

Experience report on Marie Skłodowska- Curie Reintegration Grant

Dr. Kathrin Buchholz

8th GGL Career Day – 16.02.2017

Academia or Industry?

The basics of my career

09/1998 – 01/2004, JLU Gießen

- **Studies of veterinary medicine**

08/2004 – 12/2008, Heidelberg Medical School & JLU (Dr. med. vet.)

- **Ph.D. student/Ph.D. Program of the Faculties of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine**

Heidelberg

IFZ, Uni Gießen

Planning the next step of my career

- Who am I ? Where do I want to go? How long?

↓
German

↓
USA

↓
> 2 years



- But which university, what topic,...?? Internet

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- But which university, what topic,...?? OUR LIST



- A: **Harvard**: Parasitology, Virology (Dual career)
 - B: New York
 - C: Berkley/Stanford
- Identify funding opportunities: **Internet + Career Days**

Why Fellowships?

- If you find an open position that you like: GO FOR IT!
- But: Fellowships are great for you, too.
 - Prepare you for independent thinking/developing your own scientific ideas
 - Boost your CV
 - Sometimes help you go places you otherwise couldn't.
- Planning
 - Identify what is out there: Internet & **Career Days**
 - Eligibility/country
 - Establish a timeline

Outgoing fellowships

Name of fellowship	Organization	Who can apply?	Where & how long?	Chances (website)
Research Fellowships	DFG	Germans & Equals (have to be 3 years in the German scientific system)	Abroad (up to 2 years)	30-40 %
Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation	Researchers from Germany	Abroad (6-24 months)	roughly 40%
Postdoctoral Program (short), PRIME	DAAD	Foreigners: project in Germany Germans/Equals: abroad Grade <i>magna</i> or above (best 1/3)	Normally: 3-6 months, PRIME:Postdoc. Resear. Internat. Mobility Experience: 12 months abroad & 6 reintegration	Not found
Individual Fellowships (Marie Curie)	EU	Every great experienced researcher there is (PhD at the deadline)	European Fellowship (1-2 years) Global Fellowship (2-3 years, mandatory 1 year return)	13% (2016)

What if I want to stay longer, then I don't want a mandatory return..

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My Planning

- Who am I ? Where do I want to go? How long?

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- But which university, what topic,...?? OUR LIST



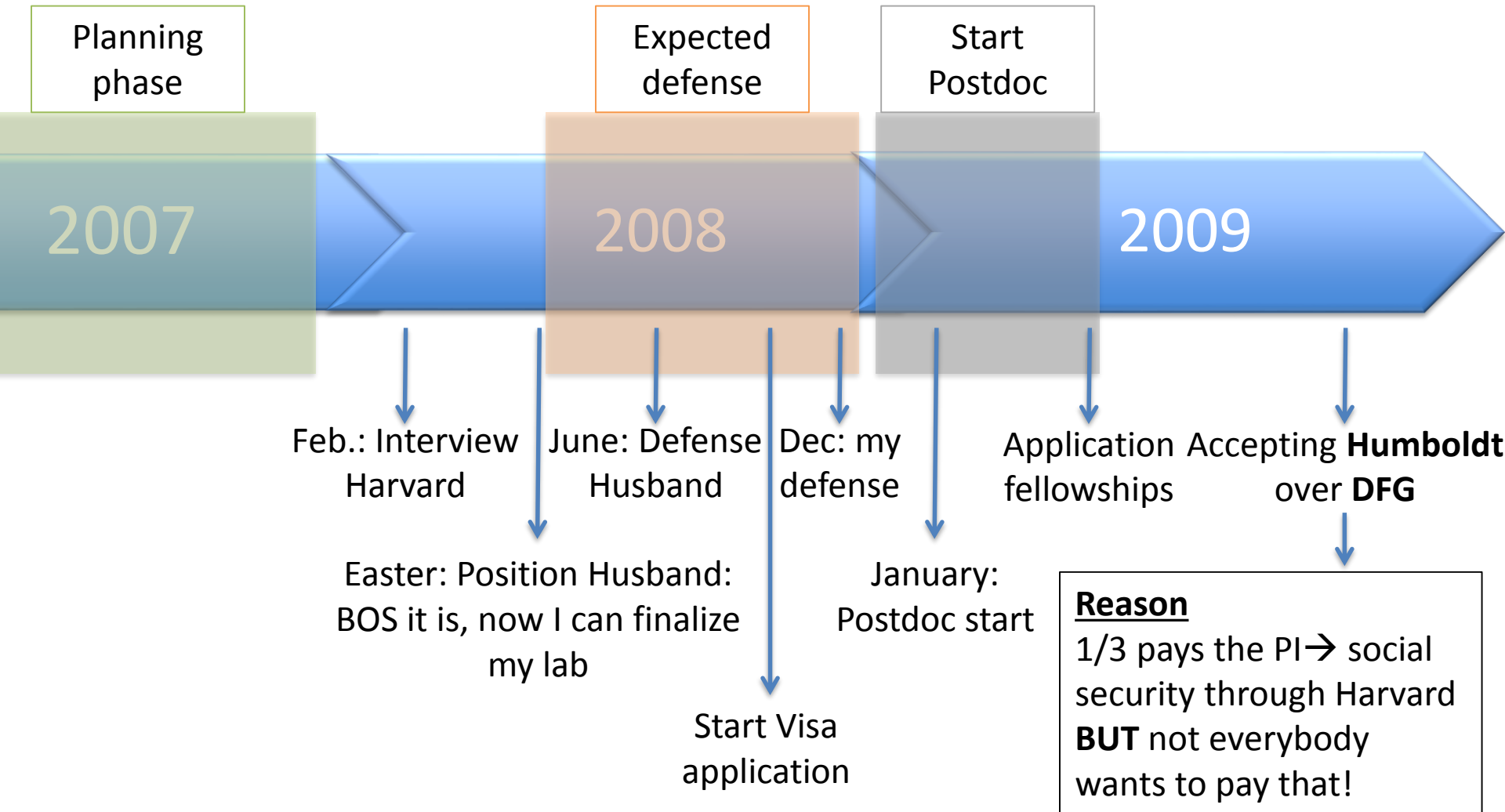
- A: **Harvard**: Parasitology, Virology (Dual career)
- B: New York
- C: Berkley/Stanford

- Identify funding opportunities: **DFG & Humboldt Foundation**



- Establish a timeline

Timeline of our way to the US



The next step of my career

01/2009 – 12/2012, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA

- **Postdoc**

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The next step of my career

01/2009 – 12/2012, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA

- **Postdoc**



09/12/2012: birth of daughter

The next step of my career

01/2013 – fall 2013

- **Maternity leave**
 - Move to Germany (Dual career)
 - Adjust to day care (< 1 year old baby)
 - Start working for free
 - Successful application “**Just’us**”:
Postdoctoral program of the JLU
(Junior Science and Teaching Units)

01/2014 – 12/2015

- **Just’us Research Fellow**
 - Identify the next funding opportunity

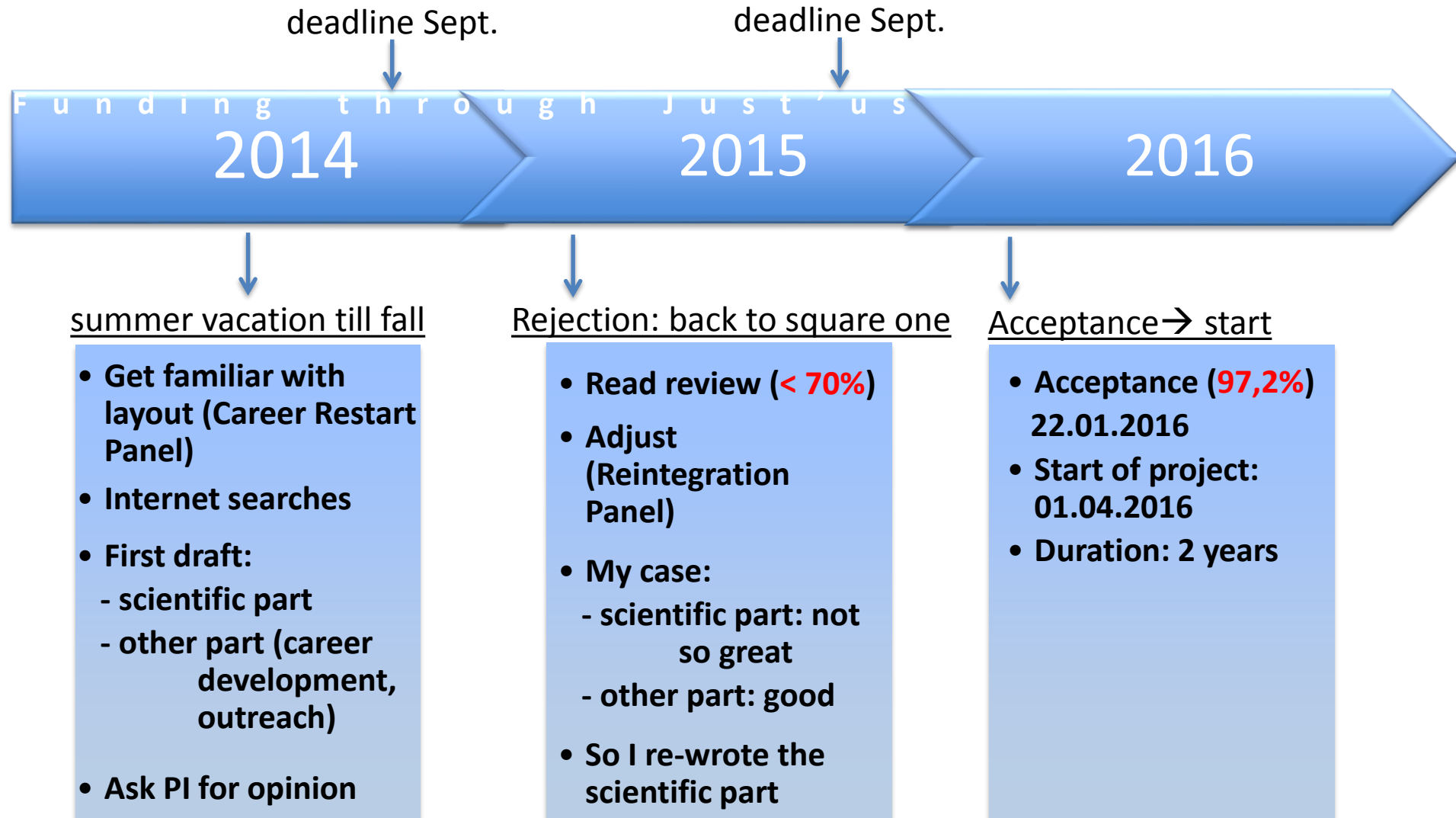
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European fellowship types

Name of fellowship	Organization	Eligibility	Where
<u>European Fellowship (8 panels)</u>	EU	Any Nationality, PhD, transnational mobility (from any country to a EU state)	EU / associated countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Restart Panel (multidisciplinary panel) 	EU	Same as above + Inactive in research prior application (1 year)	EU / associated countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reintegration Panel (multidisciplinary panel) 	EU	Same as above + national/long-term resident of EU state + move from Third country to EU (up to 3 year in the last 5 years)	EU / associated countries

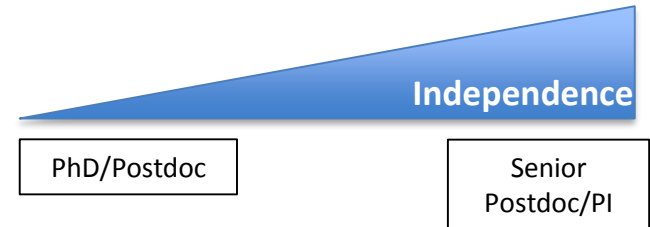
My long way to a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship..



Considerations for a (MCS) Fellowship

Scientific considerations

- Continuity of academic career
- Establishment of your own research direction



The science of my career

PhD-work

- Knock out parasites
- Investigation of phenotype
- *in vivo* life cycle of the malaria parasite

The science of my career

PhD-work

- Knock out parasites
- Investigation of phenotype
- *in vivo* life cycle of the malaria parasite

Postdoc-work

- Switch in parasite species
- *in vitro* only
- Generated a list of target genes

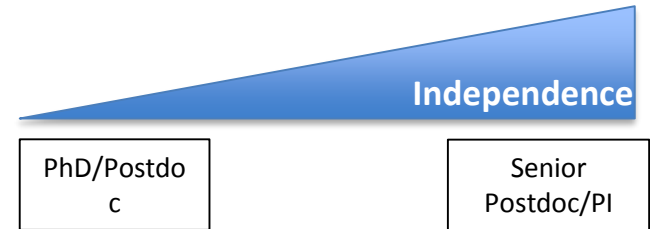
Current work

- Parasite species & list of target genes
- Generate knock out and knock downs

Considerations for a (MCS) Fellowship

Scientific considerations

- Continuity of academic career
- Establishment of your own research direction
- Set realistic goals



Other considerations

- Read the guide for **applicants** & H2020 work programme
- Read the guide for **reviewers**, highlight key words
- Read/think about **career development**, what additional professional skills do you need?
 - Example: Intellectual property rights, management, ...
→ identify courses, propose and take them

Structure of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship

PART A: Administrative part (online)

1.) **General information:** Panel, Description, Abstract, Acronym, Declarations

2.) **Participant & contacts:** Administrative data of participant organization: JLU (LEAR: Herr Veldman), which department, researcher information, stays abroad

3.) **Budget:** easy, calculates itself

4.) **Ethics**

5.) **Call-specific questions**

Structure of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship

PART B: Main body of proposal (template on the web portal)

- 1.) **Excellence** (weighing **50%**)
- 2.) **Impact** (weighing **30%**)
- 3.) **Implementation** (weighing **20%**)
- 4.) **CV of Experienced Researcher**
- 5.) **Capacity of the Participating Organisations** (max. 1 page)
- 6.) **Ethic Issues**

10 pages

Details of Part B of a MSC Fellowship

PART B: Main body of proposal (template on the web portal)

1.) Excellence (weighing 50%)

- Innovative aspects and credibility of research:
 - Introduction, state-of-the-art, objectives & overview of action

Details of Part B of a MSC Fellowship

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Scientific background, what do you propose & why, objectives

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- Innovative aspects and credibility of research:
 - Introduction, state-of-the-art, objectives & overview of action
 - Research methodology and approach

Describe what you plan to do (scientific methods)

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- Innovative aspects and credibility of research:
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 - Research methodology and approach
 - Originality & innovative aspects of the research programme

What is new, how does it advance your field, why does it open career possibilities for you?

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- Transfer of knowledge/training for the development of the researcher in light of research objectives

How do you gain new knowledge? And how does the institute benefit from you?

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- Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements

Track record of the involved supervisor

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 - Originality & innovative aspects of the research programme
- Transfer of knowledge/training for the development of the researcher in light of research objectives
- Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements
- Capacity of the researcher to reach and re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research

Describe yourself, what you have achieved so far

Details of Part B of a MSC Fellowship

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1.) **Excellence** (weighing **50%**)

2.) **Impact** (weighing **30%**)

- Enhancing research-, and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives



Impact of the research / training on your career & field

Details of Part B of a MSC Fellowship

PART B: Main body of proposal (template on the web portal)

1.) Excellence (weighing 50%)

2.) Impact (weighing 30%)

- Enhancing research-, and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives
- Effectiveness of the proposed measure for communication and results dissemination

Dissemination of results: open houses at university, public lectures, conferences I plan to attend, publications, commercialisation if possible

Details of Part B of a MSC Fellowship

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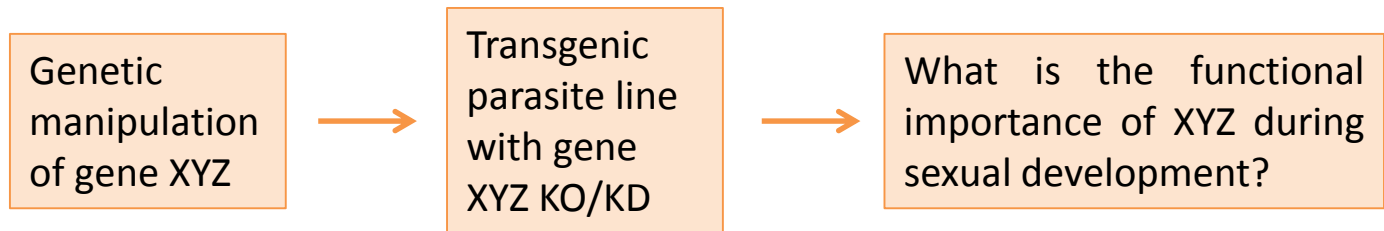
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3.) **Implementation** (weighing **20%**)

○ Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

➤ Work packages Major deliverables, Milestones



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1.) **Excellence** (weighing **50%**)

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3.) **Implementation** (weighing **20%**)

10 pages

**DON'T
FORGET**

- Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
- Management structures & procedures, including quality management and risk management
- Timetable

If I cannot establish XXX, then I will use the complementary method ZZZ to achieve my goal
- Infrastructure, commitment of JLU

Personal pros and cons of fellowships

PRO	CON
- Independence	- Time consuming
-Open doors	- Often no social security etc.
- Adds to your CV	- Loose valuable time in the lab
- Can be a competitive salary	- No long-term perspective, follow-up funding?