



CLARIFICATION N°2

Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2023-ENREL-01

Call title: Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship (EU-FORA) Programme

Question 1: I would like to ask for information regarding the rules for paying remuneration during EU-FORA. Does the program specify possible forms of remuneration payment or does the program simply allow remuneration to be paid in the forms indicated in the University's internal regulations?

Answer: According to section 1.2.3 of the Call for Proposals ("Obligations and benefits of becoming a fellow sending organisation"), the fellow sending organisation must continue to pay the salary of the fellow, to maintain their administrative status throughout the period of fellowship and to inform EFSA of any change in the fellow's status in this regard. This should be maintained during the whole period of fellowship, including the time of placement at the hosting site.

The form of grant awarded under this Call for Proposals is based on financing not linked to the costs in accordance with Article 125 (1)(a) of the EU Financial Regulation. The grant to be paid to the consortium is based on a pre-defined amount which is not linked to the actual costs of the action but on the condition that the fellowship programme is completed in full by the fellow and the deliverables under the grant are received and approved by EFSA. Evidence of actual costs incurred by both parties in the consortium is not required. As indicated in section 1.4.1 of the Call for Proposals, the total amount of the EFSA grant (€55,000 per grant, per fellow) intends to support the costs incurred by the fellow sending organisation and by the hosting site. EFSA does not prescribe how the grant should be divided between the two organisations. Such decision is entirely at the discretion of the consortium, but EFSA reminds that payment of the grant will only be made to the coordinator (fellow hosting site) and it is its responsibility to transfer the agreed proportion of the funds to the fellow sending organisation in due time.

Question 2: A professional with a minimum of 3 and 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) before their fellowship.

Which period counts? The time that somebody finished-started a PhD or the time started working on the eligible sending Institution?

Answer: In section 2.4.B.1.7 of the Call for Proposals ("Professional and operational capacity"), it is indicated that the fellow must have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 years of experience in performing scientific work or tasks related to food safety (including risk assessment, risk communication and risk management aspects) before their fellowship.

This requirement does not only refer to employment contracts but also to other type of work experience, such as PhD, Master research time, temporary contracts, provided that it is proved and clearly explained in the CV to be submitted. This experience may have been obtained in organisations/companies/institutions other than the fellow sending organisation. However, according to section 2.4.B.1.4 of the Call for Proposals, the candidate must have worked for the fellow sending organisation for at least 12 months before the starting date of the fellowship and shall remain in the service of that employer throughout the period of fellowship.

Question 3: Identified fellows must be professionals in food safety working at a competent organisation (Art. 36 organisation) for a minimum of 12 months, with a full university degree in a relevant area and a good knowledge of English language (at least B2 level according to CEFR), and a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of 15 years of experience in food safety before their fellowship.

1. I should be working as a fellow at the university for at least 12 months prior to the call deadline?
2. The experience in food safety starts counting at the end of the PhD studies?

Answer: 1) As specified in section 2.4.B.1.4 of the call for proposals, the working relationship with the University (postdoc grant plus any potential previous working experience with them) needs to be of minimum 12 months by the time of the fellowship (i.e. beginning of the fellowship in September 2024).

2) The experience does not need to be paid working experience and any previous work performed (e.g. the PhD), if in a related topic, would count as experience.

The information needs to be clearly indicated and explained in the Europass CV to be submitted alongside the application.