

APART-MINT [Fellowship Program of the Austrian Academy of Sciences]

PROGRAM STATUTES

Objective

APART-MINT is a funding program of the OeAW for excellent young scientists in the first post-doc phase in mathematics, natural and life sciences, technical sciences and medicine.

The fellowships are intended to support unconventional, innovative and, if necessary, risky ideas with an uncertain outcome in the start-up phase.

Target group

Post-docs from Austria and abroad in all fields of mathematics, natural and life sciences, technical sciences and medicine are invited to apply,

- whose doctoral or PhD degree was not more than three years ago (deadline is the submission deadline),
- who present an original and innovative project idea
- and already have excellent publications.

The project can be implemented at any suitable Austrian research institution.

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 funding program at the same time.

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

Rules of Good Scientific Practice

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

Duration of funding

APART-MINT fellowships are awarded for a period of twelve months and must be started 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.

If the project progress is assessed positively at the end of the funding period, an extension of a further six months is possible for the preparation of a third-party funding application.

Amount of funding

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

In addition, funds of max. 12,000 euros can be applied for project-specific travel and material costs.

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

Payment

The fellowship is paid out in two 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 funding 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

Fellowship recipients must be employed at an Austrian university or research institution with the necessary infrastructure for the duration of the project or receive the support of an Austrian host institution that will provide the necessary infrastructure for the duration of the project.

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

Reporting

Three months before the end of the funding period, a report on the progress of the project and, if applicable, a reasoned application for an extension must be submitted to the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW (stipendien.berichte@oeaw.ac.at).

If the assessment is positive, it is possible to extend the funding by six months for the preparation of a third-party funding application.

In all publications that are produced as a result of the funding, the note "funded within the APART-MINT program of the OeAW" must be mentioned.

Selection process

The selection process takes about 3-4 months.

The fellowship committee consists of scientists who work at a university or a non-university research institution in Austria or abroad. The committee members are nominated by the OeAW.

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 one expert opinion is obtained. In the case of interdisciplinary proposals that cover several research areas, the number can be increased.

There is no fixed pool of reviewers; for each application, experts are sought who are in a position to judge the application on the basis of their own scientific experience or research activities in accordance with the international standards in the respective field. Just like the members of the fellowship committee, these reviewers work on a voluntary basis, i.e. they do not receive any financial compensation.

An expert opinion consists of a written statement and a formal assessment of the scientific quality of the project on a scale of 1-5 (1 = inadequate, 5 = excellent). The following criteria are taken into account:

- Originality, innovativeness of the project idea
- Potential of the project to further develop the research area or to introduce new aspects
- Reception of the current state of research
- Clarity of the research questions (hypotheses) and appropriateness of the methodology

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

B = funding is recommended 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

APART-MINT Program Statutes

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.

Applicants do not have recourse to legal action.

Selection criteria

The scientific quality of the project is relevant for the assessment; esp. original, innovative, unconventional aspects are decisive for the award of a fellowship.

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.

[Stand: Jänner 2025]