



# HEALTH INTEL ACT

Health and Care Systems for People, Planet, and Prosperity

## Tips & Tricks from the Project Manager for a successful application

Applying for a position in our Marie Skłodowska-Curie Industrial Doctoral Network is an exciting opportunity. To help you submit a strong and competitive application, I have compiled some key tips based on frequently asked questions and applications I have seen throughout the years. While everyone has their unique way of standing out, these general guidelines will help ensure your application is clear, professional, and aligned with the selection criteria.

### 1. Follow the Application Requirements

- If a specific file formatting is required (e.g., [surname]\_[name of document]), follow it precisely. This small step is easy to do and demonstrates attention to detail and respect for the process.
- You may choose up to five positions, but this does not mean you must apply for five. Only select positions that genuinely align with your interests and background.
- If you apply for multiple positions, do not submit five completely different motivation letters. Instead, focus on your top choice and briefly indicate your interest in the others.

### 2. Craft a Strong Motivation Letter

- A motivation letter is exactly that; a letter containing your motivation for the positions offered. Your motivation letter should be concise and compelling. Avoid long narratives about how your entire life has led to this moment. Instead, focus on why you are the right fit for the position.
- If your experience comes from a different field, clearly explain why your background is still relevant for the position and how your skills apply to this opportunity.
- Express your own voice. Your motivation letter should reflect your personal perspective and experiences. Avoid using generative AI to craft your letter, as it often results in generic and impersonal content.
- Ensure your letter is well-structured and free of grammar or spelling mistakes, particularly since English proficiency is a requirement.



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## 3. Provide Strong References

- If you have limited work experience, consider asking thesis supervisors or internship mentors for reference letters. A lack of references may raise concerns.
- If you can provide references, ensure that such letters are recent and relevant. A letter written years ago for a different position is unlikely to strengthen your application.

## 4. Check Eligibility Criteria Carefully

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions eligibility rules are strict. If the position states that applicants must not have lived, worked, or studied in a specific country for more than 12 months in the past 3 years, you cannot apply for that country. These are EU regulations that cannot be adjusted.
- Submitting a well-prepared application increases your chances of success. Pay attention to details, align your application with the requirements, and make a clear case for why you are the right candidate.

If you applied and made a mistake, or forgot a document, please **DO NOT** submit a new application, but instead contact the project manager (l.zuidmeer@amsterdamumc.nl)

Good luck with your application. We look forward to receiving it!