



Research Fund

AXA Climate Awards
by the AXA Research Fund

January 2021

AXA Climate Awards

The AXA Research Fund was launched in 2007 with a mission to help better respond to the most important issues facing our planet through scientific knowledge. The Fund is committed to contributing to societal progress and encouraging dissemination of research findings and thus, to better inform decision-making. The Research Fund supports projects in the areas of Health, Climate & Environment, and Socio-Economics.

Learn more about the AXA Research Fund: <http://axa-research.org/>

AXA is an industry leader in terms of Climate Change and Biodiversity action, through divestment policies from coal as early as 2015 but also the development of green Investment funds and innovative insurance products and financial Instruments in favor of low carbon solutions and natural ecosystem preservation and restoration. It is in this spirit that the AXA Research Fund will be launching the 2021 **AXA Climate Awards** to reward **researchers** who are recognized by their peers for their transformative and impactful work and high potential for innovation in the field of the climate and environmental research. The AXA Research Fund will **grant up to 4 Awards for a total budget of 200 000€ (50 000€ each)**.

AXA Grant Guidelines

These guidelines provide information for nominators and nominees for AXA Climate Awards. **This guide may be used as a reference by nominators and nominees. The information presented within overrides any contrary terms that could be found elsewhere.**

AXA Research Fund Climate Awards focus

The past five years have been the hottest on record¹. 2020 is set to count among the warmest years, ending 1.25°C above the pre-industrial period, as did 2016². Land is warming faster than oceans in some regions, such as the Arctic, undergoing faster warming processes, with temperatures of 6°C above the reference average. This global temperature rise has devastating effects through heat waves, severe droughts, fires, melting glaciers, ocean acidification and rising sea levels that are increasingly more likely to occur. Besides serious environmental impacts, such as biodiversity loss and the collapse of natural ecosystems, climate change also affects essential components of human well-being and socio-economic development, most notably public health, access to safe drinking water and clean air, sufficient food and safe shelter.

The AXA Climate Awards focus on the **recognition of accomplishments and contributions to fight the climate crisis**. They aim to **recognise scientists from all over the world whose contributions to mitigation and adaptation to climate change stand out for their novelty, innovation and impact**.

The AXA Climate Awards seek to speed up the **transition to a carbon neutral society, mitigate the negative effects of climate change** on people, the environment and the economy, and **promote more resilient societies** which are **better prepared for future global changes**.

Nomination Rules

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0562&from=EN>

² <https://climate.copernicus.eu/2020-warmest-year-record-europe-globally-2020-ties-2016-warmest-year-recorded>

- Each nominator can nominate **one researcher**.
- Self-nominations are not permitted. Family members and relatives cannot be nominated.
- Nominators cannot nominate a researcher from his/her team or someone he/she supervises neither a researcher engaged in a co-publication or close collaboration within the past 5 years.
- Researchers already supported by the AXA Research Fund cannot be nominated even if their AXA grant has ended.

Researchers eligibility

The AXA Climate Awards aim at supporting mid-career researchers **between PhD + 8 years³ and PhD + 15 years maximum⁴**. The support of the AXA Research Fund should be transformative for the researchers and the advancement of their field.

Candidates should be of the highest caliber and have demonstrated **outstanding research achievements**, as evidenced by the usual indicators for assessing academic excellence such as research outputs (e.g. publications), research activities (e.g. organizing networks, being involved in communities) and research impact (e.g. policy report, specific recognition through awards, etc.).

Engagement

It is a requirement that researchers would be **proactive in engaging science with society** when supported by the AXA Research Fund and commit to share their research with a broad audience, supported by the AXA Research Fund.

Ethics

The AXA Research Fund places extremely high importance on the ethics of the work it supports. Programs are required to comply fully with all relevant ethical review processes and for this compliance to be evidenced. Cases of scientific misconduct (such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or of inappropriate behavior towards staff or other parties) will be considered as breaches of the AXA ethical principles⁵ and will be excluded from funding.

Timeline & Application Process

The AXA Research Fund evaluation process has been designed to assess scientific excellence.

- Nominations and applications must be submitted **in English, on time, and complete**. **A link towards the AXA RF application portal will be given to nominators by email**. Additional documents will not be considered.

³ No flexibility for this date: researchers below PhD+ 8 years are not eligible.

⁴ Career breaks will not be considered, exceptions will only be made for maternity leave.

⁵ AXA Group Compliance and Ethics Guide, 2011: <https://www.axa.com/en/newsroom/publications/compliance-ethics-guide>

- The research topic must fall within the scope of the eligible topic focus.

Timeline

Step	Date
Call for nominations	January 28 - February 12, 2021* *Nominations received after the deadline or that are incomplete will not be considered.
Full applications by nominees	February 22 – March 10, 2021
Selection	April 15, 2021
Results announcement	End of April, 2021 Results will be sent by email to nominees and nominators will be informed of the final result if their nominee is selected.

Application Process

Step 1 – Call for nominations – For NOMINATORS contacted by the AXA Research Fund

The AXA Research Fund will launch a call for Nominations across the **AXA Research Fund Community to recommend top researchers connected with the topic under investigation. Nominations will occur on an Invitation basis only to an extensive group of senior climate and environment academics from the AXA Research Fund community and attached networks.**

Nominators will be able to **submit their nomination via the link provided by the email sent by the AXA Research Fund by February 12, 2021.**

Nominators will be asked to provide the following information on the nominee:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Civility
- Nationality
- Email
- Institution
- PhD date (only PhD 8 years – 15 years will be eligible)
- Main research area (50 words)
- Additional information regarding the nominee's main research area
- Reason for nomination (150 words)

Step 2 – Screening

The AXA Research Fund team will perform an internal pre-selection to ensure requirements are met.

Step 3 - Nominee Application - For NOMINEES

The AXA Research Fund team will approach pre-selected candidates to inform them that they have been nominated for the AXA Climate Award and propose that they submit an application as well as share the guidelines and requirements for this Award. **Applications must be submitted via the link provided by email by March 10th, 2021.**

The **nominee, if she/he so accepts, will** provide:

- The application form duly completed in English available on the application platform (A link will be provided).
- Requested supporting documents will include
 - Short CV (3 pages maximum including a link to an online full CV)
 - Description of three public engagement examples (150 words)
 - List of 5 most impactful publications, indicating the publication dates and media (e.g. journal, conference)
 - Number of citations
 - Google Scholar h-index
 - Main research area with brief explanation (250 words)
 - Relevance of main research area to the insurance sector (150 words)
 - Further details on current research projects and motivations (250 words)

Step 4 – Selection & results publication

During its bi-annual session, the AXA Research Fund [Scientific Board](#) will examine the applications. The mission of the Scientific Board is to ensure the scientific excellence of research candidates, programmes and institutions supported by AXA Research Fund. The AXA Research Fund will inform the candidates of the decisions by email. The Scientific Board's decision is final and cannot be appealed. It can neither be disputed nor subject to explanations or justifications. Participation to the award process implies acceptance of the rules and guidelines put forth in this document and the requirements that follow.

Grantee Obligations

The Nominee and the AXA Research Fund will enter into a legal contract for the grant of the award donation. The contract will specify the obligations for the grantee who accepts the award. The Grant will go directly to the Grantee and will require that the awardee makes themselves available to receive the Award during an event organized by the AXA Research Fund. The Grantee will accept to deliver a lecture on their research subject at this occasion. This event will take place between 6 and 12 months after selection (depending on the sanitary restrictions related to Covid-19).

For any questions, please contact: fellowships@axa.com



AXA Research Fund – 25 avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris