**Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) European Postdoctoral Fellowships - Internal Competition in the Department of Sociology**

The University of Essex is a [public research university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_research_university) in [Essex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essex), England. The [Research Excellence Framework](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_Excellence_Framework) (REF) in 2014 ranked Essex in the top 20 universities in the UK for the quality of its research and the top 5 for social science. The Department of sociology is characterized by an immensely strong, productive and creative environment for sociological research that respects the core of the discipline, leads advances in qualitative and quantitative methods, and pushes at the boundaries of the sociological imagination, drawing on cognate disciplines, including social policy, social work, psychosocial studies, psychoanalysis, anthropology, philosophy, social history, criminology, and social psychology. This strength is recognised in international and national league tables. In the THE World University Rankings, Social Sciences at Essex is at 42 and in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020, Essex Sociology is ranked 44th in the world and 7th in the UK. We have several very successful research centres**:**

* Centre for Research in Economic Sociology and Innovation
* Centre for Migration Studies,
* Centre of Intimate and Sexual citizenship, and the Centre for Criminology.

Further information about the Department of Sociology can be found here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/sociology>

We are looking to support a small number of high-quality applications under the 2021 round of MSCA European Postdoctoral [Fellowships](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/calls/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-2021) and would welcome expressions of interest from interested researchers, particularly, but not exclusively, in the following areas aligning with our research clusters:

**Social Divisions and Economic Life;**

**Culture, Identity and Subjectivity;**

**Crime, Justice and Public Policy;**

**Transnationalism, Nation and Rights;**

**Sociological Foundations – Theory and Methods**

This year’s call for MSCA postdoctoral fellowship applications closes on 12 October 2021.

MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowships are highly flexible funding schemes offered to experienced researchers. Fellows are based at a host institution, where they will work with their supervisors to deliver a specific project involving research, innovation, training and networking activities. The funding guarantees mobility and financial independence with a generous set of allowances**.**

**MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowships:**

* are open to researchers moving within Europe or coming to Europe from another part of the world to pursue their research career. These fellowships take place in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country (e.g. the UK)
* can last between 1 and 2 years and researchers of any nationality can apply. can include a short-term secondment anywhere in the world during the fellowship. Can offer researchers **additional support to carry out a placement of up to 6 months** in a non-academic organisation based in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. This placement needs to take place at the end of their fellowship.

**Eligibility criteria:**

* Applicants should have a PhD degree at the time of the deadline for applications. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered eligible to apply
* Applicants must have a maximum of eight years’ experience in research, from the date of the award of their PhD degree, years of experience outside research and career breaks will not count towards the above maximum, nor will years of experience in research in third countries, for nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to Europe
* Applicants should comply with mobility rules: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.

**Expression of Interest**

Interested applicants should submit a one-page CV, an outline of the proposed research (maximum 500 words) and a cover letter highlighting why you believe this area of work will be suited to the Department of Sociology at the host institution (maximum 500 words).

**Application Process**

* Read the Guidance for Applicants on the funder's [website](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2021-pf-01-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=43108473;focusAreaCode=null;destination=null;mission=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState).
* Make sure you meet all eligibility criteria. Complete the Expression of Interest (EoI – outlined above) and send it to nvdem@essex.ac.uk (Dr. Neli Demireva, Research Director in the Department of Sociology) by 5pm on **Wednesday 15th of July 2021**.
* Review of expressions of interest will start after the July deadline. Proposals will be evaluated based on research quality, the applicant’s future career prospects and the availability of appropriate supervision. This will ensure sufficient time for matching the prospective applicant to a supervisor and the development of a strong application before the call for MSCA applications.
* Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation by the 20th of July.
* The successful applicant[s] will be supported in completing their application by the selected supervisor. Successful candidates will also have the support of the University of Essex pre-award team in the Research and Enterprise Office, which will provide costings and will take the application through our institutional authorisation process. Full applications will be required by the pre-award team deadline on.