

# **Moritz Schlick early career Programme (MSECP)**

## **Application Guidelines**

### **Inhalt**

Overview.....	2
Eligibility criteria.....	2
Start Date, Duration and Funding .....	3
Employment and Salary.....	3
Timeline .....	4
Submission Process .....	4
Evaluation Procedure .....	6
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion .....	6
Further Information.....	6

Call 1 2022: Version 2  
02.09.2022

## Overview

*Moritz Schlick (\* April 14, 1882 in Berlin; † June 22, 1936 in Vienna) was a physicist and philosopher and one of the leading figures of the Vienna Circle.*

The Moritz Schlick early career programme at the University of Vienna supports early stage postdocs with high potential for an academic career. Participants in the programme receive outstanding financial support as well as training and mentoring to allow them to develop their full potential.

Features of the programme include:

- A 4-year postdoc position with the option to extend it for a further 2 years after a successful internal interim evaluation.
- In addition to a salary, a financial contribution of 50k Euro for all participants, in experimental disciplines an additional 50k will be made available for material and consumables, in “computational” disciplines an additional 25k.
- Sabbatical, particularly to gain experience abroad, usually in the 3rd year. If no sabbatical is taking then regular teaching of 4 SWS (1 SWS = 45 minutes) will be performed.
- Support and freedom to develop an independent profile, as well as intensive mentoring and training for third-party funding and other areas of expertise (especially leadership skills) by mentors, the DLE FSNF and other DLEs at the University of Vienna.

Moritz Schlick postdocs are expected to be competitive candidates for an excellence-grant; especially an ERC Starting Grant, or FWF Start-Prize. Programme participants commit themselves to apply for one of these types of grants and will receive intensive support in this regard. If successful, the excellence grant opens access to a fast-track tenure track position and Schlick postdocs are therefore uniquely positioned to transition from early career scientist to professors at the University of Vienna.

## Eligibility criteria

The Moritz Schlick early career programme addresses outstanding postdocs of all disciplines from Austria and abroad at the beginning of their academic career. Applicants must hold a doctorate (PhD) or will complete their doctoral studies before the submission deadline (31.10.2022). Applicants to the MSECP must have obtained their doctorate **in 2020 or later** (date of examination or viva voce).

Exceptions to the deadline are possible: time for parental leave (maternity: 18 months or longer if documented / paternity: documented time), caregiver leave, military or civil service since the applicant has been in possession of their doctoral degree will not count towards the limit. For example, an applicant received her doctoral degree on 12.12.2019 and had a child on 5.10.2020. Since the applicant does not provide documentation for a longer parental leave, 18 months are automatically added. Her “new” date for receiving her doctoral degree is 12.12.2019 + 18 months = 12.06.2021.

Documentation verifying the exceptions to the PhD deadline must be included in the submission.

Applicants who have not yet completed their doctoral studies at the time of the submission deadline must submit an additional document signed by their supervisor, stating that their doctoral studies will be completed before the submission deadline (i.e. before 31.10.2022).

Applicants must submit a complete application (in English) before the call deadline.

## Start Date, Duration and Funding

MSECP postdocs will be offered a 4-year postdoc position, with the option to extend it for an additional 2 years after a successful internal interim evaluation.

Successful applicants will begin their positions, at earliest, in February, 2023. The latest start date is December, 2023. The earliest start date for each position is included in the job posting.

In addition to a salary (see description under “Employment and Salary”) successful applicants will receive one-time financial support of 50k Euro to carry out their research, use for additional training, travel, conference fees, etc. Some fields are eligible for additional funds to cover material and consumable costs: experimental disciplines will receive a further 50k and “computational” disciplines will receive a further 25k. The funds will be allocated to a separate account for each candidate.

Up to a max. 75% of the additional funding may be used in the first 4 years of the contract. Accordingly, 25% of the additional funding will be held for the final 2 years.

## Employment and Salary

### Employment Conditions

Postdocs will be employed by the University of Vienna on an employment contract according to the University’s Collective Employment contract. The employment conditions are in accordance with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter>). All postdocs will receive health insurance, a pension, and generous holiday and sick leave allowances in accordance with Austrian law.

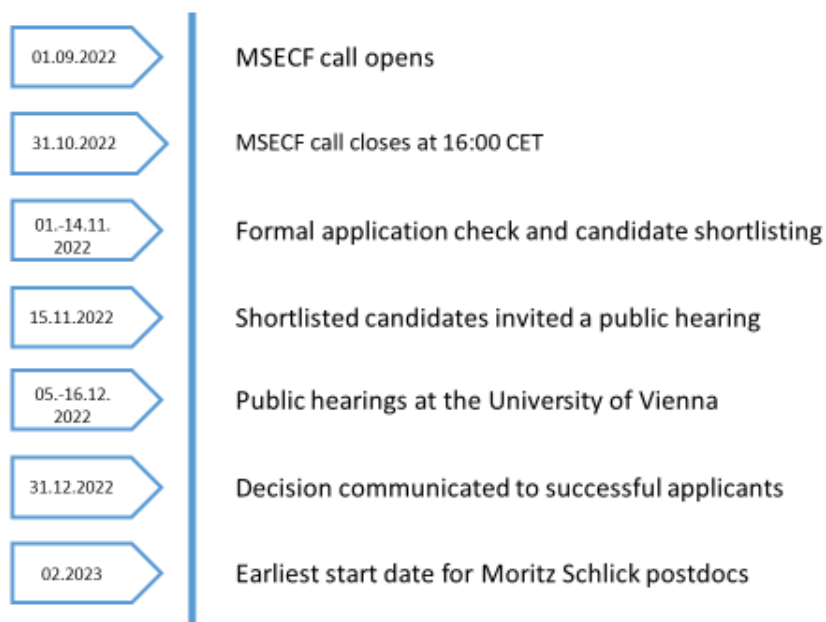
The University will provide the researchers with desk and laboratory space, computer equipment, telephones and email accounts. The postdocs will have access to state-of-the-art facilities and free access to specialist libraries and to the main library as well as further professional services including grant application support, career development services, data management, media relations and public outreach.

The University of Vienna provides gender equal working conditions, which are family friendly. The University has subsidised childcare facilities in different locations in Vienna as well as flying nannies if needed during work time. It also operates a flexible working system, which benefits researchers with families and parents are entitled to special leave in order take care of ill children and spouses. Austria also offers generous parental leave, which is increased if both mothers and fathers take it.

### Salary

Postdocs will be expected to work full-time (i.e. 40 hours per week) and will receive a postdoctoral researcher salary in line with Austria’s Collective Bargaining Agreement for University Staff (§49, section 3, article b: <https://personalwesen.univie.ac.at/en/jobs-recruiting/job-center/salary-scheme/>). The salary is payable 14 times a year and will increase with inflation yearly.

## Timeline



## Submission Process

A complete application to the Moritz Schlick programme includes the following:

- a) Scientific CV incl. publication list
- b) Research statement
- c) PhD certificate (or equivalent) incl. date of defensio OR documentation verifying the exceptions to the PhD deadline
- d) 2 reference letters from established researchers in your field
- e) Any additional documents as specific in the position description
- f) Completed web form

### **a) Scientific CV incl. publication list (max 5 pages)**

Applicants must use the template provided on the programme website (under “Submission”).

### **b) Research statement (max 2 pages)**

The Research Statement should describe your research interest, summarize your research accomplishments, address your current work, and describe the future trajectory in which you intend to take your research. Please keep your research statement to a maximum of 2 pages.

### **c) PhD certificate (or equivalent) incl. date of defensio**

If applicable at the time of submission, applicants must upload their PhD certificates. If the applicant does not have a certificate, but will have defended before the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, a statement from your supervisor confirming you meet the eligibility criteria needs to be uploaded instead. For various types of leave or military service, please upload the verifying documentation.

**d) 2 reference letters from established researchers in your field including contact address**

Two recommendation letters must be submitted, including the referees email address. In the case that your referees would prefer to send their letters direct to the University of Vienna, please request that they send them to: [postdoc.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:postdoc.fsnf@univie.ac.at). Letters sent directly must be received before the application deadline.

**e) Any additional documents as specific in the position description**

For some positions, additional documents may be required, please see the position description for further information. Additional documents must be uploaded as a single PDF. Note that not all positions require additional documentation.

**f) Completed web form**

The **web-form** is to be filled out online on the Moritz Schlick website **directly prior** to the submission of the CV, research statement and other supporting documents. All fields that are compulsory are marked with a red square in the top right-hand corner.

Proposals must be submitted using the provided template (CV) and/or adhere to the standards below and be submitted electronically via the Moritz Schlick website. Applicants will receive an email to confirm the application has been received. The following minimum standards **must** be respected:

- Page limits
- A minimum font size of 11 points, except for charts and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- Single line spacing
- A4 page size
- Margins (top, bottom, left and right) must be a minimum of 15mm each (this does not include footers or headers)
- A clearly readable font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman etc.)

If any applicant exceeds the page limit, only the pages per section within the limit will be evaluated.

Proposals must be submitted before October 31st, 2022, 4:00 pm (CET).

**Once submitted, proposals can no longer be edited.**

Only one proposal per applicant may be submitted to this call. In the event of multiple submissions, the University of Vienna will evaluate the **latest** submission only.

All personal data submitted in the Moritz Schlick application will be managed in accordance with Austrian Data Protection Laws and the GDPR.

If you need to withdraw your proposal at any time after submission please contact [postdoc.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:postdoc.fsnf@univie.ac.at).

## Evaluation Procedure

The selection process runs over 3 stages:

1. Formal application check:
  - Once the call closes, each application will undergo an eligibility check.
  - Proposals must meet the eligibility criteria as described under the heading “Eligibility Criteria”
  - Only **ineligible** applicants will be informed via email that their application will not be processed further at this stage.
2. Shortlisting:
  - The host and mentor for each of the open postdoc positions will review and evaluate all eligible applicants and shortlist 3 – 6 candidates to be invited to the next stage.
  - Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed by 15.11.2022 about the outcome of the shortlist selection process.
3. Public Hearings & Interviews:
  - Shortlisted candidates will take part in in-person hearings and interviews at the University of Vienna.
  - Public Hearings: Candidates will make a 10-15-minute presentation about their previous research experience and their future research goals. The presentation will be followed by a discussion.
  - Interviews: Will be carried out by panels consisting of: the Dean or an appointed representative of the faculty; the host; and another professor appointed by the host or the Dean. A member of the Equal Opportunities Working Party (AKGleich) will also be invited.
  - Hearings and interviews will be held during the weeks of 5. – 16. December 2022, in-person at the University of Vienna.
  - Each panel will prepare a short list of approximately 3 candidates and decisions will be communicated to successful candidates (in order of ranking) by the end of December 2022.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The University pursues a non-discriminatory employment policy and values equal opportunities, as well as diversity (<http://diversity.univie.ac.at/>). The University lays special emphasis on increasing the number of women in senior and in academic positions. Given equal qualifications, preference will be given to female applicants.

## Further Information

Please see the FAQs ([Moritz Schlick FAQs \(univie.ac.at\)](#)) for additional information.

Questions can be directed to [postdoc.fsnf@univie.ac.at](mailto:postdoc.fsnf@univie.ac.at)