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Horizon 2020 SME Innovation Associate - Funding PhD recruitment in SMEs [1]

The European Union is taking first steps to help European SMEs and start-ups fund recruitment of the best talent for research and innovation from around the world. The EU will fund the recruitment of post-doctoral research associates from other countries to explore an innovation business idea in the European SMEs and start-ups.

What's the big deal?

Innovation in SMEs is often hampered by a lack of access to specialised skills and knowledge. At the same time, many companies find it difficult to manage innovation processes effectively and struggle to recruit specialised knowledge as they don't tend to have extensive international Networks or the well-known brand names of large enterprises.

This is where the SME Associate programme comes in. By developing such enterprise-led mobility programme, the EU aims to increase access to talent for SMEs and start-ups by encouraging mobility. Because of this experimental nature it applies a fixed period for the recruitment of the researcher aligned to Academic year in most European countries.

So who is it for?

The SME Associate is accessible to all SMEs and start-ups established in the EU Member States and [countries associated to Horizon 2020](#) [2]. The researchers must at least hold a PhD (or equivalent), have demonstrated expertise in line with the job advertisement, and comply with the transnational mobility criteria.

The SMEs will receive an individual grant covering salary and related costs of employing a post-doctoral research associate, including full training costs. This could allow the company to employ the right talent from anywhere across the globe to conduct research for their innovation idea.

If you are a researcher, on the other hand, you will be able to partake in the business's innovation process, learn industrial innovation and business management skills, as well as boost your CV with business experience abroad.

What's next?

[Read more about the programme](#) [3]; see whether you meet the requirements and apply as of 11 February 2016!



European Commission

Horizon 2020 SME Innovation Associate

Matching talented researchers and business

Under 'Horizon 2020', the European Union's Research and Innovation Programme, a new pilot action will support 90 SMEs hire a researcher to bring their brilliant idea to life.



Who is it for?

- highly skilled researchers looking for new opportunities
- dynamic SMEs and start-ups with innovative ideas



SMEs



PHDs



1) Do you have a brilliant idea but still looking for an 'associate' helping you realise it?

YES!

2) Have you considered looking in the international research job market to find your best candidate?

YES!

3) Do you think you could integrate him/her into your team thus mutually boosting skills & outputs?

YES!

APPLY NOW

1) Are you a highly-skilled researcher looking for new job opportunities and challenges abroad?

YES!

2) Are you an expert in your field but lack industrial innovation and business management skills?

YES!

3) Do you want to explore the potential of innovative ideas and possibly turn it into a long-term job?

YES!

This could be the chance of your life!



*for detailed planning please visit the website



@H2020SME

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[2] http://ec.europa.eu/research/bitly/h2020_associated_countries.html

[3] <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/h2020-sme-innovation-associate>