

## **Internal prioritisation process for project proposals from Karolinska Institutet to the AXA Research Fund Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2025**

The AXA Research Fund is AXA Group's global scientific philanthropy initiative, which strives to address the most important issues facing our planet. The AXA Research Fund's mission is to support outstanding researchers and it is committed to improving peoples' lives through innovative research in areas of Climate & Environment, Health, and Socioeconomics.

AXA Research Fund now invites early career researchers to apply for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2025 call which is entitled: *"Rethinking Social Contract for the 21st Century – Demographic Change, Social Protection and Solidarity"*.

AXA Research Fund welcome interdisciplinary perspectives from fields such as sociology, political science, geopolitics, economics, law, public health, environmental studies, and related disciplines. They especially value solution-oriented research that proposes tangible recommendations and outcomes. Proposed research could explore, but is not limited to, one or more aspects of the following aspects:

### **Demographic Shifts:**

- How can the social contract be updated to address the challenges of aging populations, declining birth rates, and shifting dependency ratios, while ensuring intergenerational equity in health, pensions, and social protection systems?
- What innovative approaches can the social contract adopt to support youth populations in regions experiencing rapid population growth, ensuring access to education, employment, and social mobility?
- How can the social contract integrate private sector actors to enhance public health systems and address the needs of aging societies, particularly in areas like pandemic response and elderly care?

### **Migration:**

- How can the social contract be adapted to integrate migrants and refugees into host societies while addressing concerns about social cohesion and resource allocation?
- How can the social contract be reviewed to address the impacts of climate-induced migration and displacement on both sending and receiving communities?

### **The Future of Work:**

- How can the social contract be updated to address the rise of non-traditional employment models (e.g., gig work, remote work, platform-based labor) while ensuring fair wages, job security, and access to social protections?

- What role can the social contract play in supporting lifelong learning and reskilling initiatives to help workers adapt to automation, artificial intelligence, and rapidly changing labor markets?

AXA Research Fund encourage scholars to contribute research that advances our understanding of contemporary social contracts and offers innovative solutions for a more sustainable and equitable future.

The fellowship provides a personal stipend of up to €140 000 in total, to be spent over 2 years. Overhead costs are not eligible and KI Department will be expected to participate in the AXA Fellowship's general funding and resources related to the research program.

For more information <https://axa-research.org/fund-your-research/post-doctoral-fellowships>

### **AXA's eligibility criteria**

The AXA research Fund partners only with pre-registered academic institutions, and successful applicants will be expected to carry out their research projects in the host institution that nominated them. Only candidates without a permanent academic position are eligible. The applicant must have been awarded his/her PhD at the time of nomination, and within the 5 years preceding the submission deadline (*AXA also provides an additional 6 months per child flexibility to account for maternity/paternity leave.*).

### **The internal prioritisation process**

AXA Research Fund has invited KI to nominate one (1) candidate to the program. The selection of PhD students to be nominated to the AXA Research Fund Fellowship is based on an evaluation performed by an internal review committee. To be considered for the internal prioritisation process applicants needs to submit the following documents to [grantsoffice@ki.se](mailto:grantsoffice@ki.se) by **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**:

1. **The pre-application form:** this must be completed and signed by the applicant, the post-doc supervisor, and the head of department.
2. **A short research proposal:** the research proposal should be less than 3000 characters (including spaces) and should demonstrate scientific originality and innovative nature and have the potential to contribute to a step change in the field considered. For applicants chosen for nomination by KI, this text will subsequently be used in the first stage of AXA's selection procedure.
3. **A brief CV of the applicant:** maximum 3 pages, including publication list.

### **Contact:**

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