

Proposals, continued.

Focus on the ARRS post-doc call.

ARRS Post-doc call

- <https://www.rrs.si/sl/progproj/rproj/razpisi/20/razp-proj-21.asp> (2021 call not yet posted...)
- Included in call for other research projects.
- Can be applied or basic projects.
 - Applied projects require co-financing, usually from industry.
- Fund a researcher for 2 years.
- Eligibility is tricky to determine; read closely, talk with your mentors.



**KNOW
THE
RULES!**

Post-doc application

- 2 main components to the application
 - A form with details about the applicant, the institution, and short information about the project.
 - The text part (this is what we will work on).

Post-doc application sections (text)

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (section 27)

- Scientific background, problem identification and objective of the proposed research
- State-of-the-art in the proposed field of research and survey of the relevant literature
- Detailed description of the work programme
- Available research equipment over 5.000 €
- Project management: Detailed implementation plan and timetable

**Scientific background,
problem identification,
and objective of the
proposed research**



Post-doc application sections (text)

Scientific background – the beginning of the narrative story

- Description and history of the scientific field
- What lead to the emergence of the field
- Why is it important
- Some elements of a literature review (most of it goes elsewhere)
- What gaps/shortcomings/opportunities have developed or been identified.
- Lead in to the next section: problem identification

Post-doc application sections (text)

Problem identification

- What obstacle will you overcome?
- What issues will you resolve?
- What are the current limitations?
- Why is the problem relevant? (Policy objectives, changing demographics, new tools available...)
- Remember to support your claims with literature, policy documents, evidence.
- The presentation of the problems should support your objectives...

Post-doc application sections (text)

Objectives

- Objectives should be stated succinctly and can be pulled from the narrative to be presented in a table or list so they that are obvious.
- Probably a good idea to have multiple objectives that are highly specified. Can be linked to research questions or sub-objectives to provide further specificity.
- After the bluntly stated objectives, return to the narrative to tie the objectives together and to illustrated the narrative link to the identified problem.
- Consider giving a general description of how the objectives will be achieved.

Post-doc application sections (text)

Other topics for this section

- Originality of the expected results
 - Novelty, innovation – what is new and shiny about what you will produce? Is it an iterative step or a leap forward?
- Relevance and potential impact of the results
 - How will your results improve: other research, related topics, society.

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk, showing the intricate, concentric growth rings of the wood. The wood is a warm, golden-brown color. Several dark, jagged cracks run across the surface, adding texture and depth to the image. The lighting is soft, highlighting the natural grain and imperfections of the wood.

**State-of-the-art in the proposed field of
research and survey of the relevant literature**

Post-doc application sections (text)

State-of-the-art & survey of literature

- Describe the most recent work, current best-practices, any industrial use (if applicable)
- Break it into subsections that link to objectives and narrative breaks in the previous section
- Remember to maintain the narrative thread that links the story
- Cite your contributions to the state-of-the-art to demonstrate your capacity to advance the field.
 - (self citations are often a ‘necessary evil’ in papers, but in proposals showcase your position in the field and capacity for success).

Post-doc application sections (text)

State-of-the-art & survey of literature

- For the lit survey – focus on synthesis of key contributions. This isn't a paper, and you don't need EVERY related paper.

Detailed description of the work programme

Post-doc application sections (text)

Work programme

- This is the detailed description of the work, grouped into work packages.
- Each work package has a short overview of the work that will be done, a set of objectives, a detailed description of work, divided into tasks, and a set of related deliverables.
- Lots of organizational approaches to organizing your work...

Post-doc application sections (text)

Work programme

- As a default consider this format:
 1. Management and Coordination
 2. Science part A (any background or establishing work not done before the project)
 3. Science part B (Initial experiments / data gathering / pilot studies)
 4. Science part C (Validation)
 5. Dissemination and Communication activities

Post-doc application sections (text)

Work programme

- If working on an applied project or something with higher TRL, consider including tasks or a full work package on *Impact Assessment*

WP 1: Management and coordination

WP2: Science Part A
(Background work)

WP3: Science Part B
(Experimentation, data
gathering, pilot studies)

WP4: Science Part C
(Validation, larger scale
studies, upscaling)

WP5: Impact
assessment

WP7: Communication and dissemination

Example work package(s)

WP1: Management & Coordination

Description: This work package will ensure the scientific and supporting activities, including financial tasks, reporting, and risk management run efficiently.

Objectives:

- Ensure efficient project management
- Maintain a high level of quality control and closely monitored risks
- Manage operations and reporting activities on time and on budget
- Ensure responsible data management

Example work package(s)

WP1: Management & Coordination

Tasks:

- *Project administration [start date – end date*]*
 - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*
- *Quality assurance & risk management [start date – end date]*
 - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*
- *Data management [start date – end date]*
 - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

Example work package(s)

WP3: Pilot studies

Description: This work package will oversee the planning and implementation of pilot studies to isolate and verify the experimental design for the validation studies in WP4.

Objectives:

- Recruit participants, gather informed consent, schedule testing
- Executing testing in small subsets to select test procedures
- Identify and refine the analytical process for the validation study

Example work package(s)

WP3: Pilot studies

Tasks:

- *Participant recruitment and scheduling [start date – end date*]*
 - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*
- *Pilot experiments [start date – end date]*
 - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*
- *Pilot analytics [start date – end date]*
 - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

The background of the image is a close-up, top-down view of a tree trunk's cross-section. It features a complex, organic pattern of concentric growth rings in various shades of brown, from light tan to dark, almost black, tones. The rings are not perfectly circular, reflecting the natural growth of the tree. The texture is highly detailed, showing the fine lines of the wood fibers.

High-value equipment

Post-doc application sections (text)

Equipment valued over 5,000 EUR

- List the relevant equipment you will have access to while you conduct your research
- Don't list equipment you won't use

The background of the image is a wall of horizontal wooden planks. The planks are of varying lengths and are arranged in a staggered pattern, creating a textured, rustic appearance. The wood has a warm, brownish-gold tone with visible grain patterns and some darker spots or knots.

**Project management:
Detailed implementation &
timetable**

Post-doc application sections (text)

Project management

- Text description of the overall project management
- Highlight institutional capacities to support the feasibility of achieving your goals
- Consider an advisory board of internal and external experts - (try to get members prior to submission – list them)
- Provide a short summary of the work programme

Post-doc application sections (text)

Project management

- Itemise deliverables with due dates - make sure you think the work is feasible... if you have 18 deliverables in 2 years... that's one every 6 weeks.
- List Milestones – Major project steps
- Provide a Gantt chart

Assignment: Final project step 1

- Write a concept note for your proposal.
 - You may want to speak with your advisor about this.
 - Remember it's a draft.
 - Its okay if it changes a lot after you turn it in.
 - Use the template provided - lets look now.