



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

**EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS**

**CULTIVATING TALENTS**

**REALISING NEW IDEAS**

**FUNDING  
THE WAY FORWARD**

# **FWF Information event: ESPRIT Programme**

Early Stage Programme:  
Research - Innovation – Training

[www.fwf.ac.at](http://www.fwf.ac.at)

## Technical Check

- Please check your computer audio and video.
- We have set all participants to „mute“. Please unmute your microphone when we call on you personally.
- If you have questions or technical problems, please write them in the "Chat"
- For the Q&A session: We will create a list of speakers based on the messages in the chat and call you in that order.
- Contact details:
  - Eva Wysocki and Simone Recchi: Moderators
- The presentation will be sent to you by e-mail.

## **FWF – contact points**

Today for you from the FWF office

- **Eva Wysocki** (Department Strategy – Career Development)
- **Simone Recchi** (Department Strategy – Career Development)

# Agenda

1. Basic Information about the FWF
2. Programme-specific information ESPRIT
3. Key aspects of the ESPRIT application
4. Procedures and decision-making
5. Conclusion

# 1. Basic Information about the FWF

# The FWF's corporate policy

## Mandate and mission

### **The FWF's mission is to promote:**

- High-quality research designed to generate new knowledge (basic research)
- Education and training through research
- Science and research communication, research culture and knowledge transfer

# The FWF funding portfolio



## EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS: Funding of top-quality research

- Stand-Alone Projects
- International Programmes
- Clusters of Excellence
- Special Research Programmes (SFBs)
- Research Groups
- Wittgenstein Award
- Weiss, ASMET, netidee, Herzfelder
- 1000 Ideas Programme



## CULTIVATING TALENTS: Development of human resources

- doc.funds
- doc.funds.connect
- Schrödinger Programme
- **ESPRIT Programme**
- Richter Programme/Richter PEEK
- START Programme



## REALISING NEW IDEAS: Interactive effects between science and society

- KLIF
- PEEK
- Alternative Methods to Animal Testing
- Support for Scientific Publications
- Science Communication Programme
- Top Citizen Science

# FWF funding categories by career stage

## For established researchers

- Wittgenstein Award

## With postdoc experience

- Independent applicant (FWF-Fellow)
- Elise Richter Programme (inkl. Richter-PEEK)
- START Programme
- [ESPRIT Programme](#)

## Postdoctoral work

- Postdocs
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- [ESPRIT Programme](#)
- Independent applicant (FWF-Fellow)

## During Ph.D. studies

- Ph.D. student positions
- Ph.D. students in DK  
[programmes/doc.funds/doc.funds.connect](#)

## During university studies

- Student employees

## 2. Programme-specific information ESPRIT

## ESPRIT

### Early Stage Programme: Research - Innovation - Training

#### Objectives

Start: April 2021

Guidance and support by [GRANTed](#) (Grant allocation disparities; Horizon 2020 project)

- **Target group**

- Highly qualified postdocs from all disciplines from Austria and abroad (max. 5 years after PhD completion); applicants who have a permanent position at the applying research institution are not eligible

- **Objectives**

- Promotion of excellent and innovative research
- Retaining and attracting outstanding researchers
- Promotion of female researchers
- Career and skills development

# ESPRIT

## Basic information

- **Submission**
  - On a rolling basis / PROFI; with mentor
- **Funding**
  - Salary for the project leader + € 15.000 p.a. for other costs or up to € 25.000 p.a. with a budget plan; global budget;
  - Supporting measures for the promotion of women (e.g. coaching and networking, child allowances)
- **Duration**
  - Three years
- **Programme-specific characteristics**
  - Career and mentoring plan for development of career and competences: Establishing an independent research profile
  - In case of equal qualification and proposal quality: Preferential funding of female researchers; half of the project funds reserved for women

## ESPRIT

### PROFI (project funding through research institutions)

- PROFI instead of *ad personam* funding: Grant agreement is concluded with the research institution of the project leader
- Global budget; no administrative separation between personal costs and other costs
- Project submission through elane – select PROFI and select the proper Austrian research institute
- Electronic release through authorized person in the institute; signatures are not required
- Authorized persons can change the proposal forms but not the project description!

### **3. Key aspects of the ESPRIT application**

## Contents of an application (1)

- Table of contents
- State of the art of the relevant international research (including own preliminary work) and relation of the project to this context
- Clearly defined aims and hypotheses or research question(s) of the project
- Description of the project's anticipated level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation
- Methods
- Intended cooperation arrangements (national and/or international)
- Work plan and timeline

## Contents of an application (2)

- Research-related qualifications of the researchers involved
- All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects
- All potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects
- Information on the suitability of the research institute for implementing the planned project and the project's contribution to enhancing the research institute
- Information on the requested funding (in case of requests in excess of € 15000 p.a.)
  - Concise justification for the personnel requested
  - Concise justification for non-personnel costs

## Structured abstract

**Academic abstract** in **English** comprising no more than 3000 characters

The academic abstract will be used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must be subdivided into the following sections using the given terms:

- Wider research context / theoretical framework
- Hypotheses / research questions / objectives
- Approach / methods
- Level of originality / innovation
- Primary researchers involved

## Formal application requirements (1)

- Forms ⇒ to be filled in online
- Project description (max 20 pages) with annexes
  1. List of cited literature (References; max 5 pages)
  2. **CVs of the project leader and of the mentor**, max 3 pages each: personal details, education, position(s), career breaks, net research experience (only for the project leader), research interests, mentoring and supervision experience (only for the mentor), academic publications (max 10), additional research achievements (max 10)
  3. **Career and mentoring plan**, max 3 pages: qualification/expertise, career goals, research profile, networking, mentoring, interaction between mentor and mentee, (if applicable) additional mentoring support
  4. (If applicable) *Collaboration letters*, max. 1 page each

## Formal application requirements (2)



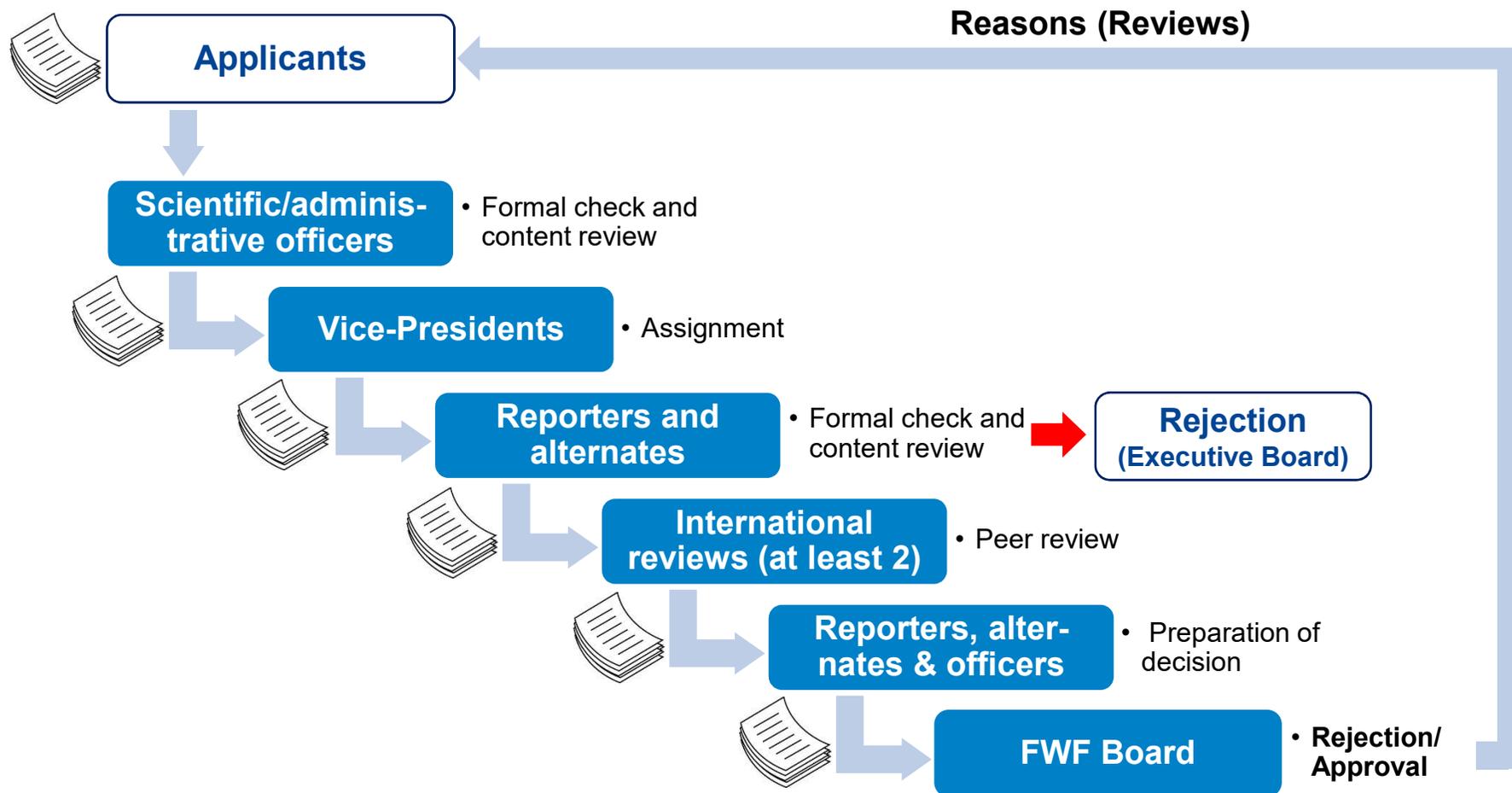
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Attachments to be uploaded separately:

- Publication list of applicant and mentor for the last 5 years, broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed (mandatory, for FWF internal use only)
- If applicable: accompanying letter to the application
- List of reviewers to be excluded
- Report on results or final report, for follow-up applications
- For resubmissions:
  - overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application
  - response(s) to reviews
- Vendor quotes for equipment, services etc. if € 5000 or higher

## 4. Procedures and decision-making process

# The FWF Decision-Making Procedure



# What principles are reviews based on?

Many-eyes principle	Transparency	⇒	Intensive interaction during the entire process
	Quality standards	⇒	International scientific community
	Peer review	⇒	Experts nominated by reporters; only reviewers from abroad; in most cases at least two reviews required
	Basis for funding decision	⇒	Review text (numeric ratings only used as indicators)
	Board meetings	⇒	Five times a year
	Ex-post review	⇒	Peer review of the Final Project Report

## Basic Principles of Reviewer Selection

- Reviewers must be experts based outside of Austria and still active in the field; they must be at least at the same academic level as the applicant
- Reviewers are always chosen specifically for each application, no fixed reviewer selections (no more than two reviews per year; 90% have never written a review for the FWF)
- Regional distribution of reviewers
- Objective: steady increase in percentage of women reviewers
- In smaller disciplines, generalists may also be called upon for reviews
- Negative list: possible exclusion of up to three reviewers
- Abstract is sent first to ensure suitability
- Examination of potential conflicts of interest by FWF Office
- Reviewers required to submit declaration regarding conflicts of interest

## Key aspects of applications

- Presentation of state of the art in international research, positioning of project in relation to state of the art
- Clearly defined, focused research questions/hypotheses
- Presentation of preliminary research
- Description of scientific innovation or novelty
- Concise and clear description of methods and work plan
- Completeness and substance of descriptions and required expertise
- Transparent justification of costs
- Comprehensible English
  
- **Shortcomings in the areas listed above are the most common sources of reviewer criticism.**
- **We recommend resilience and endurance: "Don't complain – resubmit!"**

## Frequent inquiries

- Submission in elane in PROFI section (not ad personam)

News Archive
Application ad personam
Application PROFI

- One mentor with main responsibility has to be affiliated at an Austrian research institution, CV to be included in the proposal. Further mentoring support from additional mentors from Austria or abroad can be described in the mentoring plan.

## Frequent inquiries II

- When applying for lump sum:  
enter € 15.000 other costs for each year in cost breakdown of the application form  
no cost justification required in the proposal

Other costs	15.000,00	15.000,00	15.000,00		45.000,00
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- When applying for higher funding:  
enter costs according to category (personnel, equipment, material, travel, other costs) and justify all costs in the proposal
- Enter own personnel costs (senior postdoc salary) in cost breakdown in any case

## 5. Conclusion

## FWF- career development programmes

- [Erwin-Schrödinger Fellowship](#): Promotion of scientific work at leading foreign research institutions; gaining experience abroad during the postdoc-phase. Facilitation of access to new scientific areas, methods, procedures and techniques so as to contribute - following return to Austria - to the further development of science in Austria
- [ESPRIT Programme](#): promotion of excellent and innovative research; retaining and attracting outstanding researchers; promotion of female researchers; career and skills development
- [Elise-Richter Programme](#) (Elise-Richter-PEEK) Support of the academic career of highly qualified female scientists and scholars and enhancement of their university career. After completion of the program a level of qualification should be accomplished which enables participants to apply for a local or abroad professorship. ("Habilitation" or equal qualification)
- [START-Programm](#): long-term and extensive financial security to plan the research and to build up or consolidate own research groups thereby qualifying themselves for senior research positions (especially as university professors within Austria or abroad).

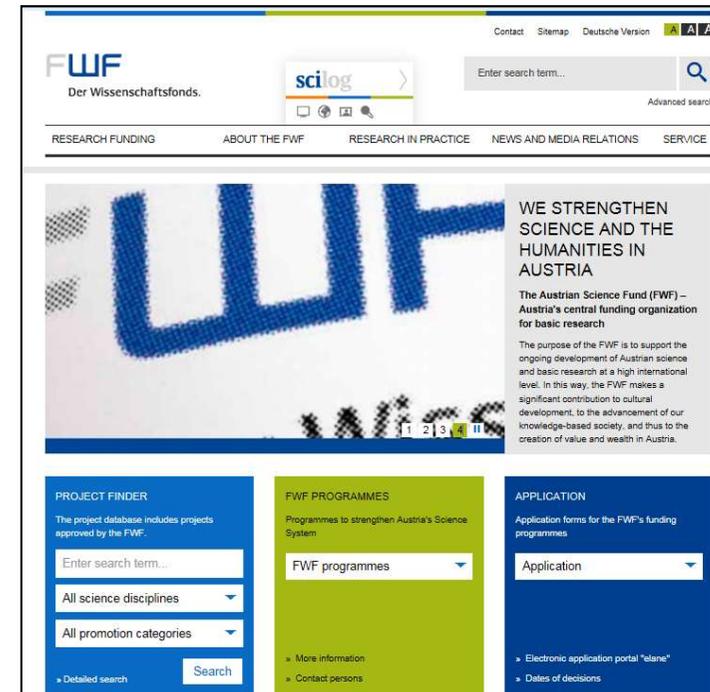
# The FWF website

## The information resource

- **FWF-Website: [www.fwf.ac.at](http://www.fwf.ac.at)**
  - **Funding programmes overview**
  - **Application documents**
  - **Principles of the decision-making process**
  - **Contact directory**

## FWF-Newsletter

- Subscription  
[www.fwf.ac.at/en/service/newsletter/](http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/service/newsletter/)





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