



Call for Expression of Interest
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship
(HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01)

The University of Malta (UM) is interested in hosting Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action fellows to work in its research teams and welcomes expressions of interest from excellent post-doctoral researchers to co-develop an application with an academic from UM for the Postdoctoral Fellowship call in 2026.

University of Malta (UM) is the sole public and highest teaching institution in Malta, with its structures being in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education area. UM has over a 400-year history and hosts around 12,500 students including 1,700 foreign/exchange students from over 100 different countries, following fulltime or part-time degree and diploma courses. During the last 20 years, the UM was involved as project coordinator and project partner in 790 EU-funded projects, through various funding channels. These include Horizon Europe (51 projects), Horizon 2020 (77 projects), FP7 (51 projects), Erasmus+ (172 projects), Lifelong Learning Programme (123 projects), INTERREG EU, NEXT Med, and ITALIA-MALTA (69 projects). The UM is also involved in national funding programmes, other international initiatives and is even represented in several European and International University networks and groups.

[Islands and Small States Institute](#)

Set up in 1989, the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) is a centre of excellence promoting teaching, research and training on multidisciplinary aspects of islands and small states. ISSI offers postgraduate courses on islands and small states studies as well as the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, a flagship programme that attracts students from all Oceans. The ISSI is also a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre, advising the WHO on issues related to health systems and policies in small states. The ISSI has a successful track record with MSCA doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, having already been awarded four in the past four years, and hosts of three research platforms: The Small States Health Platform (SSHP), The Climate Change Platform (CCP) and the The Island Tourism Platform. ISSI is also active in community development in island territories, small states and small island developing states (SIDS).

This call is for candidates with an interest in Ocean economies, Climate Change Adaptation, Vulnerability and Resilience in Islands and Small State economies and societies. The defining characteristics of small island economies have been documented and explored in many publications and typically refer to the size of the domestic market and the lack of critical mass, which pose restrictions on the capacity of islands to exploit economies of scale, scope and diversification, and generally implies higher costs for running the country. Climate change, shifts in the international policy orders and trade restrictions further limits islands and small states capacity to build resilient economies and societies.



The MSCA prospective research sought by the ISSI shall focus on these specific aspects and contribute to provide new theoretical/conceptual approaches that fit and make sense for islands and small states, strengthen methodological frameworks for island studies, and be relevant for policy.

Research Field: *Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)*
 Economic Sciences (ECO)
 Environment and Geosciences (ENV)

Keywords: *islands and small states studies*
 climate change
 economic development
 ocean economies

The selected candidates will receive dedicated support from the supervisor, [Prof. Stefano Moncada](#) and the Research Support Services Directorate to write a successful proposal and submission.

Interested candidates must be in possession of a doctoral degree with not more than 8 years post PhD research experience and must not have resided in Malta for more than 12 months during the past 3 years. Furthermore, their research interests should be relevant to the above project.

Kindly send a covering letter and CV to the corresponding [Prof. Stefano Moncada](#) keeping in copy funding.rssid@um.edu.mt with 'MSCA-PF-2026 candidate name' as the email subject by **19 May 2026**.
