

MOMENTUM MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME – Call 2 –

**The Hungarian Academy of Sciences launches
a call for applications for postdoctoral researchers**

Objectives

Under the funding scheme of the **Momentum MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme** (hereinafter referred to as “Momentum MSCA Programme”), the Secretary-General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (in Hungarian: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, hereinafter referred to as “MTA”) launches a call for applications **for excellent postdoctoral researchers** (hereinafter referred to as “the Call”) **to carry out their research work at a host research institution which has a “Lendület”/Momentum research group running and which has been participating in the Momentum MSCA Programme** (hereinafter referred to as “host research entity”). The Momentum MSCA Programme aims at supporting incoming mobility of postdoctoral researchers from all over the world in order to increase the prestige of the MTA “Lendület” Momentum Programme by boosting its international visibility and its European and global impact. The current Call aims at selecting and supporting up to 16-18 outstanding postdoctoral fellows. The fellowship will start on either 1 September 2026, 1 November 2026, or 1 December 2026. The fellowship period shall preferably be 36 months, with a minimum duration of 12 months, including mandatory international secondment. The Momentum MSCA Programme is co-funded by the European Commission through the Research Executive Agency (hereinafter referred to as “REA”) as its representative, as well as by the Secretariat of MTA acting on behalf of MTA, under Grant Agreement no. 101179854 within the framework of the HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01 programme.

The Momentum MSCA Programme also offers a **wide range of trainings including research-specific, business-specific and transferable skills, coaching, and mentoring** for postdoctoral researchers provided at the host research entities under the supervision of the Principal Investigators (hereinafter referred to as “PIs”) leading the “Lendület” Momentum research groups and/or co-supervisors charged with the mandatory international or optional interdisciplinary and/or intersectoral short-term secondments. The Momentum MSCA Programme’s development plan seeks to enhance the fellows’ versatility and employability in academia and beyond.

Eligibility and conditions of participation

1. Eligibility criteria:

- a) Candidates of **any nationality** may apply.
- b) **All research fields covered by the participating Momentum host research groups** are eligible from all three domains of science: Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Information about the “Lendület” Momentum research groups participating in the Programme is available under the “[Host Research Groups](https://momentummsca.mta.hu/)” section of the Momentum MSCA Programme’s website <https://momentummsca.mta.hu/>.
- c) Applicants must be **in possession of a doctoral degree** at the deadline of the Call; alternatively, researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded their doctoral diploma will also be eligible to apply. The successful defence must be unconditional (with no further requirements/corrections left to be addressed) and will have been taken place before the call deadline.

- d) Supporting documentation will be requested at the time of application and will be checked during the selection process.
- e) **Mobility rule:** applying researchers must not have resided or carried out their main professional activity (work, studies, etc.) in Hungary for a period exceeding 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the deadline of the Call¹.
- f) Researchers who are already being employed (permanently or temporarily) at one of the Momentum (Lendület) research group host entities at the Call deadline are not eligible to apply.

The overall selection process has been designed to be fair, public, open and transparent. While the Call shall be open to applicants of all backgrounds, special attention will be paid to applications by women and researchers with a refugee status (particularly from Ukraine).

- 2. Only the complete application package including all the requested compulsory information and documentation submitted via the electronic submission portal by the designated deadline will be considered for further evaluation.
- 3. The remuneration package offered to fellows shall be non-refundable. This means that researchers will not be required to return any salary or allowances received during their fellowship period. (For details of the remuneration package, please see the section “Appointment and working conditions of researchers”).

Submission of applications, requirements regarding form and content
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Applications must be submitted in English via the electronic submission portal of the Momentum MSCA Programme.

The deadline for electronic submission is

24:00 CET, 31 January 2026.

The submission portal of the Momentum MSCA Programme can be entered after registration at the Academy's Database ([link](#)). Upon successful registration, the Momentum MSCA Programme's submission portal (https://palyazatok.mta.hu/momentum_msca_2) can be accessed using the username and password set at registration. The submission portal automatically retrieves the applicant's data entered at registration.

No application fee shall be charged.

For details on how to complete and submit the application on the submission portal, the technical User Guide should be consulted.

For questions regarding the submission of applications, applicants may contact the Momentum MSCA Programme team at momentum.msca@office.mta.hu until 28 January 2026, 14:00 CET.

An original hard copy of the Host Research Entity Declaration, with authorized signatures and official stamp of the institute must be sent to the following postal address: MTA Titkársága, Kutatási Pályázatok Főosztálya, H-1245 Budapest, Pf. 1000., with the latest date of the postmark being the electronic submission deadline specified above. The reference “Momentum MSCA Call 1” shall be put on the envelope.

¹ Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays and any time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention (1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol) shall not be considered as a stay for the purposes of the mobility rule. Also note that the mobility rule is related to the candidate's residence or main professional activity and not to their nationality. During the application candidates will be required to provide supporting documentation proving place(s) of residence or work during the previous 3 years.

The Secretariat of MTA shall perform the administrative duties related to the management of the Momentum MSCA Programme pursuant to § 19 (1) of Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the “Academy Act”)

The complete application package on the submission portal must include:

- **personal data of the applicant** (name, date of birth, citizenship, contact details, degree, university awarding the PhD degree, country of awarding university, scientific field of the degree and date of its acquisition)
to be provided at registration
- **basic data of the application** (application title, field of science, short description of the research project, short summary using an easily understandable language, name of the host “Lendület” Momentum research group, name and contact details of the chosen supervisor)
to be provided on the submission portal;
- **additional data** (suggested reviewers with no conflict of interest and their contact details, reviewers whose involvement should be avoided, family status, gender)
to be provided on the submission portal;
- **Application form** containing the declarations and the Ethics Issues Table
*the **application form** template is downloadable from the Downloads menu, the **signed** form is to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments*
- **Narrative CV of the applicant** (max. 5 pages) describing the applicant’s professional career in a narrative format,
Sections to be included:
Personal details,
Research achievements
Peer recognition
Publications
Other relevant information and contributions to the research community
*the **narrative cv** template is downloadable from the Downloads menu and is to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments*
- **Research proposal** (max. 6 pages) making explicit reference to the alignment of the project with the selected host
Sections of the research proposal: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
*the **research proposal** template is downloadable from the Downloads menu and is to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments*
- **Data management plan** for the management of research data
*the **data management plan** template is downloadable from the Downloads menu and is to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments*
- **PhD certificate** or certificate stating that the Doctoral Council has agreed to awarding the PhD degree
to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments
- **Host Research Entity Declaration**
*the **host research entity declaration** template is downloadable from the Downloads menu; the completed, **signed** and scanned declaration is to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments; and the original hard copy to be posted by the host research entity*
- **Ethics self-assessment**, to be submitted if the research proposal raises one or more of the issues listed in the Ethics Issues Table completed as part of the Application form.

the **ethics self-assessment** template is downloadable from the Downloads menu and to be uploaded in PDF format to Attachments

- **Proof of English language proficiency:** All applicants must provide proof of English proficiency. A C1 level in both spoken and written English, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), is required. Acceptable documents include:
 - *Academic or professional evidence:*
 - *Diploma supplement, transcript, or official confirmation from the awarding institution showing that studies or the PhD defence were conducted in English.*
 - *A summary of the PhD dissertation in English or a defence report confirming it was conducted in English.*
 - *A statement from a previous or current academic institution or employer confirming that work, research, or teaching was conducted in English.*
 - *Personal declaration:*
 - *A signed statement if English is the applicant's native language, accompanied by the number of an official identification document confirming nationality (no scan or copy required).*
 - *Standardized test certificates:*
 - *Internationally recognized certificates demonstrating a proficiency level equivalent to C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) (e.g. IELTS Academic min. 6.5, TOEFL iBT min. 95, Cambridge English C1 Advanced or higher).*

Upon application submission, the applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail acknowledging receipt. All applications will be subject to a formal and eligibility check by the Department of Grant Management at the Secretariat of MTA. If an application meets the formal and eligibility requirements, the Department of Grant Management will confirm its admission for evaluation within 7 days after submission of the application.

Otherwise, the Department of Grant Management shall reject the application without sending it to evaluation. The application shall be rejected without evaluation if (1) the applicant is ineligible to apply; (2) the application was not submitted at all, or was submitted after the submission deadline; (3) the applicant has provided information which is either false, forged or misleading, and which could substantially affect the outcome of the decision upon evaluation; (4) the application fails to meet formal requirements, including but not limited to:

- Application not successfully submitted in the electronic submission portal until deadline;
- Application not using the templates provided;
- Application exceeding the length limitations set;
- Application with missing mandatory annexes or supporting documents;
- Application not formatted according to the specified guidelines;
- Application submitted through channels other than the designated electronic submission portal.

The Department of Grant Management at the Secretariat of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is not obliged to issue a request for correction in the event of formal errors or deficiencies in the applications; furthermore, no substantive corrections concerning the content of the application may be made after the submission deadline has passed.

Where the application is rejected without evaluation, the information provided on this must include the reason for the rejection and a reference to the possibility and terms of filing a complaint.

For further information regarding the full application procedure, applicants are requested to visit the Momentum MSCA Programme's website (<https://momentummsca.mta.hu>) or contact the Department of Grant Management staff at the e-mail address momentum.msca@office.mta.hu.

Redress rule

No redress may be sought concerning the scientific evaluation of the applications.

Should applicants believe that a procedural element of the Call or of the decision-making concerning the awarding of the grant has violated in any way a legislative provision or has been contrary to what was described in the call for applications, they can initiate a redress procedure.

The redress may be submitted, within 15 calendar days following the receipt of the notification about the decision containing the contested measure or implying an instance of inaction via e-mail to the Department of Grant Management (momentum.msca@office.mta.hu). The Momentum Committee shall decide on the complaint within 15 calendar days following its receipt, based on examination by the Redress Committee, which shall be limited to matters which are being specifically contested in the complaint. Incomplete complaints, or complaints lodged after the above-mentioned deadline or complaints concerning the scientific evaluation shall be rejected without further examination.

Evaluation and selection process

The selection process of the Momentum MSCA Programme shall be in line with the principles of the [European Charter for Researchers](#) and the [Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#) endorsed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, as well as with the provisions of the Grant Agreement no. 101179854 and the provisions of Decision 4/2025 (III.19.) of the President of MTA on the Momentum MSCA Programme.

In case of an ex-aequo situation, gender and diversity aspects will be favourably considered.

Since the application procedure includes both a written and an oral component, separate criteria will be used for each part.

Further details of the evaluation and selection process are included in Annex 1.

The final, formal decision will be made by the end of May 2026.

Applicants shall be notified of the call results by the Department of Grant Management via e-mail within 14 days after the decision has been made. All applicants will be provided access to the anonymous, detailed individual expert and rapporteur assessment reports of their respective applications as well as the final decision of the Momentum MSCA Jury / Momentum MSCA Committee on the submission portal.

The Jury's decision for each applicant will be either (i) to invite them to meet the Interview Committee or (ii) not to invite them to meet the Interview Committee. The Momentum MSCA Committee's decision for each application will be either (i) to be funded, (ii) to be placed on the reserve list, or (iii) not to be funded.

The list of selected fellows will also be made public on the Momentum MSCA Programme's central website.

Following the notification of successful application, job offers will be sent to the selected fellows. In case a fellow decides not to take the offer, the next researcher on the reserve list will be invited.

Appointment and working conditions of researchers

The selected fellows will be contacted by their chosen "Lendület" Momentum research group's host research entity and will receive an employment offer including all the details of the appointment and an employment contract to be signed between the fellow and the host research entity. Once the parties have reached an agreement and the contract has been signed, applications for visa as well as work and residence permit will be launched.

A minimum of 12-month and a maximum of 36-month fixed-term employment contract will include full social security coverage (sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights and benefits for accidents at work and occupational diseases). The social security coverage will be guaranteed for the entire fellowship including the secondments.

The salary and benefit package offered to the fellows:

Cost category	Amount	Comment
Salary	3,522 EUR/month (gross amount)	before employer's compulsory deduction: 3,980 EUR/month (super-gross amount, that is, gross salary plus social and health insurance); subject to income taxation
Mobility allowance	150 EUR/month (gross amount)	subject to income taxation
Relocation allowance	maximum 3,600 EUR (one-time payment)	based on eligibility, paid in a one-off amount covering the costs of moving to Hungary; and will be paid in HUF after the first three months of research at the host research group have been completed, along with the salary applicable at that time as per Relocation Allowance Guidelines; subject to income taxation
Family allowance	300 EUR/month (gross amount)	paid if the researcher has or acquires family obligations during the fellowship, i.e. persons linked to them 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 taken care of by the researcher; subject to income taxation
Special needs allowance	to be defined by the REA, on a case-by-case basis	can be requested if necessary and justified by the REA via the Secretariat of MTA, by sending a request to momentum.msca@office.mta.hu

The following budget will be allocated at host institutions for the implementation of research projects: Direct Research Costs, RTN (Research, Training, Networking): up to 1,800 €/month

Covers consumables, equipment, publications, travel and accommodation (including conferences, workshops, and secondments). Supports research activities, networking, local training, and travel needs Indirect Costs, OH (Overheads): 600 €/month available at host institutions

The fellow has the obligation to work exclusively for the Momentum host research entity/Implementing Partner, meaning the fellow shall be employed full-time (40 hours / week) by the Momentum host research entity during the period of their Momentum MSCA fellowship. The place of work shall be at the premises of the host research entity in Hungary, within the designated host research group. The fellow may temporarily request part-time employment for personal and family reasons or for professional reasons to pursue supplementary activities, such as setting up a company,

pursuing another research project, or engaging in advanced studies not related to the Momentum MSCA fellowship, in any case without jeopardizing their training activities funded under the Momentum MSCA Programme. Even during part-time employment, the researcher must devote at least 50% of their working time to the Programme. In duly justified cases of serious medical reasons that demonstrably affect the researcher's capacity to implement the action as planned, an exemption from the 50% minimum threshold may be exceptionally granted. Home office and flexible working arrangements may be offered, in accordance with the policies and regulations of the host institution.

Fellowship details, reporting and data management

All fellows will have one primary **supervisor** identified in their application (usually the PI of the hosting "Lendület" Momentum research group) and co-supervisors (provided by the host of the secondment) depending on the research topic and chosen secondments.

During the fellowship at least one **international secondment** of 1-3 months will be mandatory for each fellow. Secondments can be undertaken at MTA's associated partners who have signed a partnership agreement. The detailed arrangements of these secondments will be coordinated by the implementing partners/research groups.

Fellows will be required to participate at a minimum of **two** pertinent international **conferences**, with their active participation including poster sessions or presentations on their research findings. Specific features of their participation must be defined in cooperation with the PI of the hosting "Lendület" Momentum research group.

Fellows must attend a minimum of **three** network-wide **training** sessions, which will be organized by the Department of Grant Management at the Secretariat of MTA.

Fellows will be encouraged to participate in network-level challenge-oriented **workshops** organized three times during the Momentum MSCA Programme's lifetime.

The selected fellows will prepare a **Career Development Plan** (CDP) in cooperation with their primary supervisors and, where relevant, with the support of their co-supervisors and coaches at other academic and non-academic partners. This plan shall define the research objectives and the primary areas of the discipline-specific trainings, as well as it shall identify the local and network-wide training sessions aiming to develop transferable skills selected according to the fellows' needs.

The fellows' **progress will be monitored** by the primary supervisors, who will consult the co-supervisors. They will assess the progress of the fellow both in terms of research objectives and career development via regular meetings and the annual progress **reports** to be submitted on an annual basis.

In any publications issued as part of the Momentum MSCA Programme, the European flag (emblem), the funding statement "Co-funded by the European Union and by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) within the framework of the Momentum MSCA Programme" and the "Lendület" Momentum research group concerned, with its name written in full, shall be displayed.

The host research entities and fellows must ensure that for auditing purposes, certain bodies (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights enabling them to carry out the necessary checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections).

Further information

MTA hereby informs applicants of the following:

- a) By providing data for the monitoring system, MTA shall ensure that in the case of funding through a grant process, the data of the call for applications are published on the relevant website, as are all data related to facts occurring or conditions determined by MTA in

connection with the use of the grant amount, as well as data related to facts and conditions concerning the legal relationship between grantor and grantee, the provision of the grant amount, and any reporting requirement. The data registered in the monitoring system may be deleted after 5 years from the last calendar day of the year in which the decision of support was made.

- b) The legal provisions on the right to informational self-determination set out what shall be considered as data of public interest. The data which would not qualify as such in the first place but are being processed by an individual or a body
- who/which is in charge of the preparation of the call for applications;
 - who/which is in charge of the announcement of the call for applications;
 - who/which is in charge of the preparation of the decision on the award of the grant;
 - who/which is in charge of the decision-making, and which are related to the call for applications or to the application process or to the decision on the award of the grant shall be considered data which are public on grounds of public interest, provided that they are not to be considered sensitive or special personal data.

The aim of and legal basis for the processing of personal data during the call procedure

1. The personal data given by the applicant shall be processed for the purposes of the conduct of the call procedure by the Secretariat of MTA.

These personal data will be accessible to the competent organisational units of the Secretariat of MTA based on the MTA's statutes and rules of procedures, as well as to reviewers participating in the evaluation process of the applications, to the extent as it is needed for the performance of their duties defined by law.

The personal data of the grantees will be processed by the host research entity concerned in order to conclude the contract of employment and by the Secretariat of MTA in order to process the financial reports related to the grant.

2. The legal basis for the processing of personal data is the fulfilment of the data controller's public duty as provided for in Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, pursuant to Article 6 (1) e) of the GDPR, whereby processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest.
3. Any changes in the personal data of the applicant should be communicated at the following e-mail address: momentum.msca@office.mta.hu.
4. The guideline on MTA's data processing policy is available at momentummsca.mta.hu website by clicking on "Privacy Policy".

László Péter Kollár
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