



**RESEARCH FUND**

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How to apply to a  
Doctoral grant

# How to apply to a doctoral grant

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## 1 Introduction

The AXA Research Fund:

- Supports institutions, through capital endowments and the creation of permanent chairs or short-term chairs.
- Supports individuals through its two annual AXA Innovation Prizes and the grants it awards to researchers (PhD and post doctoral students), including “CIFRE” researchers.
- Initiates calls for projects.
- Encourages the dissemination of research work.

### *1.1 About the guide*

This guide provides the practical information necessary for making an application for a doctoral grant financed by the AXA Research Fund (ARF), as well as an overview of the selection process.

### *1.2 Selection of applications*

The selection of applications is led by the Scientific Council, which draws on assessments made by a network of Experts internationally renowned in their fields.

**Important: Only those research institutions registered with the Fund may propose applicants. No individual requests shall be considered.**

Instructions on how to register institutions are available on the website at:  
<http://research.fund.axa.com>

## 2 Eligibility and selection criteria for doctoral grants

The AXA Research Fund grants 30 grants to Ph.D. students each year in two application phases.

NB : in 2008, the number of grants could be inferior, depending on the quality of the submitted applications.

### **Reminder:**

Applications are made by the research institution that supports the laboratory hosting the doctoral studies. No individual applications from students shall be accepted. For further information, refer to the details of the selection process in §3.

### ***2.1 Funding***

Grants provide funding for the researcher, with a gross annual salary of 25 000 €. The Fund also reimburses, upon justification, any additional expenses linked to the research project (symposiums, etc.), within a limit of 3 000 €.

### ***2.2 Duration of funding***

Funding of Ph.Ds lasts for 3 years, under condition: institutions must submit to the Fund an annual report on the advancement of the Ph.D. research.

The master's degree must have been obtained during the civil year of the beginning of the Ph.D. The applicant must be less than 26 years old at the end of the civil year of his registration for a Ph.D.

### ***2.3 Research domains eligible for funding***

The Funds finances projects that concern the major transformations of the modern world and their associated impact and risks to man and the environment. This approach exclusively concerns the following four domains

- Finance and economy
- Science
- Technology
- Social sciences

As an example, proposed research subjects might tackle the following themes:

- Finance and economy:
  - Modeling the behavior of economic agents in the face of risk
  - Systemic financial risk
  - Economics of medical research
- Science:
  - Climate change: associated risks and impacts
  - Longevity, dependence and rehabilitation
  - Science and society: evolution and limitations of science
- Technology:

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- Network security
- Quantic information and its impact on information systems
- Social sciences:
  - Social reactions to innovation
  - Social reactions to risk
  - Market evolution and consumer behavior
  - The adaptability of organizations

## ***2.4 Geographical scope***

The AXA Research Fund is seeking to provide support to:

- Students who wish to undertake a Ph.D. in a member state of the European Union or in one of the associated countries according to the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme (FP7)<sup>1</sup>. In such cases, the Fund does not impose any conditions regarding the nationality of the applicant or the country of the laboratory where the master was undertaken.
- Students who are citizens of one of the member states of the European Union or one of the associated countries according to the FP7<sup>1</sup>, and who have obtained their master in one of these same countries. In such cases, the Fund does not impose any conditions regarding the country of the Ph.D.'s host laboratory.

## ***2.5 Selection criteria***

The selection criteria are as follows:

1. The applicant's academic excellence, judged on the high standard of his or her master and the quality of previous course work.
2. The originality of the Ph.D. project, its feasibility (access to the resources, etc.) and the impact of its potential outcomes.
3. The international scope of the host research laboratory.

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<sup>1</sup> Switzerland, Israel, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, Albania and Montenegro  
[ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/third\\_country\\_agreements\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/third_country_agreements_en.pdf)

## 3 How to apply

The AXA Research Fund conducts its applications process via institutions. Institutions register and suggest applicants for each call for applications made by the ARF.

For all support requests:

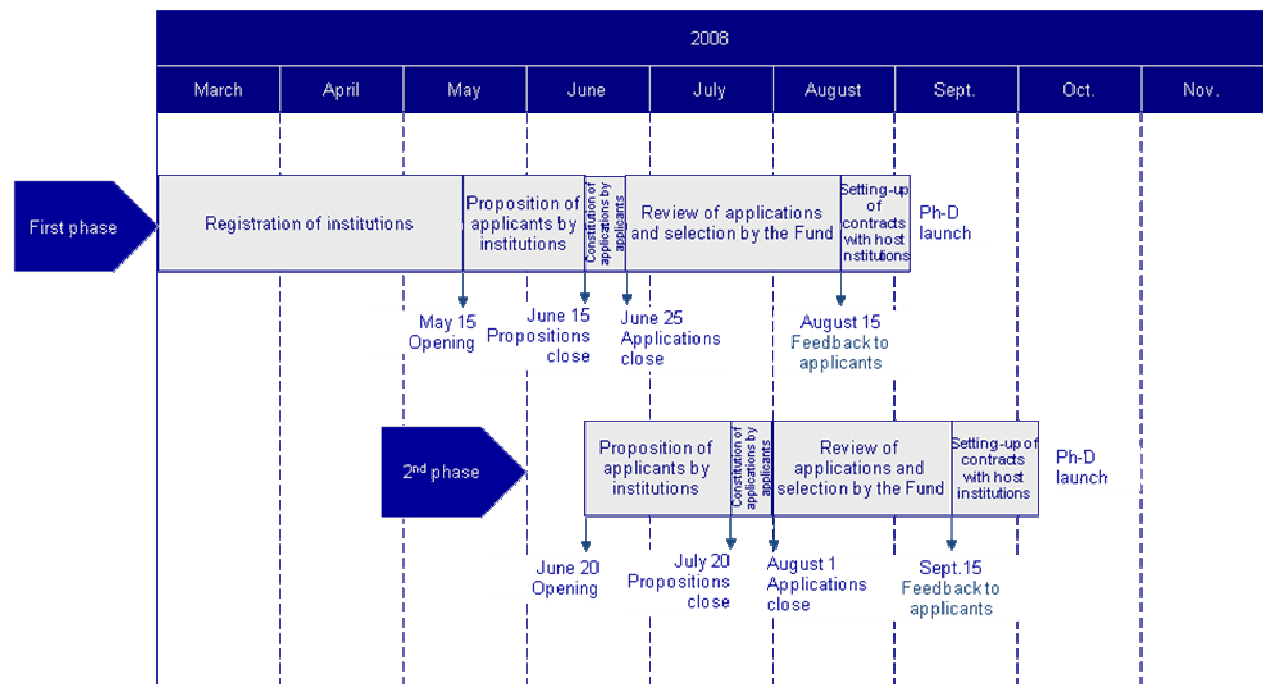
1. Make sure that your field of research is covered by the Fund (Cf. §2.3)
2. To find out the eligibility and selection criteria, refer to the information in the second part.
3. Then follow the instructions here-under to make your application.

### 3.1 2008 selection timetable

In 2008, there will be two calls for applications in order to take into account the various academic calendars of the European research institutions:

- A first call for applications will be open from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A second call for applications will be open June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>.

In total, 20 to 30 Ph.D grants will be awarded in 2008.



### 3.2 The steps in detail

#### 3.2.1 Step 1: Registration of institutions by the Fund

Institutions must be registered before entering into the doctoral grants' selection process. This registration, presented in detail on the Fund's website, is a pre-requisite to the proposition of applicants.

### **3.2.2 Step 2: Proposition of applicants by institutions**

Each call for applications from institutions is open for a period of **one month**. Only those institutions registered with the Fund (Cf. 3.2.1) may suggest applicants. The Fund will then liaise with the institution's designated working contact.

An institution can apply only for one of the two calls for applications – the one which corresponds best to its preselection calendar. Institutions may select a maximum of three applicants per call.

### **3.2.3 Step 3: Constitution of application dossiers**

Upon receipt of institutions' suggested applications, the Fund will contact the proposed applicants, who will have one month to provide more detailed information on their application (Cf. §3.1 for 2008 deadlines).

### **3.2.4 Step 4: Review of applications and selection**

The review of applications is assured by two independent readers. Selection is made at the latest two months after the closing date for applications.

### **3.2.5 Step 5: Informing applicants**

Once the selection of applications has been made, the Fund will contact each applicant and inform him or her of its decision.

### **3.2.6 Step 6: Setting-up of contracts with retained applicants' institutions**

Once applicants have been selected, the Fund will set up contracts with their host institutions.