

Early-Career Fellowships 2025–2026

Factsheet

Early-career fellows are free to pursue their individual projects as outlined in their application and receive support from the Collegium's team. Projects carried out at the Collegium may convince both by their relevance and originality, spanning from applied science to blue-sky research, as well as from fine arts to artistic research. The Collegium also encourages small interdisciplinary teams of up to three people to apply with a joint project. The Collegium is calling for submissions from all disciplines for 10-month residential early-career fellowships in Zurich.

The application window is open until February 15, 2025 (23:59 CET).

About the fellowship

Early-career fellows are working in academic or artistic disciplines at postdoctoral or equivalent level for art school graduates, in cases where the institution does not award doctoral degrees. We invite international applications as well as applications from scholars and artists currently affiliated with one of the Collegium's supporting institutions, ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts. The Collegium welcomes diversity and is committed to provide a family friendly workplace. Therefore, we acknowledge care work, part-time employment, or career breaks and consider applications proposing joint research in job-sharing.

With its early-career fellowship program, the Collegium nurtures an environment for promising academics and artists at a critical stage of their career. The program supports courageous projects that cut across and transgress disciplinary boundaries in unconventional ways. As part of their application, each fellow proposes an interdisciplinary event centered on their work, contributing to the Collegium's academic and artistic program.

The fellowship can be used to develop an interdisciplinary proposal for a major grant, such as an ERC or SNSF Starting Grant, or an SNSF Ambizione Grant. It is not intended to support doctoral dissertations. We also encourage small interdisciplinary teams of up to three people to apply with a joint project.

Please find more information here about what types of projects and candidates we are seeking.

On December 12, 2024, from 17:00 to 17:45, Collegium Director Sebastian Bonhoeffer and Deputy Director Mario Wimmer will talk about the fellowship on Zoom. They'll also be available to answer questions you may have.
→ [Join the virtual meeting](#)

Eligibility

Early-career fellowships are awarded to candidates who do not have a permanent academic position but do have a proven track record. To be eligible, applicants need a doctorate in an academic discipline or a master's degree from an art school, in cases where the institution does not award doctoral degrees. The degree must have been obtained no longer than five years prior to the start of the fellowship. The reference dates for calculating the eligibility window are the certified date of the successful PhD defense and the start date of the fellowship on September 1, 2025. For this five-year threshold, we consider your "academic age," as calculated in the application platform. When calculating the five-year threshold, care work, career breaks, or part-time employment and other factors will be considered. We ask you to provide information about your employment history and supporting documentation if you want to make a claim against the five-year threshold.

Official confirmation of the completed doctoral degree from the respective university, or doctoral or master's degree from an art school (if the institution does not award doctoral degrees) is required and must be submitted with the application. If you do not have a certificate by the time of application, please submit either a transcript of record that confirms that you received a doctorate or master's degree from an art school, or a letter by your advisor or department chair confirming that you will have your doctorate or master's degree from an art school in hand by June 2025.

Associate fellow

Early-career fellows require a letter of support from a faculty member at one of the three supporting universities, [ETH Zurich](#), the [University of Zurich](#), and the [Zurich University of the Arts](#), who is willing to become an associate fellow and who will serve as their academic partner during the fellowship. Please initiate contact and obtain a letter of support in due time. You can only submit your application once the letter by the potential associate fellow is on record.

Associate fellows are established researchers or artists affiliated with one of the supporting universities. Usually, associate fellows are tenured or tenure-track faculty. If this is not the case, two associate fellows may jointly support an early-career fellow with a co-signed letter of support. In these cases, one of the co-signers must be a professor or department chair. Associate fellows may agree to integrate early-career fellows into their group part time and provide infrastructure for their project. The letter of support details why and how the associate fellow will support the early-career fellow's project and how they can help to build links with Zurich's academic and art communities.

General information

Grant

Early-career fellows receive a grant in the form of a full-time postdoctoral position at ETH Zurich for the duration of the fellowship paid in monthly installments. The amount is based on ETH Zurich [salary rates](#) for postdoctoral researchers, currently ranging from approximately CHF 75,000 to CHF 85,000 for 10 months. As ETH Zurich employees, early-career fellows who take care of children of minor age or children in education may apply for a family allowance.

Duration and start date

Early-career fellows spend ten months at the Collegium, starting on September 1, 2025, until June 30, 2026.

Infrastructure

Early-career fellows are provided with a desk, access to IT and library infrastructure as well as a computer if required. Since the Collegium cannot provide laboratory infrastructure or studio space on site, early-career fellows can arrange to use up to 40 percent of their weekly working time to do

work outside of the Semper Observatory if this is essential for the proposed project or furthers their skills in important ways. Usually, such arrangements would be made in close cooperation with the associate fellow and require approval by the Collegium's director. Fellows also have access to the universities' sport and activity programs.

Attendance and participation

Early-career fellows are required to be present at the Collegium on weekdays. They participate in the regular seminars, workshop discussions, and *Jours Fixes* with other fellows and present and discuss their ongoing work. Early-career fellows contribute to the Collegium's academic and artistic program by organizing an event related to their fellowship project for which they will receive financial and organizational support. Typical formats for events are workshops, lectures, panel discussions, exhibitions, or performances but there are no specific limitations set by the Collegium.

Note for international applicants

Early-career fellows are employed at ETH Zurich for the duration of their fellowship and need a valid work and residence permit for Switzerland. Our partners at ETH Human Resources will support you in this process. However, please get information about requirements as early as possible. Information is available on the ETH Zurich [services and resources](#) page. The Collegium cannot provide housing for its early-career fellows. You can find information regarding housing in Zurich on the page of the joint [housing office](#) of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich.

Application

Applications for the fellow year 2025–2026 can be submitted until February 15, 2025 (23:59 CET). Online interviews with the applicants advancing to the next stage of the assessment are scheduled for April 14 and 15, 2025. **Be sure to reserve these dates.** Applications via email or mail cannot be considered.

Applications can only be submitted via eResearch. **The submission portal will be available starting November 22, 2025.** To assist with preparation, please find information below regarding submission requirements, text length and other.

Textboxes on eResearch

Project

Title/subtitle, 3-5 key words, aim(s) of project (max 50 words), summary of project (max 250 words).

Why is the Collegium the ideal place? (max 250 words)

Why is the Collegium the right place to carry out your proposed project, and how can you and your project contribute to and benefit from its interdisciplinary environment?

Key contributions (max 250 words)

List your key contributions to your field and your professional context.

Personal statement (max 250 words)

A statement reflecting in your overarching goals and motivation for professional activities you have involved in.

Description of event (max 350 words)

Please outline an event with interdisciplinary character related to your proposed project that is feasible within the maximum budget of CHF 6'000. Also explain how you, your project, and the Collegium would benefit from the event.

Event budget

Please create a budget for the planned event, organized by the following categories: *Materials and consumables*, *Accommodation*, *Travel* and *Other*.

→ [Use this sample budget to estimate costs](#)

PDF upload

Completed project proposal

→ [Download here the template.](#)

Curriculum vitae

Including full list of publications and other relevant output.

Passport/ID

Please prepare a PDF copy of the relevant pages of your passport. Swiss and EU/EFTA citizens can alternatively submit a copy of their ID (front and back).

Supplementary information

Additional information to support claims regarding academic age.

Please refrain from uploading additional materials, such as portfolios or writing samples.

We appreciate your understanding that only complete applications, including a letter of support from an associate fellow, will be considered. Note that this letter must be submitted directly by the prospective associate fellow.

Download documents

- [Project proposal form](#)
- [Information regarding the types of projects and candidates we are seeking](#)
- [Budget samples for event planning](#)
- [Details on the timeline of the process and the selection procedure](#)
- [Research ethics self-check](#)

FAQs & contact

Prior to contacting us at info@collegium.ethz.ch, please make sure to have read all available materials carefully, [including the FAQs](#). The clearer your question or needs, the easier and faster we can assist you.

As we receive large numbers of applications, we ask for your understanding that we are limited in our ability to respond to questions. We will not be able to answer questions about exceptions from eligibility criteria. If you have strong reasons why exemptions from the eligibility criteria should be made, please justify these reasons in a supplementary document and upload it with your application.