

**NEUES ENTDECKEN**

**TALENTE FÖRDERN**

**IDEEN UMSETZEN**

**FWF**

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

In accordance with its Funding Guidelines of 1 January 2019  
(as last amended), the FWF has issued the following

**Application Guidelines  
for the  
ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER  
FELLOWSHIP  
(with return phase)**



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## 1. General Information

### 1.1. Aim of the programme

The “Erwin Schrödinger Fellowship” funding programme (hereinafter referred to as the “Schrödinger Fellowship”) aims

- to enable young researchers of all disciplines who are normally based in Austria to work abroad at leading research institutions and in leading research programmes and thus gain research experience abroad during the postdoc stage;
- to open up new research approaches, methods, processes, and techniques through such research projects; and
- to thus contribute to the further development of science and research in Austria and make the acquired know-how available and useful for Austrian science and industry.

### 1.2. Deadlines

There are no submission deadlines for this programme; applications can be submitted at any time.

### 1.3. Who is eligible to apply?

Researchers of all disciplines are eligible to apply who meet the following application requirements:

- Doctoral degree (PhD). An application may be submitted at an earlier point in time if all the other requirements are fulfilled and if it appears that the applicant will receive the official doctoral degree (PhD) within the average processing period (approx. four months). Applicants who have completed their medical studies in Austria are only eligible to apply if they have a degree based on curricula N, O, Q 201; N, O, Q 094; or N, O 790, Q 794 or N 090 (please indicate which one in the curriculum vitae).
- Applicants must have had their main place of residence in Austria for at least three of the last ten years at the time of application, and/or must have been working continuously as a researcher in Austria for the last two years preceding the submission of the application ([Territoriality principle](#));
- Applicants must present the invitation from the chosen foreign research institution.
- If the application is submitted from abroad, please note: a postdoc stage<sup>1</sup> abroad (no matter where and at how many research institutions), which is to be extended by a Schrödinger Fellowship, may not last longer than three years including the Schrödinger Fellowship.
- Applicants who have performed their doctoral work abroad may apply for a Schrödinger Fellowship only on the condition that they carry out the project at a different research institution than the one at which they wrote their dissertation.
- Applicants must have the option to return to an Austrian research institution where they can apply the know-how they gained abroad.
- If funding is requested for the return phase (see [Section 2.3.3.](#)), the application must include a coherent description of the way in which the acquired know-how will be applied

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<sup>1</sup> “Postdoc stage” refers to research experience since the date of conferral of the doctoral degree (PhD).

in Austria (for instance, the continuation or completion of the project, new research projects based on the insights gained abroad, etc.).

Please note that there are limits to the number of ongoing projects in which one researcher can serve as principal investigator. Further information on restrictions concerning the number of ongoing projects and limits on the submission of applications can be found at [Restriction on the number of projects](#).

#### 1.4. What types of projects can be funded?

Funding may be requested for projects in the field of basic research that are clearly defined, convincingly described in terms of objectives and methods, and limited in time. Basic research refers to research that is knowledge-oriented and whose value is primarily defined by its significance for the advancement of science and scholarship. Aspects of a research project that go beyond the realm of science and scholarship may be mentioned, but they will not play a part in the assessment of whether the project should be funded. Double funding is not permitted (see [Funding guidelines](#)).

#### Funding period

The Schrödinger Fellowship may be requested for a period of between 10 and 36 months (including the return phase), although the stay abroad itself may only last between 10 and 24 months.

The length of the return phase is based on the length of the stay abroad as part of the Schrödinger Fellowship and may be requested as follows:

- Stay abroad 10–14 months: + max. 6-month return phase
- Stay abroad 15–19 months: + max. 9-month return phase
- Stay abroad 20–24 months: + max. 12-month return phase

The return phase must begin within 12 months after the end of the FWF-funded stay abroad.

#### Additional information

A return phase cannot be requested for persons who, at the time of application, have already secured the option of returning to the research institution at which they plan to complete the return phase (in the form of a long-term or permanent contract of employment permitting a return).

Since the Schrödinger Fellowship is a postdoc programme, fellows are expected to conduct independent research, which means that it is not possible to apply for a Schrödinger project as part of one's PhD studies.

A Schrödinger Fellowship may only be held once.

## 1.5. What requirements must be met to apply?

Applicants must show that they possess the research qualifications needed to carry out the project by means of a publication record over the last five years commensurate with their career stage, which demonstrates their international visibility.

The following criteria are decisive in assessing an applicant's publication record and initiating the review process:

- **Peer review:** All the publications listed (or more than half in the case of the humanities) must have been subject to a quality assurance procedure in line with high international standards, which usually means that journals should be listed in the Web of Science, Scopus, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). For journals not listed in those databases, or monographs, edited volumes or contributions therein, or other publication types, the peer-review procedure must be documented on the publisher's website to which applicants should provide a link. Should no such documentation be available on the website, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence that the publication has been subject to an appropriate quality assurance procedure.
- **Number and quality** of the applicant's publications must be commensurate with his/her career stage. At least two publications must be peer-reviewed and internationally visible publications with a substantial and independent contribution on the part of the applicant.
- **International nature:** In the natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences, most of the publications listed must be in English. In the humanities and cultural studies, as well as arts-based research, most of the applicant's publications must have a wider than national reach.

Should an applicant fail to meet one or more of the above criteria, the applicant must include an explanation with the application. In cases of doubt, the decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide whether the research qualifications are adequate.

## 1.6. What types of funding can be requested?

### Basic fellowship (personnel costs)

The amount of the fellowship depends on the costs of living in the respective country (see [Appendix II](#)).

### Travel costs

The principal investigator receives a travel subsidy. Funding can also be requested for the travel costs of family members (spouse/partner and children), provided that they will reside with the applicant abroad for at least six months (see [Appendix II](#)).

### Additional subsidy for children

This is paid for children who will reside with the principal investigator abroad for at least six months. The amount is prorated based on the actual stay of the child (see [Appendix II](#)).

## Maternity benefit

If a fellow gives birth during the abroad phase, the fellow is entitled to a four-month maternity benefit. The fellowship will be automatically extended by this period of time (see [Appendix II](#)).

## Pension insurance

The costs for voluntary payments into the statutory pension insurance (*Selbstversicherung*) or continued optional insurance (*Weiterversicherung*) pursuant to the General Social Insurance Act (ASVG) in Austria during the time of the fellowship abroad will be refunded.

## Conference travel

Subsidies can be granted as part of the abroad phase if the presentations are thematically related to the approved project (see [Appendix II](#)).

## Publication costs

As part of the [Peer-Reviewed Publications programme](#), the FWF provides additional funding upon request for publications resulting from approved projects, up to three years after the end of the project.

## Note on project funds during the abroad phase

The FWF assumes that the foreign research institution will provide all the means necessary to carry out the research project (this also includes bench fees, overheads, etc.). In exceptional and duly justified cases where this can be proven to be impossible, an application for additional support may be submitted to the FWF. The application must be accompanied by a separate breakdown of required costs, a precise description of how the funds are to be spent, and a detailed justification of why the host or the research institution cannot fulfil the requirements listed in the “Declaration by the host”. The FWF would like to point out that the approval of a Schrödinger project does not necessarily mean that the additional funding request will also be approved.

## Return phase funding

Funding for the return phase covers the funding of a [senior postdoc](#) employment contract at the Austrian research institution and a lump-sum payment of EUR **12,000.00 per year for project-specific costs**. Of those project-specific costs, EUR 2,000.00 per year can be used for coaching or personal development.

## 1.7. Applying for additional funding

Applicants for a Schrödinger Fellowship

- cannot submit parallel applications to the FWF for the same programme or for another programme for the promotion of junior researchers (Lise Meitner, Hertha Firnberg, Elise Richter or Elise Richter PEEK). Applicants may apply for FWF funding in other pro-

gramme categories by submitting a separate proposal, provided that they meet the application requirements of the respective programme;

- can apply simultaneously to other agencies for funding for the stay abroad. However, applicants are obliged to promptly notify the FWF in writing of such applications to other funding institutions as well as their decisions. The decision-making body of the FWF will decide whether and how much of the third-party funds will be deducted. If substantially identical applications are approved by other national and international funding bodies, and their scope of funding is sufficient to carry out the planned research project, the applicant must choose one of the approved grants. A combination (for instance, to only utilize the return phase funding) is not permitted.

## 2. Application content and form

### 2.1. Sections of the application

For an application to be complete, it must contain the following sections:

- 1) **Academic abstract** in **English** comprising no more than 3,000 characters (incl. spaces; no formulas or special characters). The academic abstract will be used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must be subdivided into the following sections using the given English terms:

- Wider research context / theoretical framework
- Hypotheses / research questions / objectives
- Approach / methods
- Level of originality / innovation
- Primary researchers involved

- 2) **Project description**

- Project description of no more than 50,000 characters (incl. spaces) on no more than 20 consecutively numbered pages, incl. table of contents, list of abbreviations headings, figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc.;

- 3) **Annexes:**

Please note that annexes are a part of the application and must be attached to the project description in the following order as part of the *proposal.pdf* file (specifications see [Section 2.4.](#))

- Annex 1: List of works cited in the application
- Annex 2: Academic curriculum vitae and description of previous research achievements
- Annex 3: Invitation of the foreign research institution
- Annex 4: Recommendation letter of the Austrian research institution

- Annex 5 (if applicable): Collaboration letters
- Annex 6 (optional): one additional letter of recommendation

Attachments to be uploaded individually:

- **Mandatory:** publication list for the last five years, broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed (see [Section 2.5.](#)).
- **Where applicable:** cover letter; list of reviewers to be excluded; report on results or final report, for follow-up applications (see [Section 2.7.](#)); response(s) to reviews, for resubmissions; in the case of resubmissions, overview of all the changes made in the resubmitted application.

#### 4) Completed forms

- Required forms: *academic abstract, application form, Programme-specific data and Co-authors form;*
- Optional forms: *National / International cooperation arrangements form.*

## 2.2. Form requirements

### 2.2.1. Language of application

To allow applications to be reviewed by international experts, applications must be submitted in English. If desired, a version in German or another language may be added as a supplement; however, submission solely in German or another project-relevant language other than English is permitted only in exceptional cases. Such exceptions apply exclusively to applications from the fields of linguistic and literary studies which concern only texts in German or languages other than English. In all such cases, it is absolutely necessary to consult the responsible project officers of the [Strategy - Career Development](#) department prior to application and then submit an academic abstract of the project and a brief, convincing justification on the grounds of research for submission in a language other than English. The final decision shall be made by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

### 2.2.2. Formatting

The project description, annexes 1 and 2, and the attachments must be written in 11 pt. font (except for headings, captions, tables, and footnotes), with 1.5 line (15-20 pt.) spacing and at least 2 cm margins. The beginning of each paragraph should be clearly recognisable (e.g., by indenting the first line and/or spaces between paragraphs). Applicants must comply strictly with all upper limits (e.g., number of pages, attachments, etc.).

Citations in the text and the list of works cited (*References*) in the application must be in line with the conventions of the respective discipline, preferably according to a widely-used style guide (e.g., *Chicago Manual of Style*, *APA Publication Manual*). Applicants are free to choose the citation conventions or style guide they prefer, but they must apply them/it consistently throughout the application. If available, a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be used for the literature cited.



### 2.2.3. Submitting the application

The application must be submitted online at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

To submit the application online, applicants are required to register at the address shown above. All the necessary forms must then be filled out online; additional documents such as the project description can be uploaded. For additional information, see the “Quick reference” guide at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

#### 1) Required parts of the application:

##### a) Files:

- *Proposal.pdf* (project description incl. annexes 1-4 and where applicable 5 and 6, with PDF bookmarks, at least for the major sections)
- *Publication\_list.pdf* (publication list for the last five years, broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed)

##### b) Forms:

- Academic abstract in English
- Application form
- Programme-specific data
- Co-authors (mandatory information)
- National and international cooperation arrangements (optional)

#### 2) Optional file uploads:

- *Cover\_Letter.pdf* (= accompanying letter)
- *Negative\_list.pdf* (= list of reviewers who should be excluded)
- *Follow.pdf* (= report on results or final report of the previous project in the case of follow-up applications)
- *Overview\_Revision.pdf* (=in the case of resubmission, overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application)
- *Revision.pdf* (=in the case of resubmission, an overall response to all the reviewers or, if preferred, a short response to *each* reviewer saved in a *separate* file: *Revision\_A.pdf*, *Revision\_B.pdf* etc.)

Once the application has been submitted, a [PDF cover sheet](#) will be generated. This cover sheet must be signed by hand and stamped by the responsible representative of the applicant's research institute before being sent to the FWF by conventional mail. The application shall not be considered officially submitted until the FWF receives the signed and stamped cover sheet. Alternatively, the signed and stamped cover sheet can be scanned in, signed using the applicant's qualified electronic signature<sup>2</sup> (e.g., mobile phone signature), and sent to the FWF ([office@fwf.ac.at](mailto:office@fwf.ac.at)) by e-mail. Please note that a signed and stamped cover sheet is invalid if it does not have a qualified electronic signature.

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<sup>2</sup> For example: <https://www.digital.austria.gv.at/citizen-card-concept>

## 2.3. Project description

The description of the project on no more than 50,000 characters incl. spaces on no more than 20 pages must include the following contents:

### 2.3.1. Scientific/scholarly aspects

- Clearly defined aims and hypotheses or research question(s) of the project
- Description of the project's anticipated level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation<sup>3</sup>
- Relevance to international research in the field (international state of research)
- Methods
- Intended [cooperation arrangements](#) (national and/or international) as part of the planned project should be explained in the project description. This explanation should specify the people with whom the cooperation arrangement shall take place and the subject of the intended cooperation arrangement(s) or the contribution to the project. All of the national and/or international cooperation arrangements that were stated to be essential in the project description should be listed on the Cooperation arrangements form and be evidenced by a collaboration letter.
- Work plan and timeline
- All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects<sup>4</sup> of the submitted project and the planned handling of them must be described in a separate section. This aspect should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any ethical issues.
- All potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects<sup>5</sup> in the planned project as well as the planned implementation of these research questions must be described in a separate section. This aspect should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any sex-specific and gender-related issues.

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<sup>3</sup> Examples of projects worthy of funding include, among others:

- Research on new ideas and/or examination of new research questions,
- Application or development of new research methods, new technologies, or original approaches to solving research questions,
- Application or modification of existing methods, technologies, or approaches to new research questions.

Please note that the next logical step or the incremental further development of published data is not considered to be innovative or original.

<sup>4</sup> For instance, the European Commission's [Ethics for Researchers](#) or [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) can serve as a guide here.

<sup>5</sup> Positioning and reflecting on the research approaches in the planned for the project in terms of sex-specific and gender-related issues, for instance: Is the research approach likely to produce sex-specific and gender-related findings? If so, what findings? How and where are these integrated into the research approach? (For information on checking the relevance of sex-specific and gender-related issues to a project, see <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-the-fwf/gender-issues/fix-the-knowledge/fix-the-knowledge-detail/>)

### 2.3.2. Information on the chosen foreign research institution<sup>6</sup>

- Justification why this research project should be carried out at this research institution, especially why collaborating at the research institution is necessary and appropriate for achieving the aims of the project.

### 2.3.3. Information on career development and the option to return

- Importance of the project for the academic and research reputation of the applicant and his or her career development
- In what way can the acquired know-how be applied as part of the return phase? Is there an employment relationship with a return option (see [Section 1.4.](#), Additional information)? In addition, information must be provided on the following: planned project work / planned completion of the project in Austria or planned new research projects based on the insights gained abroad. If a return phase is requested, the applicant should also provide information on the work plan and timeline and a justification for the choice of research institution for the return phase.

## 2.4. Annexes to the project description

Annexes are not included in the maximum character limit for the project description and must be attached to the project description in the specified order.

### 2.4.1. Annex 1: List of references

- List of literature cited in the application on no more than five pages

### 2.4.2. Annex 2: CV and description of previous research achievements

The academic CV and research achievements of the applicant should be described on no more than three pages.

#### 2.4.2.1. *Required contents for academic CV*

- Name and contact details of the person, address of the research institution, and relevant websites. It is also required to provide a publicly available link to a list of all published publications; the use of [ORCID](#) is expressly recommended for this purpose.
- List of academic milestones and relevant positions held to date (with a brief explanation of any career gaps, if applicable).
- Main areas of research and short statement of the most important scientific/scholarly results achieved to date.

#### 2.4.2.2. *Required description of previous research achievements*

- Academic publications: list of no more than ten of the most important published or accepted academic publications (journal articles, monographs, edited volumes, contributions

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<sup>6</sup> If it is necessary to carry out the project, applicants may request a stay abroad at a maximum of two research institutions. The stay at the second research institution must last at least 3 months.

to edited volumes, proceedings, etc.), for each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated. In accordance with the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA), journal-based metrics like the journal impact factor should not be included.

- Additional research achievements: list of no more than ten of the most important scientific/scholarly research achievements apart from academic publications, such as awards, conference papers, keynote speeches, important research projects, research data, software, codes, preprints, exhibitions, knowledge transfers, science communication, licenses, or patents.

#### **2.4.3. Annex 3: Invitation of the foreign research institution**

- with the signature and letterhead of the research institution: free-form statement from the hosting researcher (= host) on the content of the project and the suitability of the applicant.

#### **2.4.4. Annex 4: Recommendation letter of the Austrian research institution**

- with the signature and letterhead of the research institution: free-form statement on the applicant, on the topic and the importance of the research project and on the potential employment of the applicant after the end of the project (return option).

#### **2.4.5. Annex 5: Collaboration letters**

- where applicable: Confirmations of national and international cooperation partners (collaboration letters, no more than one page) that are stated to be essential in the project description.

#### **2.4.6. Annex 6: Additional recommendation**

- (optional): one additional letter of recommendation

### **2.5. Mandatory appendix: Publication list**

- A list of the applicant of all publications published in the last five years<sup>7</sup> (broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed) should be uploaded (*Publication\_list.pdf*). This list helps the FWF to determine if there are any potential conflicts of interest with reviewers and thus speeds up the process of identifying reviewers. This list will not be forwarded to the reviewers.

### **2.6. Forms**

All required forms must be completed in their entirety. For the application to be legally binding, the FWF requires the cover sheet generated automatically at the end of the submission process including the original signatures and stamps:

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<sup>7</sup> Publication lists must include: all authors, complete titles, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated; for publications with more than 20 authors, an “et al.” reference can be used.

- Affirmation of applicant,
- Confirmation of the requirement of specific permits and approvals for conducting the proposed project
- *Declaration by the host* (= declaration about safety standards and access to infrastructure, as well as confirmation that the existing ethical rules are respected, and the necessary permits and approvals will be obtained)
- Consent of the applicant relating to GDPR
- If funding is requested for the return phase, affirmation of the applicant's research institution (with the original stamp)

*Co-authors form:* All persons who have made substantial research-related contributions to the conception and writing of the application should be named as co-authors. A brief description of the nature of each contribution should be included; where there are no co-authors, applicants should state this explicitly on the form.

## 2.7. Additional attachments

In addition to the project description and the forms, the following attachments should be uploaded, where applicable:

- Cover letter;
- List of reviewers who should be excluded;
- If the project submitted is the continuation of an FWF-funded project, a report on previous results or a final report and a list of publications resulting from the project should be uploaded in the language of the application (no more than 6 pages);
- For the attachments needed in the case of revising a rejected application (resubmission), see [Section 2.8.](#);

It should be noted that any annexes or attachments in addition to the ones mentioned above shall not be considered in further stages of the process (such as further letters of recommendation, publications not yet published).

## 2.8. Revising a rejected application (“resubmission”)

A resubmission is defined as the revision of an application which has already been rejected with the same or similar research questions, regardless of the programme category. Where an applicant submits an application on the same or very similar research questions yet does not consider it to be a resubmission but an entirely new project, the applicant must submit a separate accompanying letter to the FWF Office explaining how the research questions have changed. For example, changes in research methods alone are not sufficient for a proposal to qualify as a completely new project. In cases of doubt, the decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide.

- If the project submitted is a resubmission of a rejected application, the applicant should indicate this at the beginning of the project description (e.g., in a footnote).

- An accompanying letter containing an overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application must be submitted to the FWF; this overview will not be passed on to the reviewers.
- Response(s) to reviews: the applicant can decide whether the response(s) should be passed on to the relevant previous reviewer or all reviewers. These response(s) should address the suggestions and criticism expressed in each review of the previous application and point out the changes made on that basis. Such responses are not necessary in the case of reviews written by persons who are to be excluded from the review process for the resubmitted application. However, such exclusions must be justified and will also be counted toward the list of reviewers who should be excluded for the resubmission.

If all the reviewers are to receive this response, the applicant must submit a document containing an overall response.

If these responses are to be passed on only to the reviewers who were previously involved, the applicant should include a short response to each review in a separate document.

Resubmissions must show changes. In the case of resubmissions of applications that have been rejected for the standardised reasons C3, C4, and C5, the changes need to be substantial (based on the comments in the reviews). If such changes are not made, the application will be returned without review by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

### 3. Processing and decision on the application

The FWF Office undertakes a formal check of the application. A detailed description of the decision-making process, the criteria for selecting international reviewers, detailed rules concerning conflicts of interest and the composition of expert juries and boards can be found in the [General principles of the decision-making procedure](#).

The **review process** generally takes about four months. When it is completed, the FWF Board considers the reviews and decides whether the proposal should be supported. The applicant will be informed in writing of the FWF's decision.

At least two reviews are necessary for an application to be approved.

#### *Requests for changes and returning applications without review*

Incomplete applications or those which do not comply with the FWF's regulations or which contain formal errors (in particular, those which exceed the permitted length) will not be processed further by the FWF until the applicant has rectified the problems within a reasonable period of time (generally three weeks). If the problems have not been resolved within this period of time, the decision-making bodies of the FWF will return these proposals without review. Similarly, the decision-making bodies of the FWF will return without review applications that have been previously rejected by the FWF and resubmitted without any relevant revisions.

All applications that conform with the FWF's regulations will be sent for review. The reviewers (generally persons working outside of Austria) will be selected by the members of the FWF Board and confirmed by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

Once the review process has begun, no more changes can be made to the application.

The most common reasons why applications are returned without review by the decision-making bodies of the FWF are (a) that the applicant's track record of publications does not meet the requirements (see [Section 1.5.](#)) and (b) that the application is missing specific hypotheses or research questions (see [Section 2.3.1.](#))

### *Reasons for rejection*

The reasons for rejecting a project will be assigned one of five categories (C1–C5) and will be sent to applicants along with the reviews. A detailed description of the categories can be found in the [General principles of the decision-making procedure](#).

### *Resubmissions*

If the application is a resubmission of a previously rejected proposal, the FWF will generally contact those reviewers who provided *constructive* criticism on the previous application. Reviewers who gave entirely positive or negative comments will generally not be contacted for a second review. However, please note that all resubmissions are also evaluated by new reviewers.

### *Proposal bans*

Applications that are rejected for reason C5 will be barred for 12 months (from the date of the decision) and cannot be resubmitted during that period.

Applications that have been submitted three times and rejected for reasons C3 or C4 (i.e., the original application and the respective resubmissions) are also barred for 12 months (from the date of decision); rejections for reasons C1 or C2 do not count towards this total.

### *Exclusion of reviewers*

Applicants may include a separate document with a list of reviewers who should not be asked to review the application due to possible conflicts of interest. A detailed description of the FWF's rules concerning conflicts of interests can be found in the [General principles of the decision-making procedure](#).

This list may include up to three potential reviewers whom the applicant believes may have conflicts of interests. The list should be accompanied by a brief explanation of the grounds for this belief. If the grounds for exclusion are professionally and technically sound, the FWF will generally fulfil such requests and will exclude those reviewers from the review process.

Please note that the FWF does not wish to receive, nor will it consider a list of possible reviewers from applicants.

## 4. Legal status

### Fellowship abroad

During the stay abroad, the fellows conduct their work under their own responsibility. The awarding of the Schrödinger Fellowship does not constitute an offer of a contract of employment nor a contract for work and services. The fellows themselves are responsible for obtaining health and accident insurance and making any contributions to a pension plan (see [Section 1.6.](#)).

The Schrödinger Fellowship is awarded for a research activity that is to be performed outside of Austria and therefore is not subject to tax in Austria pursuant to § 3 para. 1 sentence 3 point d of the Income Tax Act (EStG).

### Return phase in Austria

During the return phase in Austria, the type of employment is a contract of employment for senior postdocs (according to the current [personnel costs](#)). In exceptional cases, a research grant can be paid instead (if there is no institutional affiliation).

Upon the consent of a research institution that is subject to the 2002 Universities Act (UG 2002) or that has a corresponding agreement with the FWF, the research institution will be the employer. In the case of a research grant, the principal investigator is classified as self-employed.

## 5. Compliance with legal requirements and standards of research integrity

The FWF would like to point out that applicants must comply with all legal requirements and safety provisions (e.g., Federal Disabilities Act) that apply for their project. At the time of application, applicants must state (see the cover sheet) whether – according to the rules of the respective research institution and/or the respective country – specific permits or approvals must be obtained (e.g., from ethics commissions, commissions on animal experimentation) to carry out the planned project. The host at the hosting institution must confirm that the existing ethical rules will be respected, and the necessary permits and approvals will be obtained. A copy of the necessary permits and approvals must be submitted to the FWF before the start of the project.

Applicants must also comply with the guidelines for [good scientific practice](#) of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI) when submitting the application and carrying out the project.

If there is reason to believe that an applicant has failed to comply with these standards, the FWF will arrange for the ombudsperson of the respective research institution or the [Austrian Agency for Research Integrity](#) (ÖAWI) to carry out an investigation. The FWF reserves the right to suspend, in part or in whole, any procedures related to applications or ongoing pro-



jects until the investigation has been concluded. For more detailed information, see [FWF procedure in cases of suspected scientific misconduct](#).

## 6. Publication of project data and results

The FWF would like to point out that should the project be approved, the FWF will publish on its website a summary of the project in German and English for public relations purposes – which must be sent to the FWF when returning the grant agreement – as well as the amount of funding granted and, on project completion, summaries of the final report of the project. The principal investigator should ensure that these summaries are written in such a way as to rule out any possible restrictions on patent applications arising from the results of the project.

In addition, the FWF requires a data management plan (DMP) for all approved projects. This should also be sent to the FWF when returning the grant agreement. The template for the DMP can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/open-access-policy/research-data-management/>

In presentations and publications of project results (e.g. scholarly publications, research data), applicants must comply with the relevant requirements on acknowledging the FWF as the funding institution and the FWF's [Open Access Policy](#).

## APPENDIX: Notes and questions for reviewers in the Erwin Schrödinger funding programme<sup>8</sup>

In all of its programmes, the FWF actively supports equal opportunities and equal treatment. The review of an application must not put applicants at a disadvantage for non-research-related reasons such as age, gender, etc. For example, the review of applications should not focus on the applicant's actual age, but on the relation between the applicant's previous research achievements and the length of his/her research career. For the FWF, equal opportunities also means taking into account any unavoidable delays in applicants' research careers that have led to publication gaps, less time spent abroad, etc. (e.g., due to well-founded, extended qualification periods; time spent raising children; long-term illness; caring for relatives; etc.).

In writing your review, please keep in mind that your comments in the first section of the review will be forwarded to the applicant and, where applicable, other reviewers, in an anonymous way.

The FWF would like to point out that the length and the form of the project proposal must fulfil the form requirements<sup>9</sup> of the FWF, and therefore we ask that you keep these restrictions in mind when writing your review.

The FWF is obligated to ensure the best possible use of public-sector funds for basic research according to scientific/scholarly research criteria. We therefore ask you to comment on the following aspects of the application in Section 1a. What are the specific strengths of the project? Does it have weaknesses, and if so, what are they?

### Section 1a (forwarded to the applicant in its entirety):

- 1) Level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation of the application
- 2) Scientific/scholarly quality of the proposal
- 3) Approach/methods and feasibility of the proposal
- 4) Academic qualification of the applicant (based on her/his academic age)
- 5) Suitability of the chosen host and the hosting foreign research institution
- 6) Importance of the fellowship for the career development of the applicant and the contribution of the acquired know-how to the Austrian research sector (achieving the aims of the funding programme)
- 7) Additional aspects:
  - a) Ethical aspects

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<sup>8</sup> Further information on the FWF's corporate policy and mission or the application guidelines for the Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships can be found on our website at: (<https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-the-fwf/corporate-policy/> and <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/schroedinger-programme/>)

<sup>9</sup> Form requirements: Project description incl. figures, tables and list of abbreviations no more than 20 pages; list of literature cited, no more than 5 pages; academic CV and description of previous research achievements incl. the 10 most important publications, no more than 3 pages.

- b) Sex-specific and gender-related aspects
- 8) Overall evaluation with consideration of the key strengths and weaknesses. Please give a clear recommendation for or against funding a project.

**Section 1b (optional remarks to the applicant)**

Reviewer's recommendations to the applicants for implementing the project (in the case of approval). The recommendations made here generally should not play a role in the funding decision.

**Section 2 (confidential remarks to the FWF)**

Other comments intended solely for the FWF.

## APPENDIX II: STIPENDS per year of the FWF from March 2020

The stipends are divided into basic zones according to the costs of living in the respective country.

Country of destination (in alphabetical order)	ZONE	Amount (in EUR)
AUSTRALIA	3	42.400,00
BELGIUM	1	35.600,00
CANADA	2	39.000,00
DENMARK	4	45.800,00
FINLAND	2	39.000,00
FRANCE	2	39.000,00
GERMANY	1	35.600,00
HUNGARY	1	35.600,00
ICELAND	4	45.800,00
IRELAND	2	39.000,00
ISRAEL	2	39.000,00
ITALY	2	39.000,00
JAPAN	4	45.800,00
NETHERLANDS	1	35.600,00
NORWAY	5	47.400,00
SINGAPORE	4	45.800,00
SPAIN	1	35.600,00
SWEDEN	2	39.000,00
SWITZERLAND	5	47.400,00
UK	3	42.400,00
USA	3	42.400,00

\*\*\*Other countries upon request\*\*\*

### Additional funding

- **Travel costs (one-time payment):** within Europe: max. EUR **500.00**; USA, Canada max. EUR **1,000.00**; all other countries max. EUR **1,500.00**
- Children up to 6 years of age: max. 50%, 7–12 years of age: max. 70%
- Spouse/partner (only together with the children): 100%
- **Additional subsidy for children per year (per each child residing with the fellow for at least six months):**
- Zones 1 + 2: EUR **4,000.00**; Zones 3–5: EUR **4,800.00**
- **Subsidies for conference travel:** max. EUR **2,000.00** per year
- **Maternity benefit:** EUR **11.300, 00** (for 4 months)