 September 2025 “Regolamento unico per il conferimento di contratti di ricerca, incarichi post-doc e incarichi di ricerca di cui agli artt. 22, 22 bis e 22 ter l. 240/2010”) and a budget for research expenses. The gross annual remuneration for the research contract is around € 28.500,00, plus a

total budget for the research expenses of € 5.000,00. The contract will be terminated in case of any funding granted by the European Commission to the Applicant.

6. Reporting

The funded Applicant will have to promptly communicate any changes in the research activity compared to the submitted MSCA PF 2025 proposal.

The funded Applicant will have to submit a final report within 30 days after the end of the project, that should detail the activities developed and the corresponding expenses incurred.

7. Public access to documents

The call and all the related documents will be published at the webpage [Bandi interni](#).

8. Personal data

Personal data processed by the University of Trento in the management of this call will be treated in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation or 'GDPR'), national legislation (Legislative Decree June 30, 2003, No. 196, Code on the protection of personal data), and the guidelines and practices established by the Data Protection Authority and the European Data Protection Board. The University's Privacy Statement is available in the Application Form (attachment 1 to the call).

Attachment 1: Application form