



# Success Story

## MSCA Gives You Freedom!

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions | Developing Talents, Advancing Research

September 2022

*Jacopo Vialetto is a Postdoc researcher at the ETH Laboratory for Soft Materials and Interfaces.*

*Once he arrived at the ETHZ, his supervisor, Prof. Lucio Isa, encouraged him to apply for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship with which he was immediately successful.*



### How did you decide to apply for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship?

I already knew about the programme, but I felt it was almost impossible to get the grant. Then Lucio, my supervisor, convinced me to apply by pointing out that even if it were not successful, I would still have a contract in the laboratory.

I therefore had the opportunity to invest 3 months in writing the proposal, and I enjoyed the writing as it was very useful to reflect on my career.

### How does the Fellowship help you in building your career?

As suggested by the MSCA, I work with the Career Development Plan: my supervisor and I have yearly meetings to plan how my scientific career can be developed in the best possible way and to improve my CV.

The MSCA Fellowship is a great opportunity to get your own grant and gives you a lot of freedom in your scientific research. Not least, it is the most important grant one can get in Europe as a Postdoc.

### How important is the supervisor for your experience in the MSCA Fellowship?

I think the supervisor is extremely important. They help you broaden your perspective and that fosters the scientific discussions and the everyday work. From Lucio, I can also learn how to become a Principal Investigator.

Lucio is also a role model when it comes to organising the group: I really appreciate how he manages to maintain direct contact with each member, despite the fact that the laboratory is constantly growing.

### What role did mobility play in your academic career?

After graduating with both a bachelor's and master's degree in Italy, I moved to Paris for my PhD. Now I have been spending my last 3 years as a Postdoc in Zurich.

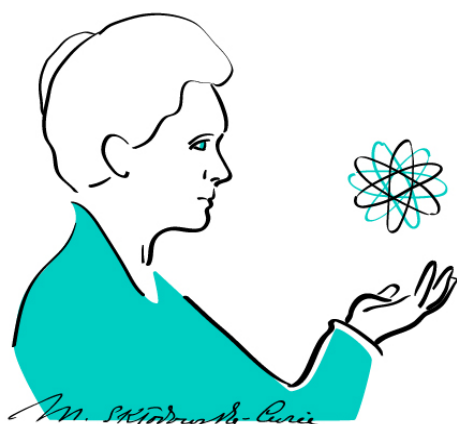
You gain a lot of experience when you move from one place to another: you have the opportunity to learn other languages and to be part of an international environment.

On the other hand, at this point in my career, I would like my next move to be the last, hoping that I can return to Italy with a stable position and feel completely at home again.

# „With the Fellowship, you feel you can do whatever you want: you have freedom!“ (Jacopo VIALETTA)

**Jacopo VIALETTA** applied for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship as soon as he arrived in Zurich in 2020, receiving a score of 93 out of 100.

Now he is almost at the end of his fellow and he got a new contract with Prof Lucio Isa to work in the laboratory. He will continue to work and start applying for positions in Italy.



## Programme

The **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** support researchers at all stages of their careers. Researchers working across all disciplines are eligible for funding. The MSCA also support cooperation between industry and academia and provide innovative training to enhance employability and career development.

The **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)** enable talented researchers to work on projects in Europe and beyond. They aim at enhancing the creative and innovative potential of Postdoctoral Researchers through advanced training and international and intersectoral mobility. They are open to all domains of research and innovation, from fundamental research to market take-up and innovation services.

**Euresearch** is an information and advisory service on the European Research and Innovation Framework Programmes. It has offices in all the Swiss regions and a Network Office in Bern. Euresearch is a non-profit organisation funded by the Swiss Confederation.

*Interviewer: PhD Isabelle Spühler, National Contact Point for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

*Illustrations: Alexandra Rosakis*

