SoE-PF@OeAW Programme

Objective
The Seal of Excellence Post Doctoral Fellowship @OeAW Programme will promote young, promising scientists who submitted to the latest call for proposals within the MSCA-European Postdoctoral Fellowship programme and who were awarded a Seal of Excellence but did not receive funding.

The goal of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

By implementing an original and personalised research project MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to foster excellence through training, supporting mobility and equipping researchers with new skills and competences in order to identify solutions to current and future challenges. Postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to reach out to society at large to make the results of their research visible to citizens. The Fellowship shall contribute to knowledge transfer and brain circulation across the ERA and to foster the culture of open science, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Eligible candidates
The call is open to researchers who
1. have submitted a proposal in the MSCA-PF-EF Call 2021 (including IF-EF-2020) and
2. chose the Austrian Academy of Sciences as their Host Institution and
3. are assigned the Seal of Excellence – MSCA-European Postdoctoral Fellowship (score ≥85%).

Eligible costs
The call for applications aims at granting € 100,000,- for each year of activity for the whole duration as applied for in the MSCA-European Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal excluding an optional placement in the non-academic sector after the end of the fellowship (i.e max. 24 months). The budget shall be used for covering the salary of the researcher (max. € 88,000,-) and research, training and networking activities (incl. secondments of max. 6 months if applicable € 12,000,-p.a).

Application
The following documents shall be sent in SURNAME_PROJECTACRONYM_pdf format:
1. Application form (Attachment 1)
2. Proposal as submitted in the EU Funding & Tender Portal (Form A and Form B) in the MSCA-PF Call 2021
3. Evaluation Summary Report Letter incl. the Seal of Excellence Award by the EC
4. Copy of the certificate awarding the PhD
5. Declaration of consent signed by the institute’s director (Attachment 2).
6. CDP V1.0 (Attachment 3)

Applications referring to the SoE Calls 2020 and 2021 shall be sent to SoEapplications@oeaw.ac.at no later than 22 May 2022.
Selection Procedure

The OeAW Grant Service will be in charge of coordinating the selection procedure in compliance with the objectives of the European Commissions’ Seal of Excellence award. It will first carry out a formal admissibility check. Incomplete applications will be declared inadmissible. Candidates excluded from the selection procedure will be informed by email. Should a candidate detect an error in the admissibility check she/he can notify within 5 working days after the email notifying the inadmissibility was sent/read. Eligible proposals will be ranked based on the scores awarded in the European Commission’s evaluation procedure.

Award criteria

The priority order for ex-aequo proposals will be established as follows:
1. The proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion ‘Excellence’. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion ‘Impact’.
2. If necessary, the gender balance among postdoctoral fellows will be used as a factor for prioritisation.
3. If a distinction still cannot be made, other factors such as
   3.1 addressing priority areas of the Academy’s research foci as laid down in the Performance Agreement of the OeAW 2021-2023,
   3.2 gender and other diversity aspects in the research activities,
   3.3 diversity of the incoming fellows’ country of origin and research discipline with the aim of establishing new networks/Transfer of Knowledge opportunities,
   3.4 particularly favourable conditions of supervision (first vs multiple incoming supervisory activities),
   3.5 knowledge and technology transfer aspects, incl. participation of the non-academic sector will be considered. These factors will be documented in the selection report.

Selection for funding

A ranking list will be created and forwarded to the Presiding Committee. If more than 4 proposals are ranked an ad-hoc Selection Committee composed of at least three members of the Learned Society representing the disciplines of the top ranked proposals will be set up and chaired by the Director of Institutes and Infrastructure. The Selection Committee will review the ranking list before a recommendation for funding is forwarded to the Presiding Committee. Decisions of the Selection Committee shall be taken based on the said priority order by a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event that no majority can be reached the Chair has a casting vote. Following the approval of the list of projects to be funded by the Presiding Committee the list will be published online.
Attachments
Attachment 1 Application form
Attachment 2 Declaration of institute’s director
Attachment 3 CDPV1.0