

In accordance with its Funding Guidelines dated January 1, 2022
(as amended), the FWF has issued the following
Application guidelines for the

Erwin Schrödinger Program

effective as of July 1, 2023, version 1

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Please note: Key terms used in these Application Guidelines are explained in the document [Definition of Terms](#) (Ad-personam-mode).

1 General Information

1.1 Aim of the program

The Erwin Schrödinger program (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 programs 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 Submission

There are no submission deadlines for this program; applications can be submitted at any time. Applications must be submitted online at [elane](#).

Once the application has been submitted online, a [PDF cover sheet](#) will be generated. The application shall not be considered officially submitted until the FWF receives the signed cover sheet (see also [section 2.2.3.](#)).

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 stage¹ 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 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 basic research that are clearly defined, innovative, with plausibly described objectives and methods, and are limited in duration.

Proposals featuring one or more of the following attributes are considered innovative basic research: (i) research on new ideas and/or an investigation of new research questions, (ii) the development or application of new research methods, new technologies, or original approaches to solving research questions, or (iii) the application or modification of existing methods, technologies, or approaches to new research questions. Please note that next logical steps or the incremental further development of published data is not considered to be innovative or original.

1.5 Who is eligible to apply?

1.5.1 General requirements

The principal investigator's publication record over the last five years must be internationally visible and commensurate with the expected career path in their field. The following criteria

¹ "Postdoc stage" refers to research experience since the date of conferral of the doctoral degree (PhD).

are decisive in assessing their publication record - documented in the “publication list” (see [section 2.4.](#)) - and in initiating the review process:

- **Quality assurance:** Most relevant in assessing the applicant’s publication record are those publications that have been subject to a quality assurance procedure in line with international standards (peer review or an equivalent procedure; in the natural and life sciences, peer review is expected). Journals must usually be listed in Web of Science, Scopus, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). For journals not listed in those databases, or for monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, or other publication types, the applicant must provide a link to the publisher’s website which contains a description of the applicable quality assurance procedure. Should no such description be available on the website, it is the applicant’s responsibility to provide evidence that the publication has been subject to a quality assurance procedure in accordance with the standards of the field.
- **International visibility:** The majority of the applicant’s publications must have a wider than national reach. In the natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences, most of the publications listed must be in English.
- **Number/scope and quality** of the publications must be commensurate with the researcher’s expectable career path and the respective discipline. At least two publications must be quality-assured and internationally visible publications with a substantial and independent contribution by the applicant. At least one publication with first, last, or corresponding authorship is required², with the exception of publications in journals (or disciplines) that rank authors alphabetically.

If there is any uncertainty about general application requirements or about accounting for career interruptions (see [sections 1.5.3.](#) and [1.5.4.](#)), the FWF recommends contacting the FWF Office or the [FWF unit](#) for equal opportunities in research funding in good time before submitting the application to confirm that all requirements are met and that any career interruptions can be accounted for. In cases of doubt, the appropriate decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide on applicants’ eligibility.

1.5.2 Equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion

The [FWF Strategy for Gender Equality and Diversity of Researchers](#) applies. This means that breaks or delays in applicants’ research careers that have led to publication gaps, unorthodox career paths, or limited international research experience can be taken into account. For further details on accounting for career breaks, please refer to the [information sheet](#) on career interruptions.

² In the case of the Life Sciences, the following applies: If the application is submitted more than two years after the doctoral degree has been awarded (at the time when the application is submitted), the applicant must appear as the first, last, or corresponding author in at least one of the two peer-reviewed, internationally visible publications.

1.5.3 Consideration of career breaks

The FWF will take justified, documentable career breaks (e.g. due to pregnancy, childcare,³ caregiving obligations,⁴ military or civilian service, flight, and asylum) into consideration in assessing the principal investigator's eligibility to apply.

1.5.4 Inclusion of the disabled and chronically ill

The FWF will also take any exceptions to and interruptions of typical career paths due to disability and/or long-term illness into consideration in determining whether the principal investigator meets the application requirements.

1.5.5 Data protection notice

When assessing eligibility, all personal data provided to the FWF by an applicant on a voluntary basis that relates to the information provided in [sections 1.5.3](#) and [1.5.4](#) shall be taken into account exclusively to the applicant's benefit (compensation of disadvantages). Relevant information (without sensitive or personal data) can be included in an individual's academic CV, making it available to the reviewers. A general explanation, including the duration of the interruption or delay, is sufficient. Please use the appropriate [form](#) for this purpose and give your explicit consent to data processing on the last page. If you wish to submit further supporting documents in addition to those listed in the form please submit them directly to the FWF office. These will not be visible to your research institution. This information is only used to check the application requirements and is not made available to reviewers.

1.6 What types of funding can be requested?

1.6.1 Basic fellowship (personnel costs)

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

³ Childcare includes parental leave periods, if applicable.

⁴ Immediate family members and/or persons living in the same household: Spouses, registered partners, parents, children, adopted, step, and foster children, siblings, parents-in-law, and children-in-law.

1.6.2 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

1.6.3 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 B](#)).

1.6.4 Career development allowance during the period abroad

The principal investigator is entitled to a monthly allowance of €300 for career development measures. This can be used to cover travel to international conferences, project-specific continuing education (e.g. on methodological skills), coaching and/or personnel development measures, summer and/or winter schools, travel to cooperation partners, necessary field and/or archive work, and acquisitions under €1,500 (small items of equipment) needed for the project (see [Appendix B](#)).

1.6.5 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 B](#)).

1.6.6 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 B](#)).

1.6.7 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.

1.6.8 Publication costs

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

1.6.9 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 hosting researcher (=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.

1.6.10 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 **€12,000.00 per year for project-specific costs**. Of those project-specific costs, €2,000.00 per year can be used for coaching or personal development.

1.6.11 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 program, 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.
Multiple funding is not permitted (see [FWF Funding Guidelines](#)).

1.7 Applying for additional funding

Applicants for a Schrödinger Fellowship

- cannot submit parallel applications to the FWF for the same program or for another career development program (ESPRIT, Elise Richter or Elise Richter PEEK). Applicants may apply for FWF funding in other program categories by submitting a separate proposal, provided that they meet the application requirements of the respective program;
- 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

A complete application must include the following sections:

1) Academic abstract:

The academic abstract must be written in English, may not exceed 3,000 characters (including spaces, no formulas or special characters), and is used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must use the English headings provided below.

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

Where alternatives are indicated between slashes, please select the alternative that applies to your project.

2) Project description:

Proposal.pdf: Project descriptions are limited to 20 consecutively numbered pages, incl. the table of contents (required), and where applicable, a list of abbreviations, headings, figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc.

The project description must also include the following annexes on additional pages (specifications see [section 2.3.4.](#) onwards)

- Annex 1: List of literature cited in the application (*References*) on no more than 5 pages
- Annex 2: Academic CV and description of previous research achievements of the applicant
- Annex 3: Invitation of the foreign research institution
- Annex 4: Recommendation letter of the Austrian research institution
- Annex 5: (optional): Collaboration letters of national and international cooperation partners (no more than 1 page per letter);

The FWF will send this document to the reviewers.

3) Attachments to be uploaded individually:

- Mandatory: publication list for the last five years, broken down into quality assured and non-quality assured (see [section 2.4.](#)).
- Where applicable: cover letter; list of reviewers to be excluded; report on results or final report, for follow-up applications (see [section 2.6.](#)); for resubmissions: overview of all the changes made in the resubmitted application and response(s) to reviews.

4) Completed forms

- Required forms: *academic abstract*, *application form*, *Program-specific data and co-authors form*;
- Optional forms: *Other cooperation*.

2.2 Formal requirements and submission of application

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 for the project as well as a brief yet convincing statement explaining why submission in a language other than English is justified

for substantive academic reasons. The final decision shall be made by the relevant decision-making bodies of the FWF.

2.2.2 Formatting

The continuous text in the project description, annexes 1 and 2, and the attachments must be written in 11 pt. font with 15-20 pt. spacing and at least 2 cm margins. A standard, easily legible font must be used for the body text. The form requirements (font type and size, line spacing, and margins) of the project description also apply for the additional documents, except for documents not prepared by the applicant, such as letters of invitation, recommendation and collaboration.

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 [elane](#).

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 are to be uploaded as well. For additional information, see the '[User manual – elane](#)'.

1) Required parts of the application:

a) Files:

- Proposal.pdf (project description incl. annexes 1-4 and where applicable 5, with PDF bookmarks, at least for the major sections)
- Publications_list.pdf (publication list for the last 5 years, broken down into quality assured and non-quality assured)

b) Forms:

- Academic abstract in English
- Application form
- Program-specific data
- Co-authors
- Other cooperation (if applicable; for national and international cooperation partners)

2) File uploads – if applicable:

- *Cover_Letter.pdf* (= accompanying letter; optional)

- *Negative_list.pdf* (= list of reviewers who should be excluded; optional)
- *Follow.pdf* (= result report or final project report of the previous project for follow-up applications; will be forwarded to the reviewers)
- *Overview_Revision.pdf* (= for resubmissions, overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application)
- *Revision.pdf* (= for resubmissions, response to all reviews of the previously rejected application)

Once the application has been submitted, a [PDF cover sheet](#) will be generated automatically.

This cover sheet must be sent to the FWF

- a) by conventional mail with the handwritten signature of the applicant and the handwritten signature(s) of the authorized signatory or signatories of the research institute(s) and the stamps of the research institute(s), *or*
- b) by email (office@fwf.ac.at) with a scan of the signature(s) and stamps(s) of the research institute(s) and **signed using the applicant's qualified electronic signature (Citizen Card/Mobile Phone Signature)**, *or*
- c) by email (office@fwf.ac.at) and signed using the qualified electronic signature of the research institute(s) and the applicant.

The application shall not be considered officially submitted until the FWF receives the cover sheet signed in the manner described above. Please note that a scanned version with signatures and stamps but **not signed using the applicant's qualified electronic signature (Citizen Card/Mobile Phone Signature)** is **not sufficient**.

2.3 Project description and annexes

The project description must comprise no more than 20 pages and include a table of contents as well as the contents described in the sections [2.3.1](#), [2.3.2](#) and [2.3.3](#). Annexes must be attached to the project description in the order given from section [2.3.4](#), onwards.

2.3.1 The proposed research

- 1) Table of contents
- 2) State of the art of relevant international research (including own preliminary work, if applicable) and relation of the project to this context
- 3) Clearly defined aims and hypotheses or research question(s) of the project

- 4) Description of the project's anticipated level of originality or innovation⁵
- 5) Methods
- 6) Intended [cooperation arrangements](#) (national and/or international) as part of the planned project should be explained. This explanation should specify the people with whom the applicant aims to collaborate, what the subject of the intended cooperation arrangement(s) will be and what they will contribute 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 may be evidenced by a collaboration letter.
- 7) Work plan and timeline
- 8) Research-related qualifications of the researchers involved
- 9) All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects⁶ of the submitted project and how the applicant plans to deal with them must be described in a separate section. These questions should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any ethical issues.
- 10) A separate section must describe what sex-specific and gender-related issues⁷ the planned project may potentially give rise to, and how the applicant intends to deal with them. These must be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any sex-specific and gender-related issues.

2.3.2 Information on the chosen foreign research institution⁸

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.

⁵ Examples of applications 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.

⁶ For instance, the European Commission's [Ethics for Researchers](#) or [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) can serve as a guide here.

⁷ Positioning and reflecting on the research approaches 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-us/what-we-do/equal-opportunities-and-diversity/definition-of-terms>)

⁸ 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.

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 1.6.11.](#))? 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.

2.3.4 Annex 1: List of references

List of literature cited in the application (*References*) on no more than 5 pages

2.3.5 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 3 pages, as specified below.

Required contents for academic CV:

- *Personal details*: Personal details (name, researcher unique identifier(s) such as ORCID, research ID, etc., no photos), address of the research institution, and relevant websites. In addition, a publicly accessible link to the list of all published publications is required
- *Education*: List of academic milestones
- *Position(s)*: List of academically relevant positions (with the extent of employment in the case of part-time employment)
- *Career breaks* (if any): List of career breaks or delays (see also [section 1.5.2](#))
- *Net research experience (optional)*: The length of time (in years and months) that has actually been used in net total for research – calculated in such a way as to be equivalent to full-time employment – and broken down into the time before and after completion of the applicant's doctoral degree. This is intended to make it easier for the reviewers to assess the principal investigator's qualifications in term of academic age.
- *Research interests*: Description of the main areas of research and the most important research results achieved to date
- *Academic publications*: List of no more than ten of the most important published or accepted academic publications (journal articles, monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, proceedings, etc.); for each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated, if available. In accordance

with the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), journal-based metrics such as journal impact factors, Article Influence Scores, or the h-index should not be included.

- *Additional research achievements*: List of no more than ten of the most important research achievements apart from academic publications, including achievements such as freely accessible research data including software and codes, awards, contributions to conferences, keynote lectures, significant research projects, peer review activities, promotion of junior researchers, exhibitions, interactions with society (including citizen science or transdisciplinary activities), science communication, knowledge transfer, licenses, or patents. If available, a persistent identifier or link to the research achievement must be provided.

2.3.6 Annex 3: Invitation of the foreign research institution

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

2.3.7 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).

2.3.8 Annex 5: Collaboration letters (optional)

Collaboration letters (each no more than 1 page) from national and international collaboration partners who are named in the project description as being essential for the implementation of the project and whose role is plausibly described.

2.4 Mandatory attachment: Publication list

Publications_list.pdf: A list of all research publications⁹ over the last five years (broken down into “quality assured publications” and “other publications”) of the applicant. This document helps the FWF to determine if there are any potential conflicts of interest with reviewers. It will not be forwarded to the reviewers.

⁹ Publication lists must include: all authors, complete titles, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, if available, 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.

2.5 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:

- 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 GDPRP;
- If funding is requested for the return phase, affirmation of the applicant's research institution.
- 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.

2.6 Additional attachments

In addition to the project description incl. annexes and the forms, the following attachments must 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 when a rejected application is revised and resubmitted, see [section 2.7.](#);

It should be noted that any annexes or attachments in addition to the ones mentioned above will not be considered in further stages of the application process (such as further letters of recommendation, "forthcoming" publications etc.).

2.7 Revising a rejected application ("resubmission")

A resubmission is defined as the revision of an application addressing the same or similar research questions as a proposal the FWF has previously rejected, regardless of the

program category. If an application is submitted on the same or a very similar research question and if, in the view of the principal investigator, this application is not a resubmission but a completely new project, this must be explained in a separate accompanying letter to the FWF Office. 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 appropriate decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide.

Resubmissions must show changes. If an application has been rejected for the reasons for rejection C3, C4, and C5, these changes need to be substantial (based on the comments in the reviews). If no such changes are made, the FWF's decision-making bodies will return the application to the applicant without review.

When resubmitting an application, the following documents must be uploaded:

- *Overview_Revision.pdf*: 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.
- *Revision.pdf*: A response to all reviews of the rejected application must be provided, even if one of the reviewers is to be excluded from reviewing the resubmitted application (see [section 3.5](#)). This response, consolidated in *one* document, will be forwarded to all reviewers reviewing the resubmission and should address the recommendations and criticisms included in the previous reviews as well as describe the resulting changes made.

There is no deadline within which a resubmission of a rejected application must be submitted, but any relevant application requirements must be considered. Submission of a resubmission follows the application procedure described in [2.2.3.](#), meaning that it is submitted as a new independent application and not as an additional application to the previously rejected application.

3 Processing of 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](#).

Information on the average duration of the review process can be found in the [FWF-Dashboard](#). When the review process 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.

3.1 Requests for changes and returning applications without review

The FWF will not process incomplete applications, those which do not comply with the FWF's regulations or which contain formal errors (in particular, if the maximum length permitted is exceeded), unless and 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 FWF's decision-making bodies will return these proposals without review. Similarly, applications will not be reviewed if they have been previously rejected by the FWF and resubmitted without appropriate revisions.

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

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 are (a) that the applicant's track record of publications does not meet the requirements (see [section 1.5.](#)) and (b) that the application does not address specific hypotheses or research questions (see [section 2.3.1.](#)).

3.2 Reasons for rejection

The reasons for rejecting an application will be analysed and assigned one of five categories (C1–C5). The result 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](#).

3.3 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 usually not be contacted for a second review. However, please note that generally all resubmissions are also evaluated by new reviewers.

3.4 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 (with the "three times" referring to the original application and two resubmissions) are also barred

for 12 months (from the date of decision). Rejections for reasons C1 or C2 do not count towards this total. In principle, only topics are blocked and not applicants.

3.5 Exclusion of reviewers

As mentioned in [section 2.6.](#), an additional document may be uploaded giving a list of up to three reviewers who the applicant believes may have a conflict of interest and whom the applicant therefore does not wish to review the application.

The applicant must give reasons for why they wish to exclude certain reviewers. If the reasons given hold up to scrutiny, the FWF will generally fulfil such requests and will exclude those reviewers from the review process.

A detailed description of the FWF's policy on conflicts of interest can be found in the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#) document.

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

4 Legal status

4.1 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 1.6.7](#)).

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).

4.2 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

Applicants must comply with all national and international legal requirements and safety provisions (e.g. the 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.

Applicants must also comply with the [Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice](#) of the [Austrian Agency for Research Integrity](#) (ÖAWI). If there is reason to believe that an applicant has failed to comply with these standards, the FWF will carry out a plausibility check in accordance with its [procedure](#). Depending on the circumstances, the FWF can arrange for 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 projects until this check or investigation has been concluded.

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 (PR) purposes – which must be sent to the FWF by the applicant 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 safeguard legitimate interests of secrecy for reasons of national defence and patent law, and that trade secrets are appropriately protected. Guidelines for writing PR summaries can be found [here](#).

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 [here](#).

For any kind of publication of project results (e.g., academic publications, research data, conference papers, and media reports), applicants must comply with the guidelines specified in the funding agreement on acknowledging the FWF as the funding institution and the [Open Access Policy](#)

Appendix A: Notes and questions for reviewers in the Erwin Schrödinger program ¹⁰

The FWF actively supports equal opportunities and fair treatment for all applicants. The FWF does not put applicants at a disadvantage for non-research-related reasons (such as age, gender, etc.) and therefore asks all reviewers to apply the same standards. For example, when assessing applicants' qualifications, please disregard their actual age, but consider their academic age instead.

Our commitment to equal opportunities also means taking into account breaks or delays in applicants' research careers (e.g., due to parental leave; long-term or chronic illness; disability; caring responsibilities; etc.), which may have led to publication gaps, atypical career paths, or limited international research experience. Please also see our information for reviewers on [unconscious bias in the decision-making process](#).

Only the ten most important academic publications and the ten most important additional research achievements of the applicant are to be considered when evaluating the application. As a signatory to the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), the FWF also emphasizes that, in assessing research performance, reviewers should refrain from using journal-based metrics such as the Journal Impact Factor

Please review the present proposal¹¹, using the following eight assessment criteria:

- 1) innovation and originality,
- 2) quality of the proposed research,
- 3) approach and feasibility,
- 4) qualification of the applicant,
- 5) suitability of the chosen supervisor and the host research institution,
- 6) career development / knowledge transfer,
- 7) ethics, sex and gender aspects and
- 8) overall evaluation.

For each of these criteria except 7) we ask you for both written comments and a rating on a scale from "outstanding" to "poor". Please be aware, however, that the FWF's funding decision will be based primarily on reviewers' written assessments rather than the ratings assigned

Please keep in mind that sections 1 and 2 will be forwarded to the applicant in its entirety and in anonymous form.

¹⁰ Further information can be found on our website: [FWF's corporate policy and mission](#) or the [Application guidelines for the Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships](#)

¹¹ The project proposal must meet the FWF's formal requirements. Please bear these in mind when writing your review. (Key formal requirements: 20 pages max. for the project description including figures and tables; 5 pages max. for the list of references; 3 pages max. for each academic CV, including a description of previous research achievements and the ten most important publications. For further details see [Application guidelines for the Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships](#))

Section 1

1) Innovation and originality:

Is the proposed research innovative? Does it make an original contribution to its field?

2) Quality of the proposed research:

Are the research questions formulated clearly? Are they timely, challenging and likely to lead to relevant insights?

3) Approach and feasibility:

Is the research design well-conceived, clearly formulated, and suitable for answering the research question(s)? Is there a well-organized work plan? Have the methods been chosen well and does the proposal describe them in sufficient detail?

4) Qualifications of the applicant

How well is the applicant qualified to carry out the proposed research? How would you assess the academic qualifications of the applicant? In evaluating the qualification of the applicant, please consider the career stage, taking into account unusual career paths and circumstances that may have slowed down their progress (e.g., parental leave, long-term or chronic illness, disability, caring responsibilities).

5) Academic suitability of the chosen supervisor and the host research institution abroad

How well suited is the host researcher for supervising the research project? Is the intended research institution suitable for carrying out the project?

6) Career development / Knowledge transfer

How important is the fellowship for the career development of the applicant? How well can the knowledge gained be integrated into the Austrian research community?

7) Ethics, sex and gender aspects:

- a) *Ethics*: Have ethical considerations been addressed satisfactorily?
- b) *Sex-specific and gender-related aspects*: Applicants are required to address any relevant sex-specific and/or gender-related elements inherent in their research questions and/or research design. Please assess whether their treatment of these components is adequate.

8) Overall evaluation:

What is your overall impression of the proposal? Specifically, what would you consider its key strengths and weaknesses? Please give reasons for your answers, taking as much space as you need.

Section 2: Optional recommendations for the applicant

If you are in favour of the project being funded, you may want to add to the formal assessment in section 1 by making further and perhaps more informal comments or suggestions here. However, please note that these remarks, too, may impact on the FWF's funding decision, especially if they amount to substantive criticism of the project.

Section 3: Confidential remarks to the FWF

Please use this space to make any comments that you do not wish to be conveyed to the applicant(s). Feel free to also give us feedback about the evaluation process and your interactions with us.

Appendix B: Fellowship rates per year from March 2023

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

Country of destination (in alphabetical order)	ZONE	Amount (in €)
AUSTRALIA	3	47.300,00
BELGIUM	2	43.500,00
CANADA	2	43.500,00
DENMARK	4	51.000,00
FINLAND	3	47.300,00
FRANCE	2	43.500,00
GERMANY	1	39.700,00
HUNGARY	1	39.700,00
ICELAND	4	51.000,00
IRELAND	3	47.300,00
ISRAEL	4	51.000,00
ITALY	1	39.700,00
JAPAN	3	47.300,00
NETHERLANDS	2	43.500,00
NORWAY	4	51.000,00
SPAIN	1	39.700,00
SWEDEN	3	47.300,00
SWITZERLAND	5	54.800,00
UK	3	47.300,00
USA	3	47.300,00

Other countries upon request

Additional funding

Travel costs (one-time payment): max. €1,500 (stipulated by the FWF Office)

Spouse/partner (only together with the children): 100%; Children: 50%

Additional subsidy for children per year (per each child residing with the fellow for at least six months): Zones 1 + 2: €4,000.00; Zones 3–5: €4,800.00

Career development allowance during the period abroad: max. €3.600,00 p. a.

Maternity benefit: €12,600.00 (for 4 months)