

AXA Post Doctoral Fellowships application procedure 2015-2016

Introduction AXA Research Fund (<http://www.axa-research.org/>)

The AXA Research Fund was created to encourage scientific research that would contribute to understanding and preventing environmental, life, and socio-economic risks. Protecting its clients and the community from risks is at the core of AXA's purpose. Convinced that researching today will help better protecting tomorrow, the AXA Group has created the AXA Research Fund in January 2008 with € 100 million budget. Its mission is to boost scientific progress and discoveries that contribute to understand and prevent environmental, life and socio-economic risks. Areas of research eligible for funding Research projects funded by the Fund must fall within the scope of one of the themes identified by the AXA Scientific Board. The themes are:

● *Life Risks*

- Aging & Long-term care, eg. trends in individual longevity, age-related diseases, population demographics.
- Biomedical risks, from the analysis and evolution of infectious diseases and pandemics, to exposure to new technologies.
- Addictions and risky behaviors, from the perspectives of psychology, biology, medicine, etc.

NB: The AXA Research Fund wishes to finance basic research only. This excludes R&D research programs, as well as clinical trials involved in clinical research projects. Please note that research programs aimed at understanding the fundamental mechanisms of a disease and its impact on health are considered basic.

● *Socio-economic Risks*

- Geopolitical risks, eg. access to natural resources, international and civil conflicts, political upheavals, international security.
- Macroeconomic and financial systemic risks, i.e. all uncertainties pertaining to relationships between economic aggregates (national income, government expenditure, aggregate demand etc.).
- Individual and collective behaviors towards uncertainties
- Large corporate risks, from internal corporate governance risks to threats and challenges inherent to the corporate environment.

● *Environmental Risks*

- Climate change, from glacier retreat to sea-level rise.
- Natural hazards, from earth hazards to atmospheric and space-weather phenomena.
- Human driven environmental changes such as urban pollution, nanotechnologies or pesticide exposure.

Approaches

Applications should tackle one of the eligible research fields relying on several of the following approaches:

- Risk identification and definition
- Risk assessment and measure
- Risk modelling
- Risk mitigation
- Decision-making processes when facing risks
- Risk prevention

Although these projects must fit into any one of these themes, AXA will accept applications coming from any discipline, provided that they contribute to greater knowledge and understanding of risks. There are no restrictions on the nationality of the Research Fellow.

AXA Post Doctoral Fellowships 2015-2016 procedure (<http://www.axa-research.org/post-doctoral-fellowships>)

The Post-Doctoral funding (130 000€) is granted for a period of two years to young researchers who receive their (first) PhD within the 5 years preceding the deadline (extensions for documented career breaks may be allowed). Candidates need to have an excellent and promising track record, the potential for research independence and have experienced or is about to experience international mobility.

The application process entails a selection of the institutions and number of candidates that can be proposed and after that a pre-proposal (light) and a several steps. The first few steps will be taken care of by the UMs contact person. After approval of the UM and receiving the number of candidates that we can nominate, the UM can provide the names of their candidates (before December, 7th). Named candidates will then receive a login and password and will be able to submit their outline proposal on the ESF platform (before December, 14th). If preselected, candidates will then be invited to submit a full proposal on the ESF application website (before March 21, 2016). In parallel with the academic review of their proposal by remote referees, they will be interviewed by AXA Experts in order to evaluate their capacity to share and popularize their research with non-academics. The candidates will receive the reviews in order to write a rebuttal. A Peer review Panel will examine the proposals, reviews and rebuttal and provide a recommendation to the AXA Scientific Board. Final results will be made public on June 8, 2016.

In order to select the best candidate an internal procedure has been set up. Candidates need to send in their Detailed CV (2 pages max + ½ page of the most relevant publications), extended synopsis of the postdoctoral programme (1.5 pages max + references) and a career statement (1 page max, detailing the link between the PhD thesis and the postdoctoral project, the justification of the choice of the host institution, how the AXA Fellowship can contribute to achieving these objectives and their international exposure).

These documents need to be send to Femke Buijer (femke.buijer@maastrichtuniversity.nl) before November 30th, 2015 (12:00h).