

APART-GSK

[Fellowship Program of the Austrian Academy of Sciences]

PROGRAM STATUTES

Objective

APART-GSK is a funding program of the OeAW for excellent young researchers in the humanities, social sciences and cultural sciences (GSK) in the first post-doc phase. The program is intended to offer exceptional young researchers on their way to scientific independence the opportunity to acquire funding by themselves and with their own research idea.

The funding is intended to help prepare for the next essential career step ("2nd book" or habilitation).

Target group

Post-docs from Austria and abroad in all fields of the humanities, social sciences and cultural sciences are invited to apply,

- whose doctoral or PhD degree was not more than three years ago (deadline is the submission deadline),
- who present a project that is innovative in terms of content or methodology,
- and already have excellent publications.

The project can be implemented at any suitable Austrian research institution, although part of the funding period can also be spent abroad.

Exceptions

Exceptions must be clarified by consulting the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW before the application is submitted.

The doctoral or PhD program must be completed at the time of application (deadline is the submission deadline); the completion of the doctoral or PhD program must not be more than three years ago. Exceptions due to (child) care obligations, disability or (chronic) illness are possible; the deadline can be extended to a maximum of six years.

Application details

Applicants are free to apply to other (funding) bodies. The Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW must be informed of such applications and their results in writing however.

It is not possible to apply for another OeAW fellowship program at the same time.

Re-application for the APART-GSK program is possible if the application requirements are met.

Rules of Good Scientific Practice

When drafting the application, the program statutes of the APART-GSK program and the Rules of Good Scientific Practice (<https://oeawi.at/richtlinien/>) must be observed.

Research stay abroad

It is possible to carry out a stay abroad with a duration of up to half of the funding period within the framework of an APART-GSK fellowship.

Duration of funding

APART-GSK fellowships are awarded for a period of 36 or 48 months and must be commenced within four months of the announcement of the decision of the committee. In justified exceptional cases, a later start is also possible.

If there is proof of (child) care obligations or (chronic) illness or disability, the fellowship can be claimed as a part-time fellowship. In this case, the funding period can be extended by a maximum of half of the approved time.

Amount of funding

The amount of the fellowship is adjusted every year; for more information, see: [Fellowship rates](#)
The amounts quoted are personnel costs.

Additional funds of max. 12,000 euros per year can be applied for project-specific travel and material costs as well as other costs (e.g. publications in Open Access journals, coaching or personnel development measures, etc.).

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

Payment

The fellowships are paid out in annual instalments either directly to the fellowship recipients ("new self-employed") or to the university or non-university research institution in Austria where the fellowship recipients are employed.

The prerequisite for employment within the framework of the APART-GSK program is the commitment of the institute management that a workplace can be made available if the fellowship is awarded.

There is no provision for payment of the fellowship for a period prior to the actual start of the fellowship.

Conditions

Acceptance of an APART-GSK fellowship obliges the grantees to concentrate their work on the research project. Additional secondary employment (e.g. teaching assignments) is permitted if they promote the program objective and do not take up more than ten hours per week. Exceptions to this regulation must be clarified with the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW.

Should fellows fail to adhere to the conditions of the fellowship, they must pay back their funding.

Reporting

Fellowship recipients commit themselves to publicly present the results of their research project as well as to submit a project report at the halfway stage and at the end of the fellowship to the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW (stipendien.berichte@oeaw.ac.at).

In all publications resulting from the funding, the note "funded within the APART-GSK program of the OeAW" must be cited.

Selection process

The selection process takes about 7-8 months.

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

In the first selection round, the committee members draw up a shortlist of applications that will be reviewed internationally. For each application that is included in the shortlist, at least two reviews are obtained. In the case of interdisciplinary proposals that cover several research areas, the number can be increased.

A review consists of a written statement and a formal assessment of the scientific quality of the project on a scale of 1-10 (1-2 = inadequate, 9-10 = excellent). The following criteria are taken into account:

- Originality, innovativeness and relevance of the project in the field
- Reception of the current state of research
- Clarity of research questions (hypotheses)
- Appropriateness of the methodology (incl. work plan and schedule)

Finally, the reviewers are asked to make a summary recommendation as to whether the application should be funded (with priority) or should be rejected in its present form.

If the written statement is not conclusive, a further expert opinion will be obtained. The reviewers are asked to disclose possible reasons for bias. If bias is found retrospectively, the expert report will not be evaluated.

In preparation for the committee meeting, the committee members prepare a reasoned ranking of the applications assigned to them; the applications are assessed on the basis of the reviews and the scientific qualifications of the applicants and assigned to one of the following categories:

A = recommended for funding with priority, i.e. rated unrestrictedly excellent in all aspects

B = recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available, i.e. clearly worthy of funding, but points of criticism have been formulated in the reviews and/or the scientific qualification of the applicant is not assessed as unreservedly excellent

C = not recommended for funding in its present form

In the committee meeting, the applications are discussed comparatively; the reviews, but also other criteria relating to the applicant's scientific qualifications, are discussed in detail.

The decision on the awarding of the fellowships is made by the entire committee.

After completion of the selection process, the reviews will be forwarded to all applicants in anonymised form.

It is pointed out that due to budgetary conditions, applications must be rejected despite a positive evaluation.

Legal recourse is excluded.

Selection criteria

Applicant's academic qualifications and development prospects

- publications
- special successes, distinctions, awards
- (international) mobility
- (international) cooperation with other researchers 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 OeAW has no influence on the content and organization of the research project. The criterion for funding is the fulfilment of the exposè prepared by the recipient of the fellowship.

The Austrian Academy of Sciences does not acquire any rights to the results of the research work through the payment of the fellowship, nor does it exert any influence on the type of cooperation of the recipient(s) with research institutions and research groups.

[As of: January 2025]