

## INTERNAL CALL OF INTEREST

### Creating a EBU post-doctoral network through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Post-doctoral Fellowship call

The **European Bioeconomy University (EBU)** is launching an **internal call to facilitate post-doctoral mobility within the EBU alliance and create a recognised scientific network of well-trained post-docs.** Such initiative will be supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions of Horizon Europe, which is the new European Research and Innovation programme (under the call 2021: “Post-doctoral Fellowships”).

#### About EBU:

The European Bioeconomy University aims at being Europe’s leading intellectual institution in tackling the enormous environmental, economic and societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

EBU is composed of **6 European higher education institutions** recognized for their excellence at the global level:

- [AgroParisTech \(National Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences\)](#)
- [University of Bologna \(UNIBO\)](#)
- [University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna \(BOKU\)](#)
- [University of Hohenheim \(UHOH\)](#)
- [Wageningen University and Research \(WUR\)](#)
- [University of Eastern Finland \(UEF\)](#)

#### EBU aims at:

- Covering the entire spectrum of bioeconomy dimensions
- Providing an internationally unique and competitive model for a theme-based, system- and future-oriented university that focuses on inter- and transdisciplinary as well as sectoral and European collaboration
- Taking university collaboration to a higher level of joint strategy development and to a new governance model, based on shared beliefs and longstanding cooperation

#### EBU’s missions:

- is the empowerment of the European knowledge-based bioeconomy
- educating a new generation of truly European experts
- fostering rigorous, relevant and responsible research
- transferring knowledge into society and the economy

To know more about EBU, please visit: <https://european-bioeconomy-university.eu/>



## About MSCA Post-doctoral Fellowships:

**Post-doctoral Fellowships** are a great option if you are looking to give your career a boost by working abroad. They offer exciting new learning opportunities and a chance to add some sparkle to your CV.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships support the mobility of researchers within and beyond Europe - as well as helping to attract the best foreign researchers to work in the EU. The grant usually covers two years' salary, a mobility allowance, research costs and overheads for the host institution. Individual researchers submit proposals for funding in liaison with their planned host organisations. Proposals are judged on their research quality, the researcher's future career prospects, and the support offered by the host organisation. Fellows can also spend part of the fellowship elsewhere in Europe if this would boost impact (through secondments).

**All research areas** can be funded.

Expected deadline for the submission of the MSCA proposals Post-Doctoral Fellowships 2021 is: **15 September 2021**

To know more about MSCA, please visit: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en)

**EBU aims at leveraging on this MSCA scheme to support the careers of its young researchers.** Indeed, EBU will encourage and support post-doc mobility within EBU network, with the objective to involve the successful postdocs into a thriving European community.

## Conditions of the call:

### Who should candidate?

- You are a **Doctoral student**, you are registered as a PhD student at one of EBU member AND you plan to obtain your PhD Degree before the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2021
- You are a **Post-doc**, you are employed by one EBU member AND you have obtained your PhD within the last 8 years (cutoff date: 15 September 2021)

You ticked one box? Congrats! You are eligible to answer this call.

Now, if you:

- wish to further boost your career by being trained abroad in an excellent research and education institution in the field of bioeconomy,
- are ready to lead your own Research and Innovation project,
- are excited to learn from a great European experience and getting support from a recognized network...

**Read carefully what follows.**



## Why should you candidate?

- Finding a supervisor\*<sup>1</sup> within one of the EBU member

You wish to apply for a MSCA call or to implement a research project abroad but you do not have a clear idea of who could be your supervisor or how you could make your project happen? EBU PostdocNet team will support you on the matchmaking process to find a researcher willing to supervise you for your MSCA project in a relevant research team.

- Benefitting from a strong support to set up your MSCA proposal

European Affairs Officers of the network will bring you strong and personalised support until the submission of your MSCA project on the European portal. While not guaranteeing a positive outcome (this is a highly selective European call), benefiting from such help will increase your chances and ensure that all the non-scientific steps are properly undertaken.

- Take advantage from the EBU network to implement successfully your project and boost your career afterwards!

Your project will be recognised as a EBU project. You will be then able to disseminate your project results within the EBU network, which will give your project a great visibility. You will also get opportunities to be involved in research networking activities and to build future research opportunities with researchers from the six EBU universities. Furthermore, EBU network will be a great support to communicate about your project also outside of the network, and thus ensure a wider dissemination of your results. Not to mention the fact that being a part of this network will undoubtedly be a key asset for your career!

## If you are willing to start this adventure, what is the first thing to do?

Very first thing to do is to learn more about the six EBU institutions and their research activities and so to define in which institution you would like to implement your project. Information is provided below and on each institution's website. You can also get advice from the EBU PostdocNet Contact Points.

### [AgroParisTech, UniBo, BOKU, UHOH, WUR, UEF]

Once you know in which institution you would wish to go, please send an email to one of the Contact Points below:

Institution	Name	Contact
AgroParisTech (FR)	Elodie Popena	<a href="mailto:elodie.popena@agroparistech.fr">elodie.popena@agroparistech.fr</a>
UniBo (IT)	Simone Maccaferri	<a href="mailto:simone.maccaferri@unibo.it">simone.maccaferri@unibo.it</a>
BOKU (AT)	Bernhard Koch	<a href="mailto:bernhard.koch@boku.ac.at">bernhard.koch@boku.ac.at</a>
UHOH (DE)	Marion Dürr	<a href="mailto:marion.duerr@verwaltung.uni-hohenheim.de">marion.duerr@verwaltung.uni-hohenheim.de</a>
WUR (NL)	<i>Special conditions, please read below the table</i>	
UEF (FI)	Riitta Tegelberg	<a href="mailto:riitta.tegelberg@uef.fi">riitta.tegelberg@uef.fi</a>

<sup>1</sup> Having a « supervisor » is mandatory in the framework of the MSCA Post-Doctoral Fellowships. The role of the supervisor is to integrate the researcher properly within his/her organisation in order that all parties gain the maximum knowledge and skills from the fellowship. This includes ensuring that the foreseen training-through-research takes place, as well as providing support and guidance for the personal and professional development of the fellow. Before that, the supervisor should also guide the applicant throughout the proposal process.



If you are not sure where do you want to go, feel free to contact several Contacts Points.

Contact Points will help you to make your project more precise, to identify relevant research teams and to find a supervisor if you do not have one. They will guide you 1/with the process of this internal call, and, if you are selected, 2/throughout the setting up of your MSCA proposal, until the submission.

**About integrating WUR:** In order find a suitable department and supervisor within WUR please use [Research@wur](mailto:Research@wur) search engine. When you have found a supervisor and there is a match on both side the WUR supervisor will contact the EU office for support during the funding application procedure.

**It is important to note that each institution has its own internal rules regarding Marie S.Curie fellowships.** Contact points will explain you in details the specific conditions of their institution (e.g. salary conditions, etc.). Therefore, **we advise you to get in touch with the Contact Points as soon as possible.**

Finally, **Contacts Point will provide you the application template that you will have to fill in.** Two documents are mandatory to join with the application template: **Curriculum Vitae and proof of PhD Award.**

### **To apply – 3 steps**

**1/** Choose your institution

**2/** Send an e-mail to the Contact Point of your targeted institution – s.he will help you and give you all details you need to know about the chosen institution (internal rules about MSCA Fellowships) and provide you the application template

**3/** After having successfully exchanged with your Contact Point, and when you finally found a supervisor / or are on the verge of finding the best appropriate supervisor (see footnote #1), you can fill in the application template and then send your application with mandatory documents to:

[ebu-postdocnet@agroparistech.fr](mailto:ebu-postdocnet@agroparistech.fr)

**- Deadline: 3 May 2021 – 5pm CET**



## ANNEX: DESCRIPTION OF EACH EBU MEMBER



AgroParisTech is a higher education and research institution aiming at addressing some of the main global challenges of the 21st century: feeding a growing population while sustainably managing territories, preserving natural resources, supporting innovation and developing the bioeconomy. While doing so, it addresses the following fields: agricultural sciences and technologies, forestry, life sciences, food technology, biotechnologies, environment, nutrition, health, land and natural resources management, as well as related public policies.

The institute offers high level training for Master of Science in Engineering, Master of Science and PhD students as well as lifelong learning programs, while focusing on research and innovation thanks to its joint research units. AgroParisTech is organised in 5 education and research departments.

- Agronomy, Forestry, Water and Environmental Sciences and Engineering
- Life Sciences and Health
- Sciences and Engineering for Food and Bioproducts
- Social sciences, Economics and Management
- Modelling: Mathematics, Informatics and Physics

In 2020, AgroParisTech was ranked 3rd at the European level and 4th at the global level by the QS Ranking for the subject “Agriculture and Forestry” and, being component institution of Université Paris-Saclay, was ranked 12th in Agricultural Sciences by the Shanghai Ranking’s global ranking of academic subjects 2020.

Key figures about AgroParisTech: 250 academic staff; >550 engineers, technicians and administrative staff; 22 joint research units and 1 research & development unit; 2300 students (~16% international) including 350 doctoral students (~34% international); 10 campuses and centers. AgroParisTech connects with its socio-economic environment through different activities including setting-up Research and Training Chairs (8 ongoing) and fostering innovation through its 5 InnLabs (pre-incubators).

- Link to [Research units - AgroParisTech](#)
- Link to AgroParisTech website : [Welcome to AgroParisTech - AgroParisTech](#)



## ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

The Alma Mater Studiorum is the oldest university in the Western world. Since its origins in 1088, Alma Mater has been student-centred hosting prominent figures from science and the arts. Currently, Bologna is the first Italian University for Academic Reputation in the QS World University Ranking 2020.

The University has a strong vocation in integrating education, research and innovation. Our research community is large and multidisciplinary, providing a significant critical mass for delivering outstanding education and effective societal and economic impact through its research and innovation activities. Alma Mater offers a teaching catalogue diversified and tailored to the needs of present-day society: over 200 degree programmes among its 32 Departments and 11 Schools are offered to over 86,000 students of which over 6,000 international.

Bioeconomy is one of key areas for the University both in education, research and innovation. Over 1000 researchers are active in this research field across most of the Departments, leveraging on the truly multi-disciplinary concept of bioeconomy and thanks to the large variety of disciplines that Alma Mater is covering.

As a comprehensive research university, Alma Mater invests in the multidisciplinary cross-cultural approach and in the inseparable connection between research and teaching. It is one of the most active universities, participating in a wealth of European research and academic cooperation projects, being able to rank as the second University in Italy for capacity of attracting European funding. In Horizon 2020, the University of Bologna is so far involved in 347 funded projects with more than 149M€ of funding.

Bioeconomy is the most prominent and successful research area for the Alma Mater, and we are proud to be the first Italian University in the sector with about 22M€ mobilized through over 55 funded projects, with major successes in the field of sustainability and circular economy, exploitation of agricultural and aquatic biomasses, bio-refinery for the development of high-added value bio-based products, as well as sustainable food systems.

Alma Mater is protagonist in a number of initiatives bridging research, innovation, infrastructure, capacity building and science policies. Apart from performing cutting-edge research, Alma Mater is also part of all the most prominent networks, fora and associations active in the European and international bioeconomy scenario, and plays a key role in a number of relevant European research and policy initiatives.

In the innovation and entrepreneurship area, Alma Mater has pioneered the relationship with **industry**, starting with the Emilia-Romagna regional level, where it established and funded three major regional Inter-departmental Centers for Industrial Research in Agrifood, Energy and Environment, and Advanced Manufacturing and Materials, thus tackling all different aspects of circular economy and bioeconomy and valuing territorial specificities. Furthermore, it is cooperating closely with some of the most important bioeconomy industries at national and international level, also thanks to its institutional **incubator** AlmaCube and its internationally recognized Bologna Business School.

- Link to [Research Profile University of Bologna](#)
- Link to [University of Bologna website](#)



University of Natural Resources  
and Life Sciences, Vienna

Founded in 1872, the Universität für Bodenkultur Wien / University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, known too by its acronym "BOKU" is an education and research institution for renewable resources in Vienna, Austria.

BOKU responds to central societal challenges with its focus on problem-solving rather than a discipline-oriented structure, combining expertise in the fields of natural sciences, engineering as well as social and economic sciences (three-pillar principle).

Today, BOKU comprises 15 departments as well as several external research and teaching facilities. There are currently approx. 11.000 students enrolled at BOKU, in study courses at bachelor, master and doctoral level. BOKU employs approx. 1.200 staff members engaged in teaching and research, a broad range of external lecturers, and approx. 600 employees working in services and administration.

Looking back on a long and successful history in inter- and transdisciplinary research and teaching, BOKU provides the scientific community, policy-makers as well as partners in society and economy with competent answers regarding topics such as climate change, further development of sustainable agriculture and forestry, bioeconomy, environmental protection, sustainable energy security, food safety and security, and securing and promoting the quality of life in urban and rural living spaces.

As a university of life and sustainability, which comprehensively addresses the sustainable protection and sustainable use of natural resources and design of living spaces in research and teaching, and which provides answers to central societal challenges, BOKU pursues the following **missions**:

- Protection and improvement of livelihood
- Management of natural resources
- Protecting food and health
- Sustainable societal and technological transformation

Based on this mission, BOKU has defined **six fields of competence** in research and teaching which are future-oriented and closely interlinked with each other:

- Ecosystem management and biodiversity
- Agricultural production and food
- Renewable raw materials and new technologies
- Biotechnology
- Landscape, Water, Habitat and Infrastructures
- Resources and social dynamics

BOKU strives for national as well as international thematic leadership in these fields of competence.

Research at a high level is both backbone and guideline for future development at BOKU. BOKU's scientists are particularly active and successful in externally funded projects (nationally as well as in European and international programmes). Performing not only excellent basic research but moving along the innovation chain towards applied research also makes BOKU a strong partner for industry.

- Link BOKU Website: <https://www.boku.ac.at/en/>
- Link BOKU Research: <https://boku.ac.at/en/research>



# UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM

Founded in 1818 after devastating famines, the University of Hohenheim is not only engaged in intensive basic research but has traditionally also been committed to developing innovative solutions for some of society's pressing problems. To do so, the University of Hohenheim engages in a combination of scientific disciplines that is unique among German universities. Today, the University of Hohenheim is the leading University in agricultural research and food sciences, as well as strong and unparalleled in natural, social, business, economic, and communication sciences.

- Through the outstanding work of its scientists and researchers, the University of Hohenheim positions itself in three research areas of particular social relevance: Bioeconomy, Global Food Security and Ecosystems, and Health Sciences. The cross-cutting topic of Digital Transformation complements and strengthens the three research foci and all activities of the university.
- The unique campus surrounding the beautiful Palace that contributes to the University's identity and the compact size provide an excellent foundation for cooperation in research and teaching across the boundaries of disciplines and faculties. In addition, there is a high degree of transparency, which is typical for processes and structures in Hohenheim.
- The Humboldtian idea of the unity of teaching and research is absolutely key to the modern university. With the "Humboldt reloaded" program, the University of Hohenheim has fundamentally and sustainably strengthened this idea. The new combination of teaching and research with the idea of transfer creates an extended, modern form of the Humboldtian approach.

In 2020, the University of Hohenheim was ranked once again No. 1 in Germany and among the top ten at the European level by the QS Ranking for the subject "Agriculture" and maintained its position among the 20% of the world's best universities in the THE World University Ranking, mainly due to its high level of research influence.

Key figures about the University of Hohenheim: 965 scientific staff; >1100 technicians and administrative staff; 3 research centers; 8950 students (~15% international) and 131 doctoral candidates (~25% international); 374 ha campus and 504 ha experimental stations off campus. The University of Hohenheim's goal is to be a partner for innovation in business and society. This is realized by a series of projects such as the StartupGarage Hohenheim.

- Link to [Research Profile University of Hohenheim](#)
- Link to [University of Hohenheim website](#)



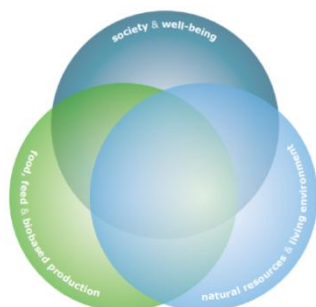


**To explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life'**

That is the mission of Wageningen University & Research. Over 6,500 employees and 12,500 students from more than hundred countries work everywhere around the world in the domain of healthy food and living environment for governments and the business community-at-large.

The strength of Wageningen University & Research lies in its ability to join the forces of specialised [research institutes](#) and [the university](#). It also lies in the combined efforts of the various fields of natural and social sciences. This union of expertise leads to scientific breakthroughs that can quickly be put into practice and be incorporated into education. This is the Wageningen Approach.

The scientific quality of Wageningen University & Research (WUR) is affirmed by the prominent position we occupy in international rankings and citation indexes.



**The domain of Wageningen University & Research consists of three related core areas:**

- Food, feed & biobased production
- Natural resources & living environment
- Society & well-being

WUR provides high quality knowledge, education and research to develop and implement paths of change addressing these global challenges and to design and accelerate the necessary transitions. We cannot do this alone. We need partners- both our current and new ones, both national and international ones. Simultaneously, we aim for continuous internal renewal, change and improvements to maintain and strengthen our high quality, societal impact and global position.



➤ Facts and figures about [Wageningen University & Research](#)



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND

The University of Eastern Finland, UEF, is one of the largest universities in Finland. The campuses in Joensuu and Kuopio are home to a nice mix of thousands of Finnish and international researchers and students. The strategy of UEF is rooted in global challenges that touch the lives of many. We seek solutions to these challenges through interdisciplinary research and multidisciplinary education. Link to the UEF website: <https://www.uef.fi/en>

One of the four strategic research areas at UEF is «Environmental change and sustainable use of natural resources». The research combines natural, social, legal, business, forest, health, nutrition, and cultural sciences, creating a knowledge base for the bioeconomy, the circular economy, the energy revolution, more sustainable mineral economies and water supply use, sustainable development, and building a carbon-neutral society. UEF research also addresses the contamination of air, water and soil, including the management of these three natural resources.

In practice, research at UEF is carried out by the university's Research Communities (RCs). RCs closely linked to bioeconomy are:

- Forests and Bioeconomy (FOBI),
- Sustainable Co-management of Water Resources and Aquatic Environments (WATER),
- Minerals, Energy and Circular Economy in Sustainable Transitions (MECES) and
- Climate Forcing, Ecosystems and Health (CLEHE).

➤ More information about the research and bioeconomy at UEF: <https://www.uef.fi/en/research> and <https://www.uef.fi/en/bioeconomy>.

Recently, a new flagship of the Academy of Finland, Forest-Human-Machine Interplay (UNITE), was launched at UEF. The UNITE will create digital twins of forests using novel geospatial technologies and novel business models that are based on a digitised and gamified forest environments. Mission is to diversify forest-related livelihoods, promote forests as a source of health and well-being, and safeguard biodiversity in close collaboration with business and society. More information: [www.uniteflagship.fi](http://www.uniteflagship.fi).

