

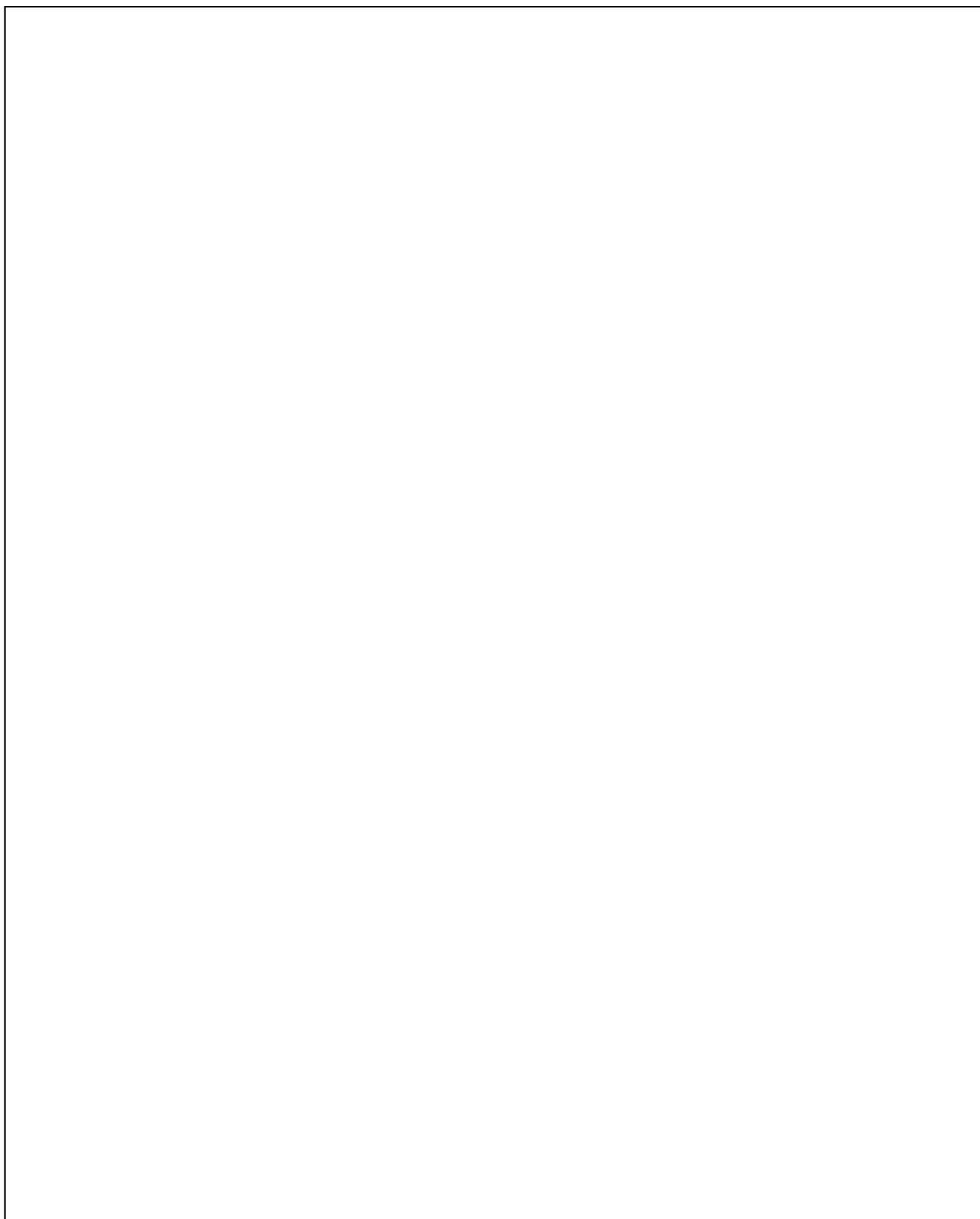
Letter of Endorsement (filled out by supervisor only)

A letter of Endorsement needs to be issued by all supervisors (University of Siegen and any partner organisation hosting a fellow for the outgoing phase or a secondment).

Instructions:

- the letter can be in any form (no obligation to use the template) but **must be signed** by the supervisor
- in the letter please confirm that:
 - the project idea is feasible overall and in terms of e.g. necessary infrastructure (equipment, laboratories, etc.), chosen methods, timing, etc.
 - the expertise of the chosen supervisors is suitable to support candidate and research project
 - there are no limitations in your hosting capacity
 - you are able to provide your contribution for funding of the candidate (supervisors of the University of Siegen only)
- for the evaluation of the quality of supervision by external reviewers please add your CV and track record and describe how fellows will be integrated into the research group(s)

Letter of Endorsement



signature supervisor



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Information for Supervisors

Overview:

The University of Siegen offers a research and training programme in the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. STAR supports the education, mobility and career development of experienced scientists. Our goal is to fund innovative research project ideas of excellent researchers with two different mobility options:

- **INCOMING:** Research stay of 24 months at a chair of the University of Siegen.
- **OUTGOING** (not only for researchers located in Siegen): Duration of 24-36 months. Where 12-24 months are spent at a STAR partner organization outside Germany followed by a mandatory phase of 12 months at a chair of the University of Siegen.

Calls:

There are 2 calls for proposals each offering 6 INCOMING and 4 OUTGOING fellowships. The first call opens in November 2020. The second call will open in October 2021 with its deadline 17th of December 2021.

Employment contract and remuneration:

All STAR-researchers are employed and paid by the University of Siegen as full-time employees with all social benefits. In addition they can claim necessary research, training and networking costs of up to 800 Euro/month.

Supervisors Information:

- Each fellow will have one or more supervisors at the University of Siegen. OUTGOING fellows and those who are applying for secondments will have an additional supervisor at the external host institution.
- One of the supervisors located at the University of Siegen will act as main supervisor and take on the main responsibility for career guidance.
- Supervisors need to have the necessary experience and provide a good match for the proposed research project.

Obligations and information for hosts (University of Siegen):

- Qualification of supervisors: Professor or Junior Professor at the University of Siegen.
- Supervisors need to provide the following documents for the application:
 - a Letter of Endorsement
 - a Confirmation of Neutrality; valid for the whole duration of the programme. This confirmation should avoid the exclusion of candidates due to personal preferences.
- Each chair (main supervisor) hosting a fellow needs to provide partial funding of 50.000 for a 24 months and 75.000 for a 36 months fellowship.
- The host has to provide necessary infrastructure (e.g. workplace, laboratory, access to devices and services) needed for the implementation of the individual research projects as well as supervision of the fellow.

Obligations and information for hosts (partners):

- Qualification of supervisors: Supervisors from non-academic partners are supposed to possess relevant expertise in the field of research, in project execution, and personnel leadership. Supervisors from academic partners should be qualified equivalent to a professor or junior professor.
- Supervisors need to provide the following documents for the application:
 - a Letter of Endorsement
- The host institutions have to provide necessary infrastructure needed for the implementation of the individual research projects as well as supervision of the fellow.
- Travel expenses of supervisors to invited programme events will be reimbursed by the programme.
- No financial contribution from partner organisations is expected.
- Candidates proposing a new partner institution must accompany their application with a signed Letter of Commitment.

Your Role in the Application Procedure:

- Applicants are asked to contact potential supervisors with their project idea and place the STAR project manager in copy.
- If you are interested in hosting the applicant and to support the project, you need to provide the candidate with a Letter of Endorsement for the application.
- If you cannot or do not want to support the candidate and therefore will not issue a Letter of Endorsement, please inform the project manager in writing about the reasons.
- The quality of supervision is part of the review process and will be evaluated by external reviewers. So please add your CV and track record and describe how fellows will be integrated into the research group.

If you have any questions, please contact the STAR project manager Dr. Lena Butz, star@uni-siegen.de, phone: +49 271 / 740 4862. Further information can be found at: <https://star.uni-siegen.de/>

