FWF funding opportunities

National and European Funding Opportunities
Conference
European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole
February 8th, 2017

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Aims

- A brief overview on some of the guiding principles of the FWF as a funding agency
- An overview of the diversity of available funding programmes
- Exemplary information on some specific FWF programmes with Incoming options
- Facts and figures
FWF – Positioning
The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organisation for basic research, i.e. research that aims not to make profit but instead to develop scientific knowledge.

The FWF's corporate policy: Objectives

- To strengthen Austria's international performance and capabilities in science and research as well as the country's attractiveness as a location for high-level scientific and scholarly activities
- To develop Austria's human resources for science and research in both qualitative and quantitative terms based on the principle of research-driven education
- To emphasise and enhance the interactive effects of science and research with all other areas of culture, the economy and society
## Principles and guidelines of the FWF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FWF principles</th>
<th>Fundamental guidelines for FWF activities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellence and competition</td>
<td>Strictly bottom-up approach, no prescribed research topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>Quality based on international standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>International orientation</td>
<td>Principle for activities at all levels: design, decision, secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal treatment of all research disciplines</td>
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<td>Transparency and fairness</td>
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<td>Gender mainstreaming, equal opportunities</td>
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<td>Ethical standards</td>
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Key features of the FWF decision procedure

- Strictly bottom-up approach, no prescribed research topics, no preference for specific researchers – no funding quotas
- Multiple-party checks in all steps of procedure and decisions (2 reporters, FWF office and Executive Board)
- Close interaction with applicants to maximise transparency
- Independent, international peer review as the basis for quality assurance
- Text of reviews as most important basis for decisions (ratings treated as mere indicators) – full content passed on to applicants
- Discussion of and decisions on all projects from all disciplines during an FWF Board meeting with representatives from all disciplines
Basic procedural principles

Eligibility: if you request a salary for leading the project: principle of territoriality,
except for: START, Lise-Meitner = Incoming

Language: English

Applications: Lise Meitner: no deadlines
START: next call (expected):
~ July – ~ mid-September 2017

Processing time: 4-6 months (ø 4,6 months)

Decision meetings: 5 times/year
Principle of territoriality

The applicant’s main residence has been in Austria for at least three of the past ten years at the time when the application is submitted, and/or the applicant has been working continuously as a researcher in Austria for at least two consecutive years preceding the submission of the application.

Exemptions: Lise Meitner Programme, START Programme (contrary principle of territoriality)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What principles govern the review procedure?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer review</td>
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<tr>
<td>FWF Reporters</td>
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<td>FWF Executive Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex post evaluation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Basic principles of expert selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporters</td>
<td>Selected on basis of qualifications and applications (FWF Board), subject-specific reviewer recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer pool</td>
<td>No fixed set of reviewers, always selected specifically for applications, no reviewers from Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer search</td>
<td>Expert databases (including SSCI, Scopus), journals, rankings, web sites, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesired reviewers</td>
<td>Exclusion of up to 3 reviewers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of competence</td>
<td>Abstract sent to reviewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration of interests</td>
<td>Confirmation of declaration regarding bias</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The FWF Funding Programmes

EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS – FUNDING OF TOP-QUALITY RESEARCH
- Stand-alone Projects
- International Programmes
- Special Research Programmes
- **START Programme**
- Wittgenstein Award

CULTIVATING TALENTS - DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
- Doctoral Programmes
- Schrödinger Programme
- **Meitner Programme**
- Firnberg Programme
- Richter Programme

REALIZING IDEAS – ENHANCEMENT OF THE INTERACTIVE EFFECTS OF SCIENCE WITH SOCIETY
- KLIF
- PEEK
- Support for Scientific Publications and for Science Communication
FWF-Funding categories according to career levels

Undergraduate level
- Student collaboration
- Composition of thesis

Graduate level
- Doctoral candidates in FWF projects
- Doctoral candidates in FWF Doctoral Programme

Post-doctoral level
- Postdoc within FWF project
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- Hertha Firnberg Programme
- Lise Meitner Programme

With post-doctoral experience
- Independent proposal of stand-alone project
- Elise Richter Programme
- START Programme
- Lise Meitner Programme

For experienced researchers
- Wittgenstein Award

For experienced researchers
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- Hertha Firnberg Programme
- Lise Meitner Programme
- Independent proposal of stand-alone project
- Elise Richter Programme
- START Programme
- Lise Meitner Programme
- Wittgenstein Award
Mobility - Career Stage (Postdocs)
Lise Meitner Programme – incoming/reintegration

- **Project duration**: 24 months

- **Target group**
  (i) post-doctoral researchers from abroad (**incoming** researchers)
  (ii) post-doctoral researchers who have left Austria and wish to return to an Austrian research institution (**reintegration**).
Mobility - Career Stage (Postdocs)
Lise Meitner Programme

The Lise Meitner Programme is designed to

• enable highly qualified post-doctoral researchers from abroad to work at research institutions in Austria and to provide them with a maximum of support for their research and career development.

• create added value by enabling cooperation between the mentor and the grantee, which will open up new areas of science and research and establish new research approaches, methods, processes and techniques at the host institution.

• integrate the Meitner grantee into the research institution and simultaneously contribute to "brain gain" in Austria.

• encourage cooperation with the grantees' home countries.

• provide opportunities for researchers who have left Austria temporarily to return to an Austrian research institution.
Lise Meitner Programme

Requirements

• completed doctoral studies
• experience in the field of the planned research project, applicants must be active in their fields (publication record in international peer-reviewed journals; depends on discipline)
• no age limit: track record must correlate with academic CV
• (i) Incoming: reverse principle of territoriality: applicant must have been based in Austria for less than 3 years of the last 10 years (main residence), or working continuously as researchers in Austria for less than the 2 consecutive years prior to submitting the application
• (ii) Reintegration: post-doctoral researchers whose main place of residence has been outside of Austria for at least four years at the time of application and who seek to re-establish themselves at an Austrian research institution through the Lise Meitner Programme.
Lise-Meitner-Programme

- Programme specific co-applicant at the Austrian host research institution (= host/mentor): letter of recommendation with justification for selecting the applicant (“What kind of additional or new input can be expected?”), career plan together with the applicant

- **application**: on rolling basis, no deadlines

- **success rate**: ca. 25%

- **funding**: contract of employment postdoc (EUR 64,240.00, p.a.) or senior postdoc (EUR 70,610.00 p.a.), removal allowance (EUR 2,200), children allowance (EUR 1,500 p.a./child), lump sum travel subsidies (up to EUR 1,350 depending on distance), additional money EUR 12,000 p.a. (up to EUR 2,000.00/year may be allocated to coaching or personal development)

- **duration**: 24 months
Top-quality Research
START Programme (incoming or domestic)

- **Project duration:** 6 years

- **Target group**
  - outstanding young researchers of any discipline

- **Aims**
  - creation or expansion of independent research groups
  - financial security for a period of six years
  - qualification for leading scientific positions in Austria or abroad
START-Programme

- **Requirements**
  - PhD or MD between 2 and 8 years after doctorate, time spent raising children will be taken into account
  - project must be carried out in Austria
  - outstanding track record, international top publications
  - prove of scientific independence and availability to perform research for the entire project duration
  - research stay abroad
  - no full professorship
  - letter of recommendation by department head or group leader
START-Programme

- **call** ⇒ end of July – end of September/beginning of October
- **success rate**: ca. 10 – 15 %
- **decision**: based on at least 4 written reviews, suggestion by FWF board (May), **international jury** (June)
- „**short list“** ⇒ list proposed by FWF board ⇒ final selection of candidates for hearing by international jury
- **hearing** ⇒ first day of meeting of international jury
- **selection awardees** ⇒ second day of meeting
- **parallel submission** ⇒ ERC StG bzw. ERC CoG
- **funding**: € 800.000 (min.) – 1.200.000 (max.), personnel and other project specific costs (for entire period), no personnel costs for project leaders (except for independent scientists: senior postdoc)
- **duration**: 6 years (interim evaluation after 3 years)
### Results 2015 – Facts & Figure

**Start Programme / Meitner Programme**

#### 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Programme</th>
<th>Decisions issued</th>
<th>New approvals</th>
<th>Approval rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START Programme</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meitner Programme</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>152</td>
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#### 2015

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<tr>
<td>START Programme</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meitner Programme</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Results 2015 – Facts & Figures

- 2,617 applications reviewed (2014: 2,432)
- Total grants applied for: €818.2 million (2014: 795.6 M)

- 655 new projects approved (2014: 691)
- Totalling 199.3 million € in grants (2014: 203.7 M)

- Total volume approved: €204.7 million (2014: 211.4 M)

- 4,110 individuals receive funding from the FWF (2014: 3,973)

- Approval rate (based on volume; excluding SFB/DK): 20.3 % (2014: 20.9 %)
Development of approval rate 2005 - 2015
(without SFB, NFN, DK)
Mobility and Women’s Programmes

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START Programme
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Thank you for your attention!
WIR STÄRKEN
DIE WISSENSCHAFTEN
IN ÖSTERREICH.

NEUES ENTDECKEN
TALENTE FÖRDERN
IDEEN UMSETZEN