

Early-Career Fellowships 2026–2027

Timeline and Selection Procedure

Timeline

- **November 7, 2025:** Call for applications published.
- **February 12, 2026:** Submission window closes at 17:00 Central European Time.
- **February 2026:** Eligibility check based on formal criteria.
- **February/March 2026:** Assessment of applications.
The initial internal assessment by the directorate results in a longlist of potential early-career fellows. Members of the selection committee may request to include additional applications for consideration. The committee then evaluates longlisted applications, seeking external reviews if needed. This process results in a shortlist, with approximately twice as many candidates invited for interviews as there are available fellowships.
- **Early April 2026:** Invitation to the interview.
- **April 20 & 21, 2026—Please save the dates!**
Online interview (30 minutes) with Director Sebastian Bonhoeffer, Deputy Director Mario Wimmer, and expert(s). The goal of the interview is to clarify questions and get a personal impression.
- **Mid-April 2026:** The proposed final list of early-career fellows.
The final list will be prepared by the director of the Collegium and submitted to the Collegium's governing board, which includes representatives from ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts. The proposed applicants will then be confirmed as early-career fellows by the governing board.
- **Early May 2026:** Information regarding offer of early-career fellowships will be provided.
- **Confirmation of acceptance:** Applicants are expected to confirm their acceptance, usually within a week.
- **September 1, 2026:** Start date of the fellowship.
The duration of the fellowship is ten months, and fellows are required to take residence in Zurich and register with the local administration by September 2026.

Selection procedure

Every year, the Collegium appoints eight to nine early-career fellows from various fields, representing the full spectrum of disciplines at the three supporting universities. The **primary aim** is to select outstanding personalities with highly original research projects. The **secondary aim** is to achieve a distribution of disciplinary backgrounds that reflects the breadth of the supporting institutions ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts. Typically, this implies three to four fellows from the fields of natural sciences, engineering, medicine; three to four fellows from economics, humanities, law, and social sciences; and two fellows from arts, architecture, design, and music. The **tertiary aim** is to assemble a group of fellows that is expected to benefit mutually.

The assessment of the applications is based on criteria including, (a) originality and potential for innovation of the proposed project; (b) competence and excellence of applicants for proposed project; (c) track record and main achievements of applicant in relation to opportunities; (d) potential of project and person to contribute and benefit from the cross-disciplinary exchange that the Collegium's fellowship program offers; (e) feasibility of project; (f) fit of both project and person to the unique cross-disciplinary environment; (g) potential relevance of the project; (h) potential contribution to diversity of the cohort and the Collegium's community.