

ALECS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

2018 Call

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



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History of Changes			
Version	Publication date	Change	Page
1.0	06.02.2018	Initial version	



General Queries:

How many fellowships are available?

The ALECS programme will fund 26 fellowships in total. Currently, it is planned to recruit fellows over two calls for proposals each awarding up to 13 fellowships. If there are unfilled fellowships, future call for proposals will be published.

Can I apply for a PhD under this fellowship scheme?

No. Applicants must be 'Experienced Researchers', as per the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) definition, who shall at the call deadline (22/02/2018) possess a doctoral degree (i.e. PhD degree) or have at least four years full-time equivalent research experience.

Where can I get support during the application process?

Should you have any queries or should you require assistance at any stage, please contact the ALECS programme management team alecs@lero.ie or call 00 353 61 233 637.

I already have an application submitted for another MSCA fellowship, can still I apply for an ALECS fellowship?

Yes. If you are successful in both applications, you would only be able to accept one of the awards as a researcher cannot benefit from two Marie Curie grants at the same time. Please inform the ALECS programme management team if you no longer want to participate in the programme.

What are the programme's research themes?

The ALECS research themes are associated with Lero's research remit. There are four broad themes:

- Methods and standards for high integrity systems
- Autonomous and adaptive systems
- Software performance
- Security and privacy

Applicants have the freedom to choose their individual research project. However, the research topic must be aligned with the prospective academic supervisor research interests and the programme's research themes.

If you are interested in applying for an ALECS fellowship, but you are unsure whether your proposed research topic falls under the programme's research umbrella, please contact an ALECS academic supervisor whose research interests is aligned with your research topic for clarification.

What is the deadline for the application submission?

The deadline for the first call for proposals is 22nd February 2018 (23:59 GMT).

What are the salary and other financial supports?

Fellows will receive the gross salaries per annum (living and mobility allowance are included):

- Fellow with family: €45,400
- Fellow without family: €40,000

Please note that the salaries will be liable for taxes and/or other deductions. Information on Irish taxation can be found at the Office of Revenue Commissioners [website](#).



Contributions towards the cost of conducting the research (e.g. towards consumables, travel) and towards the management and training/development activities will be provided by the ALECS programme.

Who is eligible for a family allowance?

The programme will apply the family definition as in the MSCA Work Programme 2016-2017:

Family is defined as persons linked to the fellow by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the fellow. Qualification for this allowance is at the time of recruitment.

What is the duration of the fellowship?

The fellowships will have an overall two-year duration, which includes the research project and the mandatory secondment.

Eligibility Queries:

I am not an EU citizen, can I still apply?

Yes. Applicants may be of any nationality provided they comply with the programme's mobility requirements.

Is there an age limit for candidates applying for an ALECS Fellowship?

There is no age limit. Applicants must only meet the programme's eligibility criteria outlined [here](#).

I don't have a PhD, can I apply?

Yes, provided you have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate; even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged. Please contact the ALECS programme management team alecs@lero.ie if require clarification.

Examples include: researchers who have been working on their PhD for at least four years and are near completion, and those who have four years of full-time experience in research which might be in academia and/or in industry.

How can I calculate full-time equivalent research experience?

All research undertaken after the researcher has gained a university degree/diploma giving them access to doctoral studies (the degree/diploma must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies without having to acquire any further qualifications) can be counted as postgraduate research experience.

Research experience in an organisation where research activity was only part of the applicant's duties will only be counted as partial contributions.

How will you confirm my eligibility?

On application, you will be required to complete Part A- Administrative information and Part C- curriculum form to demonstrate you meet the eligibility criteria. Please ensure that the experience listed on your CV matches the mobility and experience information supplied.

Prior to the start of the fellowship, applicants may be required to provide evidence of the qualifications listed on their application (e.g. original certificates), proof of identity and any other relevant documentation (e.g. evidence of compliance with eligibility and mobility requirements, English proficiency, etc.). Where information cannot be verified if requested or where information provided by the applicant is found to be incorrect, the ALECS programme reserves the right to eliminate the candidate from the selection process or withdraw the award.



Application Queries:

How can I submit my application?

Applications must be submitted via the “Ex-Ordo” online application system, which can be accessed from the ALECS [website](#). Please see the online application system guide available at <http://alecs.lero.ie/application-documents/>.

If you have any difficulties in registering/log in or in submitting an application, please contact the ALECS programme management team (alecs@lero.ie) as soon as possible.

In exceptional circumstances hardcopy or email applications may be accepted (e.g. researchers displaced by conflict).

Do I need to submit supportive documentation as evidence of the fulfilment of the requirements of the call (e.g. PhD certificate, academic transcripts...)?

No, this documentation is not needed at the application submission stage. You may be asked to show evidence at a future date (e.g. at the interview stage, prior to the start of the fellowship).

In what language should the applications be submitted?

Only applications written in English will be accepted. All application documentation must be in English.

Is it possible to update my application or to submit additional material/information after the call deadline?

No, it is not possible to submit additional material or information after the call deadline, unless specifically requested to do so by the ALECS programme management team.

Do I need to agree an industry secondment with a company and/or get a letter of support prior to/at the application stage?

- As part of the ALECS fellowship, fellows will undertake a secondment to the non-academic sector (e.g. industry) of 3-6 months duration which may be undertaken in Ireland or abroad. **You must include a secondment period (either planned or agreed) in your proposal.** The secondment may be undertaken in a single period or split into shorter periods.
- The secondment must be relevant to the fellow’s research project and to his/her career development.
- If fully agreed, you should provide the specific details for the secondment.
- If the secondment is not agreed – you should provide general details (e.g. type of organisation, proposed duration, timing and technical objective).
- **It is not mandatory to specify the exact secondment and the secondment supervisor at the application stage. Therefore, the proposal will not be penalised if the secondment has not been fully agreed.**

If my application is unsuccessful can I reapply?

Yes, we would encourage unsuccessful applications to reapply in future calls.

For further queries:

Should you have any queries/should you require clarification, please contact the ALECS programme management team alecs@lero.ie or call 00 353 61 233 637.