

TMF Starting Grant Program

Two-Step Submission and Selection process

Step 1 - Prequalification

After submission of the prequalification application, the following steps are taken:

1. Each applicant will get an "acknowledgement of receipt" by e-mail shortly after the submission deadline.
2. For each application TMF will check whether it meets the eligibility criteria that apply to the call.
3. External experts of high international standing will be appointed to review applications within their specific field of expertise. The review is conducted in line with the evaluation criteria as stated in the call text.
4. Based upon the external peer reviews of all applications, the [TMF Scientific Advisory Board](#) selects a limited number of candidates to be invited to participate in step 2. All applicants and nominating faculties will be notified of this decision.
5. A summary of the expert reviews will be communicated to nominees not selected for step 2. (Please note that for both steps in the selection process, the names of appointed experts are confidential and will not be communicated to applicants.)

Step 2 - Final proposal and interview

Candidates selected for step 2 evaluation will receive an e-mail-invitation.

Candidates will be asked to confirm their intention to participate in the final.

The proposal deadline, and an approximate date for interviews, will be stated. The time available for preparing the final proposal will be minimum one month.

The foundation may interview the finalist's host departments regarding their plans for recruitment of candidates with outstanding research merits and potential. After the submission of the final proposal, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Each applicant will get an "acknowledgement of receipt" by e-mail shortly after the submission deadline.
2. Three external experts of high international standing per candidate will be appointed to review proposals within their specific field of expertise. The review will be conducted in line with the evaluation criteria as stated in the call text.
3. The TMF Scientific Advisory Board receives the individual reviews of each application.
4. Interviews of step 2 participants are conducted by the TMF Scientific Advisory Board. Each interview will last approximately 45 minutes in total. The first part will be devoted to a presentation of the application, the research plan and the candidate's plan for establishing and managing a research group. The remaining time will be devoted to a question and answer session. The advisory board will take into account the results of the interviews alongside the external reviews.
5. The TMF Scientific Advisory Board will present its conclusions regarding ranking and recommendations to the foundation board.
6. After the foundation board has made its funding decision, applicants will be notified of the outcome. New grantees are expected to attend the award ceremony in the University Aula in December, see call for date.
7. A summary of step 2 expert reviews will be communicated to the finalists.