

## GUIDELINE FOR EXTERNAL PARTNERS IN THE ISTPlus PROGRAM

In order to promote the intersectoral perspective of the ISTPlus program, we have established links with a series of external partners. To be included in this list, external partners must have non-academic dimension and must have expressed their willingness to collaborate with the ISTPlus program.

The external partners are asked for permission to include a reference to them published in the page <https://ist.ac.at/en/research/postdoctoral-research/external-partners/>

The information included will have the following format:

Institution	Contact	Field of expertise for potential cooperation	Range of potential activities
Company logo, including an hyperlink to the company website	Details of contact person (Minimum: one e-mail address)	Short description	E.g. Secondments, staff exchange, joint events, trainings, collaborative project planning...

External partners can host ISTPlus fellows during so-called *secondments*. The general conditions for secondments of ISTPlus fellows at external partners are as follows:

1. In general, ISTPlus fellows can make secondments of up to 6 months (either in a single period or divided into shorter periods) to an external partner, subject to the agreement between all involved parties (which is formalized in an ad-hoc *secondment agreement* that specifies any relevant condition of the planned exchange).
2. If the intersectoral dimension of such exchange is clearly justified, the Program Committee confers an extension of 6 months, additional to the 24 months fellowship duration (which is the foreseen duration for those ISTPlus fellows that don't have intersectoral secondments). This measure was introduced in order to incentive the setup of intersectoral secondments with external, non-academic partners.
3. In the case such secondments are agreed, ISTPlus finances the salary of the fellow during his/her stay at the third party, which will be up to maximum of 6 months (either in a single period or divided into several periods).
4. The IP developed exclusively by the fellow remains at IST; for the IP developed jointly with the 3rd party (if applicable) an additional agreement is to be addressed (see point 1).

Although secondments at external partners can be proposed and agreed at any moment after the ISTPlus fellowship has started, candidates can also include their secondment concept for collaborating with an specific external partner *in* their application for the ISTPlus program. In such a case, external partners are welcome –if they wish to- to support any specific candidate in their applications for an ISTPlus fellowship by:

- providing them with “letter of support” and/or
- supporting the applicants in drafting their “research statement”, in order to reflect any planned secondment and cooperation and/or
- naming a person that can act as “co-supervisor”, if the applicant is successful.

In the cases where an external partner supports directly an applicant, the following additional rules apply:

5. IST Austria cannot guarantee that the applicants supported by external partners are selected, but we emphasize that the “intersectoral dimension” constitutes one of the evaluation criteria, which increases in some way the chances of those applicant with intersectoral participation of third partners.
6. The ISTPlus program guarantees in all cases confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest by the members of the Selection Board and by the evaluators appointed by the Selection Board. However, if IPR or commercially sensitive data are shared, the external partner may wish to conclude a confidentiality agreement with the person(s) involved in defining the cooperation and drafting the application. This is left up to the decision of the external partner and is not included as an integral condition of the ISTPlus program.
7. If an application with external secondment/cooperation is approved by the evaluators and Selection Board, IST Austria commits to establish jointly with the ISTPlus fellow and the external partner a secondment agreement, which will determine the specific conditions of the cooperation (see point 1)
8. If it turns out to be impossible to reach agreement, in spite of good will efforts, due to unsolvable issues (e.g. of financial or IPR nature), IST Austria commits to get the ISTPlus fellow stick to a “no-secondment” contingency plan, which should have been already addressed in the proposal. To this end, the external partner and the applicant are requested to state clearly in the application if there are the parts of the work which involve background and/or IP that *are* property of the external partner and should *not* be implemented by the fellow if the planned secondment does not become effective (see also point 6).