

APART-GSK

Programme Statutes

APART-GSK is a funding programme for excellent junior scholars in the humanities and the social and cultural sciences (GSK) in the first post-doc phase of their careers.

The programme seeks to offer opportunities for extraordinary young researchers on the path to scholarly independence to acquire open-topic funding by themselves and with their own research ideas.

The aim is to support successful applicants in preparing their next important career step (“second book” or habilitation).

Target Group

Applications are invited from post-docs from Austria and abroad in the humanities and the social and cultural sciences (GSK)

- up to a maximum of three years after receipt of their doctorate/PhD
- who present a project that is innovative in terms of content or methodology, and
- who can already demonstrate outstanding publications.

The project can be undertaken at any suitable Austrian research institution. Part of the period under funding can be spent abroad (up to half of the funding period).

Exceptions

Recognition is given to time taken out for (child)care duties; further exceptions are made in the case of disabilities/illness or military or civilian service. Exceptions must be discussed with the Department of Fellowships and Awards prior to application.

Duration of funding

The fellowships are awarded for a period of 36 or 48 months.

If childcare duties can be demonstrated for at least one child under 7 years of age, the fellowship can be taken up on a part-time basis. In this case the duration of the fellowship can be extended for a maximum of half the approved time.

Level of funding

The level of funding (= personnel costs) amounts to EUR 70,000 gross/gross per annum.

Each year, additional funding amounting to a maximum of EUR 12,000 can be applied for in order to finance project-specific travel and materials expenses (e.g. publications in open access journals, coaching or personal development courses, etc.).

A cost subsidy of a maximum of 2,000 euros (gross / gross) per year is provided for childcare.

Payment

The funding is paid in annual instalments either directly to the fellow ("Neue Selbstständige") or to the university or non-university research institute in Austria at which the fellow is employed. Employment within the framework of the funding programme is conditional on confirmation by the director of the institute that in the event of a fellowship being awarded a workspace will be available.

There can be no payment of the fellowship for any period before its commencement.

Conditions

Applicants are entitled to apply for other (funded) positions. Notification of such applications and information on their outcome must be provided in writing to the Department of Fellowships and Awards of the Austrian Academy of Sciences however.

Proper use of funds

If accepted for an APART-GSK Fellowship, the fellow is obliged to focus their work on the research project. Additional employment (e.g. teaching, tutorials) are permitted if they contribute to the aims of the program and do not amount to over ten hours per week. Exceptions to this regulation must be discussed with the Department of Fellowships and Awards.

Fellows who fail to adhere to the conditions of the fellowship due to their own fault are obliged to return the funding.

Achievement of objectives

Fellows commit themselves to publicly present the results of the research project and to submit a report on the course of the project halfway through and at the end of the funding period.

Publications resulting from the grant must also be submitted. All publications produced as a result of the fellowship must be marked "gefördert im Rahmen des Programms APART-GSK der ÖAW" or "funded within the program APART-GSK of the OeAW".

Selection process

The selection process for an APART-GSK Fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences takes five to six months.

The candidates' applications that make the shortlist are reviewed by international experts. The candidates ranking highest on the basis of the reviews within a given specialist field can be invited to interviews.

There is no fixed pool of reviewers; for each application, experts are sought who can carry out the assessment based on their own scientific experience or research activity in accordance with international standards in the respective field.

Reviewers and members of the fellowship committee act in a honorary capacity, i.e. they do not receive any financial compensation.

Upon completion of the review procedure, the reviews are anonymised before being sent to each applicant.

Please note that due to budgetary circumstances applications have to be rejected despite receiving positive reviews.

The committee's decision is final.

Selection Committee

The selection committee consists of scholars and scientists who work at a university or a non-university research institution in Austria or abroad. Members of the committee are nominated by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

In the composition of the committee, care is taken to avoid bias.

Assessment criteria

Applicant's academic qualifications and development prospects

- publications
- prizes, distinctions, awards
- (international) mobility
- (international) cooperation with other scholars or working groups (including in other disciplines)

Scientific quality of the proposed project

- originality and relevance to the field
- clarity of research questions
- appropriateness of methodology
- feasibility of the project – incl. work plan and timetable

Legal status

The Austrian Academy of Sciences does not exert any influence on the content and organisation of the research proposal. The criterion for funding or its continuation is the fellow's fulfilment of their own research plan.

All research activities undertaken by the fellows are for their own exclusive benefit. The fellows are not obliged to undertake any work for the benefit of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

[As of September 2021]