

# How To Survive a MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Application?



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# Hosting Experience under MCA/MSCA

- **During FP7 (2007-2013), KU hosted 37 MCA projects, mostly incoming and outgoing fellowships**
- **At the end of H2020 (2014-2020), KU was the most active Turkish university in MSCA, with 19 IF hostings, 1 ITN and 1 RISE participation**
- **February 2021: KU received the «HR Excellence in Research» award**
- **October 2021: Supported 10 MSCA-PF applications, 2 got funded**
- **July 2022: Gender Equality Plan forthcoming**



# Some Koç University advantages

- **Excellent research infrastructures**
- **Depending on your topic, and the research group you will be integrated with, there are training and knowledge development opportunities**
- **SRO helps you map these opportunities and talk about them in your Part B**
- **HRS4R and KUGEP**
- **Experienced research support offices (SRO & TTO)**
- **HR support for funded fellows**
- **ESR analysis**
- **Special guidance for «Implementation» (Gantt Chart samples, etc); feedback for «Excellence» & «Impact»**
- **TUBITAK's proposal development support!**



# How to Navigate?

- **STEP ZERO:** Are you even eligible?
- **STEP ONE:** Find a supervisor!
- **STEP TWO:** Once a KU Faculty is on board, contact SRO!  
([sro@ku.edu.tr](mailto:sro@ku.edu.tr))
- **STEP THREE:** Review our document package! (will contain bonus content)
- **STEP FOUR:** Meet with your SRO officer online!
- **STEP FIVE:** Develop your Part B!
  - ⌚ We provide content to integrate KU strengths. Give feedback to your drafts.
  - ⌚ Collaborate with your supervisor, you need their input.
- **STEP SIX:** Prepare Part A and electronic submission! (we will do it together)
- **STEP SEVEN:** Do not forget to press «submit»! (believe us it happens)



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# Common Weaknesses of Proposals



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## COMMENTARY ON MSCA INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS (OLD SCHEME) & POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (NEW SCHEME) EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT (ESR) DOCUMENTS

prepared by  
***KOÇ UNIVERSITY SPONSORED RESEARCH OFFICE***

**Update on this document:** 28.04.2022, v.2

### **Introductory note:**

In this brief we are summarizing some of the common “weaknesses” stated in Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs) for KU’s MSCA-IF and MSCA-PF applications. Please note that “Individual Fellowships” was the previous funding scheme (2014-2020) where researchers from all career levels were eligible. Under the new scheme titled “Postdoctoral Fellowships” (2021-2027), researchers with “younger” PhDs (awarded no more than 8 years before the call deadline) are eligible. Therefore, there is an important difference in the way IFs and PFs are reviewed. We made sure the commentaries do not reveal the identities of the candidates. Criticisms can be categorized into two general headings: Institutional and individual. As of April 2022, we only have ESRs at hand from 10 PF applications, 2 funded, 8 rejected, only a small sample.



# Common Weaknesses of Proposals

- **Two-way knowledge transfer**
- **Skill development**
- **Compile best info on KU**
- **How would you integrate with your research group?**
- **Rigorous workplan (work packages, milestones, deliverables, Gantt Chart etc)**
- **Dissemination, exploitation, open science**
- **Be careful about gender dimension!**