

**HORIZON EUROPE Research and Innovation Framework Programme
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01**

Organisation Name/ Department <i>(if applicable)</i>	Organisation name: Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology Centre: Applied Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC)	
Website of the organisation <i>(in English)</i>	https://mcast.edu.mt/applied-research/	
Organisation Short Name	MCAST	
Organisation Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-academic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher Education establishment <input type="checkbox"/> Research organisation <input type="checkbox"/> International European Research Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Research Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry (CHE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences (ECO) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering (ENG) <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Geosciences (ENV) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences (LIF) <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics (MAT) <input type="checkbox"/> Physics (PHY)	
Sub-Fields/ Keywords <i>(up to 5)</i>	Youth and community, social identity, sub-cultures, leisure	
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action(s) of interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Postdoctoral Fellowships <input type="checkbox"/> Global Postdoctoral Fellowships	
Short Description of the Organisation/ Department - strengths and scientific achievements (publications, patents, etc.), important infrastructure <i>(up to 2000 characters with spaces)</i>	The Applied Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC), which is situated in MCAST Resource Centre, is part of the College's strategic plan, giving rise to a dynamic learning space, where knowledge and innovation thrive. <u>Publications:</u>	



Borg, S. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'Evaluating the New Mentoring Programme in IVET in a Post-Secondary College in Malta'. *MCAST Journal of Applied Research & Practice*, 6(1), 232-300.

Briffa, M., Jaftha, N. Loreto, G., Morone Pinto F. & Chircop, T. (2020). 'Improved Students' Performance within Gamified Learning Environment: A Meta-Analysis Study'. *International Journal of Education and Research*, 8(1). 223-244.

Galea, S., Cassar, C. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'Students' Perspectives on Online Learning in a Vocational and educational training context during the COVID-19 Pandemic'. *MCAST Journal of Applied Research & Practice*, 6(1), 29-59.

Galea, S., Cassar, C. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'Youths not in education, employment and Training: An overview of characteristics, challenges, and future prospects'. *MCAST Journal of Applied Research & Practice*, 6(1), 79-100.

Jaftha, N. & Zahra Micallef, M. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'Absenteeism in Post-Secondary Education'. *MCAST Journal of Applied Research & Practice*, 6(1), 185-207.

Jaftha, N. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'A Mixed-method Approach Towards Identifying Students' Game-playing Characteristics, Styles, and Motivational Drives Behind Them'. *Journal of Applied Research and Technology*, 6(1), 4-28.

Jaftha, N., Zahra Micallef, M. & Chircop, T. (2021). 'The Impact of Gamified Instruction on Students' Learning Outcomes: Systematic Review of Experimental Studies'. *International Journal of Education*, 13(4), 55-85.

Jaftha, N., Morone Pinto, F.C., & Chircop, T. (2020). 'Knowing the Students' Game-Playing Characteristics as a Prerequisite for Successful Gamification in Education'. *Journal of Education and Development*, 4(3), 73-87.

Montalto, M. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'The Challenges and Barriers Students Face in their Learning Journeys: Perspectives of Teachers and Lecturers'. *Journal of Applied Research and Technology*, 6(1), 101-184.

Montalto, M. & Chircop, T. (2023). 'The Challenges and Barriers Students Face in their Learning Journeys'. *MCAST Monograph Series*, 1.



Morone Pinto, F. C., Jaftha, N., Borg, S., Zahra Micallef, M. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'Students' Learning and Gaming Preferences and their Expectations of Gamification'. *Journal of Applied Research and Technology*, 6(1), 60-78.

Torou, E. Borg, S. & Chircop, T. (2022). 'Dropping Out from Post-Secondary Vocational Education: A Case Study in Malta'. *MCAST Journal of Applied Research & Practice*, 6(1), 208-232.

Research equipment at ARIC:

- Visualisation Wall (1 year old) - Multiple high-resolution displays are arranged into a single, curved, large display surface. It enables viewers to see large amounts of data at once and allows for interactive exploration and analysis of the data, training and simulation.
- Optical motion-capture cameras (1 month old)
- A versatile system with a number of applications in the life sciences, engineering, virtual reality, virtual production, and animation, able to capture motion with high accuracy and high positional and angular precision.
- Virtual Reality Headsets (1 year old)
- Robots (6 months old) - Teleoperation making it useful for tasks that require remote control, such as telepresence, remote inspection, or teleoperation in hazardous environments.
- Semi-humanoid robot (In final stages of procurement) - it combines advanced technology with human-like features to provide an engaging, personalized, and interactive educational experience for students.
- 360-degree camera (3.5 years)

Licences available at ARIC

- MAXQDA® -- software package for qualitative data analysis and mixed methods research.
- IBM® SPSS® -- statistical software platform.

Other significant research infrastructure available within MCAST's institutes

Institute of Creative Arts (MOSTA):

- An upgraded photography studio

In the coming months there will be:

- The implementation of the TV studio upgrade for it to be equipped with the latest technology.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The digital design computer labs will be seeing computers replaced with high-end machines. <p><i>Institute of Information and Communication Technology:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VR Goggles Digital Video/Photo camera Thermal Screening Camera Green Screen Fibre Optic splicing machines
Previous Projects/ Research Experience (international/ EU/ big national or regional projects especially in the areas in which you would like to host fellows) (<i>up to 5</i>)	<p>- ESF 02.058 Adding Value: Nurturing Learning Journeys in IVET at MCAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on NEETS Research on innovative tools, including gamification to enhance learning Research on challenges and barriers students find during their learning journey Research on music subcultures Research on identity formation of young women
Thematic areas and list of supervisors who are looking forward to preparing a project proposal with postdoctoral researchers	<p>Dr Tatjana Chircop (link to CV, contact information):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Young people in vocational education Identity formation of young people Music subcultures Leisure and young people
Contact Person/ Position in the Organisation/ Phone/ E-mail	<p><i>Dr Judita Tomaskinova</i> <i>Deputy Director Research & Innovation</i> <i>Phone: +356 2398 7391</i> <i>Email: Judita.Tomaskinova@mcast.edu.mt</i></p>
Deadline for Expressions of Interest from postdoctoral researchers	20 June 2023
Necessary documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expression of Interest form ✓ CV ✓ Brief description of the project idea
What we offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full-time contract to work on a research project and enjoy advanced training, ✓ Competitive salary –€4,475.48 gross amount, including compulsory deductions under national law, such as employer and employee social security contributions and direct taxes; ✓ Mobility (€ 600) and Family allowances (if applicable - € 660); ✓ Budget for Research, Training and Networking costs (€ 1 000); ✓ Special needs allowance (if applicable).



<p>Requirements</p>	<p>✓ <i>Experience:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Applicants should be in a possession of a doctoral degree at the call deadline.- At the call deadline, supported researchers must have a maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree. Years of experience outside research and career breaks (e.g. due to parental leave) will not count towards the amount of research experience. For nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to pursue their research career in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, years of experience in research in third countries will not be considered in the above maximum. <p>✓ <i>Mobility rule: (delete accordingly)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- European Postdoctoral Fellowships - applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country (Malta) of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.
<p><u>IMPORTANT – apply with us and increase your chances for success¹:</u></p>	<p>✓ Not funded applications for European Postdoctoral Fellowships with a host organisation from Malta have the chance to be funded under the ERA Fellowships Call (‘Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area’ part of the Framework Programme). They will be automatically transferred to the ERA Fellowships Call and will be ranked in one single list according to the scores and evaluation of the Postdoctoral Fellowships call with an additional budget.</p>

¹ The first bullet is only for Widening countries, the second bullet is only for countries and/ or organisations that have a Seal of Excellence programme adopted. Delete accordingly.