

STAR: Sensing and Sensibility – Transcending Disciplines for a Responsible Future

Overview: The University of Siegen now has received funding from Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) COFUND as part of Horizon 2020, the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. As a research and training programme, STAR supports the education, mobility and career development of experienced scientists. Over a period of 5 years, and two calls, 20 excellent researchers will be supported with their own innovative research project. Eligible candidates can choose between two different mobility options, INCOMING and OUTGOING.

INCOMING: A total of 12 researchers will be funded to spend their research stay of 24 months, at a chair of the University of Siegen.

OUTGOING: A total of 8 researchers will be funded for a maximum duration of 36 months. In an initial outgoing phase, researchers will spend 12-24 months at a STAR partner organization outside Germany (worldwide). The individual research training project will be completed in a mandatory phase of 12 months at a chair of the University of Siegen.

Interested researchers must apply with a research idea of their own, which must be in line with one of the 7 [profile areas](#) of the University of Siegen:

1. Digital and Media Culture
2. Inclusive Society and Social Living Spaces
3. Regional Economy in globalized world
4. Responsive Sensor Technologies
5. Smart Materials and Manufacturing
6. Individualized Health Care
7. Fundamental Interactions and Particles

Admission requirements: Scientists who are already a permanently employed with the University of Siegen, or a partner institution (outgoing or secondment host) where a research stay is planned, **cannot** be funded. In addition, the following admission criteria apply:

- **Experienced scientists:** Applicants must either have completed their doctorate or show at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience at the date of the STAR-call deadline.
- **Mobility rule:** Experienced researchers who meet the following mobility requirements are eligible for application: Applicants cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) for more than 12 months within the last 3 years immediately prior to the STAR call deadline in the country of the host institution. This rule refers for INCOMINGS to Germany; for OUTGOINGS it refers to the country (outside Germany) where the initial outgoing phase takes place. For candidates with a career break of at least 12 consecutive months in the 18 months prior to the deadline for applications, a relaxed mobility rule is applied. Here the above principle applies as follows: "...no more than 3 years within the last 5 years directly..."
- **Nationality:** For applicants of the INCOMING variant no restrictions apply. For OUTGOING applicants where the initial outgoing phase takes place in an EU member state or in a Horizon 2020 associated country ([see here](#)) no restrictions apply. However, if the initial outgoing phase takes place in a third country (neither EU member state nor Horizon 2020 associated country), special rules apply.

Calls, application and selection procedures: A total of 2 calls for proposals will be issued presumably in October/November 2020 and October/November 2021 and will be open for at least 2 months. In the course of each call for proposals 10 scientists are to be funded (6 INCOMING and 4 OUTGOING). Applicants need a letter of support from each participating supervisor (chair holder at the University of Siegen + partner institution). Applications will be evaluated and assessed in an independent, two-stage procedure (international peer review + personal interview if necessary).

Employment contract and remuneration: All researchers recruited via STAR are employed and paid by the University of Siegen as full-time employees with all social benefits (health insurance, pension scheme, unemployment insurance, etc.). The monthly salary (employer's gross salary) is made up of the following components:

- **Living Allowance:** 4880,- EUR. The Living Allowance is corrected by a country correction factor depending on the country of the host institution (short-term research stays are not taken into account).

- **Mobility Allowance:** 600,- EUR
- **Family Allowance:** 500,- EUR. Researchers are eligible who have at least one of the following family obligations at the time of the STAR application deadline: a) married, b) relationship with equivalent status to marriage, or c) dependent children.

The employer's gross contribution will not fall below a minimum of EUR 3836,-EUR. The net salary is calculated after deduction of employer and employee contributions to social security, taxes, etc.

- **Research costs:** In order to carry out the individual projects, each researcher receives up to 800,- EUR/month for additional research and training costs (e.g. for material, consumables, travel, networking, publications, visas, etc.). Unused funds can be postponed to the following months if necessary.

Partner organisations: The following partner organisations (usually only individual chairs or research and development departments are involved) are already part of the programme:

Partner organisation	Country	Academic
IBM Research GmbH	Switzerland	N
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	Y
University of Leeds	United Kingdom	Y
Testia GmbH	Germany	N
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne	Switzerland	Y
Stanford University	USA	Y
Institut für Mittelstandsforschung	Germany	Y
Wölfel Engineering GmbH	Germany	N
Monash University	Australia	Y
Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin	Germany	Y
Interuniversitair Micro-Electronica Centrum	Belgium	Y
omp software GmbH	Germany	N
Weizmann Institute of Science	Israel	Y
University of Hyderabad	India	Y
Technical University of Catalunya	Spain	Y
Jönköping University	Sweden	Y
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron	Germany	Y
Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam	Netherlands	Y
Cornell University	USA	Y
European Alternatives	Germany, Italy, France	N
University College London	United Kingdom	Y
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	India	Y
SIEMENS Medical Solutions	USA	N

In addition, further institutions may be proposed by the applicant.

If you have any questions, please contact the STAR project manager Dr. Nadine Hoffmann, nadine.hoffmann@uni-siegen.de, phone: +49 271 / 740 5077. Further information can be found at: <https://star.uni-siegen.de/> (currently under construction).



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