

Chairs -
Modus Operandi

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1 Aim of the guide

This guide contains the practical information needed to apply for a chair from the AXA Research Fund (ARF), as well as a general overview of the selection process.

2 Definition of a chair

The chairs endowed by the AXA Research Fund will aim at attracting one or more world-class researchers to the institution. The chair holder(s) may combine teaching activities with research work, in compliance with the policy of the hosting institution. Institutions might apply for one of the following funding schemes:

- An endowed permanent chair
 - In this case, the institution is expected to invest the capital and fund the chair from the interest;
- A non endowed fixed-term chair
 - In this case, the institution can use the capital and interest to fund the program. The recommended duration of fixed-term chairs is 3 to 5 years.

3 Selection criteria for a chair

Only the most renowned research institutions, which meet the highest standards of excellence, may apply for a chair. These institutions must satisfy the stringent selection criteria set forth below (See §3.3).

Every application that is submitted must be complete and must comply with the criteria below in order to be considered by the Fund's Scientific Board.

The Scientific Board oversees the selection process, basing its decisions on the assessments offered by a network of experts whose reputation in their fields is international.

3.1 Geographical scope

Excellent research institutions with an international scope and located in one of the member states of the European Union or one of the countries associated with the EU within the meaning of the FP 7¹ are eligible for a chair.

3.2 Eligible research fields

Chairs funded by the AXA Research Fund must absolutely be related to one of the subjects identified by AXA Scientific Board. The themes for 2010 are identified below, and can also be found on the website of the AXA Research Fund:

<http://researchfund.axa.com/en/>

Application for a chair – Modus Operandi

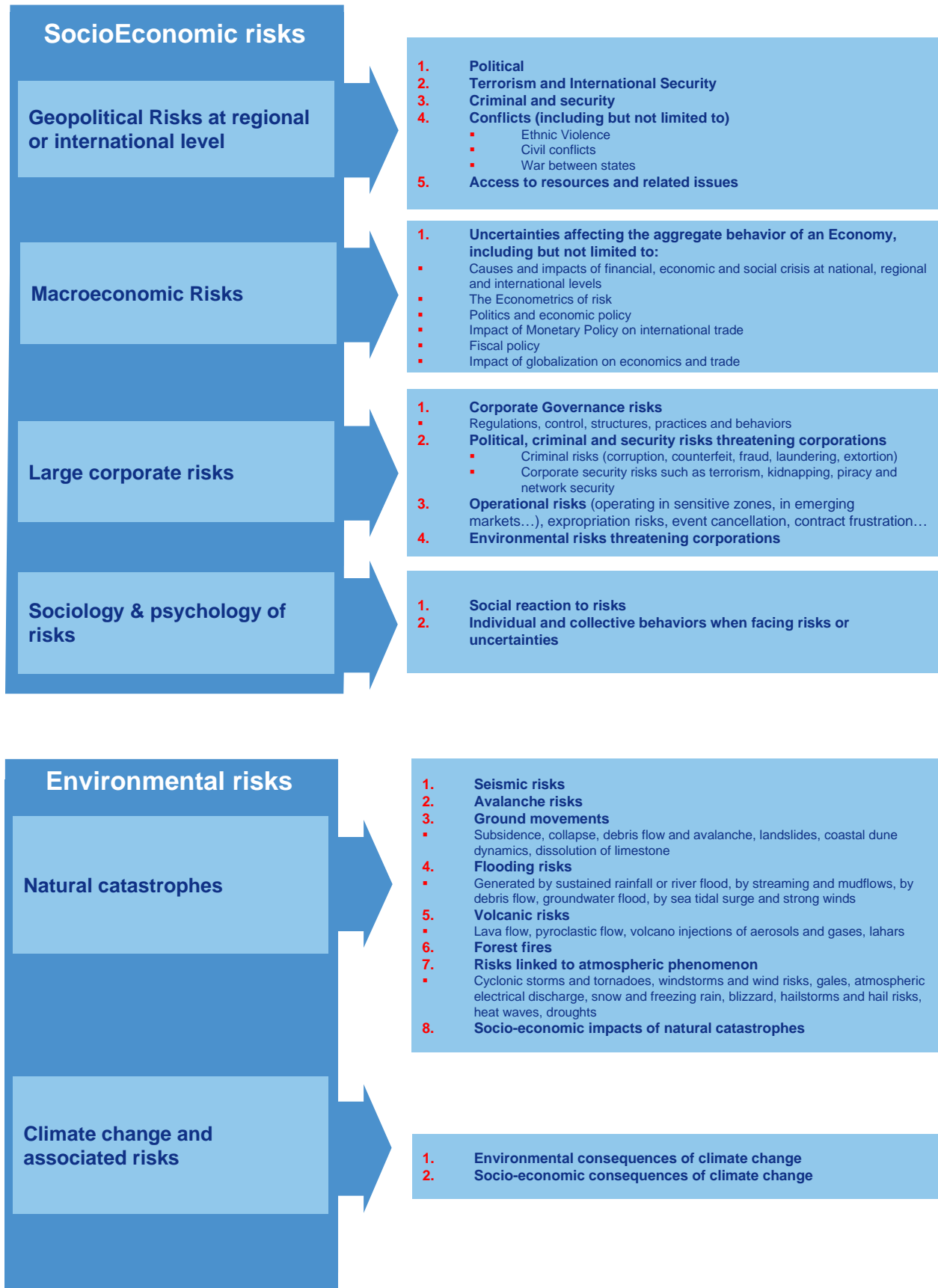
- Life risks
 - Aging and long term care
 - Addictions and risky behaviours
 - Emerging biomedical risks
- Societal Risks
 - Geopolitical risks
 - Macro-economic, financial, and societal risks
- Environmental risks
 - Natural catastrophes
 - Risks linked to climate change

The AXA Research Fund, for ethical reasons, does not fund research in the following areas:

- *research violating national regulations*
- *research having direct military use*
- *research having potentially dangerous environmental impact*
- *biomedical research led without the informed consent of the donor*
- *research on embryo stem cells*
- *processing of private personal data without the informed consent of the concerned (incl. genetic information)*
- *research activities aiming at human cloning*

Research Fields in Detail





3.3 Selection criteria

The criteria used to make the scientific and academic assessment of your application are:

1. The applying institution's reputation for academic excellence (the quality of its research findings to date: number of publications in scientific reviews, number of quotations, etc.)
2. The institution's relationship to the international community (the international impact of the research carried out, the international reputation of its researchers)
3. The originality and innovative nature of the chair project
4. The consistency between the chair project and the long-term development policy of the institution
5. The operational strength and quality of the organization set up to support this chair project (includes a realistic and coherent budget)
6. The quality of the research environment and working conditions offered to researchers through the chair
7. The chair's contribution to strengthening European networks (optimized use of European resources to carry out a regional integration approach)
8. The management of the reciprocal interaction between the academic and business worlds

4 Chair funding

4.1 Funding budget

A budget of 11 million euros will be available in 2010 to endow chairs.

The budget of the chairs is as follows:

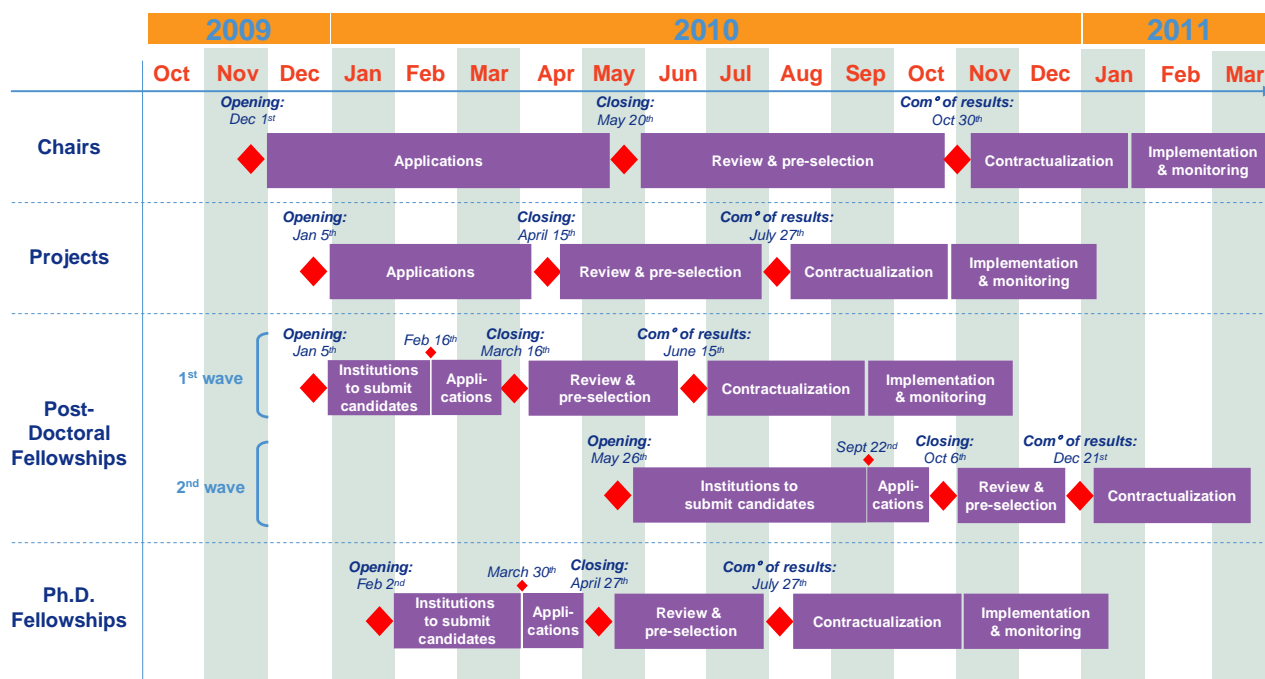
- For endowed permanent chairs: the institutions may apply for a maximum of € 3.000.000
- For non endowed fixed-term chairs: the institutions may apply for a maximum of €1.000.000

5 How to apply?

5.1 Schedule 2010

One Chair campaign will be launched, with an opening date of 1/12/2009 and a closing date of 5/20/2010 (midnight French time)
 An institution is allowed to submit only one application in 2010 either for endowment or for endowed chair.

2010 campaigns calendar



5.2 Detailed description of the steps

5.2.1 Step 1: Register your institution

Institutions are referenced prior to the selection process. Referencing is explained in detail on the Fund's website (<http://researchfund.axa.com/>).

5.2.2 Step 2: Request an application form

Only referenced institutions (See 5.2.1) may apply for an endowed chair. Have your operational contact person request an application file from the AXA Research Fund by email: chairs@axa.com

5.2.3 Step 3: Apply

The application file will be sent by email to the institution.

The institution's operational contact person will be responsible to ensuring that the duly completed application is submitted within the stated deadline (See §4.1) to the following email address: chairs@axa.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Applications filed after the stated deadline will be considered ineligible.

5.2.4 Step 4: Review of your application

The Scientific Board will review each application after consultation, where relevant, of the world-renowned experts in the appropriate area.

5.2.5 Step 5: Communication of results

As soon as the Board has made its decision, the Fund will inform the institution's legal representative and operational contact.