

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Marie Curie Research Training Network (MCRTN)

## **Chromatin Structure and Plasticity**

under the Sixth Framework Programme  
of the European Union

Acronym: **Chromatin Plasticity**



**1. Can costs for job interviews to hire researchers on the MCRTN be covered by the grant (i.e. travel costs for the researcher to the host institute)?**

In principle yes, under category F. However, the expense for this purpose must not be detrimental to other network-wide activities during the project implementation. Please remember that you do not have many resources allocated to category F.

**2. Can travel costs for people not funded by the MCRTN be covered by the grant?**

Yes. Category F can also be used to cover travel expenses for people not funded by the MCRTN (e.g. group leaders to attend the Network Meetings, speakers, etc).

**3. If a researcher is hired as an early-stage researcher (i.e. PhD student) and obtains his PhD before the end of the appointment time (36 months), will the researcher no longer be able to be funded by the MCRTN?**

The researcher will still be able to be funded by the grant. The status of the researchers is determined ***on the day of the appointment and does not change*** during the duration of the appointment. This also applies to the family status.

**4. Can I fund a person that is already in my lab on this grant?**

Yes, provided that the person fulfills the eligibility & mobility requirements.

**5. What are the eligibility requirements?**

a) **Early stage researcher (ESR):**

An early stage researcher (i.e. PhD student) cannot have more than 4 years of research experience counted from the time s/he received the degree allowing access to PhD studies (e.g. Diploma, MSc).

b) **Experienced researcher (ER):**

An experienced researcher (i.e. post-doc) must have between 4 and 10 years of research experience.

An experienced researcher (i.e. post-doc) in possession of a PhD can have less than 4 years of research experience (but not more than 10).

**6. What is the transnational mobility requirement?**

This requirement stipulates that an appointed researcher:

- a) cannot be a national of the country where the host organization is located, and
- b) cannot have resided in the country where the host organization is located for more than 12 months of the 3 years preceding the appointment

**7. Are there exceptions to the rule that a researcher can only be appointed to a host institute in a country different from his/her nationality?**

Yes:

A) In the case of dual nationality, the researcher is considered a national of the country in which he/she has resided the longest during the previous 5 years.

B) If a researcher has legally resided in and had his/her main activity in a Third Country for at least 4 of the preceding 5 years, the researcher can be appointed in the country of his/her nationality.

C) For international interest organizations (EMBL, EMBL-EBI) which are not associated with one country, the mobility requirement does not apply.

**8. Can researchers from Third Countries be appointed?**

Yes, this is possible. Please keep in mind that a maximum of 30% of the total number of person-months for the whole Network can fund researchers from Third Countries.

The Network Coordinator will have to approve such appointments ahead of time.

In addition, a national from a Third Country who has legally resided in an EU Member or Associated State(s) for at least 4 years (in total) out of the last 5 years preceding the appointment is treated as a national of this State. This “assimilated” researcher would **not** count towards the 30% limit.

**9. What is a Third Country?**

Third Countries are those other than EU Member or Candidate/Associated States.

EU Member States are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

EU Candidate/Associated States are Turkey, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.

**10. Can I split my ESR/ER allocation into more than the indicative number of researchers (i.e. if I have funding for 36 months for an ESR, can I fund more than one researcher)?**

Yes, the allocated months (e.g. 36 months) can be divided between more than one researcher, as long as the appointed researchers meet the eligibility and mobility requirements and are appointed for a minimum of 3 months each.

**11. Do researchers and other personnel hired under the MCRTN have to keep timesheets?**

Not necessarily. Documentation of hours worked should be organized according to local and national rules and the documentation must be kept in case of an audit. This documentation will not be sent to the European Commission, though.

**12. Can a secondment be at an institution/lab outside of the network?**

No. A secondment period must be made within the network. In addition, the period of secondment cannot exceed 30% of the researcher's total appointment time.

**13. How many and which Network courses do the ESRs/ ERs have to attend during and beyond their MCRTN appointment?**

Attendance at the Network courses will work on a point system. Researchers will earn 1 point each for each workshop and satellite they attend (maximum 2 points per year).

ESRs will be required to obtain 6 points, ERs 4 points. Practically, this means that **researchers will have to attend all Network workshops and satellites during their appointment period.**

Since the appointment time for ESRs and ERs on the MCRTN is 36 months and (mainly) 24 months, respectively, many of the researchers will still be employed at the host lab after the end of their MCRTN appointment period. For example, your PhD student may continue to be a PhD student after the MCRTN contract ends. In this and other such cases, **the researchers should be encouraged to continue to attend the Network workshops and satellites even after the end of their MCRTN contract.**