SyMeCo

Frequently Asked Questions

Call 1

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1 GENERAL QUERIES

What is the deadline for applications?

The call 1 deadline is the 3rd of October 2023, 23:59 (GMT).

How many fellowships are available?

Up to 16 fellowships will be awarded in the first call for proposals. If there are unfilled fellowships, future calls will be published.

What is the duration of the fellowship?

The fellowship will have a two-year duration, including the research project and the secondment period.

Can I apply for a PhD position under the SyMeCo fellowship programme?

No, SyMeCo is a fellowship for postdoctoral researchers.

**Where can I get support during the application process?**

Don't hesitate to get in touch with SyMeCo at **symeco@lero.ie.**

I am submitting (or already have submitted) an application for another Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. Can I still apply for a SyMeCo fellowship?

Yes. However, if you are successful in both applications, you can only accept one of the awards, as a researcher cannot simultaneously benefit from two Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants. Please inform SyMeCo if you want to withdraw your application or no longer want to participate in the programme.

What are the programme's research themes?

There are **3 broad research themes**: **Sy**stems, **Me**thods, and **Co**ntext, as shown in the figure below.
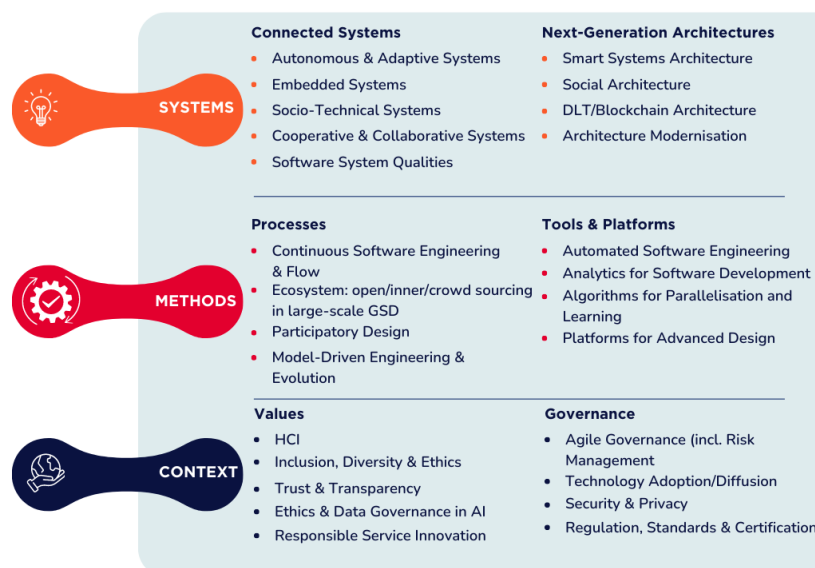
As an applicant, you have the **freedom to choose your own research project**. However, it is important to ensure that your research topic aligns with the programme's research themes and the interests of an eligible supervisor. Before applying, you must discuss your research idea and proposal and seek the support of an **eligible supervisor** for your application.

If you are considering applying for a SyMeCo fellowship but are uncertain if your proposal topic fits within the programme's research scope, please **contact us**. We would be delighted to discuss this further with you.

What are the salary and other financial supports? Who is eligible for the family allowance?

The **total gross salary** awarded to fellows will be **€50,124 per annum (without family allowance)** and **€56,604 per annum (with family allowance)**. SyMeCo will apply family definition as indicated in the **MSCA WP 2021-2022**: 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 or region where this relationship was formalised, or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the fellow. Supporting documentation to confirm eligibility for the family allowance may be requested.

The salaries received will be liable for taxes and/or other deductions which may vary from host institution to institution. Information on Irish taxation can be found on the **Office of Revenue Commissioners website**. Compliance with Irish law and national regulations on taxation will be a matter for resolution between the fellow, the host institution and the Irish Revenue Commissioners.

In addition, **SyMeCo will provide contributions towards the cost of conducting the fellowship, such as consumables, travel and training and career development activities.**

2 ELIGIBILITY QUERIES

I'm not an EU citizen. Can I still apply?

Yes. As a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship programme, applicants may be of any nationality as long as they meet the programme's eligibility criteria.

Is there an age limit for candidates applying for a SyMeCo Fellowship?

No.

How will SyMeCo confirm my eligibility?

You must submit Part A- Administrative Information and Part C- CV as part of your application. Please ensure that the research experience, qualifications and the details regarding the location of your work/study from 03/10/2020 to 03/10/2023 provided are correct.

During Stage 1 – Eligibility Check, all applications will be checked for completeness and eligibility using the details provided in the application documents received.

Before 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, SyMeCo reserves the right to eliminate the candidate from the evaluation and selection process or withdraw the award.

3   APPLICATION QUERIES

How can I submit my application?

Applications must be submitted via the online application system, which can be accessed from the SyMeCo website.

SyMeCo will support applications from those displaced by conflict or whose situation makes it difficult to pursue research careers. Applicants who are at risk/displaced by conflict and might require alternative submission arrangements are encouraged to discuss the support available to them with SyMeCo. In certain circumstances, applications submitted in hard copy may be accepted. However, alternative arrangements must be agreed upon with SyMeCo before the call deadline.

Please see the online application system guide available **here**. If you have any difficulties registering/logging in or submitting an application, please contact **symeco@lero.ie.**

At the application stage, do I need to submit supportive documentation as evidence of fulfilling the eligibility criteria or requirements of the call (e.g. PhD certificate, academic transcripts, etc.)?

No, this documentation is not needed at the application submission stage. You may be asked to show such evidence at a future date.

Do I need to submit a letter from an eligible supervisor to confirm their support for my application?

A letter of support will not be required. SyMeCo will check with the supervisor directly if they have supported your application.

In what language should the application and the documentation be submitted?

Only applications and documentation written in English will be accepted.

Can I update my application or 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 by SyMeCo.

At the application stage, do I need to have the secondment finalised? Do I need to get a letter of support from the secondment organisation?

No. The secondment plans must be included in the research proposal, but it is not mandatory to specify the precise secondment host at the time of application. If fully agreed, you should provide the specific details for the secondment (host organisation, timing,

duration and technical objective). If not agreed, you should provide general details (type of organisation, timing, duration and technical objective).

Where it is not possible for applicants and prospective supervisors to finalise the exact secondment host at the application stage, applicants should outline the type of organisation that they wish to be seconded to, specifying the sector. On commencing their fellowship, successful applicants will be assisted in finalising a specific secondment host by their supervisor and the Lero Business Development Manager.

A letter of support from the secondment organisation will not be required at the application stage.

If my application is unsuccessful, can I reapply?

Yes, SyMeCo would encourage resubmissions which have received support from an eligible supervisor.

Should you require clarification or have any queries, please contact SyMeCo at [symeco@lero.ie.](mailto:symeco@lero.ie)