



RESEARCH FUND

How to make a
Post-Doctoral
application

How to make a post-doctoral application

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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 post-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 candidates. 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 post-doctoral students

The AXA Research Fund grants 30 grants to post-doctoral students each year in three application phases.¹

Reminder:

Applications are made by the research institution that supports the laboratory hosting the post-doctoral studies. No individual applications from doctors 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 35 000 €. The Fund also reimburses, upon justification, any additional expenses linked to the research project (symposiums, etc.), within a limit of 5 000 €.

2.2 Duration of funding

Funding of post-doctoral studies lasts for twelve months. Renewals will be examined on a case-by-case basis. Funding starts at the earliest at the date of the academic defense and at the latest twelve months later.

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:
 - Network security
 - Quantic information and its impact on information systems

¹ In 2008, to take account of the Fund's implementation period, there will be two application phases and a total of 15 post-doctoral grants, Cf. §3.1

- Social sciences:
 - Social reactions to innovation
 - Social reactions to risk
 - Market evolution and consumer behavior
 - The adaptability of organizations

2.4 Geographical perimeter concerned

The AXA Research Fund is seeking to provide support to:

- Young doctors who wish to undertake post-doctoral studies in a member state of the European Union or in one of the associated countries according to the 7th EU Framework Programme (FP7)¹. In such cases, the Fund does not impose any conditions regarding the nationality of the candidate or the country of the laboratory where the PhD was undertaken.
- Young doctors who are citizens of one of the member states of the European Union or one of the associated countries according to the FP7¹, and who have obtained their PhD in one of these same countries. In such cases, the Fund does not impose any conditions regarding the country of the post-doctoral student's host laboratory.

2.5 Selection criteria

The selection criteria are as follows:

1. The candidate's academic excellence, judged on the high standard of his or her thesis and the quality of previous course work.
2. The pertinence and ambition of the post-doctoral topic (either with a view to carrying out procedures that lead to definitive employment, to continue work done during thesis studies and write publications, or to undertake research abroad).
3. The international scope of the host research laboratory.

¹ 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

3 How to make an application

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

For all support requests:

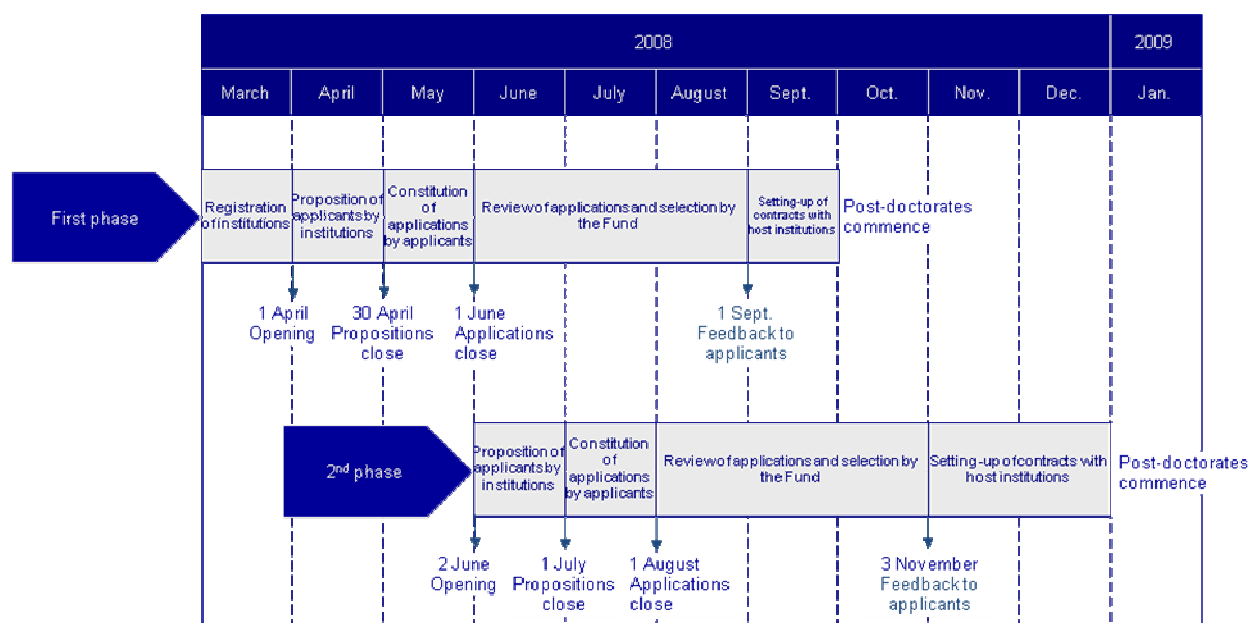
1. Make sure that your field of research is covered by the Fund (Cf. §2.3)
2. To find out the eligibility and selection criteria, refer to the information in the second part.
3. Then follow the instructions here-under to make your application.

3.1 2008 selection timetable

There will be two calls for applications in 2008:

- A first call for applications will be open from 1 April to 30 April.
- A second call for applications will be open from 2 June to 1 July.

In total, 15 grants for post-doctoral studies 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 post-doctoral selection process. This registration, presented in detail on the Fund's website, is a pre-requisite to the proposition of candidates.

3.2.2 Step 2: Proposition of candidates by institutions

Each call for applications from institutions is open for a period of **one month**.

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Only those institutions registered with the Fund (Cf. 3.2.1) may suggest candidates. The Fund will then liaise with the institution's designated working contact.

Institutions may select a maximum of three candidates per call.

3.2.3 Step 3: Constitution of application dossiers

Upon receipt of institutions' suggested applications, the Fund will make contact with the proposed candidates, 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 three months after the closing date for applications.

3.2.5 Step 5: Informing candidates

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

3.2.6 Step 6: Setting-up of contracts with retained candidates' institutions

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