

EMPAPOSTDOCS-II: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FAQ

ELIGIBILITY

Q: What are the eligibility criteria?

A: At the point of time of reference – the call deadline, so August 31st – the candidate must be in possession of a PhD (see below) and not have finished his/her PhD more than six years before. Additionally, for incoming researchers, the applicant must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Switzerland for more than 12 months in the three years prior to the application deadline. For the re-integration scheme, the applicant must originate from the EU-27 or Associated Countries. The researcher must have been active in a 'third country' (neither EU-27 nor Associated Country) for at least three years and in the past 21 months prior to the application deadline.

Q: What are the EU-27 countries, the Associated and the Third Countries?

A: See here

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

Q: What does 'being in the possession of a PhD' mean?

A: There is no clear-cut definition for 'possession of the doctoral degree'. It can largely vary from one national education system to another (or even in the same country from one university to another). In theory, this could be when the degree is conferred by the university either in notice by letter or by ceremony (whichever comes first). Prior to that, the official status of the defendant is that of a *graduate*.

In some universities, there is an obligation to attend the graduation ceremony, in others not. In British universities, e.g. the relevant point is when the result of the viva is published (normally a couple of weeks after the viva). The graduation could be then 6 months after the publication, but in the certificate the date of the award will be the publication date rather than the date of the graduation ceremony. In Germany, however, not all universities grant successful PhD defendants the right to hold a "Dr. des." Title until the degree is officially conferred.

For all these reasons, the 'possession of the doctoral degree' is analysed on a case-by-case basis during the eligibility check. In case there is any further information needed, applicants will be contacted directly by EMPAPOSTDOCS-II staff and requested to provide all necessary supporting documents.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: How can I apply?

A: The first step is to find a mentor (see below) and propose a research topic. The second step is to contact two reference persons who will issue a reference letter. The third step is the actual proposal submission, which has to be done by the mentor.

Q: Where and how do I find a mentor?

A: You can find a list of mentors with their research fields on the [EMPAPOSTDOCS-II website](#). If you do not find a suitable contact person, feel free to contact EMPAPOSTDOCS-II project staff (see below) for more information.

Q: Who submits the proposal?

A: The mentor submits the proposal, based on the mutual work of both applicant and mentor.

Q: What's the timeline of the application process?

01.06.2018:	Call 2 for applications opens
31.08.2018:	Application deadline for call 2
29.10.2018:	Results of written application evaluation
19.11. – 10.12.2018:	Interviews
17.12.2018:	Final results and attribution of fellowships
24.12.2018:	Deadline for the acceptance of fellowships
01.03.2019 -28.02.2021:	Estimated period of Fellowship 2

EVALUATION PROCESS

Q: When can I apply?

A: You can apply when the call for proposals is open: From June 1st to August 31st in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. The application must be together with the mentor, and only the mentor can submit the candidate's proposal in the electronic submission system of EMPA.

Q: When will the results of my application be communicated?

A: Applicants will know 3 weeks after the submission deadline if their proposal is eligible. 6 weeks after the submission deadline applicants will be informed about the result of their written application and in successful cases, subsequently invited to an interview. The final outcome of the evaluation will be 16 weeks after the submission deadline. All applicants will be informed about the result of their application and their place on the ranking list.

Q: Who are the evaluators?

A: The evaluation process is a peer-review process. The evaluators are researchers in the research field of the application. Each proposal is reviewed by two external evaluators.

Q: My project may have ethical issues. Can I apply?

A: Yes of course. You will have to carry out an ethical self-check as part of the application process. If your proposal has been flagged for ethical issues, it will be reviewed by the ethical issues commission during the eligibility check. In case the commission needs further information they will contact you.

CONTACT PERSON

Q: I have questions which do not yet figure on this FAQ. Who can I ask?

A: For questions regarding EMPAPOSTDOCS-II programme, please contact

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