

EACR-AstraZeneca Postdoctoral Fellowships Programme Guidelines

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EACR-AstraZeneca Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to three years and support excellent postdoctoral researchers in laboratories throughout Europe.

The goals of the programme are:

- To support the career development of outstanding EACR members in the early stage of their careers
- To train the next generation of scientists engaged in innovative research in areas where AstraZeneca has demonstrated leadership through its pipeline and research programs
- To build research collaborations between the EACR, institutions and AstraZeneca in core therapeutic areas to support development of the pipeline

Measures of success:

- High impact publications describing innovative additions to the field
- Short and long-term satisfaction with the programme
- Career development of Fellows
- Continued academic interactions with the fellow and/or academic supervisors and AstraZeneca

Fellowship Programme

The submission of Proposals for an EACR-AstraZeneca Postdoctoral Fellowship is via an online application system on the EACR website www.eacr.org/eacr-fellowships. Applications are accepted in line with the published timeline.

Eligibility

Applications are accepted from candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be an [EACR member](#) with a PhD and with no more than 8 years postdoctoral experience (excluding career breaks such as parental leave or long-term illness) at the outline proposal submission deadline.
- Applicants must work actively and currently in cancer research, for example in academia, in industry or as a clinician or physician scientist.
- Applicants can only submit one application to each call, but can submit applications to more than one call.

Publications

Applicants must have had at least one first (or joint first) author primary research paper published in an international peer reviewed journal at the time of application. Papers must be published in English.

Abstracts of presentations at conferences and review articles should not be listed as publications.

Publication updates once the selection process has started are not allowed.

Mobility

Fellows must be based at a European academic institution for the duration of their Fellowship. A placement of up to one year at an AstraZeneca site may be arranged by mutual agreement if it is felt to be of benefit to the project and the Fellow. Fellows will be responsible for any costs associated with a placement or visit to AstraZeneca, including travel and accommodation.

Industrial research laboratories and applied projects

- Applications to work in an industrial or for-profit research laboratory will not be considered.
- Projects with an aim to develop an application, commercial product or process, or a device may be considered if there is a fundamental biology question behind the project to be answered. For instance, development of technologies that enable biological discovery and/or include biomarkers may be eligible for funding.

Application process

EACR members will be invited to submit an outline project proposal following an announcement in the EACR's email news bulletin and on its website.

Proposed research projects must:

- be basic and/or translational in nature. Translational research is preferred.
- have direct applicability and relevance to at least one of haematology, breast, lung, prostate, pancreatic, gastric, ovarian, liver, colorectal or paediatric cancer.

Projects should focus on one of the following research areas:

- Cell Therapy
- Immune modulating therapies
- Tumour drivers
- Mechanisms of resistance to therapy
- Mechanisms of sensitivity/resistance to PARP inhibitors and other DNA Damage Response inhibitors
- Novel approaches to drugging intractable targets
- Mechanisms of sensitivity and resistance to antibody drug conjugates
- Epigenetics

Applications and supporting documentation are only accepted via the EACR online application system. For details on how we will store and use your information please view the EACR [Privacy Policy](#). Please also note that:

- Applications must be written in English and no special formatting is allowed.
- No application can be completed without all the information required including references and an acceptance letter from the host institution.
- Once the application has been submitted, no further changes are allowed.
- Changes in address or contact email that occur after submission of an application should be notified to the Fellowships and Awards Officer.

Stage 1: Outline Proposal

- Project Title
- Summary and significance of the proposed research (Maximum 250 words). Please provide a synopsis of the proposed activity.
- Outline proposal for research at the host institute (Maximum 1500 words not including references) including:
 - Project aims and objectives
 - The oncology question to be addressed
 - Benefits of working with AstraZeneca
 - Which AstraZeneca compounds/drugs will be used, if any
 - Brief methodology
 - Expected results
 - Dissemination plan
- Proposed start date of the Fellowship
- Proposed duration of the Project (up to three years)

Supporting documents for Stage 1:

- A letter of support from the PI or Head of Department at your receiving Institute
- Two reference letters

Stage 2: Full Proposal (*for shortlisted applications only*)

Full proposal for research at the receiving institute (Maximum 3000 words) including:

- Background
- Hypothesis and aims
- Methodology
- Contingency plans
- Dissemination plan

Supporting documents for Stage 2:

- A letter of support from the PI or Head of Department at your receiving Institute which has been countersigned by the Grants Office or equivalent person with authority.
- One PDF document, which is limited to one page only, of schematics/preliminary data to support your proposal. Please note that this is optional and not essential to your application.

Selection Process

The EACR will establish an independent Fellowship Review Panel. The primary selection criteria to be applied by the Panel are scientific excellence of the candidate, the project and the suitability of the host laboratory. Aspects considered in particular are:

- Scientific achievements of the applicant
- Quality, scope, novelty and significance of the proposed research
- Suitability of the host laboratory for the proposed research project
- Letter of support from the host institution
- Referees' comments
- Potential impact on the applicant's career

Panel members will individually score applications at both stages of the process. All applications will be considered by a minimum of three panel members. Shortlisted applications will be sent to AstraZeneca for review. Fellowship(s) will be awarded based on the Review Panel's scores and final rankings, whilst also taking into account how well the proposed projects fit with AstraZeneca's current areas of research focus.

Panel members review and score each application but do not provide comments or individual feedback. As such, please note that individual feedback will not be provided to applicants at any stage of the application process.

Timeline

Reasonable efforts will be made to adhere to this timeline.

Duration	Action
21.02.2024	Launch call for 2024 EACR-AstraZeneca Postdoctoral Fellowship applications
24.04.2024	Outline proposal submission deadline
1 Week	Pre-screening There will be a 1-week pre-screening period when applications will be checked to ensure eligibility requirements are met. Applicants will be notified during this stage if they do not meet the eligibility requirements.
4 Weeks	Panel Review Completed outline proposal applications will be sent to the Review Panel for scoring and the agreement of final rankings.
5 Weeks	AstraZeneca Review Top-ranking applications will be sent to AstraZeneca for review. If a project is not suitable, AstraZeneca will establish a dialogue with the Review Panel. Confirmation of Supervisor Confirmation by AstraZeneca of a Supervisor for each successful proposal.
1 Week	<u>All applicants</u> will be informed of the outcome of the first stage review by email. Please note that individual feedback will not be provided. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.
8 Weeks	Period allocated for preparation and submission of full proposals.
06.09.2024	Full proposal submission deadline
3 Weeks	Panel Review Completed full proposals will be sent to the Review Panel for scoring and the agreement of final rankings.
2 Weeks	Rankings will be provided to AstraZeneca and Fellowships awarded according to the number to be funded. AstraZeneca Supervisors will be allocated to each successful application.
1 Week	All applicants will be informed of the outcome by email.
1 Week	Successful applicants will have 1 week to accept the EACR-AstraZeneca Postdoctoral Fellowship(s).
12 Weeks	Negotiations of Contracts.
January 2025	Start date of Fellowship(s) estimated
Year 1 six monthly reports	Submission of Year One Reports
Year 2 six monthly reports	Submission of Year Two Reports
Year 3 six monthly reports	Submission of Final Reports

Funding

Fellowships are awarded for a period of 36 months although shorter durations can be requested. AstraZeneca provides funds to the host institution to cover the cost of an employment contract to be issued by the host institution to the awardee. Funding will cover the salary of the awardee, based on the published [EMBO Fellowship rates](#), plus a 25% overhead fee to be used at the employer's discretion. There is no separate consumables budget and it will be for the host institution to decide how the overhead funds are spent.

The transfer of funds and their use is regulated by a Project Agreement that will be signed by both AstraZeneca and the Host Institution.

EACR-AstraZeneca Postdoctoral Fellows' Network

Fellows will be invited to join a network of EACR-AstraZeneca fellows for informal networking and advice. Fellows are invited to register for the annual EACR Congress which may take place either in-person or virtually. This event will bring Fellows and funders together in a friendly atmosphere. Fellows are asked to present their research, share experiences, and establish new collaborations and contacts. It is also an opportunity to meet the EACR staff and give feedback and suggestions on the programme.

Fellowship Terms and Conditions

The Fellow's host institution and AstraZeneca will develop a written Project Agreement with mutually agreed terms including intellectual property arrangements. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the award will not be made.

Fellowships are awarded to individuals. However, as the selection process also takes into consideration the specific research project proposed by the applicant and the suitability of the host laboratory, substantial changes to the proposed project or moving to a different host laboratory will result in the termination of the Fellowship.

The Fellow agrees to provide reports to the EACR on request.