



HFSP POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Application Guidelines – Award Year 2027

Long-Term Fellowships (LTF) and Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships (CDF)

NOTE TO APPLICANTS

Applicants are advised to read these guidelines carefully. If applicants are unsure of their eligibility or the relevance of their proposed research project, they should contact the Fellowships Office at fellow@hfsp.org.

RECENT CHANGES

- The LTF and CDF application guidelines have now been combined into a single document (this document). Applicants should read Sections [1.2](#), [1.3](#), and [1.4](#) to decide which fellowship to apply for.
- The time of day for all deadlines is now **9:00 am (09:00, Eastern US Time)**.
- Information regarding “What HFSP does *not* support” has been refined (see Section [2.2](#)).
- Eligibility requirements relating to the choice of host country, the applicant’s nationality and time spent in the host country have been refined (see Sections [3.3](#) and [3.4](#)).
- Eligibility requirements for lead author publications have been refined (see Section [3.8](#)).
- Applicants need to declare their use of AI and be aware that HFSP may use tools to determine if text has likely been written by an AI tool (see Section [12](#)).

DEADLINES

All submissions (Letter of Intent, Full Proposal) will be managed through the HFSP portal on ProposalCentral (proposalcentral.com), which will **open on 12 March 2026**. On our website, you can find [instructions on how to create a ProposalCentral account, initiate, and submit a Letter of Intent](#).

- **5 May 2026:** Deadline to initiate the Letter of Intent (LOI) by opening and saving the online form to obtain a 7-digit LOI ID by **9:00 am (09:00, Eastern US Time)**
- **12 May 2026:** Submission of Letter of Intent by **9:00 am (09:00, Eastern US Time)** via *ProposalCentral*
- **24 September 2026:** Submission of Full Proposal by **9:00 am (09:00, Eastern US Time)** via *ProposalCentral* (only for **invited applicants**)

Note: BEFORE the applicant can submit their Full Proposal:

- the host supervisor(s) and referees **must** have submitted their sections, AND
- the host supervisor(s) and the host institution official **must** have signed the proposal (electronic signature).

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1. OVERVIEW

1.1. Mission, objectives, and features of the HFSP Fellowship program

The International Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) aims to strengthen open scientific enquiry by supporting international, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and cutting-edge basic research in the life sciences (see Section 2 for more information regarding the scientific scope of HFSP). Scientists, driven by adventurous new ideas, selected by a peer review committee on the basis of their research proposal will be supported by HFSP to test their hypotheses and to experiment with new methods and approaches. HFSP is committed to supporting original research that has the potential to move the frontiers of knowledge and to open new pathways for innovation.

HFSP encourages scientists to think broadly and stretch their work beyond their current scope of expertise and skillset, and to experience a different research environment by moving to a new country. HFSP enables this transition for selected postdoctoral researchers with highly original and inspiring research projects by allowing them to move to some of the best research institutions and laboratories in the world. The expectations on our postdoctoral fellows are high: incorporate novel investigative approaches at the frontiers of the life sciences and disrupt existing paradigms or established ways of thinking. HFSP Fellows stand out through their utmost dedication, engagement, and commitment to innovative science.

The HFSP Postdoctoral Fellowship program provides a unique opportunity for researchers to embark on a new journey that will shape their career trajectory, allowing them to pursue their ambition to become recognized and well-regarded in the research community. The fellowships allow applicants to work on a challenging research project that is significantly different from their previous PhD or postdoctoral work, in order to broaden their expertise.

Unique features of the HFSP Fellowship program:

- Two-step application process with a Letter of Intent (LOI) and a Full Proposal and a rapid outcome at the LOI stage
- Funding for exploratory research **without the need to present preliminary data**
- Three years (36 months) of funding including a postdoctoral salary as well as a research & travel allowance
- Exciting professional experiences as a consequence of moving to a new country and working in a different research environment
- Opportunities for establishing and expanding professional networks by developing connections and collaborations from neighboring disciplines
- Advanced opportunities for career planning via the flexible third year, where fellows can choose to stay in the host lab, move back to their home country, or move to another country.

1.2. Types of Fellowship

HFSP offers two categories of postdoctoral fellowships. Both are three years in duration to support applicants who want to embark on a novel and frontier life science project: Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships (CDF, for applicants **without** experience in the life sciences) and Long-Term Fellowships (LTF, for applicants **with** experience in the life sciences). For more details, and to understand which category of fellowship you should apply for, please see [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Comparison of key aspects of the HFSP Long-Term (LTF) and Cross-Disciplinary (CDF) fellowships.

Features of the fellowship program	LTF	CDF
Applicant has a PhD or equivalent degree in a biological or life sciences field (e.g. molecular biology, marine biology, ecology, genetics...)	✓	✗
Applicant has prior experience in the life sciences (e.g. through other postdoctoral research, research internships, etc.)	✓	✗
Applicant has a PhD or equivalent degree in a non-biological field (e.g. physics, mathematics...) and has <u>no (or little) prior experience</u> in biology/the life sciences	✗	✓
Proposed project must be in the life sciences	✓	✓

1.3. HFSP Long-Term Fellowships (LTF)

HFSP Long-Term Fellowships offer a unique opportunity for researchers in the life sciences to move to a new environment and gain exposure to new biological questions, problems, and techniques. By carrying out a project that is **significantly different to their previous work**, as well as moving to a new country and new institution, fellows will further develop their expertise in the life sciences, expand their international network, and build interdisciplinary collaborations.

Successful LTF proposals:

- Incorporate novel investigative approaches at the frontiers of the life sciences with the potential to disrupt existing paradigms and current ways of thinking.
- Clearly show how the proposed project is different from the applicant's research to date (PhD or previous postdoctoral experience), and how it will help the applicant to adopt new research approaches and methodologies.
- Demonstrate the applicant's ability to formulate a research project that is frontier-extending and of a risky nature.
- Describe how the applicant's unique training and skillset will allow them to address their project in a novel and distinct way.
- Anticipate results that will have an impact beyond the immediate research topic or field.
- Generate new research directions for the host laboratory.

1.4. HFSP Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships (CDF)

HFSP Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships offer a unique opportunity for scientists with **no (or little) prior training or experience in the life sciences** to enter this exciting research area. Fellows must move to a new country and new institution, gain exposure to fundamental biological questions, and develop expertise in the life sciences. CDF applicants are expected to bring a unique skill set and approach based on their non-biological background to a challenging, fundamental problem in the life sciences. A successful CDF proposal will combine the best of life sciences and non-life sciences to solve an outstanding interdisciplinary research question in biology, leveraging the applicant's prior experience to bring a new approach to a fundamental biological question.

Successful CDF proposals:

- Incorporate novel investigative approaches at the frontiers of the life sciences with the potential to disrupt existing paradigms and have impact beyond the immediate field.
- Demonstrate the change of field of the applicant, and how the applicant's unique (non-life science) training will allow them to address a fundamental biological problem in a novel and distinct way.
- Clearly explain how the proposed project is different from the applicant's research to date (PhD or previous postdoctoral positions), and how this will help the applicant to learn new research approaches and methodologies.
- Demonstrate the applicant's ability to formulate a research project that is frontier-extending and of a risky nature.
- Combines life sciences and non-life sciences in a unique way to generate new research directions for the applicant and host laboratory.

2. SCIENTIFIC SCOPE OF THE HFSP POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM

2.1. The proposed research

HFSP supports projects in basic research studying fundamental problems in the life sciences. Research topics may include biological functions at all levels of analysis, for example, studies on genes and individual molecules, biophysical properties and structures of living material, intracellular networks, intercellular associations in tissues and organs, and networks underlying the complex functions of entire organisms (including cognitive functions) as well as populations and ecosystems.

Prospective fellowship applicants are encouraged to [read about previous HFSP Fellows](#) for examples of the broad scope of projects that have been funded by HFSP in the past. In cases of doubt, applicants can contact

the HFSP Fellowship Office (fellow@hfsp.org) to request general feedback about the alignment of their proposed project with the objectives and scope of HFSP-funded research.

The proposed research topic must be:

- within the field of **life sciences**,
- **distinctly different from the applicant's PhD or previous postdoctoral work**, and
- **basic, fundamental research** (applications of purely applied nature will not be considered, see Section [2.2](#)).

HFSP postdoctoral fellowships aim to expose fellows to new theories and methods to complement or build on their previous experience and expertise. The applicant may consult with the host supervisor in the development and writing of the proposal, but the project should be primarily the idea of the applicant.

[For more information, please see the assessment criteria and the scoring guide for reviewers.](#)

2.2. What HFSP does *not* support

With respect to research topics, HFSP does *not* fund:

- Projects of a purely applied nature, for example:
 - Projects with a primarily clinical and/or pharmaceutical focus
 - Projects aimed at developing or improving diagnosis or treatment of diseases, identifying drug targets, as well as drug design and development
 - Applied projects in engineering, biotechnology, or nanotechnology
 - Development of novel methods that do *not* aim to answer a basic biological question
 - Projects directly focused on solving agricultural, forestry, environmental, or conservational problems
- Purely observational or descriptive projects, including systematic screening approaches and data collection studies, for instance on genomes, transcriptomes, connectomes, populations or ecosystems
- Proposals that are an obvious next step in the field, use standard approaches or promise only an incremental advancement in the field.

Additionally, HFSP Postdoctoral Fellowships (LTF and CDF) do *not* fund:

- Projects that are an obvious next step in the ongoing research of the host laboratory
- Projects that are a close continuation—the next logical step—of the applicant's work in their PhD or previous postdoctoral projects
- Research in for-profit environments (however, collaborations with for-profit entities are allowed).

3. FORMAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. General

HFSP encourages inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (see our [Shared Values Statement](#)), and welcomes applicants independent of gender, origin, cultural background, or age.

There is one application round per year for the HFSP postdoctoral fellowships.

In one year, each applicant may submit **only one** Letter of Intent for an HFSP postdoctoral fellowship (Long-Term Fellowship or Cross-Disciplinary Fellowship) and must propose a **change in country AND a change in research topic**. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply in subsequent years, provided they still meet all eligibility requirements.

Please note that each host supervisor may only endorse **ONE** applicant per year.

An HFSP postdoctoral fellowship may only be held once.

For questions on the eligibility criteria listed below, please contact the Fellowship Office (fellow@hfsp.org).

3.2. Activation date of the HFSP Fellowships

Successful applicants must begin (activate) their fellowship between 1 April 2027 and 1 January 2028.

3.3. Nationality

Applicants may be from any country and of any nationality. However, **candidates cannot apply for a fellowship to work in the country of their nationality**, regardless of whether they have obtained their PhD degree in this or another country. Based on the candidate's nationality, the proposed host country must fulfil *one* of the following criteria:

- Candidates who *are* nationals of one of the HFSP Member Countries (Section [3.5](#)) can apply to work in a research institution in any country that they are NOT a national of.
- Candidates who are *not* nationals of one of the HFSP Member Countries (Section [3.5](#)) can ONLY apply to work in a research institute in an HFSP Member Country.
- Candidates with dual nationalities may apply to work in a research institution in one of the countries of which they have a nationality, but ONLY if they have never lived in this country *and* fulfill one of the first two criteria. In case of doubt, applicants should contact the HFSP Fellowship Office (fellow@hfsp.org).

In all cases, the host country and host institution criteria (Section [3.4](#)) must also be fulfilled.

3.4. Host Country and Host Institution

All of the following requirements must be fulfilled. Candidates must:

- propose a change in country,
- propose a research institution in a host country that they are *not* a national of (for dual nationalities see Section [3.3](#) above),
 - For those institutions that are not classified as national, i.e. international or extraterritorial institutions such as EMBL, ICPT or ICGEB, the country where the laboratory is located will be considered the host country.
- not propose to take up the HFSP postdoctoral fellowship in the country in which they obtained their PhD, even if they are not a national of that country,
- *not* have studied or worked in their proposed host country for more than 12 months (consecutively or not) by the activation date of their HFSP Fellowship (see Section [3.2](#)).
 - The *combined* duration of all stays (including research positions, collaborations, internships, high school, Bachelor's, Master's and/or PhD work, postdoctoral research, and time as a visiting scientist or technician, etc.) is taken into account.

Applicants who are already working at their proposed host institution are eligible ONLY if they have arrived on or after 1 April 2026. In any case, **the fellowship must be activated within 12 months after their arrival at the host institution and/or host country.**

For-profit research environments are not eligible host institutions, but collaborations are allowed.

3.5. HFSP Member Countries

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus (EU part only), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, the Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Republic of South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

3.6. Host Supervisor(s)

Applicants must indicate a primary host supervisor. If scientifically necessary, applicants may also indicate a secondary host supervisor from the same or a different institution. The rules and requirements are the same for all host supervisors, their institution, and country of location.

Applicants **cannot** propose to work with host supervisors who are:

- former scientific collaborators,

- former research supervisors,
- or with whom they have worked or published.

Applications will also be **ineligible** if the applicant has spent more than 12 months (consecutively or not) working with the proposed host supervisor at the activation date of the fellowship (see Section [3.2](#)). This is regardless of any change of institution by the host supervisor.

Please note that any host supervisor can endorse only **ONE** fellowship application (LOI) per competition year. However, the proposed supervisor may simultaneously mentor HFSP Fellows from previous award years, and/or be part of an HFSP Research Grant team.

3.7. Doctoral Degree

The applicant must have completed their PhD or a comparable doctoral degree with equivalent research experience (for instance, an MD, medical PhD, or DEng) **before starting the fellowship, and before 31 December 2027 at the latest**. A completed doctoral degree is not required at the time of application. Should an applicant have more than one relevant doctoral degree, the date of completion of the most recent will be used to determine eligibility.

Applicants are not eligible if the doctoral degree has been conferred¹ more than 3 years (36 months) prior to the submission deadline of the Full Proposal (24 September 2026). Therefore, applicants whose doctoral degree was conferred prior to 24 September 2023 are not eligible for the HFSP Fellowships.

However, some specific post-PhD career interruptions may be exempted and are therefore not counted towards the ‘time since the PhD conferral¹ date’, such as: illness, parental leave (childcare), providing full-time care for an immediate family member, military or civil service. The remaining duration between the conferral date and the submission date of the Full Proposals (24 September 2026) may not exceed 3 years (36 months). Applicants wishing to obtain an exemption must contact fellow@hfsp.org with details of their interruption periods (dates, reasons) to discuss the possibility of an exemption BEFORE initiating their Letter of Intent. The start and end dates for all post-PhD interruptions must be entered in the “CV” section in the application portal.

Interruption periods that are *NOT* eligible for exemption include: unemployment, volunteer work, paid/unpaid internships, or any form of employment (scientific or otherwise).

3.8. Publication Requirements: Lead author publication(s)

Applicants must have at least one full-length original research publication, in English, for which the applicant is a lead author (e.g. applicant is either the single author, first author, or joint-first author). In a joint-first author paper, the applicant does *not* need to be listed in the first position, but the equal contribution of the authors must be clearly stated. Review articles and patents do not qualify for this publication requirement. However, please note that **ALL** publications, including review articles and preprints, must be listed in the “Additional Information on Publications” form.

At the Letter of Intent stage, applicants must have at least one lead author manuscript that is either: (i) already published, (ii) accepted and in press, or (iii) accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, or (iv) available online in a recognized open-access (OA) preprint repository² AND submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Manuscripts that (v) have *not* been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, or (vi) are in review at a peer-reviewed journal, but are *not* available in an OA preprint repository, do *not* qualify (see [Table 2](#)).

At the Full Proposal stage, option (iv) is no longer valid. Therefore, the applicant must have *at least one* lead author manuscript that is either (i) published, (ii) accepted and in press, or (iii) accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

If the standard publication practice in the applicant’s laboratory or research field makes first authorship impossible (e.g. alphabetical listing of authors), these circumstances must be explained in the “Additional Comments” field under Section 2 (Applicant) of the application. For cases in which a research article cannot be

¹ Conferral date: degree completion date, indicated on degree certificate or diploma.

² Listings of preprint repositories are available on the [ASAPbio](#) or [Open Access Directory](#) websites. OA = open-access.

registered in ProposalCentral (e.g. if it does not have a DOI) please also explain this in the “Additional Comments” section.

HFSP recognizes that publication practices differ across disciplines. Applicants with queries regarding the eligibility of their publication record should contact fellow@hfsp.org to check.

Table 2. Publication requirements at each stage of the HFSP Fellowship application.

Status of the mandatory lead author manuscript	Fellowship application stage	
	1. Letter of Intent	2. Full Proposal
i. already published in a peer-reviewed journal	Qualifies	Qualifies
ii. accepted and in press in a peer-reviewed journal	Qualifies	Qualifies
iii. accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal	Qualifies	Qualifies
iv. <i>only</i> available in an OA preprint repository, ³ AND has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal	Qualifies	Does not qualify
v. <i>not</i> submitted to a peer-reviewed journal	Does not qualify	Does not qualify
vi. <i>not</i> available in an OA preprint repository, ³ but is in review at a peer-reviewed journal	Does not qualify	Does not qualify

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1. Important Notes

Applicants **must** keep the host supervisor(s) and host institution aware of their application. It is also important to make sure that the host institution is willing to accept a postdoctoral fellow under the HFSP rules, e.g. with regards to receiving external funding for its postdoctoral researchers. Applicants **must** also check the institution’s policies for postdoctoral fellows and visa requirements for the proposed host country.

There are two stages of the HFSP Fellowship applications: (1) the Letter of Intent, and (2) the Full Proposal. Successful applicants at the Letter of Intent stage will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply in the next competition year, provided they still meet the eligibility criteria. Application guidelines and criteria may be subject to change each year.

4.2. Letter of Intent (must be initiated by 5 May 2026 and submitted by 12 May 2026)

The online application platform, [ProposalCentral](#) will be open from 12 March 2026 onwards. [Instructions on how to create an account in ProposalCentral and how to initiate and submit a Letter of Intent can be found here.](#)

To be eligible, applicants must initiate their Letter of Intent in *ProposalCentral* by opening and saving the online form to obtain a 7-digit LOI ID by 5 May 2026, at the latest. The completed Letter of Intent must then be submitted by 12 May 2026.

The Letter of Intent should succinctly summarize the scientific content of the planned project. Information required at the Letter of Intent stage:

- Title of the proposed project
- Personal information (name, ORCID id, email, degrees, short CV)
- Proposed host institution and host supervisor(s), and intended arrival date at the host institution
- Disclosure of any previous or current collaborations (if any) with the proposed host supervisor(s)
- Title and abstract of PhD thesis, and title and abstract of previous postdoctoral projects (if any)
- A summary of the proposed research plan briefly outlining the background of the proposed research project, aims, central hypotheses, experimental approach, and expected outcomes (up to 3000 characters, including spaces)
- THREE key references relating to the proposed research project
 - Example format: 1. Author name A., Author name B., Publication Title, Journal Name, Volume, Pages (Year). The DOI may be added if available. For references with more than five authors, please list *only* the first 3–5 author names followed by “et al.”

- Publication list of the applicant, and additional information on applicant's publications (e.g. authorship and contributions)
 - The required template for this is available under "Download Template" in the [application portal](#).
- Confirmation that the host supervisor(s) are aware of, and support, the application (the host supervisor(s) will receive an automated email notification informing them of their role in the proposal).

No other documents are required at the Letter of Intent stage. **The host supervisor(s) and institution(s) do not need to provide any further information and do not need to sign the Letter of Intent.** They will not have access to the application at this stage. Applicants **must** ensure that the host supervisor(s) do NOT endorse another HFSP Fellowship application in this year's application round.

More details and explanations can be found in [the ProposalCentral application portal](#).

4.3. Full Proposal (to be submitted by 24 September 2026)

Note: Applicants will be contacted by HFSP if they are invited to progress to this stage.

The Full Proposal should introduce the project in more detail. It should also describe the innovative and novel components of the project, the expected impact on the field and the proposed outcomes of the research. Applicants are asked to provide details on the experimental design and study system so that the reviewers can assess its originality, feasibility and how it will diversify and contribute to their training in research.

Some information that applicants have provided at the Letter of Intent stage will be automatically carried over to the Full Proposal. In addition, the following information is also required for the Full Proposal:

- Recommendation letter from the proposed host supervisor(s) (see Section [4.3.1](#))
- Reference letters from TWO additional referees (see Section [4.3.2](#))
- Contact information for the host institution official and host supervisor(s) to enable access to the proposal
- A detailed proposed research plan, including:
 - Summary (carried over from the Letter of Intent, please refrain from changing this)
 - Background and significance (up to 3000 characters)
 - Specific aims of the project (up to 8000 characters)
 - Experimental design (up to 6000 characters)
 - Bibliography (i.e. reference list, up to 15 references)
 - Example format: 1. Author name A., Author name B., Publication Title, Journal Name, Volume, Pages (Year). The DOI may be added if available. For references with more than five authors, please list *only* the first 3–5 author names followed by "et al."
 - How the proposed project is different from the applicant's previous work (up to 2500 characters)
 - Why the proposed project is at the leading edge of life sciences (up to 4000 characters)
 - Why the host laboratory is a good fit for the proposed project (up to 2000 characters)
- A public summary of the proposed project (up to 2400 characters)
- Publication list of the applicant
- Additional information on applicant's publications (e.g. authorship, contributions).
 - The required template for this is available under "Download Template" in the [application portal](#).
- Signatures of the applicant, the host supervisor(s), and the designated host institution official
 - The proposal can still be modified after signatures have been collected
 - Important: the proposal **cannot** be submitted until all signatures have been registered

Please note that the number of characters allowed for each section includes both spaces and punctuation. More details and explanations will be found in [the ProposalCentral application portal](#).

4.3.1. Recommendation letter from the host supervisor(s) (required for Full Proposals)

Once the host supervisor(s) contact information has been added in ProposalCentral, they will receive an email directing them complete their required sections. There, they will also find a template to download that includes detailed instructions and questions. In the template, the proposed host supervisor(s) must:

- Register a brief list of their career and research experience
- Include a list of up to 10 of their publications that are relevant to the proposal
- Explain how the applicant's proposed research plan is a new direction for their lab (i.e. host lab) and how it is a significant change from the applicant's prior work (either during PhD or postdoctoral training)
- Explain how and why their lab is particularly suited to supporting the aims and missions of HFSP to enable researchers to embark on a frontier research project that will shape their career trajectory
- Outline a mentorship plan for the applicant

If a candidate has two host supervisors, BOTH must provide their information and a letter of recommendation. The host supervisor(s) must submit their sections before the applicant can submit the Full Proposal.

4.3.2. Reference letters from TWO additional referees (required for full proposals)

Once the contact information for the referees has been added in ProposalCentral, they will receive an email directing them to complete their required sections. There, they will also find a template containing further instructions and prompts. Referees are asked to describe their impression of the applicant in no more than 3000 characters (including spaces), using the template.

5. REVIEW PROCESS

All Letters of Intent will be assessed for eligibility, and all eligible LOIs are then assessed by Review Committee members. The highest scoring LOI applicants are then invited to submit a full proposal. All full proposals are assessed by external scientific reviewers who have expertise in the topics of the proposed research and these reviews, alongside the full proposal, are then assessed by Review Committee members. Proposals are then discussed and ranked at the Review Committee meeting.

The application and selection processes are confidential. Fellowship Review Committee members and external scientific reviewers are also bound by confidentiality.

[For more information, please see the assessment criteria and the scoring guide for reviewers.](#)

5.1. Notification of outcomes

Letter of Intent: Applicants will be notified before the end of August 2026 as to whether their Letter of Intent was selected or not for submission of a Full Proposal.

Full Proposal: Applicants who were invited to submit a Full Proposal are notified of the outcome of their fellowship application once internal HFSP formalities are complete (usually towards the end of March 2027).

6. SUMMARY OF HFSP CONDITIONS OF AWARD AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If offered a fellowship by HFSP, applicants will be sent the Agreement (detailed conditions of award), which they, their host supervisor(s), and an official administrator at the host institution will be required to sign before the activation of the award. The following is a summary of the content of the agreement only.

6.1. General information

- The HFSP Fellowship is awarded for 3 years (36 months). It cannot be renewed.
- Fellows must begin their fellowship between 1 April 2027 and 1 January 2028.
- Fellowship allowances are all administered through the host institution and the appointment must be 100% FTE.
- Fellows should investigate their tax liabilities and other costs such as for visa applications.

6.2. HFSP Fellowship allowances

The fellowship award consists of a living allowance and a research and travel allowance (see Appendix). Note that these allowances are currently under review. An updated list of allowances will be made available in early 2026.

6.2.1. Living allowance

The host institution agrees to pay the fellow the full living allowance (this might not represent the fellow's full salary). However, legally compulsory deductions may be made (e.g., for taxation, social security charges, health insurance or pension contributions), if required under legislation in the country of jurisdiction.

No other deductions are allowed. The host institution is not permitted to deduct any additional charges from the fellowship such as institutional overheads or bench fees from any of the fellowship allowances. HFSP does not provide additional funds to cover health insurance costs, pension contributions or other benefits.

The living allowance takes into account the difference in living costs between countries. The offer of a fellowship will specify the relevant amounts. Applicants must ensure that the host institution is willing to support an HFSP Fellowship and, where necessary, top up living allowances to ensure that these meet institutional salary requirements.

6.2.2. Research and travel allowance, and relocation allowance

The research and travel allowance is a small grant to the Fellow that can be used, for instance, for reagents, equipment, and/or conference travel, in accord with HFSP regulations.

A relocation allowance may be provided as a fixed amount to assist with moving costs (see Appendix).

6.2.3. Child allowance and parental leave

HFSP Fellows with children are entitled to receive a child allowance, which is set at 10% of the applicable living allowance of year 1. HFSP Fellows are eligible to apply for up to 3 months paid parental leave for children born/adopted during the award period.

6.3. Concurrent fellowships/grants or other employment

HFSP Fellows cannot concurrently hold an HFSP Fellowship and another paid employment position (i.e., a position supported by a salary) or another paid fellowship from another organization. However, the HFSP living allowance can be supplemented from other sources (e.g., from a host supervisor's grant or from institutional funds), for instance to reach the salary requirements of the host institution.

HFSP Fellows may apply for and hold additional research grants to assist their conduct of the fellowship research project as presented in their successful HFSP application. However, those funds must not be used as the fellows' salary.

HFSP Fellows must devote themselves entirely to their research project in the host institution and may not engage in any other paid activity without prior agreement by HFSP.

6.4. Deferral of the fellowship

Fellows may interrupt ('defer') HFSP support for up to two years (24 months). Deferrals can be made after having completed *at least one year* of the HFSP Fellowship in the proposed host laboratory. Fellows can defer their fellowship under the following circumstances:

- To spend up to two years in a different laboratory (either at their existing institution or at a different academic/research focused institution).
- To spend up to two years conducting research in a new country.

All requests for deferral require prior approval by HFSP.

6.5. Third year of the fellowship

In the third year of the fellowship, fellows may choose to continue to work in the same host laboratory, to return to their or their spouse's/partner's home country, or to move to another HFSP member country. Fellows wishing to move must obtain prior approval from HFSP.

7. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Fellows must observe the highest ethical standards in conducting all research supported by the Program. They have to agree to conform strictly to the national and institutional codes of practice, regulations and laws, which govern the ethical conduct of scientific research in their institutions. Institutions must inform HFSP if national or institutional codes of practice, regulations, or laws have been infringed on the performance of the award. All fellows must also agree not to undertake any research jointly with scientists in another country where experimental procedures, which are forbidden in their own laboratories/institutions, are permissible. [Examples of national guidelines can be found on our website](#) or in the [HFSP Policy on Scientific Misconduct](#).

8. USE OF PRIVATE DATA IN YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH

In case your HFSP funded research project involves the collection/processing of sensitive personal data (e.g.: health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction, etc.) or genetic information, please justify the need for their collection, discuss the possible ethical implications and how you will address them in the appropriate section of the HFSP Fellowship proposal.

In case your research involves observation of participants, please state whether any videos or photographs will be used publicly and describe the methods you will use to guarantee the privacy of the participants, including the informed consent provisions (if applicable). In case you are planning to use existing data, please specify if these originate from any available sources, and whether the use of the data has been authorized for secondary use (by the primary owner of the data who must also confirm that the informed consent included the possibility of secondary use of data).

9. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

HFSP is committed to safeguarding the applicants' personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) on data protection and privacy in the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) and transfers of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas. The [HFSP Privacy Policy](#) explains how, and on what legal basis, we collect, store, and use personal information about the applicant for the HFSP Fellowship program or as any other person that interacts with our Organization. This Policy also explains how we collect, store and use personal information of successful candidates.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PUBLICATIONS

HFSP is fully committed to preserving the intellectual property rights of the applicants and is putting in place all necessary protective measures. It is engaged in the global discussion on strengthening research security. DOIs will be assigned to all awards, helping to enhance project visibility, accessibility and inclusivity.

HFSP will not claim any intellectual or commercial property rights that may be generated through the research it sponsors. HFSP will not become involved in any dispute which may arise about the ownership of such rights. The assignment of any such rights (and any income arising from them) is to be determined by the procedures and regulations which apply in the laboratory/institution in which the research is conducted. In considering the possible commercial importance of discoveries which arise from research sponsored by the Program, all fellows must agree that submission of manuscripts for publication of these discoveries in scientific journals will not be delayed for more than 45 working days after the manuscript is completed.

An acknowledgement (with fellowship number/DOI) of HFSP support must be included in all publications resulting from work carried out under the fellowship. The HFSP open-access policy is available at hfsp.org/Open-Access-Statement.

11. PUBLICATIONS

HFSP is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment ([DORA](#)) meaning that reviewers evaluate research proposals on the basis of their content and not by the criterion of Journal Impact Factors (JIF). Reviewers at all stages of the HFSP grant application process are advised that they should consider the quality of the research published and/or proposed in an application. While productivity may be an important factor, the assessment will be based on the content of articles and not the JIF. HFSP reviewers are asked to consider the influence of candidates' publications (including preprints deposited on public servers) in advancing

knowledge in a given field (or throughout biology). [Please also take a look at the HFSP policy regarding the use of preprint servers.](#)

12. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Where applicants use generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, these technologies should only be used to improve readability and language of the application, not for creating content. Applicants are requested to disclose their use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the application. HFSP reserves the right to check the use of AI tools with appropriate software and to take the outcome into consideration in the evaluation of applications. Caution is advised, as information (such as project details) entered into generative AI tools might be collected and stored for use by the AI server. Additionally, HFSP does not encourage the use of AI to determine eligibility or alignment of the proposed research with the scientific scope of the HFSP Fellowships, as AI tools may not have the most up-to-date information and these criteria may be refined each year.

13. APPENDIX: HFSP TABLES OF ALLOWANCES

Note that these allowances are currently under review and may be subject to change through the sole discretion of HFSP before a final offer of an HFSP Postdoctoral Fellowship is made to successful applicants.

13.1. HFSP Fellowships: Yearly living allowances, child allowances, research & travel allowances

Country	Currency	Gross yearly living allowance Year 1	Gross yearly living allowance Year 2	Gross yearly living allowance Year 3	Yearly child allowance (per child)	Yearly research and travel allowance
Australia	AUD	90,132	91,644	93,144	9,013	10,356
Austria	EUR	57,192	58,140	59,088	5,719	6,432
Belgium	EUR	53,592	54,492	55,380	5,359	6,432
Brazil	BRL	231,576	235,440	239,292	23,158	28,380
Bulgaria	BGN	64,992	66,072	67,152	6,499	12,576
Canada	CAD	69,900	71,064	72,228	6,990	9,552
Chile	CLP	26,206,176	26,642,940	27,079,704	2,620,618	5,339,124
Croatia	HRK	333,564	339,132	344,688	33,356	47,712
Czech Republic	CZK	1,125,168	1,143,924	1,162,668	112,517	165,096
Denmark	DKK	540,204	549,216	558,216	54,020	48,024
Finland	EUR	64,740	65,820	66,900	6,474	6,432
France	EUR	62,016	63,048	64,080	6,202	6,432
Germany	EUR	51,984	52,860	53,724	5,198	6,432
Greece	EUR	47,544	48,336	49,128	4,754	6,432
Hong Kong	HKD	472,008	479,868	487,740	47,201	56,412
Hungary	HUF	13,494,528	13,719,432	13,944,336	1,349,453	2,092,176
Iceland	ISK	8,483,568	8,624,952	8,766,348	848,357	882,936
India	INR	2,678,868	2,723,520	2,768,160	267,887	507,036
Republic of Ireland	EUR	61,956	62,988	64,020	6,196	6,432
Israel	ILS	227,208	230,988	234,780	22,721	25,692
Italy	EUR	55,956	56,892	57,816	5,596	6,432
Japan	JPY	6,898,740	7,013,712	7,128,696	689,874	784,692
Republic of Korea	KRW	68,281,452	69,419,484	70,557,504	6,828,145	8,395,260

Country	Currency	Gross yearly living allowance Year 1	Gross yearly living allowance Year 2	Gross yearly living allowance Year 3	Yearly child allowance (per child)	Yearly research and travel allowance
Luxembourg	EUR	53,592	54,492	55,380	5,359	6,432
Mexico	MXN	775,248	788,160	801,084	77,525	138,648
Netherlands	EUR	57,828	58,800	59,760	5,783	6,432
New Zealand	NZD	90,564	92,064	93,576	9,056	10,932
Norway	NOK	689,544	701,040	712,536	68,954	63,360
Poland	PLN	173,904	176,808	179,700	17,390	27,636
Portugal	EUR	45,132	45,876	46,632	4,513	6,432
Singapore	SGD	92,496	94,044	95,580	9,250	9,828
Republic of South Africa	ZAR	440,412	447,756	455,100	44,041	104,040
Spain	EUR	51,132	51,984	52,836	5,113	6,432
Sweden	SEK	691,260	702,780	714,300	69,126	68,100
Switzerland	CHF	76,800	80,400	84,000	7,680	6,744
Thailand	THB	1,333,800	1,356,036	1,378,260	133,380	223,548
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	GBP	65,772	66,864	67,956	6,577	5,640
United States of America	USD	59,460	60,456	61,440	5,946	7,200

Contact fellow@hfsp.org to request details of countries not listed here.

13.2. HFSP Fellowships: Relocation allowances (in USD)

FROM:	TO:							
	West USA/Canada	East USA/Canada	Europe	Middle-East	Asia	Oceania	Africa	Central & South America
West USA/Canada	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500
East USA/Canada	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500
Europe	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	4,000	1,000	3,000
Middle-East	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,500	3,800	3,800	1,600	3,000
Asia	2,000	2,500	4,000	3,800	1,500	2,200	3,000	2,500
Oceania	2,000	2,500	4,000	3,800	2,200	1,500	4,000	2,000
Africa	2,000	1,500	1,000	1,600	3,000	4,000	1,500	3,000
Central & South America	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	2,500	2,000	3,000	1,500

Relocation allowances from/to other areas will be calculated on a case-by-case basis. Please note that relocations within the same country will not be covered.

Fellows are eligible to receive additional relocation allowances for their spouses/partners and/or their children, according to the following calculation:

Relationship to Fellow	Additional Relocation Allowance
Spouse/partner	Equivalent to Fellow's relocation allowance
Child between 2–12 years old	50% of Fellow's relocation allowance (per child)
Child under 2 years old	10% of Fellow's relocation allowance (per child)