FWF Austrian Science Fund

Application and Project Number Limit

1 Individual Funding

Programs: Principal Investigator Projects (P / PAT[1]), Principal Investigator Projects International and International – Multilateral Initiatives (I / PIN / KIN[2]), pre-proposals for International – Multilateral Initiatives (PIK[3]), Clinical Research (KLI / KLP[4]), Arts-Based Research (AR / ART[5])

A researcher can be named as principal investigator in a combined total of 3 ongoing/approved projects and pending applications at a time in the programs named above. Additional applications may be submitted no earlier than 12 months before the end of any of the ongoing or approved projects, or if one of the applications has been rejected.

Examples

- Researchers who do not have any ongoing or approved projects or pending applications in the programs listed may submit up to 3 applications.
- If the researcher is already in charge of 2 ongoing or approved projects or has 2 pending applications in the programs listed above, only *one* (additional) application may be submitted.
- If a researcher is in charge of 3 ongoing or approved projects or pending applications in the programs listed above, they may not submit a further application until 12 months before the end of any of the ongoing or approved projects, or if one of the applications has been rejected.

Please note: For additional requirements, please see the program-specific application guidelines.

Exception: Participations in Collaborative Research Centers and Transregio programs of the German Research Foundation (DFG), as well as in DFG Research Units (I / PIN /KIN[2]), are not subject to this application and project number limit. The FWF regulations regarding the

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1 P: Principal Investigator Projects in ad personam mode
PAT: Principal Investigator Projects in PROFI mode (since March 20, 2023)

2 I: International Projects in ad personam mode
PIN: Principal Investigator Projects International in PROFI Mode (effective May 31, 2023)
KIN: International – Multilateral Initiatives (except for participation in DFG Collaborative Research Centres and DFG Research Units)

3 PIK: Pre-proposals for International – Multilateral Initiatives (except for participation in DFG Collaborative Research Centres and DFG Research Units) in PROFI mode (since May 31, 2023)

4 KLI: Projects in the Clinical Research Program in ad personam mode
KLP: Projects in the Clinical Research Program in PROFI Mode (since July 1, 2023)

5 AR: Projects in the Arts-Based Research program in ad personam mode
ART: Projects in the Arts-Based Research program in PROFI mode (since October 1, 2023)

maximum number of participations in Specialized Research Groups, Special Research Areas, and Research Groups apply to these participations. See the Application Guidelines for Specialized Research Groups .

2 Career Programs

Programs: ESPRIT (ESP), FWF ASTRA Awards (AST), Erwin Schrödinger (J), FWF START Awards (ad personam: Y / PROFI: STA), Elise Richter / Elise Richter PEEK (ad personam: V, PROFI: RIC), Lise Meitner (M), Hertha Firnberg (T)

Applicants can only act as or be named as principal investigator in *one* ongoing project or pending proposal in the career programs. A further application may not be submitted to a career program unless the current application has been rejected, or no earlier than 12 months before the end of the ongoing or approved project.

A researcher can be named as principal investigator in no more than a combined total of 2 ongoing/approved projects and pending applications at a time in the programs named in sections 1 and 2. Additional applications may be submitted no earlier than 12 months before the end of any of the ongoing or approved projects, or if one of the applications has been rejected.

Examples (for more examples, see the appendix):

- Researchers with no ongoing or approved projects or submitted proposals in the career programs may submit *one* application to a career program and *one* additional application to one of the programs listed in section 1.
- If *one* career program project is already ongoing or has been approved, or if a career program application is pending, only *one* application may be submitted to any of the programs listed in section 1.
- If a researcher is in charge of 2 ongoing or approved projects or pending applications in the programs listed in section 1, they may not submit a further application to the career programs until 12 months before the end of any of the ongoing or approved projects, or if one of the applications has been rejected.

Exceptions:

FWF ASTRA Awards

Because the call for proposals is issued only once a year and the approval rate is low, the following applies when **submitting a proposal** for an ASTRA project:

- In addition to one pending ASTRA application, applicants may be the principal investigator in a maximum of 2 ongoing or approved projects and/or pending applications in the programs listed in section 1. However, if the ASTRA proposal is

approved, the rule still applies that, in addition to the ASTRA project, the applicant may act as principal investigator in only one other project from the programs listed in section 1.

- Principal investigators who are already heading a career project may apply for an ASTRA project over 12 months before the project ends. However, the current career project must be completed or in the process of being completed before commencement of the ASTRA project.

All other restrictions listed in section 2 remain unaffected and also apply to the FWF ASTRA awards.

FWF START Awards

During the first funding period, the limits specified in section 2 apply. During the second funding period – i.e., after a successful interim review – a maximum of 2 ongoing or approved projects and/or pending applications from the programs listed in section 1 are permitted in addition to the START project.

Example: If, during the second funding period, the applicant is not named as principal investigator in any ongoing or approved projects and/or pending applications from the programs listed in section 1 other than the START project, a maximum of 2 further applications may be submitted to these programs.

Please note: Additional roles as principal investigator in projects in programs not listed in sections 1 and 2 are possible. These projects are subject to the provisions specified in the program-specific application guidelines.

3 Collaborative programs:

Programs: Clusters of Excellence (COE – Full Proposal), Emerging Fields (EFP), Special Research Areas (F – Full Proposal), Research Groups (FG – Full Proposal), Specialized Research Groups (SFK – Pre-Proposal, SFG – Full Proposal), Young Independent Research Groups (ZK), #ConnectingMinds (CM / CMD – Projects, CMW – Workshops), doc.funds (DOC), doc.funds.connect (DFH)

A researcher may apply for the position of coordinator or serve as coordinator in no more than *one* collaborative project.

Restrictions on the maximum number of participations allowed as a consortium member can be found in the program-specific application guidelines.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the FWF team.

Annex: FAQ with additional examples from the career programs

Question: I have submitted an ESPRIT application that is still pending, and I just met a potential host who would be interested in working with me on a new project idea using a method that is new to me. Am I eligible to apply to the Erwin Schrödinger program?

Answer: No, applying simultaneously (parallel submission) to multiple career programs (FWF ASTRA Awards, ESPRIT, Erwin Schrödinger) is not allowed, even if the projects are different. An application to the Erwin Schrödinger program may only be submitted if the ESPRIT application is rejected by the FWF Scientific Board or withdrawn by you.

Question: I have submitted an ESPRIT application that is still pending, and I have just met a potential collaboration partner in a country with a cooperation agreement with the FWF with whom I could collaborate on a joint project that does not overlap in content with the ESPRIT project I submitted. Can I also apply for a Principal Investigator Project International with this partner?

Answer: Yes, in addition to applying for a career program (see section 2), applicants may also apply for a maximum of one additional project – provided its content does not overlap – in the programs listed in section 1.

Question: I am currently working on an Erwin Schrödinger project abroad and would like to continue receiving funding to conduct research in Austria after completing the return phase of my fellowship. Can I apply for both an ESPRIT project and a Principal Investigator Project?

Answer: If your Schrödinger project, including the return phase, lasts longer than 12 months, you may apply for a Principal Investigator Project. If your Schrödinger project, including the return phase, has a duration of less than 12 months, you may apply for both an ESPRIT project and a Principal Investigator Project; however, the two projects must not overlap in content and must be able to be carried out independently of one another.

Question: My current ESPRIT project still has 11 months left to run. In the interest of my future academic career, I would like to apply for an FWF ASTRA Award in the upcoming call for proposals with one of my ideas for a more extensive project. Since this program is very competitive, I would also like to submit a smaller project with a different research idea as a Principal Investigator Project to increase my chances of receiving additional funding. At the same time, I also have a collaboration partner in a country in a country with a cooperation agreement with the FWF, where calls for joint proposals are issued only once a year. However, the deadline for this international call is before the date when decisions for the next ASTRA call will be announced. Can I still apply for this international call in addition to my Principal Investigator Project and ASTRA applications?

Answer: You can submit proposals to ASTRA, Principal Investigator Projects, and Principal Investigator Projects International at the same time, as long as each proposal is independent and does not overlap with the content of the other applications. However, if all three projects are approved, you would have to choose two of them (ASTRA + PAT, ASTRA + PIN, or PAT + PIN) and withdraw the third project.