



SQUASH

Slovenian Quantum Science Hub

postdoctoral program

TEMPLATE FOR THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

This page and all similar instructions in italics should be deleted.

PROJECT TITLE:

Insert the title of your proposed project here.

PROJECT ACRONYM:

Insert the acronym you have chosen for your project here.

When drafting the proposal, applicants must follow the structure outlined below.

This page and all similar instructions in italics should be deleted.

FRONT PAGE (1 page)

1. **ABSTRACT**
2. **EXCELLENCE**
3. **IMPLEMENTATION AND FEASIBILITY**
4. **SECONDMENTS**
5. **DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN**
6. **GANTT CHART**

Your proposal must respect the following standards:

- *A4 page size*
- *The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, footnotes, captions, formulae, may deviate, but must be legible; however, these elements should not be used as a mechanism to circumvent the rules. For example, the text within a table or a graphical element should be kept to a minimum.*
- *All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be 2 cm minimum*
- *All pages should be numbered in a single series on the footer of the page*
- *Name the file as follows: "Proposal_Surname" (e.g., Proposal_Smith)*

Submission of your proposal

Applications should be submitted through the application platform.

This form is part of the application material and should be submitted online as a .pdf document. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted .pdf documents are readable and are within the page limit (maximum 10 pages). Pages exceeding this limit will not be considered in the evaluation.

Further information about the application procedure can be found in the Guide for Applicants.



1. Abstract

- Briefly summarize your proposal (up to half page).

2. Excellence¹

2.1 Addressing how the proposal fits to one or more of the four key research areas, the aims and objectives of the proposed project

- Describe how the proposal aligns with one or more of the four key research areas, while also outlining the aims and objectives of the proposed project.

2.2 Description of the state of the art

- Describe the state of the art and the open problems that your proposal aims to address.

2.3 Research objectives, methodology, originality and innovation of the proposed research project

- Describe the research objectives and methodology.
- Describe the originality and innovative aspects of the research project.
- Describe the project's pertinence and how it will go beyond the state of the art.

2.4 Relevance for the Key Research Area(s)

- Describe the relevance of your project to one or more key research areas or sub-areas.
- Show how your project addresses one or more of the program's core themes.
- Connect your research questions to those thematic areas.
- Briefly note any wider scientific, social, or policy relevance.

3. Feasibility and Implementation

3.1 Theoretical and Methodological Framework

- State the framework your project builds on and explain why this framework is appropriate for your research questions.
- Describe your methodological approach, including how data will be collected and analysed.
- Justify the suitability of your methods.

3.2 Feasibility within the Timeframe and Budget

- Outline a realistic timeline showing the major phases and milestones of your project.
- Describe how the project fits within the available budget and time (budget - research cost, travel allowance, secondment subsistence² or other sources of the hosting research).
- Describe existing resources (data access, infrastructure, software, etc.) that support the feasibility of the project.

¹Literature or other references should be listed in footnotes or at the end of the proposal, font size 8 or 9. These references count towards the page limit.

²See Table 1 on Allowances and endowments for SQUASH postdocs in the Guide for applicants.

3.3 Fit with the Host Research Groups

- Identify relevant research groups or staff at the host institution.
- Explain how your project aligns with their expertise or ongoing work.
- Describe the potential for collaboration and the mutual benefit.

3.4 Capacity to Carry Out the Project

- Highlight your prior training, experience, and skills relevant to the proposal.
- Mention previous research results or fieldwork.
- If applicable, note any additional training you plan to undertake during the fellowship.

4. Secondments

- Describe the mandatory secondment you will undertake during your fellowship, which should take place at one of our associated partners. Briefly indicate why the specific institution was selected and when in your timeline the secondment is expected to take place (e.g., months 9–12).
- Explain how the secondment will support your research goals. Highlight what expertise, infrastructure, or collaborative opportunities the secondment will offer that are not available at your main institution. Be concise but specific—describe what you plan to do during the secondment and how this fits into the broader work plan.
- Include the names of the proposed secondary supervisors and outline their expected role in supporting your work. Finally, mention how the secondments will contribute to your skills development, interdisciplinary exposure, and potential long-term collaborations.

5. Impact and Dissemination

5.1 Recognition of Anticipated Impact of the Work

- Describe the expected impact of your research beyond the academic field.
- Identify who may benefit (e.g., scientific community, policymakers, civil society).

5.2 Evidence of Long-Term Vision

- Outline how the project fits into your broader research goals or academic development.
- Mention potential for follow-up studies, future funding applications, or integration into larger initiatives.
- If applicable, show how the project could open new directions in the field.

5.3 Publications, Dissemination, and Exploitation Plan

- Describe your plans for publishing the results in relevant peer-reviewed journals.
- Outline how you will share findings with academic and non-academic audiences (e.g., conferences, workshops, public talks, media, policy briefs).
- If relevant, include strategies for making the data, tools, or methods available.
- Discuss any intellectual property, commercialization, or use potential.

5.4 Concrete Plans for Cross-Talk within SQUASH

- Describe how you plan to engage with other SQUASH fellows, partners, or research groups.
- Mention specific opportunities for collaboration, joint events, reading groups, or working groups.
- Show that you are aware of the interdisciplinary nature of SQUASH and how your work can connect with it.

6. Gantt Chart

Example shown below. The Gantt chart should reflect the work packages, secondments, training events and dissemination/public engagement activities described in the proposal.

Work Package	Title	Year 1												Year 2												Year 3												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
WP1	Management						D1.1																															
WP2	Data collection							D2.1								D2.2																						
WP3	Field work																	D3.1																				
WP4	Research part x								M1										M2																			
WP5	Research part y															D5.1																						
WP6	Dissemination and communication																				D6.1																	

Notes:

- This is an example. The number of WPs is only indicative. Add or remove WPs as needed. Include a level of detail appropriate to your project.
- The titles of the WPs indicated here do not have to be strictly followed or included in the Gantt chart for your specific proposal. Adapt as needed.
- Remove any columns for a duration longer than that of your proposal.

A deliverable is a distinct output of the project, meaningful in terms of the project's overall objectives and may be a report, document, technical diagram, software, etc. Deliverable numbers should be ordered according to delivery dates. Use the numbering convention (WP number) \ (number of deliverable within that WP). For example, deliverable 4.2 would be the second deliverable from work package 4.

Milestones are control points in the project that help to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken. A milestone may be a critical decision point in the project where, for example, the researcher must decide which of several technologies to adopt for further development.

STOP PAGE COUNT (MAX 10 PAGES SECTIONS 1-5)