

Guidelines for FEBS Excellence Awards

<https://www.febs.org/our-activities/fellowships/febs-excellence-awards/> - checked for accuracy on **12/4/2024**

Overview

FEBS launched a prestigious new scheme from 2021 – the FEBS Excellence Award – to support early-career group leaders in the FEBS area who present a scientific research track record of proven excellence. FEBS Excellence Awards provide funding of €100,000 for research equipment and consumables over a 3-year period.

The next application period will run **from 1 May to 1 July 2024**.

The FEBS Excellence Award scheme are overseen by the [FEBS Excellence Awards and Fellowships Committee](#).

Guidelines

To be read in conjunction with Frequently Asked Questions about the FEBS Excellence Award [here](#).

FEBS Excellence Awards are intended to support research projects in the molecular life sciences from early-career group leaders. They are granted over three years and amount to €100,000. The FEBS Excellence Award is a support to be used exclusively to purchase small equipment (for a maximum of €15,000) and/or consumables related to the project; salaries, stipendia and overheads cannot be paid for by the Award.

1. The FEBS Excellence Award is awarded in support of or in connection with the Awardee's research project in accordance with the terms of the Project Proposal, as set out in 9b.
2. Applicants should be scientists who have obtained their PhD degree within the past eight years. However, duly justified career breaks such as compulsory national service, ill-health, and parental leave of 18 months per child may be taken into account.
3. Prior to the current employment, the applicant should have worked in a different country for at least two years.
4. Applicants must be employed in a salaried capacity as a group leader by the Host Institution (a Host Institution means a university or a research centre), irrespective of the origin of the funding sources, for at least one year prior to the submission of their Project Proposal to FEBS. Candidates must have secured future financial support at the Host Institution for the entire 3-year duration of the Award.
5. Host Institutions must be established in a country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#).
6. Applicants must have a current membership of a FEBS Constituent Society.
7. FEBS Excellence Awards are not granted to scientists who have been recipients of a FEBS Long-Term Fellowship preceding their current employment if the Host Institution is the same.
8. In each call, no more than one candidate per given Host Institution will be granted an Excellence Award.
9. FEBS Excellence Awards are awarded once a year. Applications should be submitted before September 1st of the corresponding year.

10. The [web-based application process](#) requires the following information and documents (in English):

a. General application details and information on academic/research activities of the applicant, which will be entered online.

b. A research proposal (Project Proposal). An outline of the proposed investigation should be set out under the following headings and be no more than ten A4-sized pages of single-spaced text (minimum top and bottom margins required are 2 cm and 2.5 cm, respectively, and a font size not smaller to the equivalent of 10pt Times New Roman). It will need to be uploaded in pdf format (maximum file size 1 MB).

Headings:

- i. title;
- ii. purpose, including the immediate and longer-term aims;
- iii. background relating the proposed research to the present body of knowledge;
- iv. plan, including details of the experiments to be carried out;
- v. motivation for choosing the host laboratory/department/institute, including how it fits longer-term career goals;
- vi. list of five most significant papers of the host laboratory/department/institute from the last five years;
- vii. list of the most significant papers of the applicant;
- viii. detailed description of the planned expenditures (i.e. equipment and consumables);

In addition, a timetable (portrait orientation) of the experimental work to be carried out is to be set out on an extra page (not included in the ten page maximum).

c. A statement from the Host Institution establishing that the applicant is employed in a salaried capacity and the duration of the contract with the Host Institution.

d. A letter of support from the host laboratory/department/institute head, written on headed paper, is required to confirm the current role of the applicant, as well as the facilities available to him/her to pursue the research proposed. Also, the host laboratory/department/institute head should indicate any dates the applicant has already spent at the host laboratory/department/institute on the official host acceptance form that can be downloaded from the application system. The form should be scanned and uploaded with the other application documents.

e. A referee's letter of support. A letter of support for the application is required from an experienced and renowned scientist who has known the applicant for a minimum of 2 years, and does not work at the Host Institution. This letter should be written on headed paper of the referee's laboratory. Referees will be provided with a link for direct upload of their letter. Candidates are advised to notify their respective referees well ahead of time. The link will be active until the deadline of the respective call.

f. The Letter of Agreement. The form has to be signed by both the applicant and the appointed head(s) of the institution in which the proposed work will be carried out; then the applicant uploads the letter upon applying. By signing it, both the applicant and the Host Institution agree with the terms and conditions described in the Letter of Agreement. If the applicant is successful, FEBS sign and return the letter to the applicant and the Host Institution.

g. A FEBS Constituent Society membership letter. A dated letter from the appropriate FEBS Constituent Society confirming that the applicant is a member and indicating the date on which the applicant joined the Society should be scanned and uploaded

with the other application documents.

11. The €100,000 of the FEBS Excellence Award is paid by FEBS to the Host Institution in three instalments over three years.
12. Applications will be assessed by the FEBS Fellowships Committee and the decisions will be communicated to the applicants no later than December 1st of the same year.
13. The Award should be taken up within six months of its award. Any delay will require the authorization of the Chairperson of the FEBS Fellowships Committee.
14. Within six weeks of each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the effective starting date of the Award, progress reports by the Awardee made towards implementation of the project shall be submitted electronically to the Chairperson of the FEBS Fellowships Committee. Upon request by the Awardee or FEBS, the Host Institution shall send a financial report regarding use and spend of any part of the Award already paid by FEBS to the Host Institution together with copies of any orders, receipts or invoices for significant costs incurred by Host Institution for capital assets and consumables during the first, second and third years of the term.
15. The FEBS Excellence Award should be acknowledged in any work published relating to the project funded and a PDF or doi of each article should be sent electronically to the Chairperson of the Fellowships Committee.
16. By acceptance of a FEBS Excellence Award, Awardees are expected to attend one FEBS Fellows Meeting preceding the annual FEBS Congress, upon invitation from the FEBS Fellowships Chairperson.
17. Past and current holders of an Excellence Award may not apply for another Excellence Award.
18. The above guidelines set out the eligibility for the award and the requirements for the awardee from FEBS. On selection for the award, awardees will be party to an Agreement between FEBS and the Host Institution setting out full terms and conditions.

FEBS Excellence Awards Spring 2024

https://fellowships.febs.org/ea_2024 downloaded on **2/5/2024**

FEBS has designed the FEBS Excellence Awards to financially support early career scientists in countries where FEBS Constituent Societies are established. The Award must be used exclusively to purchase small equipment (for a maximum of 15,000 €) and consumables related to the project. Salaries, stipendia and overheads cannot be paid for by the Award.

These Awards are granted for three years.

Applications as well as the referees' letters of support must be received by 5.00pm CET on Monday 1st July 2024. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. Please make sure that your application and your letters of support reach us before the closing date.

To apply, you are required to register. This enables you to save your application and revisit/edit it before submitting, or to check its status. **It is recommended that you register as soon as possible.**

To register, please go to the [Application Registration](#) page.

Competition Details

Eligibility requirements

- Candidates should be scientists who have obtained their PhD degree up to 8 (eight) years prior to the submission of the project proposal to FEBS.
- In order to be eligible to apply for a FEBS Excellence Award (FEBS EA), applicants need to be members of a [FEBS Constituent Society](#) and must have shown independence as a group-leader, i.e having established and operated at the host institution in a [FEBS country](#) for at least one year prior to the submission of the project proposal to FEBS.
- Applications must be aimed at developing molecular life sciences.
- Past holders of a Long-Term Fellowship may apply to a FEBS Excellence Award if the visit with the initial Fellowship was carried out in a Host Institution different from that of the project proposal to FEBS.
- Please view the [Eligibility Requirements](#) for further details. The FEBS Fellowships Office is unable to answer queries relating to your eligibility; please follow the instructions and refer to the [FAQs](#) for more detailed explanations.
- Candidates must provide details for two referees who have agreed to submit a letter supporting the application through the website. The referees should be established and renowned scientists, and be well acquainted with your work. One of them must be the head at your current host laboratory / department / institute. Letters should be written on headed paper.
- **The application as well as two referees' letters of support must be submitted online by 5.00pm CET on Monday 1st July 2024.**

FEBS Excellence Awards details

- In each call, no more than one candidate per given host institution will be granted a FEBS Excellence Award.
- The amount of the FEBS Excellence Award is fixed to 100,000€.
- Applications must be completed in English.
- The FEBS Excellence Award should be taken up within six months of its award. Any delay will require the authorisation of the Chairperson of the FEBS Fellowships Committee.
- Within six (6) weeks of the first anniversary of the Effective Date:

The Awardee will report on progress made by Awardee towards implementation of the Project, including meeting any key performance indicators or milestones which may have been included in the Project Proposal.

The Host Institution (upon request by Awardee or FEBS) will provide a financial report regarding use and spend of any part of the Award already paid by FEBS to Host Institution together with copies of any orders, receipts or invoices for significant costs incurred by Host Institution for Capital Assets and Consumables during the first year of the Term.

The same documents shall be submitted to FEBS within six (6) weeks of each of the second and third anniversaries of the Effective Date.

- The FEBS Excellence Award should be acknowledged in any work published relating to the project funded and two reprints of each article should be sent electronically to the Chairperson of the Fellowships Committee.
- By accepting the FEBS Excellence Award, current senior or recently completed FEBS Excellence Awardees are expected to attend one FEBS Fellows Meeting preceding the annual FEBS Congress, upon invitation from the FEBS Fellowships Chair.
- Please view the [FEBS Excellence Awards](#) page for further information.

Application timetable

- The Call is open once a year. The application process begins on **Wednesday 1st May 2024**.
- The application, the letter of agreement **and** two letters of support must be submitted through the website by **5.00pm CET on Monday 1st July 2024**. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Decisions will be communicated to the applicants no later than **1st December 2024**.
- The FEBS Excellence Award will start at the earliest on **1st January 2025**.

Application Registration

Candidates should be scientists who have obtained their PhD degree up to 8 (eight) years prior to the submission of the project proposal to FEBS. Please view the [Eligibility Requirements](#) for further details. The FEBS Fellowships Office is unable to answer queries relating to your eligibility; please follow the instructions and refer to the [FAQs](#) for more detailed explanations.

By registering, you state your interest in applying for a FEBS Excellence Award. You will be asked to provide some basic contact details and will be emailed instructions which enable you to access the application system. This system provides all the facilities required to submit your application.

To proceed with your application, please read the terms and conditions below carefully, tick the box and click on the Details button.

Terms & Conditions

- The details you provide here will be used by FEBS to review and process your application. Information about how we may use the details you provide can be found in our [Privacy Policy](#).
- FEBS will not take any responsibility for delays occurring due to technical problems with the system or the website.
- Letters of support provided by referees are confidential and their contents will not be disclosed to candidates.
- FEBS will not accept any submissions after 5.00pm CET on **Monday 1st July 2024**.
- This system uses cookies, which must be enabled. By using this system, you agree that we can place these types of cookies on your device. For more details, view the [Cookies](#) page.

☐ I accept the terms and conditions above.