



# Australia-Spain Network for Innovation and Research Excellence

## Guide for Applicants

January 2026



## Executive Summary

This document provides practical information on the application process for the open postdoctoral positions of the AuSpire Program. AuSpire will recruit 28 researchers following an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial, and fair recruitment procedure in line with the principles set out in the [European Charter for Researchers](#) and the [Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#).

For more information on the Program and open positions, please visit the website <https://auspire.eu/>

## Document history

Issue date	Version	Changes made/reason for this issue
03/02/2025	1	Published for Call 1
01/04/2025	2	Publication for Call 1 (extended deadline)
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## Disclaimer

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union nor the European Executive Research Agency can be held responsible for them.

## Acknowledgements

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# Recruitment Procedure Summary

Applicant Checklist	
Step 1 – Understand AuSpire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Explore the <a href="#">AuSpire website</a></li> <li>✓ Read thoroughly this Guide for Applicants and the FAQs</li> <li>✓ Contact the AuSpire Helpdesk (<a href="mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au">auspire.help@rmit.edu.au</a>) if you have any queries</li> </ul>
Step 2 – Select the position(s) of your interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Navigate through the <a href="#">open positions</a> (vacancies)</li> <li>✓ Read thoroughly the full Position Descriptions (PDF), identify your preferred position(s) and reflect on your research proposal(s). Applicants can apply for up to 3 positions</li> <li>✓ Find out more about the <a href="#">Employing Entities</a> and the <a href="#">supervisors</a></li> </ul>
Step 3 – Check your eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Study carefully and assess your application against the eligibility criteria (see <a href="#">Section 2.3</a> of this guide)</li> </ul>
Step 4 – Prepare your application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Allow yourself enough time to prepare your application and collect all supporting documents</li> <li>✓ Devise a research proposal within the research area suggested in the position(s) and perform an ethics self-assessment for each position applied for</li> <li>✓ Prepare a motivation essay addressing your research interests as well as your background and suitability for the fellowship and for the position. When applying for more than 1 position, submit a different letter for each application</li> <li>✓ Gather all the other supporting documents (photo of national ID or passport, PhD-degree certificate, CV, etc.)</li> <li>✓ Ask 2 referees to support your application. Inform them that they must complete a questionnaire in the online application system by the closing date of the call. Remember that you are responsible for ensuring that referees submit their references via <a href="#">SlideRoom</a> before the deadline</li> </ul>
Step 5 – Get familiar with the application form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Register and create your profile on <a href="#">SlideRoom</a></li> <li>✓ Fill in the Application Form</li> </ul>
Step 6 – Evaluate your own application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read the Guide for Evaluators (available on the <a href="#">AuSpire website</a>)</li> <li>✓ Assess your own application against the eligibility and evaluation criteria detailed in Sections 2 and 4 of this guide</li> </ul>
Step 7 – Submit your application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Once completed, submit your application via <a href="#">SlideRoom</a> before the deadline</li> <li>✓ Remember that incomplete applications (applications without all mandatory supporting documents) will automatically be rejected</li> </ul>
Queries/amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to make any changes. In case you would like to withdraw your application, contact AuSpire Helpdesk (<a href="mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au">auspire.help@rmit.edu.au</a>) no later than 5 days before the deadline</li> </ul>

Table 1. Recruitment procedure summary

A FAQ is available on AuSpire website: [FAQs – Auspire](#). In addition, the AuSpire Helpdesk provides support through email from Monday to Friday from 10am CET to 3pm CET. All queries and questions regarding the application process should be sent to the AuSpire Helpdesk at least 5 days before the application deadline. Email: [auspire.help@rmit.edu.au](mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au).

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# 1. About AuSpire

## 1.1. The Program

The Australia-Spain Network for Innovation and Research Excellence (AuSpire) is a highly ambitious interdisciplinary researcher training program that links Spanish and Australian research communities through 28 Postdoctoral Fellowships. AuSpire seeks to recruit excellent Postdoctoral Fellows of any nationality, gender and background from around the world for its industry-led positions.

A common theme of Planetary Wellbeing will underpin the workshops and overall training program, to ensure that outputs from the research, innovation and co-creation activities offer true value to society and a positive impact on our planet's inhabitants and ecosystems.

AuSpire is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 101177949.

## 1.2. Employment benefits

All Postdoctoral Fellows (PF) will be employed in Spain by renowned companies, research centres, and universities for 36 months (3 years) and benefit from international and/or intersectoral co-supervision and secondments with counterpart organisations in Spain and Australia for a maximum of 12 months' duration.

AuSpire offers the recruited researchers an outstanding experience with excellent working conditions:

- A full-time employment contract in Spain with an attractive salary including social security benefits. The salaries offered by AuSpire are above the average salary for Postdoctoral Fellows in Spain. You may find an estimation of your salary in the [Position Description](#). The definite amount to be received by the Postdoctoral Fellow will be subject to Spanish tax legislation.
- 4,000 EUR relocation for employment stipend to cover costs associated to taking up employment (flights, visa, insurance, etc.), to be distributed monthly as a top-up to the gross salary<sup>1</sup>.
- 9,000 EUR relocation for secondment stipend to cover compulsory project-related travel and accommodation costs (flights, visa, insurance, accommodation etc.)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The definitive amount to be received by the Postdoctoral Fellow might be subject to Spanish tax legislation.

- 314 EUR monthly family allowance offered to candidates who meet the criteria<sup>1,2</sup>
- 3,000 EUR travel stipend to cover flights and accommodation for participating in compulsory AuSpire training and networking events in Spain over the 3 years.<sup>1</sup>
- Innovative projects of high societal and commercial value in a unique international research environment and multidisciplinary network of researchers and chief investigators from leading industries, research centres and universities.
- Unique training in Planetary Wellbeing and the opportunity to shape your research to offer true value to society and a positive impact on our planet's inhabitants and ecosystem.

## 2. AuSpire Recruitment Campaign

### 2.1. Timeline: Key dates

Recruitment of AuSpire researchers will be carried out over 2 call rounds<sup>3</sup>. The second call for applicants will be launched on 1 December 2025.

Steps		What will happen at this step?	Timeframe (indicative)
1	Online application	Submit your complete application through the <a href="#">online portal</a> . Note that applications not complying with AuSpire requirements will be disregarded.	Before 03 February 2026 at 11:59pm CET (Central European Time)
2	Eligibility check	The AuSpire Team will check that the application complies with requirements and meets the MSCA <a href="#">eligibility criteria</a> .	January - February 2026
3	Evaluation of eligible applications and first ranking	Eligible applications will be assessed by the Selection Panel against the Evaluation Criteria detailed in <a href="#">Section 4</a> of this guide (we invite you to also refer to AuSpire Guide for Evaluators).	February 2026
4	Interviews	Applicants shortlisted by the Selection Panel will be invited for an interview (by videoconference). Applicants will be contacted at least 5 days before the date of the interview.	March - April 2026
5	Final ranking and allocation of positions	The preferred candidate for each position will receive a conditional offer letter for admission into the Program.	End of April
6	Onboarding of successful Applicants	Formalise your employment contract at the Employing Entity in Spain	May - June 2026

Table 2. Timeline and key dates for call 2 applications

<sup>2</sup> According to MSCA-COFUND requirements, Fellows with family obligations are entitled to a family allowance (i.e. persons linked to Postdoctoral Fellow 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 maintained by the Postdoctoral Fellow).

<sup>3</sup> Should all places not be filled in the first 2 calls, a third round might be carried out.

## 2.2. Open positions

All open positions are published on the AuSpire website: [Open Positions](#). For each position, a research proposal describing a research challenge and their proposed innovative solution is to be submitted, along with its accompanying motivation letter and ethics self-assessment.

The list of [Employing Entities](#) is available on the [AuSpire website](#) in addition to information about the [Seconding Entities](#) and the profiles of the main [supervisors](#) and their research areas.

## 2.3. Who can apply?

AuSpire is open to excellent researchers of any age, nationality and gender.

Applicants must fulfil ALL of the following minimum eligibility criteria at the date of the call deadline (03 February 2026):

- **Academic requirements:** Applicants must be in possession of a doctoral degree at the call deadline. If you have successfully defended your thesis but you have not yet been awarded your PhD degree at the time of the call deadline for applications, you must upload a provisional degree certificate from your institution. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested.
- **MSCA mobility rule:** Applicants can be of any nationality and they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary or implementing partner – Spain, including its overseas territories – for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call (i.e., since 03 February 2023). The country of the main activity refers to the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer).<sup>4</sup>
- **MSCA employment rule:** Applicants must not have been already permanently employed by the chosen Employing Entity at the time of the call deadline.
- **Exclusive dedication:** Applicants must be available to work full-time and exclusively for the action and cannot benefit from another Marie Skłodowska Curie Action during the employment time.
- **English proficiency<sup>5</sup>:** Applicants must have a demonstrable C1 level of English (both speaking and writing). In the absence of a recognised certificate, English proficiency will be assessed based on the level of the written project proposal and during the interview.

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<sup>4</sup> Time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

<sup>5</sup> Native English speakers are exempt from this requirement.

## 2.4. Restrictive measures

AuSpire is a collaborative Program and must comply with European, national and local legislation. In this regard, partners may have restrictive measures in place following the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions regimes or other country-specific regulations. Applicants may be subject to additional visa controls, i.e. security checks from the local authorities. Nationals or residents of countries against which restrictive measures are in place may not be granted the security clearance and, hence, not be eligible for AuSpire positions.

Disclaimer: Please note that some positions related to the defence sector may be subject to additional restrictions. Refer to each position description for further information.

## 2.5. Equal opportunity

AuSpire adheres to the principles of the [European Commission's Strategy on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men](#) and promotes genuine equal access opportunities between all Applicants throughout the recruitment process. AuSpire is fully committed to eliminating discrimination and actively promoting equality of opportunity for staff and students. Researchers at risk<sup>6</sup>, from different genders, backgrounds and origin are encouraged to apply. Researchers requiring extra support might be eligible for a Special Needs Allowance.

# 3. How to apply

To ensure a fair selection, all Applicants must follow the same application process: only applications that are complete, in English, and submitted through the online platform before the deadline will be considered eligible. Incomplete applications and documents received by other means (postal mail, email or similar) will be discarded.

## 3.1. Your application

Each Applicant may only submit one application. The application must be fully completed online and in English, submitted before 03 February 2026 at 11:59 pm CET. A link to the application portal ([SlideRoom](#)) is available on the [AuSpire website](#). The portal is user-friendly and intuitive. In case of doubts, you may consult the [online user manual](#) or contact the AuSpire Helpdesk at [auspire.help@rmit.edu.au](mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au). All queries and questions regarding the application process should be sent to the AuSpire Helpdesk at least 5 days before the application deadline.

The online application process requires completion of the following steps:

1. Create your Applicant profile: After entering your basic personal and contact details, you will receive an automatic email with login details to access the

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<sup>6</sup> Researchers, scholars and scientists who are experiencing threats to their life, liberty or research career, or who are forced to flee or have been displaced because of such threats, see Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions webpage: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/about-msca/guidelines-for-inclusion-of-researchers-at-risk>

[online portal](#), a unique reference number and further instructions for completing the application.

2. Choose the position(s) you wish to apply for. Applicants have the opportunity to apply for up to 3 positions. For each position, develop your motivation essay, ethics self-assessment, and research proposal describing a research challenge and the proposed innovative solution.

Disclaimer: If you submit more than one application (with different email addresses), the applications will be disregarded.

3. Complete and submit your application: You may login, modify and save your application as many times as desired until all required fields are complete and all necessary documentation is uploaded. To submit your application, you must accept the data protection statement and certify that the answers provided are true and complete. When all fields have been completed and as long as the call deadline has not passed, the option to submit will become available. Once the application has been submitted no further modifications will be possible. In case you wish to withdraw your application before the call's deadline, contact us at [auspire.help@rmit.edu.au](mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au) (no later than 5 days before the deadline).

### 3.2 Supporting documents

Applications require the completion of all fields of the online form, including the declaration that the Applicant meets the eligibility criteria (see [Who can apply](#)), and the upload of supporting documents:

#### 1. Scanned copy of a valid identification document with your photo (passport or equivalent)

Important: The document must be in Latin characters. A picture of yourself is not acceptable. A valid photo ID must be a national identification document, passport or equivalent, that includes your photo, full legal name, date of birth, nationality and other personal information.

#### 2. CV (Curriculum Vitae/resume) in English

Your CV should clearly indicate the start and end dates and country of all your education, work and research experiences.

#### 3. A scanned copy of your PhD degree (and its translation)

PhD degrees not written in English should be accompanied by a translation into English, either an official translation or self-translation. If you have successfully defended your thesis but you have not yet been awarded your PhD degree at the time of the call deadline for applications, you must upload a provisional degree certificate from your institution.

#### 4. English proficiency certificate

You may include your certificate of English proficiency (C1). In the absence of a recognised certificate, English proficiency will be assessed based on the level of the written project proposal and during the interview.

<p><b>5. Research proposal</b></p> <p>Prepare a research proposal per each position you are applying for describing a research challenge and the proposed innovative solution, using the template provided in this guide, <a href="#">Annex 6.2</a></p>
<p><b>6. Motivation essay in English</b></p> <p>Prepare a motivation essay addressing your research interests as well as your background and suitability for the fellowship and for the position. If you are applying for more than one position, you must submit a different letter for each.</p> <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe why you are a good fit for the position</li> <li>• Explain what you would like to achieve with this research proposal</li> <li>• Express why you are interested in the chosen entities</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Ethics Self-Assessment<sup>7</sup></b></p> <p>Submit an accompanying ethics self-assessment for each position you are applying for and aligned with the research proposal using the template provided in this guide, <a href="#">Annex 6.2</a>. This can be completed with the help of the supervisors.</p>
<p><b>8. Names and email addresses of at least 2 referees</b></p> <p>Referees must be university lecturers or scientists who are familiar with your academic work and can judge your potential as a Postdoctoral Fellow (they cannot be members of your family or friends). References will be provided via the online application system. You are responsible for ensuring that referees submit their recommendations before the deadline.</p> <p>It is possible your referees may not receive the instructions due to IT firewall systems of the email accounts. We recommend you contact the referees to verify if they have received the email and inform us of any issues at <a href="mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au">auspire.help@rmit.edu.au</a> immediately, and at least 5 days before the application deadline. We must receive at least one reference by the call deadline; otherwise, the application will be considered incomplete.</p>

Table 3: Supporting documents to apply

All documents must be in English or accompanied by an English translation. We recommend you submit your documents in a non-editable format (PDF is preferred).

Applicants who have minor issues with their applications (scans not fully legible, residency status unclear) or where further information is needed to evaluate eligibility will be contacted by the AuSpire Team and asked to provide further documentation within 3 working days.

Disclaimer: if one or more supporting documents are missing, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be eligible.

<sup>7</sup> Please note that in case your project is selected, you will need to pass a full ethical review.

## 4. Assessment and selection

AuSpire is committed to an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial, and fair recruitment. You may refer to [Section 2.1](#) of this guide and the Guide for Evaluators available on the [AuSpire website](#) for more information about the assessment of the applications received. At each stage, applicants will be informed of the outcome by email (please remember to check your spam folder regularly).

### 4.1. Evaluation of the applications submitted

Applications that successfully pass the eligibility check will be assessed by a dedicated Selection Panel against the Evaluation Criteria detailed below. A first ranking will be produced based on average scores granted by the Selection Panel and up to 6 Applicants per position will be shortlisted for an interview. Where Applicants have applied to more than one position, the assessments will proceed simultaneously.

Criteria	Score	Weighting (%)
Previous research experience and scientific achievements	0-5	30
Proposed research plan (pertinence, originality, feasibility)	0-5	30
Public awareness and outreach (communication activities)	0-5	20
Supporting statements (referees and motivation letter)	0-5	20
Weighted Average	0-5	100
Scoring guide: 0 – Fail. The application fails in these criteria or cannot be judged due to incomplete information. 1 – Poor. The application has serious weaknesses or is addressed in an inadequate manner. 2 – Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses. 3 – Good. The application addresses the criterion well, although improvements are required. 4 – Very Good. The application addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible. 5 – Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question.		

Table 4: Criteria and weighting to be used by Evaluators for scoring of Applications (first ranking)

### 4.2. Interview

Interviews of the shortlisted Applicants will be conducted via videoconferencing by the members of the Selection Panel who performed the first evaluation. Each Applicant will be assessed against the Evaluation Criteria detailed below. The interviews will be composed of:

- A 20-minute presentation by the Applicant detailing their background and research experience as well as an explanation of the research proposal prepared, motivation for applying, and the impact expected on their career. The presentation can be supported by visuals (e.g. PowerPoint).
- A 25-minute question and answer session.

Criteria	Score	Weighting (%)
Scientific and investigative aptitude and motivation	0-5	30
Research proposal: conceptual understanding of relevant subject matter	0-5	30
Professional skills: planning, problem solving, IT, data management	0-5	20
Interpersonal skills: communication, teamwork, initiative, autonomy	0-5	20
Weighted Average	0-5	100
Scoring guide: 0 – Fail. The application fails in these criteria or cannot be judged due to incomplete information. 1 – Poor. The application has serious weaknesses or is addressed in an inadequate manner. 2 – Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses. 3 – Good. The application addresses the criterion well, although improvements are required. 4 – Very Good. The application addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible. 5 – Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question.		

Table 5: Criteria and weighting to be used by Evaluators for scoring of interviews

A final ranking for each position will be produced after the interviews have been completed. Where Applicants obtain the same score, priority is given to those with the highest scores in higher weighted criteria of the interview round and then the first ranking. All being equal, priority is given to female Applicants.

### 4.3. Successful Applicants

Successful Applicants will receive a conditional offer for admission into the AuSpire Program. They will sign a 36-month full-time employment contract with their respective Employing Entity, in line with the conditions detailed in the Position Description. They will be employed as Postdoctoral Fellows. A position will be considered filled once the successful Applicant has signed their employment contract.

Successful Applicants will be expected to relocate to their Employing Entity location before starting their employment contract. A note providing practical information for successful Applicants is available in [Annex 6.1](#).

### 4.4. Appeal/redress

Unsuccessful Applicants may lodge an appeal within 7 consecutive days after receiving the notification email if they believe that the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect and/or feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way their application was evaluated at the assessment and/or interview stages.

To appeal, Applicants must clearly describe the reasons why they are requesting a redress:

- If related to the eligibility check (step 1), Applicants should explicitly refer to the eligibility criteria.
- If related to the assessment of eligible applications (step 2) or the interviews (step 3), redress should explicitly refer to the evaluation criteria concerned.

To be considered, a request for redress must:

- Be related to 1 of the 3 stages of the evaluation of their applications (see above), and

- Be completed using the request for redress form (see [Annex 6.4.](#)), and
- Be submitted by the Applicant no later than 7 consecutive days after the email notification is sent, and
- Be sent by email to [auspire.help@rmit.edu.au](mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au) with the following subject:  
AuSpire Program – Redress request – [*Applicant Full Name*]

An application will be re-assessed only when there is clear evidence of a factual shortcoming in the evaluation. This means, for example, that a problem relating to 1 evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-assessment if the application has failed anyway on other criteria. The scientific evaluation of the Selection Panel will not be called into question. The request for redress will be assessed by the AuSpire Team and the outcomes will be communicated to the Applicant within 10 working days after receipt so that the applications of successful appellants may be included in the next stage of selection.

Important: The redress cannot be used as an opportunity to submit documentation that was not completed and/or not submitted in the original application.

## 5. Data protection

The personal data collected as part of the recruited process (application form, supporting documents and interviews) will be processed for the purpose considering their application for the AuSpire Program. The legal basis for processing this personal data is performance of a contract. Applicants' personal data will be shared or disclosed with third parties external to RMIT Europe, including external academic and/or industry reviewers who will consider and assess their application, academic and/or administrative personnel of AuSpire Employing Entities, the Associated Partners (where applicable) and the COFUND programme facilitators who will process data for the purposes of administering and facilitating the Program at RMIT Europe. Applicants' personal data will be transferred outside of the EEA, kept securely by RMIT Europe and retained for a period of 5 years after the closure of the AuSpire Program.

RMIT Europe is the Data Controller of this information and is committed to protecting the rights of individuals in line with Data Protection Legislation. The collection, processing and sharing of personal data and/or special categories of personal data will comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) and other applicant regulation on personal data.

Applicants are invited to visit [RMIT Europe's Privacy Policy](#) webpage for further information in relation to their rights and how RMIT Europe processes their personal data. RMIT Europe's Data Controller can be contacted through email sent to the AuSpire Helpdesk at [auspire.help@rmit.edu.au](mailto:auspire.help@rmit.edu.au) and any requests or complaints should be made in writing to the RMIT Europe's Data Controller.

## 6. Annexes

### 6.1. Information for AuSpire researchers

Should you be successful in the AuSpire selection process, you will:

- Be recruited by the Employing Entity for the corresponding position under a 36-month full-time employment contract. In compliance with the Employer's usual practice, the positions may be subjected to a probationary period;
- Receive a competitive remuneration as described in the Position Description, including social security coverage;
- Be assisted by your employer in the administrative procedures related to your recruitment and settling into your new host country.

As a AuSpire researcher, you will have the obligation to:

- Relocate to the location of your Employing Entity premises before starting your employment contract (within 3 months of acceptance of the offer letter). Please note that the researchers are responsible for the application and management of their visa to relocate to Spain. For this purpose, a relocation for employment stipend will be provided to each selected Fellow to compensate costs associated in taking up employment (flights, visa, insurance etc.). See [Section 1.2](#);
- Work exclusively on your research project and in the framework of the AuSpire project;
- Commit to spending up to 12 months at the Seconding Entity;
- Participate in all AuSpire compulsory activities, including annual training events in-person and online;
- Regularly design and review a Personalised Training Plan to cover research skills, techniques and training and networking activities, and a Personalised Career Development Plan to capture long-term career objectives;
- Facilitate information and probatory documentation to the AuSpire Program Management Team for reporting purposes.
- Commit to participating in activities to disseminate and communicate your research results.

For more information, consult the General information package for MSCA fellows and the Specific guidance for MSCA COFUND fellows Guidelines available at: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/document-library?>

## 6.2. Project proposal and ethics self-assessment

### AuSpire Program – Project proposal template

#### Structure of the proposal

- Applicant Name; Position Code; Research Topic, Project Proposed Title, Keywords
- Abstract (max. 2,000 characters including spaces). This will not count towards the page limit
- Proposal description:

-- Start page count --

The maximum length of the project proposal should not exceed 10 pages including figures, tables etc.

Section 1: Excellence

Section 2: Impact and Alignment with the Planetary Wellbeing theme

Section 3: Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

-- Stop page count --

- References
- Ethics self-assessment (this can be completed with the help of the supervisors).

In drafting the proposal, Applicants must follow the structure outlined below and use the following formatting: Times New Roman, font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side, 1.5 cm top and bottom), line spacing 1.5 lines.

Please submit the final version of the document in PDF format. Please ensure you have deleted the guidance notes and this table of instructions before submission.

#### Applied position information

Applicant name	<i>[Please include here your full name]</i>
Position reference	<i>[Please include the position reference]</i>

#### Project proposal

Project Proposed Title	<i>[Please include the tentative research project title here]</i>
Keywords	<i>[Please select up to 5 descriptors (and at least 3) that best characterise the subject of your proposal]</i>
Abstract	<i>[Please provide a short summary to describe your proposal: main objectives and how they will be achieved (max. 2,000 characters with spaces)]</i>
Excellence	<i>[Please provide a detailed description of the scientific and technical aspects of the proposal, demonstrating the originality and novelty of the proposed method/technology.]</i>

Assess the quality and relevance of the research and innovation objectives.  
Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious.  
Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work.  
Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of your objectives.  
Describe how the gender dimension and other diversity aspects are taken into account in the project's research and innovation content. If you do not consider such a gender dimension to be relevant in your project, please provide a justification.  
Explain how the data will be managed in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).  
Describe how appropriate open science practices are implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology]

#### Impact and Alignment with Planetary Wellbeing theme

[Please describe here how the outputs from your research would align with the Planetary Wellbeing theme and offer true value to society and a positive impact on our planet's inhabitants and ecosystems.  
Explain how the project's results will provide significant benefits beyond its immediate scope.  
Detail expected scientific, economic/technological, and societal impacts with specific target groups.  
Describe the planned dissemination and exploitation activities to maximise the impact of your project, detailing strategies to reach target groups such as the scientific community and the public. Include communication measures with clear objectives and channels.  
Describe intellectual property management and protection strategies, ensuring they support project exploitation proportionately.  
Outline specific measures to enhance your career prospects and employability both within and outside academia.  
Discuss how proposed skills development will contribute to your future career success]

#### Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

[Describe the work plan's structure, including deliverables and milestones.  
Detail the timing for work packages and components.  
Outline risk assessment and mitigation mechanisms.  
Include a Gantt chart showing Work Packages, deliverables, milestones, secondments, and placements. It must be feasible to complete during the 36-month fellowship]

#### References

[Please insert the list of references here]

## AuSpire Program – Ethics self-assessment form

### Instructions

Applicants must submit an ethics self-assessment for each position applied to, along with the proposed research challenge. This can be completed with the help of the supervisors.

The ethics form below is adapted from the guidelines provided by the European Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf)

Read carefully the questions in the table below and mark “Yes” or “No” in the columns on the right. If you have answered ‘Yes’, provide additional information in the appropriate box.

Please submit the final version of the document in PDF format. **Please ensure you have deleted the guidance notes and this table of instructions before submission.**

Applicant name	<i>[Please include here your full name]</i>
Position reference	<i>[Please include the position reference]</i>
Project proposed title	<i>[Please include the tentative research project title here]</i>

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos	Yes	No
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered “Yes”]</i>		
2. Humans	Yes	No
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (Using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered “Yes”]</i>		
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not Covered by Section 1)	Yes	No
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered “Yes”]</i>		
4. Personal Data	Yes	No
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of pre-existing datasets or sources, merging existing datasets)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered “Yes”]</i>		
5. Animals	Yes	No

Does this activity involve animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered "Yes"]</i>		
<b>6. Non-EU Countries</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve <u>low and/or lower middle-income countries</u> , (if yes, detail the benefit- sharing actions planned in the self-assessment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered "Yes"]</i>		
<b>7. Environment, Health and Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants. (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity. (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered "Yes"]</i>		
<b>8. Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered "Yes"]</i>		
<b>9. Other Ethics Issues</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Please provide here additional information on the questions you have answered "Yes"]</i>		

### 6.3. Redress request form

## AuSpire Program – Redress request form

Applicant name	<i>[Please include here your full name]</i>
Position reference	<i>[Please include the position reference]</i>

Stage of evaluation concerned		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility check	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment of application	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview

Reason for redress request
<i>[Describe the grounds of your request which may relate either to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>the eligibility check: if this is the case, please specify the eligibility criteria your redress request relates to; or</i></li><li><i>the assessment of your application and/or the interview results: if this is the case, please specify the scientific criteria concerned]</i></li></ul>

Full name:

Date:

Signature:



**Australia-Spain Network for Innovation and  
Research Excellence**

**Guide for Applicants – January 2026**



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