



EU-LIFE Pathfinder: Mentorship Programme for Postdoctoral Women Practical Information

Information for Candidates

To revive the spirit of the LIBRA Career Development Compass (H2020 project LIBRA 2016 – 2019) EU-LIFE has decided to launch the EU-LIFE Pathfinder, a mentorship programme for postdoctoral women.

The programme offers mentorship for female postdocs seeking a career in life sciences - as researchers, group leaders, core facility managers, or in administrative positions. It seeks to support the participants on their paths to independence and professional development by placing a focus on the challenges women may encounter in their careers and possible approaches/solutions to those challenges.

Mentees

The programme is open to all postdoctoral women at the EU-LIFE institutes. For available places per institute, please see the table below.

Mentors

The potential mentors for the programme are Principal Investigators and senior staff in other areas such as core facilities or science administration who have volunteered for the programme.

Duration

The mentoring programme should include at least two mentor – mentee meetings within a 12-month-framework.

Application Process

We invite interested postdoctoral women to fill the application form [here](#).

Places on the programme are allocated according to the date of receipt of the application and the candidate's motivation. For the number of places available, please see the table below.

Applicants are asked to name three potential mentors. You can find information about the mentors on the website.



Match Mentee – Mentor

Based on the preferences given, the EU-LIFE team try to find the best match of mentors and mentees. To keep efforts manageable for our volunteer mentors, they will not be assigned more than one mentee. Consequently, and because multiple nominations may occur, some mentees may not be matched with their first preference.

Mentorship

The mentorship will be carried out in a hybrid fashion, ie. some of the meetings will take place online. Travel funds for one in-person meeting are provided by the EU-LIFE institutes (for more information see the table below).

A first meeting (Not counting towards the mentorship meetings) should be organized as “get-to-know-each other” to explore if the match has the potential for a rewarding experience for both sides. It is possible for both parties to withdraw from the mentorship without giving any reason after this first meeting. In such a case the EU-LIFE team will set up a new pairing for the mentee.

Meetings will be self-organised by the participants.

For more in depth information, we invite interested postdocs to read the Mentoring Guide (can be found on the website as well).

End of the mentorship

The EU-LIFE team is available to support the mentorship for 12 months after the “get-to-know-each other” meeting of an ongoing mentorship. After this period, the programme will officially end and both participants will be sent an evaluation form. Mentees and mentors may of course mutually agree to continue the mentorship after this period.



Available places

Institute	Number of places
Babraham Institute	1
BRIC - Biotech Research and Innovation Centre	2
CEITEC - Central European Institute of Technology	2
CeMM - Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences	2
CRG - Centre for Genomic Regulation	2
FiMM - Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland	2
FMI - Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research	2
IEO - European Institute of Oncology	2
IGC - Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência	2
Institut Curie	2
IIMCB - International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology	2
IMBB-FORTH - Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas	2
MDC - Max Delbrück Center	2
NKI - The Netherlands Cancer Institute	2
VIB - Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie	2