

Assessment criteria for AXA Research Fund Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2025

Background

AXA Research Fund is open to early career researchers that must have been awarded his/her PhD at the time of nomination, and within the 5 years preceding the submission deadline. Only candidates without a permanent academic position are eligible.

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.

Three overall criteria will be applied to the nominee assessment. The different criteria should be graded according to a five-grade assessment scale:

5 = Outstanding

4 = Excellent

3 = Very good

2 = Good

1 = Poor

Assessment Criteria

1. Applicants strength – CV

- Publications: quality from an international perspective and quantity.
- Research activities (e.g. organization networks, being involved in communities)
- Research impact (policy reports, specific recognition through awards etc)

2. The proposal – conformity to scope

- Demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research topic to the AXA Research Fund.
- How well the proposal align with the aim of the chosen topic (demographic shift, migration, the future of work).

3. The proposal – overall scientific quality

- Demonstrate scientific originality and innovative nature and have the potential to contribute to a step change in the field considered.