



# IST Austria Postdoctoral Fellowship

## ISTfellow



### Guide for Applicants 2020

The **closing date** for the 2020 Call for Proposals is **8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (14:00 CET)**

Further information on the program can be found at: <https://ist.ac.at/en/education/postdocs/>

Applications can be submitted at: <https://apply.app.ist.ac.at>

Have you received excellent academic training and are eager to perform cutting-edge research in an international environment? Do you want to push the frontiers of science and work with supervisors and colleagues that are among the best in the world?

The **IST Austria Postdoctoral Program, ISTfellow**, offers fully funded (two-year) postdoctoral fellowships for highly qualified candidates who have recently completed their PhD or equivalent in the natural or computer sciences, mathematics or any related discipline.

ISTfellows will have access to state-of-the-art facilities and are encouraged to interact closely with colleagues from different fields as part of their fellowship project. Small research groups (15 people or less) guarantee close mentorship by your host professor(s). ISTfellows additionally benefit from a rich training program covering both academic and non-academic skills relevant for your subsequent career move.

ISTfellow allows you to focus on what is most important during this career stage: *performing fundamental research at the highest possible level.*

### Eligibility Requirements

- All research fields supported at IST Austria will be eligible (see <https://ist.ac.at/en/research>)
- You must have formally completed all requirements of your PhD and provide a copy of your diploma prior to the start of your employment (which should not be later than 6 months after the fellowship offer is issued).
- Applicants must have an existing affiliation to an academic/research institution (note: researchers already employed at IST Austria are not eligible to apply)
- If successful, fellowships must commence within six months of notification.

### Application Process: Overview

1. Create an account at [apply.app.ist.ac.at](https://apply.app.ist.ac.at).
2. Verify your account by following the instructions contained within the email sent to you.
3. Complete the application by entering all required information and uploading all required documents (more information on this below).
4. Submit your application.

#### ***General notes on the application process***

Your application must contain all required information and documents (**including the reference letters from your referees**) and have been submitted to our online system by 14:00 CET on the date of the application deadline.

Applications that are incomplete or ineligible will not be considered by the selection committee.

## Application Form – Requirements

**Personal Data:** This section of the application requests standard personal information<sup>1</sup> (e.g. your name, address, date of birth, etc.) as well as the date of PhD conferral.

**PhD Education:** In this section please complete all required fields about your PhD program.

**Additional Education:** This section is optional; however, if you wish to enter additional information about your academic background (e.g. undergraduate studies), the selection panel is happy to review the information as part of your application.

**Supervisors:** In this section you must identify the professor (supervisor) with whom you plan to work with at IST Austria. You may also identify a secondary supervisor if desired. You may also nominate a professor external to IST Austria as secondary supervisor where the specific scientific expertise required is not available at IST Austria.

**Referees:** You must submit the name and contact information for three referees. These referees should be former professors or other senior scientists with whom you have worked. Your potential host at IST Austria may not be listed as one of the referees on your application.

You do not have to wait until you have fully submitted your application in order to notify your referees. Once you have entered your referees' information and saved the application, a "contact referees" button will appear at the bottom of the page. Clicking this button will notify your referees that you have requested a letter of reference and they will receive an email from our application system informing them how to upload their reference letter.

You may check on the status of these letters and, if needed, send reminders to your referees by logging into the system and viewing your submitted application. **All reference letters must be received no later than the application deadline.** Applications missing reference letters at the application deadline will be rejected as incomplete. No exceptions will be made.

**Application Information:** In this section you must upload the following documents (pdf format) for your application to be considered complete and eligible:

1. **Research Statement** (max. 5 pages - not including references). This statement should consider the selection and evaluation criteria outlined below.
2. **CV** (max. 2 pages) **& Publication List** (not included in page limit)
3. **Motivation Statement** (max. 2 pages)
4. **Completed Ethical Issues Table** (available at <https://ist.ac.at/en/education/postdocs/>). The ethical issues table must be fully completed. If it is determined that you have uploaded an incomplete ethical issues table, you will be asked to re-submit a completed table, provided your application was otherwise complete and submitted by the deadline.

The remaining documents are optional at this point although you should upload any available diplomas related to degrees listed in the PhD Education and Additional Education sections. This can be done using the "other files" fields.

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<sup>1</sup> **Data Privacy Statement:** IST Austria processes your personal data in accordance with the statutory data protection regulations. For more information including processing for the purpose of application and quality management and your rights as a data subject please refer to our data privacy statement: <https://ist.ac.at/dataprotection/>

## Selection and Evaluation

Complete applications passing the initial eligibility and prescreening check by program management are evaluated by the IST Austria Selection Panel based on the following criteria:

### Scientific Excellence

*Evaluated based on the proposed project, as well as the expertise and professional career of the candidate. This is done based on the Research Statement (quality, innovative aspects, credibility of research), CV (quality and number of publications, awards and distinctions, invitations to give talks and presentations, relevant positions, projects and collaborations), and the three reference letters provided by external professors or senior scientists who know the candidate well.*

### Career Potential

*Capacity to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research: How will the fellowship impact on the career of the applicant? In what sense and to what extent will it add to their existing experience and enhance their career perspectives?*

### Scientific Match

*Justification of how well the candidate's interests and expertise complement existing expertise at IST Austria, while ensuring an appropriate match with the scientific focus and research lines of at least one target research group on campus. Will the candidate be able to interact with different research groups or different disciplines? Does the candidate fit into the Institute's research culture, which emphasizes cross-disciplinary interactions?*

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their applications no later than 2 months after the application deadline. Eight to ten fellowships will be awarded annually.

**Contact:** Should you have questions on the ISTfellow application process, please contact [pdo@ist.ac.at](mailto:pdo@ist.ac.at)

## About IST Austria

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) is a multidisciplinary research institution that combines basic science with graduate education. The scientists of IST Austria perform theoretical and experimental research in biology, neuroscience, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, and related fields. They are organized in small to medium-size research groups that interact with each other, also across the boundaries of traditional disciplines. Each research group of IST Austria is headed by a tenured or tenure-track professor. Shared scientific facilities concentrate cutting-edge equipment and scientific expertise in bio-imaging, electron microscopy (including cryo), nanofabrication, life science and pre-clinical studies.

The core principles of the IST Austria faculty selection process – person before area, quality before speed – have resulted in an unprecedentedly high concentration of scientifically innovative leaders: Almost 2/3 of faculty have won at least one ERC Frontier grant. In addition: IST Austria's ERC application success rate of almost 50% is by far the highest in Europe among all institutions hosting more than 30 ERC grantees. In addition to IST Austria's success in recruiting world-leading faculty, its interdisciplinary design has also resulted in verifiably excellent scientific output: IST Austria ranked eighth in Nature Index 2018's "rising stars" of the world (research institutes established within the last 30 years), the highest placed European institute and the only institution outside of Asia to appear in the Top 10. This was then surpassed in 2019, when the Nature Index ranked IST Austria No. 3 among the world's best research institutes (normalized by size of research institute).

To learn more about IST Austria and research undertaken there, please visit our [website](#).



*Institute of Science and Technology*