

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://apply.sovereigntechfund.de> to apply.

Sovereign Tech Fund



Application

Dear open source maintainer,

thanks for your interest in applying to our Fellowship pilot. This is the application form for the internal employment option, which is for maintainers applying for a German employment contract between 32 and 40 weekly working hours. There is also a freelance option, for which we designed another form. Please make sure to only apply for one option.

With the internal employment, the selected maintainer will become a regular team member of the STF team, for the period of 12 months.

Besides of the responsibilities of an open source maintainer, this means there will be the following additional responsibilities:

- Follow the internal processes of the STF, by the use of all relevant (remote) work tools
- Take an active role in team meetings, retros and retreats, provide constructive feedback
- Optional, depending on capacity and personal preference: Contribute to the improvement and development of the STF programs, especially when those programs interface with Open Source maintainers
- Specifically contribute to the (external) evaluation of the Fellowship Program
- Participate in monthly 1:1s with their manager

For further questions please have a look at our [Fellowship page](#) and our [FAQ](#), or contact us using fellowship@sovereigntechfund.de.

Application name

- I understand that in order to receive notifications about the status of my application, my applicant profile must be subscribed to "broadcast emails" and "notification emails."
- I acknowledge: By the start of the contract I am located in Germany and I am legally allowed to sign a German work contract.
- I acknowledge: All code and documentation to be supported within this fellowship must be licensed such that it may be freely reusable, changeable and redistributable

I acknowledge:

Projects are not eligible to receive financing or work commissions from the Sovereign Tech Fund if other public or private entities are already making or have made grants or investments for the same proposed activities.

I acknowledge:

The fellowship is projected with a start in Q4 2024 and will end 12 months later in Q4 2025. I can make it possible to be available in that time range for the fellowship.

I acknowledge:

This is my first application for the fellowship program operated by STF. Also, I did not apply for another fellowship option so far.

I acknowledge:

I'm an open source maintainer myself and I'm not applying on behalf of a business entity that is planning to employ or contract open source maintainers using this program.

We want to hear more about your motivation to apply for the fellowship. Please create a cover letter and tell us why you are applying, including your background in Open Source and your past journey with the projects you are maintaining or contributing to.

The document does not need to follow a formal format and should not be more text than one or two pages (PDF only)

Furthermore we ask you to upload your current CV (Curriculum Vitae) as well, ideally as a separate document (PDF only).

Please provide us with some high level information about the projects you are maintaining or contributing to. Please keep in mind that you have to hold the maintainer role for at least one of the projects. If possible, we ask you to provide up to three repository URLs below the description. If you want to reference more repositories, please use the description text box.

Describe each open source project in a sentence. Please highlight which role you have there (maintainer, contributor). 2000 characters

Repository Link #1 (Maintainer Role)

Repository Link #2 (optional)

Repository Link #3 (optional)

We would like to learn more about the projects where you hold the role of a maintainer. Please be clear about which project you are referring to within the text fields.

Describe your projects more in-depth. Why are they critical? 300 words

Please provide a brief overview of projects that depend on your technology.

300 words

Which target groups do your projects address (who are its users?) and how would they benefit from a paid maintainer fellowship (directly and indirectly)?

300 words

How was the work on the project made possible so far (structurally, financially, including volunteer work)? If applicable, list other sources of funding that you applied for and/or received.

300 words

What are the challenges you currently face in the maintenance of the technology?

300 words

Please interpret this question as broadly as you want. A non-conclusive lists of challenge areas we are interested in learning about are: managing contributions, addressing security vulnerabilities, project governance, licencing and other legal issues, dependency management, issue backlog, long-term planning/roadmapping.

What are possible alternatives to your project and how does your project compare to them?

300 words

How is the maintenance and governance of the projects structured? How many people are maintaining the projects?

300 words

What would be your focus within this maintainer fellowship? Please highlight some recurring and non-recurring activities that you will spend your time with.

900 words

What would be your preferred weekly working hours? (32 - 40h)

Your name/handle

Link to your profile (optional)

(e.g. your GitHub profile)

By the start of the contract, I will be located in the following region within Germany

Let us know your city or metropolitan area. This information is not relevant for selection but for administrative and evaluation purposes.

How did you hear about the Sovereign Tech Fund? (optional)

- Search engine
- From another maintainer or contributor
- Mailing list
- GitHub
- Social media (Twitter, Mastodon, LinkedIn, other)
- Blog or other publication
- Podcast
- YouTube
- Conference
- Other

We are a new organization and continuing to learn how to reach people working on open source software. Your response helps us evaluate our outreach and has no impact on selection.