



## ABOUT THE CANDIDATES' PROFILE

### At whom is the EU-FORA fellowship addressed?

It is addressed at highly motivated early to mid-career professionals in the area of food safety interested to be trained in the area of food risk assessment while acquiring hands-on experience in leading EU organisations in the food safety area.

### What is an early to mid-career professional?

A professional with a maximum of 15 years of experience in food safety related employment (including risk assessment, risk communication and risk management in any field under EFSA's remit) at the closing date of the call for expression of interest.

### Applicants from which countries can apply?

Applicants from EU Member States and EFTA countries can apply.

### What are the eligibility criteria?

Candidates must fulfil all the eligibility criteria in order to have their application considered for evaluation. If a candidate does not fulfil one or more of these criteria, his/her application will not be considered for the Programme.

### What are the selection criteria?

Selection criteria are used for the evaluation and scoring of candidates.

*Please refer to the "Eligibility & selection criteria" in the toolbox and to the call for further information.*



## ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

### What are the steps of the application process?

*Please refer to the infographic "EU-FORA in a Nutshell" in the toolbox.*

### What is meant by 'food safety' in this call?

"Food safety" encompasses risk assessment, risk communication and risk management in any of the fields under EFSA's remit.

### **How extensive should my knowledge in food safety risk assessment related areas be?**

You should have a solid understanding of the basic aspects of food safety, but not necessarily of food safety risk assessment. The three-week induction training will provide you with the basis for the subsequent placement at the hosting site.

### **Can a fellow participate in the programme for less than 12 months?**

No. This is a full-time 12-month programme designed to meet specific objectives.

### **What type of scientific report are fellows expected to prepare for publication in the EFSA Journal at the end of the fellowship?**

Fellows are expected to produce a technical and/or scientific report explaining the activities he/she was engaged in during the fellowship and outlining findings and results.



## **ABOUT THE HOSTING SITES**

### **Can a fellow choose the fellow hosting site he/she will be placed at?**

No. Based on the information received in the fellow's application (scientific background, motivation, area of interest, etc.), an EFSA evaluation committee will find the best match with one of the work programmes proposed by the fellow hosting sites. Once confirmed, the fellow will be involved in finalising the concrete workplan, including learning objectives, with the supervisor before the hosting period begins.

### **Which hosting sites/countries can fellows be placed at?**

To maximise the knowledge exchange, fellows will be placed outside their country of residence (in the 12 months preceding application) and preferably not in their native country.

For each new 12-month fellowship cycle, EFSA will rank the work programmes received based on their quality and relevance, so the hosting sites may change from year to year.

*Meet our fellows in the toolbox to find out more about the hosting sites previously involved in the EU-FORA programme.*

### **Do fellows need to speak the language of the hosting country?**

No. The working language is English. However, the hosting site may offer fellows the chance to attend a language course to facilitate their integration.



## ABOUT THE ALLOWANCE & COSTS

### What allowance do fellows receive?

Fellows receive a monthly net subsistence allowance of 2 200 EUR (multiplied by the yearly revised [correction coefficients](#) reflecting the cost of living in the country of the hosting site) for the 12-month duration of the fellowship. It is important to note that the fellow is not an employee of the hosting site, and the monthly subsistence allowance paid to the fellow is not a salary. The fellow should be paid the whole amount without any reduction for taxes and health insurance.

It is the fellow's responsibility to meet any taxation and health/social insurance obligations in his/her country of origin.

In addition, to help fellows settle in and to cover the expenses of travel between the hosting site and their country of origin, fellows receive an additional one-month allowance at the start of the programme.

### Does the hosting site arrange and pay for the fellows' accommodation?

No. The fellow arranges and pays for his/her accommodation. The monthly subsistence allowance that the fellow receives from the hosting site is intended to be used for this purpose. The hosting site may support the fellow in finding accommodation.

### Who arranges and pays for traveling expenses and accommodation during the training modules?

All travel to and from the training sites, as well as the accommodation of fellows in hotels, will be arranged and paid for under the programme.

### Who pays for other travelling expenses?

The settlement allowance is intended to cover also return travel from the hosting site to the country of origin of the fellow.

At the start of the placement, fellows and hosting sites may agree on coverage by the hosting site for additional travel costs derived from the performance of the working programme.

### Will fellows have to take unpaid leave for the duration of the placement, or will the organisation of origin, if relevant, continue the payment of salaries, national insurance and pension contributions?

Contract status, continuation of salary payment, national insurance and/or social security contributions, and any other allowances are at the discretion of the organisation of origin. Fellows are advised to clarify the conditions of their release with their organisations of origin.