Post-Doctoral Grants

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Application Regulations 2015

The Post-Doctoral Grant Scheme is administered by the

Scholarships Unit

Programme Implementation Directorate

Ministry for Education and Employment

Closing Date: **Friday 19th June, 2015**

Noon - Local time

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European Union - European Structural and Investment Funds
Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020
Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote
the well being of society
Project may be considered for part-financing
by the European Union
European Social Fund (ESF)
Co-financing rate: 80% EU Funds; 20% National Funds
| 1.   | Introduction                      | Page 3 |
| 2.   | Aims and Objectives               | Page 3 |
| 3.   | Explanatory Notes – Definitions   | Page 4 - 5 |
| 4.   | Eligibility                       | Page 5 - 7 |
| 5.   | Financial Support and Duration    | Page 7 |
| 6.   | Priority Areas of Study           | Page 7 |
| 7.   | Choice of Institution             | Page 7 |
| 8.   | Administration of Post-Doctoral Research Projects | Page 7 - 8 |
| 9.   | Application Forms                 | Page 8 - 9 |
| 10.  | Eligibility, Selection Process and Procedure | Page 9 - 10 |
| 11.  | Selection Criteria                | Page 10 |
| 12.  | Value of Awards and Payments      | Page 10 - 11 |
| 13.  | General Conditions                | Page 11 - 12 |
| 15.  | Monitoring and Control            | Page 13 |
| 16.  | Deliverables                      | Page 13 - 14 |
| 17.  | Publicity Obligations             | Page 14 |
1. **Introduction**

1.1 In a knowledge based economy that is already starting to shift to the creativity economy it is imperative that a strong base of post-doctorate programme is in place that in turn, will provide the country with the necessary expertise that will ultimately bring intellectual and economic growth to society as a whole.

1.2 Post-doctoral research education is of central importance as it provides the means through which research activity may be engendered within Universities and Industry. It is also vital that the areas of note that have been selected by the country for future development based on past success are further enabled to provide Malta with needed, additional, development capacity.

1.3 The actions supporting Postdoctoral Researchers falls under Priority Axis 3 of the Operational Programme II (OP) named ‘Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society’, Investment Priority 10 (iii) ‘Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences’.

The Post-Doctoral research projects may be part-financed by the European Union Operational Programme II - Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 ‘Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society ’ - European Social Fund (ESF).

2. **Aims and Objectives**

Post-Doctoral research forms an increasingly important part of any country’s economic and social agenda. Through this scheme Malta aims to strengthen the research performance, through investment in Post-Doctoral research programmes to increase the human capital supply that can effectively contribute towards R&I investment thereby, contributing towards the EU Headline Target of increasing R&I investment. The research project is expected to contribute towards Malta’s economic, social, environmental and cultural development as well as to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives.

The key objectives of the Post-Doctoral Grants are:
- Producing well-rounded, professional researchers who contribute to the advancement of their fields of knowledge internationally, using a variety of relevant skills;
- Promoting researcher development that engages in (two-way) knowledge transfer with various external stakeholders, including research organisations, employers, policymakers, nongovernmental organisations, the media, and the wider public;
- Strengthening the research competence by building expertise in areas of strategic economic importance for Malta;
- Increase the number of Post-Doctoral graduates so as to create a stronger knowledge base to better compete internationally; and
- Contribute towards research in identified areas of national priority and contribute towards the achievement of the EU 2020 strategy.

This investment is concentrated to further strengthen the building of research communities in Malta with the aim to reap economic benefits derived through the effects of human resource development, R & I and knowledge diffusion on technological innovation.
3. **Explanatory Notes – Definitions**

3.1 **Academic Mentor** shall mean the person or persons responsible for supporting and mentoring the Researcher and ensuring the academic quality of the research produced throughout the duration of awarded research grant.

3.2 **Agreement** shall mean a legally binding document to be signed by the Researcher as beneficiary of the Research Project and the Project Leader – Scholarship Unit within the Programme Implementation Directorate (PID) within the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE). These Regulations shall be construed as forming part of the Agreement. The Agreement has to be signed by not later than three (3) months after the publication of rankings. The monetary amounts shown in the Agreement shall be disbursed only if the proper documentation is submitted and verified for eligibility and correctness. In the event of any inconsistency or discrepancy between the Agreement and these Regulations, these Regulations shall prevail in all cases and the Agreement shall be amended to the extent of the discrepancy or inconsistency with these Regulations is rectified. These Regulations and Agreement will be administered by the Scholarship Unit within the Programme Implementation Directorate within the Ministry for Education and Employment. The Research projects may be part-financed by the European Union Operational Programme II — Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020 ‘Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society - European Social Fund.

3.3 **Appeals Board** shall mean an Independent Board of experts, entrusted with assessing and delivering final decisions in respect of petitions submitted by Applicants and Researchers contesting decisions taken by the Post-Doctoral Project Board and/or the Project Leader on the interpretation of these Regulations. Any decision taken by the Appeals Board shall be regarded as final and irrevocable for all intents and purposes of the Post-Doctoral Research Projects.

3.4 **Applicant** shall mean a person that submits a Post-Doctoral research projects application.

3.5 **Commencement and Completion Date** of research project shall mean the dates as specified within the contract/letter of intent signed between the Host University and the Researcher/s. The **Completion Date** shall mean the date when the research is completed and the final result is published. Payments are calculated to cover the period from the **Commencement Date** to the **Completion Date**. **Funding Term** shall mean the period between the official start date and agreed end date of the Research Project.

3.6 **Contract issued by the Host University** shall mean a document attesting the acceptance of the applicant by the institution where the research project will take place assuring the required conditions for the suitability of the research project. This documentation also needs to specify the indicative duration of the research of not more than three (3) years and the indicative costs involved.

3.7 **ESF** shall mean European Social Fund.

3.8 **Host Institution / Higher Education Institution (HEI)** For the purposes of these Postdoctoral Grants, means a higher, accredited education institution within the European Union and the European Economic Area that is recognised by the National commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) - [http://www.ncfhe.org.mt/](http://www.ncfhe.org.mt/). This organization should be committed (through a contract signed with the researcher) to provide support to the researcher. This commitment is a requirement for the interested Applicants.

3.9 **Joint Research Project** shall mean a single research project submitted by more than one Post-Doctoral researcher. This shall be considered as one research project.

3.10 **MQF (Malta Qualifications Framework)** shall act as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers’ and learners’ mobility between countries and facilitating their lifelong learning.

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1 Without prejudice to Section 5 – financial support and duration.

2 In the case of Joint Research Projects – the maximum capping of 200,000 Euro per research proposal shall still apply.
3.11 Post-Doctoral researcher is a PhD holder who is able to carry out an independent research, teaching activity and ready to be engaged in academic life. A Post-Doctoral researcher is an individual holding a doctoral degree who is engaged in a temporary period of mentored research and/or scholarly training financed through this initiative for the purpose of acquiring the professional skills needed to pursue a career path of his or her choosing. This is also referred to as researcher or as the grant holder.

3.12 Post Doctoral Grant shall mean the funding for the research project by MEDE.

3.13 Post-Doctoral Project Board shall mean an expert group entrusted with the selection and evaluation of research projects as well as deciding on technical matters that may arise throughout the funding term, pertaining to specific research projects that have been awarded financing.

3.14 Project Leader (PL) shall mean the person who is entrusted with the overall financial and legal responsibility for the implementation of the REACH HIGH Scholars Programme - Post-Doctoral Grants.

3.15 Research Project shall mean the research work proposed by the Researcher and approved by the Post-Doctoral Project Board of the Post-Doctoral Research Grant Scheme.

3.16 Tripartite Agreement shall mean an agreement signed between the PL; Host Institution and researcher/s stipulating the conditions of the Grant, including amongst others intellectual and property rights; supervision; and reporting.

4. Eligibility

4.1 In order to apply for Post-Doctoral Research Projects, an Applicant shall:

4.1.1 (a) be a Maltese citizen who has been residing in Malta for the past five (5) years. Provided that a Maltese citizen who has been residing outside Malta for study, health or work purposes or any other purpose which the Post-Doctoral Research Projects Board may consider, will still be eligible to apply and this period of time during which the citizen was abroad will not be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating the five (5) year requirement, or

(b) be a Maltese Citizen who is a worker or self-employed person in Malta,
or

(c) be a national of an EU/EEA state or a family member of such EU/EEA national (as defined in LN 191 of 2007 and in LN 205 of 2004 respectively for EU and EEA nationals), provided that such person has obtained permanent residence in Malta in accordance with LN 191 of 2007 and in LN 205 of 2004 respectively for EU and EEA nationals,
or

(d) be a national of an EU/EEA state who is in Malta exercising his/her Treaty rights as a worker, self-employed person or person retaining such status in accordance with LN 191 of 2007; or

(e) be a third country national who has been granted long-term residence status under LN 278 of 2006.

4.1.2 Be applying for Post-Doctoral Research within the identified Priority Areas of Study.

4.1.3 Applicants shall start their Post-Doctoral Research Project between Thursday 16th April 2015 and 31st December 2015.
4.1.4 Applicants that have already undertaken/or currently undergoing a Post-Doctoral experience are not eligible to apply under this scheme.

4.1.5 Applicants may apply provided that they meet one of the following conditions:

(a) Applicants be in possession of a PhD or equivalent-based doctorate which was conferred on him/her 5 years prior to the date of the commencement of the research project. From the year when the researcher was conferred with the doctorate title until the date of their proposal submission, no more than five (5) years must have elapsed; or

(b) Have successfully defended their doctoral thesis; or

(c) PhD or equivalent-based doctorate students who are approaching the end of their studies i.e. have set a date for the defence of their doctoral thesis, on condition that they shall submit an attestation issued by the competent department of the respective institution and that they shall have been conferred with the Doctorate title of the commencement date of the research project.

4.2 Applicants must demonstrate the acceptance of the accredited research institution for the duration of the research project or signed agreement between host institutions.

4.3 The complete Application Form shall be submitted by Friday 19th June 2015 at noon (Local Time). Contract issued by the Host Institution shall be submitted by 9th September 2015 at 4.00pm (Local Time).

4.4 Applicants need to propose a research project under the mentorship and support of a European University recognised by the National Commission for Further & Higher Education (NCFHE).

4.5 It is the responsibility of Applicants, in possession of qualifications awarded by foreign HEIs/Universities, to produce an evaluation report on equivalence and comparability of qualifications issued by the Malta Qualifications Recognition information Centre (MQRIC) within the NCHFE (as per Education Act — Act XXIV of 1988 in accordance with the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act — Act XVIII of 2002). A copy of the said report issued by the MQRIC, or the designated authority in case of warrants, shall be attached to the application.

4.6 Applicants whose qualifications are obtained from a foreign HEIs/Universities listed on the website of MQRIC as Approved Institutions (http://www.ncfhe.org.mt), are not required to produce the evaluation report on comparability of qualifications.

4.7 Each post doctoral applicant shall not be the beneficiary of any concurrent funding scheme. The researcher is under the obligation to inform MEDE of any other grants, scholarships or fellowships.

4.8 An Applicant shall become ineligible if s/he is in breach of any part of the Regulations and subsequent Agreement.

4.9 Proposals which include research subjects that fall outside the limitations of ethics as defined in Decision No. 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community (2007-2013) (Article 6 Ethical Principles) shall not be funded. In addition, for the
submission of research proposals must be taken into consideration the manual entitled ‘Ethics for Researchers’, of the European Commission, issued on the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), (details available on the dedicated website of FP7: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en.html).

5. Financial Support and Duration

5.1 The total maximum grant awarded per research project shall not exceed €200,000 per research project. As a general rule the duration is up to a maximum of three (3) years with the possibility of extending to four years.

6. Priority Areas of Study

6.1 The research grants are intended to complement areas within the National R&I Strategy, the Smart Specialisation Strategy as well as any other area of relevance for the socio-economic development of Malta. The main areas of research that will be supported are:

- Science and Engineering,
- ICT,
- Medical, pharmaceutical,
- Education
- Social, anthropological, cultural and behavioural sciences.
- Energy and climate change, built environment, water and the blue economy;
- Any other area which contribute towards Malta’s economic, social, environmental and cultural development and EU2020 strategy.

7. Choice of Institution

7.1 Awards are tenable at any local or European HEI (including Universities) for a specific research project. Only those institutions recognised by the Maltese authorities — National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) shall be taken into consideration by Post-Doctoral Project Board

7.2 National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCHFE) can be contacted through:

*Bice Mizzi Vassallo School  
Alamein Road,  
Pembroke PBK 1773  
Tel. No.: (+356) 27540051 / 21801890 / 27540026 / 21801411  
e-mail: ncfhe@gov.mt  
www.ncfhe.org.mt

8. Administration of Post-Doctoral Research Projects

8.1 The Post-Doctoral Grants Scheme is administered by the REACH HIGH Scholars Programme - Scholarships Unit - Programme Implementation Directorate within the Ministry for Education, and Employment. The Post-Doctoral Project Board is responsible for appropriately conducting the selection and ranking process of proposals and overseeing the scheme.

3 Despite the extension no further funds beyond the €200,000 per project will be disbursed.
8.2 All correspondence including any queries regarding the Post-Doctoral Grants is to be addressed to:

*Project Leader (REACH HIGH Scholars Programme - Post-Doctoral Grants)*
*Scholarships Unit – Programme Implementation Directorate*
*Ministry for Education and Employment*
*Room 163 Education Building*
*Great Siege Road,*
*Floriana VLT 2000*
*Malta*
*Tel. No.: (+356) 2598 2111*
*E-mail: reach-high.med@egov.mt*
*Website: www.myscholarship.gov.mt*

Please note that the official website of Post-Doctoral Research Projects is found on www.myscholarship.gov.mt. The Programme Implementation Directorate does not assume any responsibility for any incorrect information found on other websites as regards the Post-Doctoral Grant Scheme.

9. Application Forms

9.1 Applicants are to apply by completing the **on-line application** form accessed via the MEDE website [www.myscholarship.gov.mt](http://www.myscholarship.gov.mt). The REACH HIGH Scholars Programme - Post-Doctoral Grants Application Regulations may be downloaded from the website [www.myscholarship.gov.mt](http://www.myscholarship.gov.mt).

9.2 Applicants shall submit their Application Form to be evaluated by the **Post-Doctoral Project Board** together with the following:

- Copy of the Applicant’s identity card or residence permit or permanent residence certificate or long term resident status (where applicable);
- Copy of MQRIC evaluation report (where applicable);
- The applicant's curriculum vitae;
- Supporting documents proving that the applicant fulfils all the required conditions as per eligibility criteria (Section 4.1.5), namely certificates of last academic degree obtained including final grades; list of previous publications etc...;
- Applicants must also provide a **Justification for the Research Proposal** including links with national priorities and the EU 2020 strategy⁴;
- A **Technical Statement of Proposed Work** and **Research Plan** (1,000 words maximum)
- **Programme of Work** (grant chart for work programme); and
- The names and addresses of two **Referees** who have agreed to give a confidential assessment of the Applicant’s work.⁵

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⁵ NOTE: The Post-Doctoral Research Projects Board will only contact referees once you have submitted the complete application form. Referees will then be sent e-mail instructions for providing their assessments.
A copy of the **Table of Contents and abstract / summary from their Doctoral Thesis**

Applicants may also submit a sample of written research work such as previously published articles.

A supporting document attesting the acceptance of the applicant by the host institution where the research work will be carried out, assuring the required conditions for the suitable development of the research;

If the research project is laboratory based, applicants will be asked to provide a letter of support from the host institution confirming that laboratory space and access can be provided;

9.3 The Application deadline is **Friday 19th June, 2015 at noon (Local Time)**. Supporting document attesting the acceptance of the applicant by the host institution shall be submitted by latest **9th September 2015 at 4.00 p.m. (Local Time)**.

9.4 Late and incomplete applications shall not be considered by MEDE.

10. **Eligibility, Selection Process and Procedure**

10.1 The Ministry for Education and Employment will set up **Post-Doctoral Project Board** to operate the process of selection. This Board shall be responsible for all matters concerning selection according to pre-established criteria identified in Article 11 and determination of appropriate awards according to the Regulations.

10.2 During the interview, eligible Applicants shall be invited to provide a short presentation explaining their research proposal as well as answering any queries the board may have with regards to their submission. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to make sure to be available on the date and time communicated to him/her for the interview (including presentation). No alternative arrangements shall be made to change the date and time of the interview unless there are exceptional circumstances (supported by written proof) that warrant the change of such date and time. The aforementioned exceptional circumstances shall be examined and such alternative date and time may be agreed to by the Board, at its discretion.

10.3 In the case of applicants who are unable to attend the given date and time for the interview due to being abroad, such interviews shall take place via SKYPE only at the given date and time. The **Post-Doctoral Project Board** does not assume any responsibility if the interview fails to materialise properly due to any technical reason. In exceptional cases, an alternative date for interview may be given by the Post-Doctoral Research Projects Board depending on the circumstances which led to the failure of such an interview.

10.4 Applicants will be notified of their ranking by the **Post-Doctoral Project Board**. Grants will be awarded to the highest ranking submissions.

10.5 The Ministry for Education and Employment has also set up the Appeals Board to deal with objections raised by Applicants after they are informed in writing with the decisions of the Post-Doctoral Research Projects Board.

10.6 If an Applicant disagrees with the **Post-Doctoral Project Board**, only the Applicant may present a petition to the Appeals Board within ten (10) working days from the date when the **Post-Doctoral Project Board** communicate their decision to the Applicant in writing.
the petition the Applicant has to state clearly the reasons why s/he is contesting the decision by the Post-Doctoral Project Board.

10.7 The Appeals Board shall only address appeals from the decisions of the Post-Doctoral Project Board on matters related to procedure or interpretation of the regulations in terms of eligibility, awards, and other decisions related to the awarding of a grant. Under no circumstance shall the Appeals Board change the Regulations, the score of Applicants deriving from interviews by the Post-Doctoral Project Board, nor change the ranking of an Applicant as a result of such Score. The decision by the Appeals Board is final.

11. Selection Criteria

11.1 Applications are considered on the basis of the following selection criteria:

(a) Academic and Personal merit of the Applicant (20%);
(b) How studies are related to the identified priorities in Clause 6 (20%);
(c) The relevance of the research to the local economy and EU2020 Strategy (25%);
(d) The likely impact of the work on the development of Malta (20%);
(e) Presentation provided by applicant (10%)
(f) Number of publications and previous experience in the area of specialisation for this Post-Doctoral Research (5%).

11.2 An Applicant is considered to have passed if 70% of the marks are obtained; nevertheless this does not automatically mean that a grant is being awarded.

12. Value of Awards and Payments

12.1 The research grant shall cover for Post-Doctoral research projects provided by a European accredited and recognised University/Host Institution including stipend, travel, direct research support expenses and laboratory based costs (if applicable); allowances as stated in Clause 12. (where applicable) up to a total of €200,000 per research project.

12.1.1 Post-Doctoral Stipend: The stipend for researchers will be bound to that to a full time annual pay received by a lecturer at the University of Malta including any additional allowances given to full time lecturers i.e. €38,000. Post-Doctoral Researchers working on an awarded project are expected to work full time on the project (no additional paid work is allowed). Should a researcher be given a remuneration from the Host Institution the amount will be adjusted accordingly. This will be recorded within the Tripartate Agreement. Payments may be suspended should there not be a positive assessment from the academic mentor, or by the person responsible for the follow-up of the researcher’s activity and by the host institution. Failure to receive this information could lead to the non-continuation of the grant.

Accommodation: In the case of research projects carried out solely outside Malta, the researcher shall also receive €10,000 per annum. A confirmation of residence abroad endorsed by the Host Institution needs to be submitted to MEDE. This needs to be renewed every year.

12.1.2 Travel: Travel costs pertaining to air travel can be claimed by the researcher and will be based upon the Erasmus Plus Grant Support for mobility. Researchers are to calculate the distance through the following link: http://erasmus-plus.ro/erasmus-
Reimbursement of air travel expenses will be given upon presentation of original boarding passes\(^6\). Original boarding passes need to be provided for each connecting flight that is being claimed. In total travel costs must not exceed €5,000 per annum. Travel costs also include participation and presentation of papers in conferences and seminars and one (1) additional return trip per year to the country of origin, that is, Malta (where applicable).

12.1.3 **Eligible direct research support expenses** such as registration, enrolment fees or tuition fees, training based fees, etc... which shall not exceed €3,000. This amount may increase in the case of Lab based research. Such costs cannot exceed €20,000 per annum. The fees paid by the researcher shall be reimbursed on receipt of both the Host Institution original invoice and the original official receipt of payment or equivalent (i.e. receipted invoice where applicable) issued. Researchers are bound to provide a bank statement as proof of payment. In the case of direct payment to the Host Institution, the institution needs to send the original invoice directly to MEDE.

12.1.4 **Scholarship Awardees with Children**: For researchers with children or otherwise has legal custody of children, a child allowance is payable at the rate of €1,170 per annum for the first child, and €700 per annum for any additional child under the age of 16, provided they are residing with their parent/s. This allowance is paid to one of the awardees when both parents / legal guardians are in receipt of an award. Proof of where is the residence of the child/children has to be presented in order for this allowance to be paid.

13. **General Conditions**

13.1 The awarding of the research project becomes factual through the allocation of a grant under the conditions foreseen in these Regulations and in the Agreement to be signed by MEDE and the research project holder. The Agreement needs to be signed by not later than three (3) months after the conclusion of the evaluation process, unless otherwise justified. As part of the signing of Agreement, the Awardee shall be required to fill in a number of forms, including, TR/S-9, the Employment Termination Form (where applicable), ETC Employment History and other forms that may be communicated by the Project Leader.

13.2 The Agreement may be renewed for an additional period to the limit of the maximum duration, provided that the criteria for awarding are still fulfilled at the date of renewal and subject the availability of funds. Up to three (3) months before the beginning of the extended period the research project holder should submit a request for the renewal to MEDE, together with the supporting documents demonstrating compliance to the following:

- Evaluation report submitted by the supervisor and the host institution reporting on the researcher's work and his/her activities which should be included in the agreement renewal request; and

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\(^6\) If boarding passes have been lost, you can ask the airline to issue a Virtual Coupon Record (VCR). Only those VCRs that have status marked as USED will be accepted instead of the original boarding passes.
The evaluation report mentioned above should include a forecast of the accomplishment of the agreed research work programme by the researcher and the suitability of the renewability of the Agreement.

13.3 The Researcher may not change the objectives indicated in the proposed work programme without consent from the supervisor and the Host institution. Any change should be communicated to MEDE by the researcher, together with the evaluation report of the supervisor's and of the Host institution.

13.4 Save to exceptional situations duly substantiated by the stakeholders, any change to the supervisor or Host Institution of the research project is not allowed.

13.5 The MEDE reserves the right to publish the names of Applicants provisionally selected for Research Projects on the website of the Ministry for Education and Employment and on the main notice board of the Education Information Unit, Education Building, Floriana. In applying for an award, the Applicant gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful.

13.6 The Post-Doctoral Projects Board reserves the right to publish the names of the grant awardees on the website www.myscholarship.gov.mt

13.7 The Post-Doctoral Research Projects Scheme may be co-funded under the ESF Operational Programme II of 2014-2020.

13.8 Any intellectual property, including patents, directly arising from or derived from the research work funded by the grant and carried out by the Researcher should be covered by an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreement acknowledging that the research work carried out, is partially funded by the European Social Fund. Patents (where applicable) resulting from the research will also be co-owned by the Government of Malta. The Tripartite Agreement will specify what rights belong to the researcher and to other parties including the Government of Malta

13.9 On award of a Grant, the Project Leader of the Post-Doctoral Research Projects shall make information obtained available to public authorities for accountability purposes.

13.10 Researchers who are found to have given false information or who have in any manner withheld information that would have influenced the awarding of the Grant in accordance with these Regulations, shall be immediately disqualified and shall be asked to reimburse any expenses and money granted. The administrators may proceed with a criminal liability suit, without prejudice to any civil action for damages, against such Awardees.

14. **End and Cancellation of the Research Programme**

14.1 Up to two (2) months before the end of the research project, and preferably in electronic form, the researchers should submit a final report of his/her activities to MEDE, which shall also contain the URL address of the oral communications, publications and scientific creations resulting from the activity carried together with the supervisor's report.

14.2 Whenever the objectives of the research project are achieved before the end of the initially set deadline payments shall cease as from the conclusion of the research work.

14.3 A researcher who does not attain the objective set in the approved work programme or whose research project is cancelled due to serious violations of his/her duties with the Host
Institution might be requested to refund total or part of the funds already received according to the circumstances of each case.

14.4 A negative evaluation of the researcher’s performance by the supervisor/Host Institution will result in the cancellation of the grant, after the Post Post-Doctoral Project Board hears the researcher.

14.5 Researchers who for any reason discontinue their research project shall inform MEDE in writing immediately. The case will be reviewed by the Post-Doctoral Project Board the researcher will be required to refund the funds disbursed.

14.6 Researchers shall not be deemed to be in breach of these regulations ONLY in case of serious illness and death of the researcher. In case of serious illness, the Researcher needs to provide medical certificates and testimonials to the Post-Doctoral Project Board. However, the REACH HIGH Scholars Programme – the Board shall in no way be bound to waive all claims put forward and reserves the right to appoint its own expert, be it medical or otherwise, to advise and assess the case of the claimant. Thus, researchers who cannot pursue further studies due to serious illness might be required to refund grants on a pro-rata basis as approved by and at the discretion of Post-Doctoral Board, upon evaluation of the situation.

15. **Monitoring and Control**

15.1 Monitoring of research projects is carried out by the Supervisor, or by the person responsible for the follow-up of the researcher’s activity and by the host institution. Every six (6) months researchers shall ask their academic mentor to submit to the Project leader a report confirming progress, including feedback on agreed schedules, milestones, and deliverables and research outputs of the researcher. Failure to receive this information could lead to the non-continuation of the grant.

15.2 The research project might be subject to monitoring and control actions by national and European bodies according to the applicable legislation – EU No. 1303/2013 and 1304/2013 and subsequent legislation. The funded researchers are under the obligation to provide the requested information which may also be used in evaluation studies.

16 **Deliverables**

16.1 The researchers need to write a minimum of one (1) article on their research project at least annually in a research journal throughout the duration of the research project. This must be sent in electronic format to the MEDE, within thirty (30) days of being made public.

16.2 The deliverables of each research activity shall be (among others):

- Relevant publications in international renowned journals, publications in conference proceedings, papers in international conferences, etc.;
- The dissemination of results to public and private bodies and entities;
- Technical reports etc.;
- Patents, ISO, new experimental devices, product standards derived from research results, plans and proposals for the improvement of offered services, innovative suggestions - proposals on resolving problems of production operators, instruments or protocols for monitoring or measuring variables in natural or man-made systems, pilot plants, etc.; (where applicable).
16.3 On completion of the research, a write up on the research work carried out, shall be submitted to the MEDE within two (2) months of completion.

**Acknowledgement of REACH HIGH Scholars Programme - Post-Doctoral Grants**

16.4 All proposed publications arising from the research work must have the approval of the Academic Mentor prior to publication.

16.5 All publicity, including public lectures, interviews, email signatures, letterheads, office signs, publications, monographs, print materials, online materials, press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from the research undertaken by the researcher while in receipt of REACH HIGH Scholars Programme - Post-Doctoral Grants funding must contain acknowledgement of funding received from the grant.

17. **Publicity Obligations**

17.1 All publications and dissemination of results arising from the research project being funded by Post-Doctoral Research Projects shall reflect the following acknowledgement: ‘The research work disclosed in this publication is partially funded by the REACH HIGH Scholars Programme – Post-Doctoral Grants. The grant is part-financed by the European Union, Operational Programme II — Cohesion Policy 2014- 2020 Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society - European Social Fund’.

17.2 Researchers must disseminate the results of the research widely and clearly acknowledge the European Union’s and National support in all communications or publications, in whatever form or whatever medium, including the Internet, or on the occasion of activities for which the grant is used.