

In accordance with its Funding Guidelines dated January 1, 2022
(as amended), the FWF has issued the following
Application Guidelines for the program

Elise Richter

effective as of October 1, 2023, version 2

Contents

1	General Information.....	4
1.1	Program objective.....	4
1.2	What types of projects can be funded?	4
1.3	Submission	4
1.3.1	Who is eligible to apply?	5
1.3.2	Can multiple applications be submitted simultaneously?.....	5
1.4	Who is eligible to apply?	6
1.4.1	General requirements	6
1.4.2	Equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion.....	7
1.4.3	Consideration of career breaks	7
1.4.4	Inclusion of the disabled and chronically ill	7
1.4.5	Data protection notice	7
1.5	What types of funding can be requested?	8
2	Application	9
2.1	Sections of the application	9
2.1.1	Academic abstract	9
2.1.2	Project description	9
2.1.3	Additional documents	10
2.2	Application content and format.....	11
2.2.1	Language of application.....	11
2.2.2	Project description: Scope and formatting requirements	11
2.2.3	Project description and annexes	11
2.2.4	Publication output	14
2.3	What project-specific costs can be funded?	15
2.3.1	Personnel costs	15
2.3.2	Equipment costs	16
2.3.3	Material costs	16
2.3.4	Travel costs	17
2.3.5	Costs as part of national and international cooperation(s).....	17
2.3.6	Other funding available	18
2.3.7	General project costs.....	18
2.3.8	Publication costs.....	18
2.4	Resubmitting a previously rejected application	19
2.5	File formats, file names, and online forms.....	19
2.5.1	Required components of an application	19
2.5.2	File uploads, if applicable.....	20

3	Processing and decision-making	20
3.1	Submission and requests for changes	20
3.2	Excluding reviewers	21
3.3	Number of reviews required	21
3.4	Decision-making process	21
3.5	Reasons for rejection	21
3.6	Reviewing resubmissions	22
3.7	Proposal bans	22
4	Compliance with legal requirements and standards of research integrity	22
4.1	Legal regulations	22
4.2	Academic integrity	22
5	Data protection and publication of project data and results	23
5.1	Data protection	23
5.2	Publication of project data and results	23
6	Appendices to the Application Guidelines	24
6.1	Appendix A: Information on the research institute and description of financial aspects	24
6.2	Appendix B: Notes and questions for reviewers of Elise Richter Projects	25

Please note: Key terms used in these Application Guidelines are explained in the document [Definition of Terms](#).

1 General Information

This document has been prepared in German and English for your convenience. In the event of a dispute, the German version shall prevail.

1.1 Program objective

The Elise Richter Program was created to support women¹ in science and research. This funding program aims to:

- Support excellently qualified researchers from all disciplines in their academic career development (generally by becoming affiliated with a particular institution),
- Enable female researchers to attain a level of qualification that allows them to apply for professorial positions within Austria or abroad (the “Habilitation” or equivalent),
- Encourage women to embark on university careers and thereby increase the proportion of female lecturers and professors.

1.2 What types of projects can be funded?

Funding may be requested for projects in basic research that are clearly defined, innovative, with plausibly described objectives and methods, and are limited in duration.

Proposals featuring one or more of the following attributes are considered innovative basic research: (i) research on new ideas and/or an investigation of new research questions, (ii) the development or application of new research methods, new technologies, or original approaches to solving research questions, or (iii) the application or modification of existing methods, technologies, or approaches to new research questions. Please note that next logical steps or the incremental further development of published data is not considered to be innovative or original.

The **funding period** is 12-48 months. If an Elise Richter application is submitted immediately following a Hertha Firnberg fellowship, the maximum length of time for which support may be requested is 36 months. The project / “Habilitation” thesis must be conceived in such a way that by the end of the period for which support is requested, the candidate will have attained the level of qualification required to apply for professorial positions.

1.3 Submission

There are no submission deadlines for this program; applications can be submitted at any time. All proposals must be submitted online using the [elane](#) digital application portal. Project funding is administered through the research institutions ([PROFI](#)): this means the application must be approved for submission by both the applicant and the respective research

¹ Individuals with a registered civil status of *diverse*, *intersex*, or *open* are also eligible to apply.

institution (= lead research institution). All forms required for the application must be completed online; other required documents such as the project description incl. annexes and any additional documents must be uploaded in full before the application can be approved for submission by the research institution. For additional information, please see the [elane user manual](#).

1.3.1 Who is eligible to apply?

All Austrian **research institutions** are eligible to apply.² The proposed research must be carried out in Austria under the auspices of the Austrian lead research institution at which the principal investigator will be employed. Applications are submitted by the research institution where the project is to be carried out. The research institution must provide the necessary infrastructure.

Upon approval, the principal investigators are employed at the research institution that submitted the application; the principal investigator's salary is funded through the project.

The Richter program is addressed to any female researcher³ who fulfils the following requirements:

- Doctoral degree (PhD). Applicants who have completed their medical studies in Austria are only eligible to apply if they have a degree based on curricula N, O, Q 201; N, O, Q 094; or N, O 790, Q 794 or N 090 (please indicate which one in the curriculum vitae).
- At least two years of relevant post-doctoral experience (from the date of the PhD certificate) within Austria or abroad at the time when the application is submitted.
- Preliminary work for the planned project / "*Habilitation*" thesis in relation to the length of funding requested or the intended qualification.

Researchers who have already completed their "Habilitation" (professorial qualification) are not eligible to apply.

In the Richter program, researchers can serve only once as principal investigator.

1.3.2 Can multiple applications be submitted simultaneously?

There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by a research institution.

The following restrictions apply for **principal investigators** with regard to Richter applications/projects and other simultaneous applications/projects:

- It is not possible for one person to serve as the principal investigator in several Richter projects/applications.

² Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal.

³ Individuals with a registered civil status of *diverse*, *intersex*, or *open* are also eligible to apply.

- It is also not possible to submit parallel applications in other FWF programs for the promotion of junior researchers (Erwin Schrödinger, ESPRIT or Elise Richter PEEK).
- Please note that the number of ongoing/approved projects is limited for principal investigators in the Richter program. For further information on restrictions concerning the permissible number of applications and ongoing projects, please see [Restriction on the number of projects](#).

The principal investigators of a Richter application can apply simultaneously to other organizations for funding for the planned research project; however, they are required to inform the FWF immediately in writing both of applications submitted to other funding institutions as well as the decisions made on these applications. The decision-making body in the FWF will decide whether and to what extent this third-party funding will be deducted from the funding through the Richter program. If substantially identical applications are approved by other national and international funding organizations, and the approved funding is sufficient to carry out the planned research project, the principal investigator must decide on one of the approved funding grants. It is not possible to combine them.

1.4 Who is eligible to apply?

1.4.1 General requirements

The principal investigator's publication record over the last five years must be internationally visible and commensurate with the expected career path in their field. The following criteria apply for the assessment of an applicant's publication record and initiation of the review process:

- **Quality assurance:** Most relevant in assessing the applicant's publication record are those publications that have been subject to a quality assurance procedure in line with international standards (peer review or an equivalent procedure; in the natural and life sciences, peer review is expected). Journals must usually be listed in Web of Science, Scopus, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). For journals not listed in those databases, or for monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, or other publication types, the applicant must provide a link to the publisher's website which contains a description of the applicable quality assurance procedure. Should no such description be available on the website, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence that the publication has been subject to a quality assurance procedure in accordance with the standards of the field.
- **International visibility:** The majority of the applicant's publications must have a wider than national reach. In the natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences, most of the publications listed must be in English.
- **Number/scope and quality** of the publications must be commensurate with the researcher's expectable career path and the respective discipline. At least two publications must be quality-assured and internationally visible publications with a substantial and independent contribution by the applicant. At least one publication with first, last, or corresponding authorship is required, with the exception of publications in

journals (or disciplines) that rank authors alphabetically. If any such publications are included in the required document *PI_publication.pdf* (see [section 2.2.4](#)), the applicant's contribution must be specified.

If there is any uncertainty about general application requirements or about accounting for career interruptions (see [sections 1.5.3](#) and [1.5.4](#)), the FWF recommends contacting the FWF Office or the [FWF Equal Opportunities and Diversity in Research Funding unit](#) in good time before submitting the application to confirm that all requirements are met and that any career interruptions can be accounted for. In cases of doubt, the appropriate decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide on applicants' eligibility.

1.4.2 Equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion

The [FWF Strategy for Equal Opportunities and Diversity of Researchers](#) applies. This means that breaks or delays in applicants' research careers that have led to publication gaps, unorthodox career paths, or limited international research experience can be accounted for. For further details on accounting for career breaks, please refer to the [information sheet on career interruptions](#).

1.4.3 Consideration of career breaks

The FWF will take justified, documentable career breaks (e.g. due to pregnancy, childcare,⁴ caregiving obligations,⁵ military or civilian service, flight, and asylum) into consideration in assessing the principal investigator's eligibility to apply.

1.4.4 Inclusion of the disabled and chronically ill

The FWF will also take any exceptions to and interruptions of typical career paths due to disability and/or long-term illness into consideration in determining whether the principal investigator meets the application requirements.

1.4.5 Data protection notice

When assessing eligibility, all personal data provided to the FWF by an applicant on a voluntary basis that relates to the information provided in [sections 1.5.3](#) and [1.5.4](#) shall be taken into account exclusively to the applicant's benefit (compensation of disadvantages). Relevant information (without sensitive or personal data) can be included in an individual's academic CV, making it available to the reviewers. A general explanation, including the duration of the interruption or delay, is sufficient. Please use the appropriate [form](#) for this purpose and give your explicit consent to data processing on the last page. If you wish to submit further supporting documents in addition to those listed in the form please submit

⁴ Childcare includes parental leave periods, if applicable.

⁵ Immediate family members and/or persons living in the same household: Spouses, registered partners, parents, children, adopted, step, and foster children, siblings, parents-in-law, and children-in-law.

them directly to the FWF office. These will not be visible to your research institution. This information is only used to check the application requirements and is not made available to reviewers.

1.5 What types of funding can be requested?

The level of support includes personnel costs for the principal investigator (senior postdoc) and project-specific costs. The latter include non-personnel and additional personnel costs that are necessary for carrying out the project and that go beyond the resources provided by the infrastructure of the research institution. The FWF does not finance the infrastructure or basic equipment of research institutions.

The principal investigator shall receive a senior postdoc employment contract at the [current level](#). Part-time work is possible and may be requested in the initial application. The level of employment must be at least 50%. The level of personnel costs granted will be reduced in proportion to the extent of employment.

Project-specific costs of up to €120,000 may be requested for projects with a four-year duration. Of those costs, up to €8,000 may be allocated for coaching or personal development for the principal investigator. For projects with a shorter duration, the maximum costs that can be requested and the funds that can be used for coaching and/or personnel development measures must be reduced accordingly.

Project-specific costs can also include funding for project-specific work at the associated research institution(s) where associated research partner(s) work. Associated research partners are researchers working on a project-specific basis at other Austrian research institutions (associated research institutions) and who are making a significant scientific/scholarly contribution to the project. The *Associated Research Partner* form must be completed for these researchers, if applicable. Funds are disbursed from the lead research institution to the associated research institution(s).⁶ Associated research institutions report directly to the FWF to account for funds used at their institution.

Please note that exaggerated cost projections may be grounds for rejection, even if a proposal is otherwise excellent.

Principal investigators who are employed full-time (100%) after the birth of a child can receive a child allowance of €9,600.00 per child per year (before taxes, including all employer's and employee's contributions; to be paid 12 times per year) until the third birthday of the child.

Multiple funding is not permitted (see [FWF Funding Guidelines](#)).

⁶ Associated research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal. Once a proposal has been approved, the lead research institution must enter into a cooperation agreement with the associated research institution.

2 Application

2.1 Sections of the application

A complete application must include the following sections:

2.1.1 Academic abstract

The academic abstract must be written in English, may not exceed 3,000 characters (including spaces, no formulas or special characters), and is used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must use the English headings provided below and be entered into the online form provided for this purpose.

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

Where alternatives are indicated between slashes, please select the alternative that applies to your project.

2.1.2 Project description

Project descriptions are limited to 20 consecutively numbered pages, including the table of contents (required), and where applicable, a list of abbreviations, headings, figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc.

The project description must also include Annexes 1-5 and if applicable 6 on additional pages:

- Annex 1: List of literature cited in the application (*References*), max. 5 pages
- Annex 2: Information on the lead research institution and any associated research institutions and a plausible justification of the funding requested
- Annex 3: CV and descriptions of previous research achievements of the principal investigator (max. 3 pages)
- Annex 4: Career plan (max. 2 pages)
- Annex 5: Letter of recommendation from somebody who has already completed their “Habilitation” in the same subject
- Annex 6 (optional): Collaboration letters from national and international cooperation partners (max. 1 page per letter)

The project description, including these annexes, must be uploaded as a single file titled *Proposal.pdf*. The FWF will send this document to the reviewers.

2.1.3 Additional documents

- Required:
 - Two publications written by the applicant must be named, documenting that the applicant fulfills the general requirements to act as principal investigator (publication record, see [section 1.4.1](#))
 - Publication lists for internal FWF use to check for conflicts of interest with potential reviewers (see section 2.2.4)
- Where applicable:
 - Results or final project report: If the project submitted is the continuation of an FWF-funded project (follow-up application), a report on previous results or a final project report and a list of publications resulting from the project must be uploaded in the language of the application (max. 6 pages).
 - Additional documents in the case of resubmission: If the application is a revised version of a previously rejected application (see [section 2.4](#)), a response to the reviews and an overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application (Overview_revision) must be uploaded.
 - Cover letter accompanying the application (optional)
 - List of max. 3 researchers (optional) - including, if applicable, reviewers of a rejected proposal - who are to be excluded from the review process (see [section 3.2](#)), with a brief justification

Any additional documents (e.g., recommendations on potential reviewers, additional letters of recommendation, forthcoming publications) will not be considered in further stages of the application process.

2.1.4 Forms to be completed

- Required: *Research institution assignment form*, *Contact form*, *Application form*, *Program-specific data form*, *Cost breakdown form*, *Academic abstract form*, and *Co-authors form*
- Where applicable: *Associated research partner form*, *Other cooperation form*

2.2 Application content and format

2.2.1 Language of application

To allow applications to be reviewed by international experts, applications must be submitted in English. If desired, a version in German or another specialist language may be added as a supplement. Submission solely in German or another specialist language other than English is only permitted in exceptional cases. Such exceptions apply exclusively to applications from the fields of linguistic and literary studies involving only texts in German or languages other than English. In all such cases, it is absolutely necessary to consult the project officers in the respective FWF [Strategy – Career Development Department](#) prior to application. An academic abstract for the project as well as a brief yet convincing statement explaining why submission in a language other than English is justified for substantive academic reasons will be required. The final decision shall be made by the relevant decision-making bodies of the FWF.

2.2.2 Project description: Scope and formatting requirements

The project description may not exceed 20 pages. It must contain a table of contents with page numbers. Optional components such as a list of abbreviations or figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc. are to be included in the 20-page limit.

The continuous text in the project description, Annexes 1-4, the publication lists, and the additional documents specified in [section 2.1.3](#) where applicable, must be written, without exception, in 11 pt. font with 1.5 line (15-20 pt.) spacing and at least 2 cm margins. A standard, easily legible font must be used for the body text. The formatting requirements (font type and size, line spacing, and margins) of the project description also apply for the additional files, except for documents not prepared by the applicant, such as collaboration letters.

Citations in the text and the list of works cited (*References*) in the application must be in line with the conventions of the respective discipline, preferably according to a widely used style guide (e.g., Chicago Manual of Style, APA Publication Manual). The choice of citation conventions or style guide is up to the applicant, but must be implemented consistently throughout the application. If available, a [DOI address](#) (DOI = Digital Object Identifier) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be provided for the literature cited.

2.2.3 Project description and annexes

The project description may not exceed 20 pages and must include a table of contents as well as the following sections, each designated by headings:

- 1) Table of contents
- 2) State of the art of relevant international research (including own preliminary work, if applicable) and relation of the project to this context

- 3) Clearly defined aims and hypothesis/hypotheses or research question(s) of the project
- 4) Description of the project's anticipated level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation
- 5) Methods
- 6) Work plan and timeline
- 7) Associated research partners (if applicable): Description of the contributions of the associated research partners (see [section 1.5](#)) to the proposed research; associated research partners must be named in the *Associated research partner* form.
- 8) National and/or international cooperation partners (if applicable): Please specify the intended cooperation partners and the subject of the intended cooperation(s) or the planned contribution to the project. In addition to any legal regulations, FWF's own regulations on international collaborations also apply (see the FWF Website for more information). **All** national and/or international cooperation arrangements that were stated to be essential in the project description must be listed on the **Other cooperation form** (one form must be completed for each cooperation partner) and may be confirmed by a collaboration letter.
- 9) Research-related qualifications of the applicant and details on the preliminary work performed in relation to the planned research project / "Habilitation" thesis
- 10) All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects⁷ of the proposal and how applicants plan to deal with them must be described in this section. These questions should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any such issues.
- 11) Any potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects⁸ of the proposal must be detailed. To what extent are sex-specific and gender-related aspects considered in the proposal? How will they be integrated into the research approach? These questions must be briefly addressed, even if the applicant does not feel that the project involves any such aspects.

Annex 1: List of literature cited in the application (*References*) on no more than 5 pages

Annex 2: Financial aspects

The template for the description of projected costs can be found in [Appendix A](#).

- Information on the lead research institution and the research institutions of associated research partners

⁷ For instance, the European Commission's [Ethics for Researchers](#) or [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) can serve as a guide here.

⁸ Positioning and thoughts on the research approaches in the project in terms of sex-specific and gender-related aspects could include: Is the research approach likely to produce sex-specific and gender-related findings? If so, what findings? How and where are these integrated into the research approach? (For information on determining the relevance of sex-specific and gender-related issues, please see the [FWF website](#).)

- Existing project participants (not financed by FWF project funds) (usually the principal investigator and academic project staff at the research institutions)
- Available infrastructure
- Information on the funding requested
 - Explanation of why the personnel requested is needed (type(s) of requested position(s), job descriptions, extent of employment, and duration of involvement in the project)
 - Concise justifications for non-personnel costs (equipment, materials, travel expenses, and other costs); If funding for equipment is requested, applicants must explain why this does not constitute part of the basic equipment of the given research environment – see [section 2.3.2](#)).

Annex 3: CV and description of previous research achievements

The academic CV and research achievements of the principal investigator should be described on no more than three pages, as specified below.

Required contents for academic CVs

- *Personal details:* Personal details (name, researcher unique identifier(s) such as ORCID, research ID, etc., no photos), address of research institution, and relevant websites. In addition, a publicly accessible link to the list of all published publications is required.
- *Education:* List of academic milestones
- *Position(s):* List of academically relevant positions (with the extent of employment in the case of part-time employment)
- *Career breaks* (if any): List of career breaks or delays (see also [section 1.4.2](#))
- *Net research experience:* The length of time (in years and months) that has actually been used in net total for research – calculated in such a way as to be equivalent to full-time employment – and broken down into the time before and after completion of the applicant's doctoral degree. This is intended to make it easier for the reviewers to assess the principal investigator's qualifications in term of academic age
- *Research interests:* Description of the main areas of research and the most important research results achieved to date
- *Academic publications:* List of no more than ten of the most important published or accepted academic publications (journal articles, monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, proceedings, etc.); for each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated, if available. In accordance with the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), journal-based metrics such as

journal impact factors, Article Influence Scores, or the h-index should not be included. Reviewers are instructed to ignore these metrics.

- *Additional research achievements*: List of no more than ten of the most important research achievements apart from academic publications, including achievements such as freely accessible research data including software and codes, awards, contributions to conferences, keynote lectures, significant research projects, peer review activities, promotion of junior researchers, exhibitions, interactions with society (including citizen science or transdisciplinary activities), science communication, knowledge transfer, licenses, or patents. If available, a persistent identifier or link to each research achievement must be provided

Annex 4: Career plan

The career plan (no more than two pages) should include information regarding the further research qualifications the applicant hopes to attain as a result of the proposed project / “Habilitation” thesis as well as her career goals following the end of the funding period. If funding for a “Habilitation” thesis project is requested, information on the faculty and the university that the candidate hopes will grant the Venia Docendi (teaching qualification) has to be provided. The career plan may also include any planned coaching and/or mentoring measures.

Annex 5: Letter of recommendation from somebody who has already completed their “Habilitation” in the same subject

The letter of recommendation (with signature and letterhead of the research institution) has to be from somebody who has already completed their “Habilitation” in the same subject and who works at the research institution at which the planned research project / “Habilitation” thesis is to be conducted. It has to include information on the applicant, the topic, and the importance of the proposed project / “Habilitation” thesis, as well as the implications of the project / the “Habilitation” thesis for the applicant’s career in relation to the program’s goals.

Annex 6 (optional): Collaboration letters

Collaboration letters (each no more than 1 page) from national and international cooperation partners who are named in the project description as being essential for the implementation of the project and whose role is plausibly described.

2.2.4 Publication output

The following two separate uploads are required:

- *PI_publication.pdf*: Two publications written by the applicant must be named, documenting that the applicant fulfills the general requirements to apply (see Template [PI-publication](#)). The FWF will base the applicant’s eligibility to apply on these publications.

- *Publication_list.pdf*: A list of all research publications over the last five years⁹ (categorized as “quality-assured publications” and “other publications,” see [section 1.4](#)) of the applicant. This publication list helps the FWF to determine if there are any potential conflicts of interest with reviewers. It will not be forwarded to the reviewers.

2.3 What project-specific costs can be funded?

When requesting funding, the regulations of the respective research institution and the FWF guidelines apply. The personnel costs for the principal investigator’s salary and any project-specific costs (see also [section 1.6](#)) must be summarized in the elane *Cost breakdown* form; project-specific costs may not exceed the applicable limit (€120,000 for projects with a duration of four years; reduced accordingly for shorter-term projects).

If the research institution for which funds are requested is entitled to deduct value-added tax (VAT), the funds should be applied for without value-added tax (net). This applies to the lead research institution and, where applicable, to associated research institutions.

VAT is an eligible expense only if the funding recipient is not entitled to deduct it and it is demonstrably and finally borne by the funding recipient. Recoverable VAT is ineligible for funding even if it is not reclaimed or recovered by the funding recipient.

Funding may only be requested for the following cost categories.

2.3.1 Personnel costs

Funding may only be requested for personnel who are needed in addition to existing personnel resources for the realization of the project and only to the extent required for the project.

Full- or part-time employment contracts (*Dienstverträge*, DV) and contracts for marginal employment (*geringfügige Beschäftigung*, GB) are available for project staff. [FWF’s standard personnel costs](#) apply. When calculating personnel costs, applicants must include a fixed percentual increase determined by the FWF to compensate for wage raises in subsequent years.

Employment contracts for doctoral students may not exceed 75% employment (up to 30 hours per week). A part-time (50%) employment contract of 20 hours/week for student employees may be requested for researchers who have not yet completed a graduate degree program in the relevant subject area.

⁹ Publication lists must include: all authors, complete title of the publication, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, if available, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated; for publications with more than 20 authors, an “et al.” citation can be used.

2.3.2 Equipment costs

Funding for equipment may only be requested if it is specifically required for the project and if it is not part of the existing infrastructure of the participating research institution(s).

“Infrastructure” is defined to include all equipment (and components thereof) that a modern research institution needs to conduct basic research in the relevant discipline at an internationally competitive level. This means that equipment such as computers (laptops, etc.) is considered to be part of the standard infrastructure and no funding will be approved for these items.

Equipment eligible for funding includes:

- Scientific instruments
- System components
- Self-constructed devices (generally assembled from smaller pieces of equipment and materials)
- Other durable goods
- Intangible assets such as concessions, industrial property rights, and licenses derived from such rights

Equipment with an acquisition value in excess of €250,000 can only be financed through depreciation. Only the percentage of costs that are incurred during the project period can be requested and financed. The depreciation rules of the research institution acquiring the equipment apply.

If funding is requested for a piece of equipment which is required specifically for the project, the lead research institution confirms upon completing the online submission that they have verified that no comparable equipment that could be used or shared is available within a reasonable distance, and that third-party (co-)financing options have been explored. The research institution that owns the equipment must also ensure that any possible costs arising from the use, maintenance, and repairs of the equipment are covered.

The principal investigator is to instruct their research institution to order the equipment and effect payment accordingly. The principles of economy, efficiency, and expediency apply to any acquisition. The procurement guidelines of the research institution and the provisions of the [Federal Procurement Act 2018](#) (*Bundesvergabe-gesetz*) as amended apply.

In order to determine the equipment costs (incl. VAT, unless the research institution is entitled to deduct VAT) to be requested, vendor quotes must be obtained before the application is submitted pursuant to the research institution’s procurement guidelines. Vendor quotes are submitted to the FWF only upon request.

2.3.3 Material costs

“Materials” is defined as consumables and small items of equipment (cost per item less than €1,500 incl. VAT).

The calculation of funds requested for project-specific material costs should be justified with reference to the timelines, work plans, and experiment plans. Experience from previous projects should be considered in making the calculations.

2.3.4 Travel costs

Funding may be requested for project-specific travel and accommodation, field work, expeditions, etc. The project description must include a detailed itinerary, broken down by project staff members. This plan must indicate which staff members will be travelling, the destination, for what purpose, when (in which year of the project), for how long, and how much the travel will cost.

When planning travel in connection with a project, researchers should always carefully consider whether travel is absolutely necessary or whether the relevant information can be exchanged virtually.

If a project requires travel, transportation by train is generally preferred to travel by air as a contribution to environmental sustainability. Funding can be requested for any resulting extra costs such as an additional overnight stay. When travelling by air, it is strongly recommended to make a CO₂ offset contribution,¹⁰ which can also be requested as part of the travel expenses or funded through the budget for general project costs. A CO₂ offset contribution can be requested for up to 15% of the ticket price.

Travel expenses for researchers from Austrian and international research institutions other than the lead research institution or associated research institutions can only be granted in exceptional cases. Grounds for the exception must be provided in detail.

Travel and accommodation costs are generally calculated according to the lead or associated research institution's individual travel expenses policies. If no such policies are in place at the research institution, the federal regulations governing travel costs ([Reisegebührevorschrift des Bundes 1955, RGV](#)) as amended apply.

2.3.5 Costs as part of national and international cooperation(s)

Unlike when cooperating with associated research partners (see [section 1.5](#)), costs arising in the context of a research collaboration with an external research institution are to be borne by that research institution. This does not apply to [cooperation arrangements with scientists or scholars from developing countries](#) (see [section 2.3.6](#)).

Funds may only be transferred directly to a cooperation partner (in Austria or abroad) upon presentation of an invoice and only if they are in payment for clearly defined commissions or services and immediately necessary to carry out the Austrian project.

¹⁰ The amount of a CO₂ offset contribution for flights can be calculated, for example, using the [CO₂ calculator](#) on the Climate Austria website.

2.3.6 Other funding available

- Independent contractor agreements (costs for work of clearly defined scope and content carried out by individuals, provided that they are cost-efficient and justified in the context of the research project)
- Costs for the preparation, archiving, open access, and reuse of research data in repositories in accordance with the FWF's [Open Access Policy for Research Data](#)
- Costs that cannot be included under personnel, equipment, materials, or travel costs, for example:
 - The use of research facilities, e.g., costs for the project-specific use of available equipment (project-specific "equipment usage time") or large research facilities
 - Any laboratory animals necessary for the project
 - Project-specific work carried out outside the researcher's research institution (e.g., for analyses carried out elsewhere, interviews, sample collection, etc.)
 - Disposal of project-specific hazardous waste
 - [Cooperation arrangements with researchers in developing countries](#)

The procurement guidelines of the research institution and the provisions of the [Federal Procurement Act 2018](#) (*Bundesvergabegesetz*) as amended apply.

2.3.7 General project costs

The approved grant sum includes 5% general project costs that are permitted for funding but cannot be requested individually using the abovementioned cost categories. They are subject to the [FWF's Funding Guidelines](#) and the costs must be eligible for funding. These include, for example, costs for conference travel, dissemination activities as well as smaller, unforeseen costs necessary for the project.

Overhead costs for the research institution are not included in general project costs.

General project costs are to be entered in the appropriate field in the *Cost breakdown* form and calculated as 5% of the total funding requested. General project costs impact the number of reviews required for the proposal (see [section 3.3](#)). No justification for general costs is needed in [Appendix A](#).

2.3.8 Publication costs

Publication costs cannot be requested as part of the application process. Information on funding options for publications resulting from FWF-funded projects can be found on the FWF website under the [Communication](#) portfolio.

2.4 Resubmitting a previously rejected application

A resubmission is defined as the revision of an application addressing the same or similar research questions as a proposal the FWF has previously rejected, regardless of the program category. If an application is submitted on the same or a very similar research question and if, in the view of the principal investigator, this application is not a resubmission but a completely new project, this must be explained in a separate accompanying letter to the FWF Office. For example, changes in research methods alone are not sufficient for a proposal to qualify as a completely new project. In cases of doubt, the appropriate decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide.

Resubmissions must show changes from the rejected application. If an application has been rejected for the standardized reason C3, C4, or C5, these changes need to be substantial (based on the comments in the reviews). If no such changes are made, the FWF's decision-making bodies will return the application to the applicant without review.

When resubmitting an application, the following documents must be uploaded:

- An accompanying letter containing an overview of all changes (*Overview_revision*) made in the resubmitted application must be submitted to the FWF. This overview will not be passed on to the reviewers.
- A response to all reviews of the rejected application must be provided, even if one of the reviewers is to be excluded from reviewing the resubmitted application (see [section 3.2](#)). This response, consolidated in *one* document, will be forwarded to all reviewers reviewing the resubmission and should address the recommendations and criticisms included in the previous reviews as well as describe the resulting changes made.

While no deadlines for the resubmission of a rejected application apply, the respective application requirements apply. Resubmissions must be submitted as described in [section 2](#), i.e. as a separate, new application and not as a supplementary application to the previously rejected proposal.

2.5 File formats, file names, and online forms

Overview of all documents and forms to be submitted:

2.5.1 Required components of an application

a) Files:

- *Proposal.pdf* (project description incl. annexes 1-5 and where applicable 6, with PDF bookmarks, at least for the major sections)
- *PI-publication.pdf* (Two publications written by the principal investigator must be named, documenting that the applicant fulfills the general requirements to apply)
- *Publication_lists.pdf* (publication list of the applicant for the last 5 years, broken down into "quality assured publications" and "other publications")

b) Forms:

- Research institution
- Contact form
- Application form
- Program specific data form
- Cost breakdown
- Academic abstract in English
- Co-authors
- Associated research partners (if applicable)
- Other cooperation (if applicable; for national and international cooperation partners)

2.5.2 File uploads, if applicable

- *Cover_letter.pdf* (= accompanying letter; optional)
- *Negative_list.pdf* (= reviewers who should be excluded; optional)
- *Follow.pdf* (= result report or final project report of the previous project for follow-up applications; will be forwarded to the reviewers)
- *Overview_revision.pdf* (= for resubmissions, overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application)
- *Revision.pdf* (= for resubmissions, response to all reviews of the previously rejected application)

3 Processing and decision-making

3.1 Submission and requests for changes

All of the documents specified above must be uploaded in full to [elane](#). Once an application has been officially submitted, the research institution and the principal investigator can make no further changes to the application themselves. All applications are checked for completeness and any formal errors by the FWF Office. If the FWF Office identifies issues with the application that it considers to be rectifiable, it will notify the research institution and the principal investigator, giving them the opportunity to correct the problems within a reasonable period of time (generally 3 weeks). The requested changes are to be submitted to [elane](#) as a supplementary application and approved for submission by the lead research institution if necessary. If the **requested changes** are not made and submitted as a supplementary application before the specified deadline, the decision-making bodies at the FWF will return the application without review.

Similarly, applications will not be reviewed if they have been previously rejected by the FWF and resubmitted without appropriate revisions (see [section 2.4](#)).

The most common reasons why applications are returned without review by the FWF's decision-making bodies are (a) that the principal investigator's publication record does not

meet the requirements (see [section 1.4.1](#)) and (b) that the application does not address specific hypotheses or research questions (see [section 2.2.3](#)).

Once the review process has begun, no more changes can be made to the application.

3.2 Excluding reviewers

A list of a maximum of three potential reviewers who should not be consulted to review the proposal due to a possible conflict of interest can be uploaded as an additional document. The applicant must give reasons why they wish to exclude these reviewers. If the reasons for exclusion are professionally and technically sound, the FWF will generally fulfil the applicant's request to exclude those reviewers from the review process. A detailed description of the FWF's policy on conflicts of interest can be found in the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#).

Please note that the FWF does not wish to receive, nor will it consider a list of potential reviewers from applicants.

3.3 Number of reviews required

At least two reviews are required for approval of an application.

3.4 Decision-making process

For detailed information on the decision-making process, the criteria for selecting international reviewers, detailed rules concerning conflicts of interest, and the composition of juries and review panels, please see the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#).

Information on the average duration of the **review process** can be found in the [FWF-Dashboard](#).

When the review process is completed, the FWF Board considers the reviews and decides, generally in the March, June or November/December Board meeting, whether the proposal should be supported. The lead research institute and the principal investigator are informed in writing of the FWF's decision.

3.5 Reasons for rejection

The reasons for rejecting an application are assigned to one of five categories (C1–C5) and communicated to the principal investigator and the lead research institution; the principal investigator is also sent anonymized copies of the reviews. A detailed description of the reasons for rejection can be found in the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#).

3.6 Reviewing resubmissions

If the application is a **resubmission** of a previously rejected proposal, the FWF will generally contact those reviewers who provided *constructive* criticism on the previous application. Reviewers who gave entirely positive or negative comments will usually not be contacted for a second review. However, please note that generally all resubmissions are also evaluated by new reviewers.

3.7 Proposal bans

Applications that are rejected for reason C5 will be barred for 12 months (from the date of the official notification of the decision) and cannot be resubmitted during that period.

Applications that have been submitted to the same funding program three times and rejected for reasons C3 or C4 (i.e. the original application and corresponding resubmissions) are also blocked for 12 months (from the date of decision); rejections for reasons C1 or C2 are not included in this total. In principle, only topics are blocked and not applicants or research institutions.

4 Compliance with legal requirements and standards of research integrity

4.1 Legal regulations

Please note that the research institution(s) and all individuals involved in the project are obligated to comply with all legal requirements and safety provisions, and any embargo regulations and sanctions (e.g., Federal Disability Equality Act, Federal Equal Treatment Act, Dual-Use Regulation [EU] 2021/821) that apply for the Principal Investigator Project and obtain all the necessary permits (e.g., from the Ethics Committee, the Animal Testing Commission, the National Heritage Agency, or the relevant foreign authorities).

4.2 Academic integrity

The [Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice](#) of the [Austrian Agency for Research Integrity \(ÖAWI\)](#) apply.

Where a breach of these standards is suspected, the ombud of the respective research institution is responsible for investigating the issue. Research institutions are required to report any cases of suspected serious violations of the standards to the ÖAWI. The FWF reserves the right to suspend, in part or in whole, any procedures related to applications or ongoing projects until this check or investigation has been concluded. For more detailed information, see [FWF procedure in cases of suspected violation of the standards of good research practice](#).

5 Data protection and publication of project data and results

5.1 Data protection

Pursuant to Art. 6 (1) item a of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in conjunction with § 2g of the Austrian Research Organization Act (*Forschungsorganisationsgesetz*, FOG), the FWF processes and publishes personal data (e.g. the title of the submitted project, research institution, academic abstract, PR summaries) necessary for the administration of the funding by the FWF – while safeguarding business and trade secrets – for the purposes of research policy (e.g., presentation of the development of basic research in Austria, economic analyses, funding impact reports, etc.) and for public relations work (publication of excerpts in the FWF annual report, on the FWF website, in press releases, media collaborations, etc.). If necessary, these data are also transmitted to third parties (e.g., for the preparation of research policy studies, on the basis of supervisory duties, in particular §§ 2d and 3a of the Research and Technology Funding Act [*Forschungs- und Technologieförderungsgesetz*, FTFG], to bodies and agents of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and, in particular, pursuant to § 3 [2], § 4 [1], and § 13 [3] of the Court of Audit Act 1948 [*Rechnungshofgesetz* 1948 RHG], to the Austrian Court of Audit as well as to bodies and institutions of the European Union in accordance with European legal provisions). Transmission of data is also based on § 6 (1) item c of the GDPR in conjunction with § 2g of the FOG.

Further information on the data privacy rights of the applicant or applying research institution as well as the contact details of the FWF's data protection officers is available [here](#).

5.2 Publication of project data and results

Please note that if a grant is awarded, a PR summary in German and English will be published on the FWF website, as well as the grant amount and later, PR summaries of the project's findings in German and English. Summaries must be submitted to the FWF when the grant agreement is returned. The principal investigator must ensure that these texts are worded in such a way that legitimate interests of secrecy for reasons of national defense and patent law are safeguarded and business secrets are protected appropriately. Information on writing PR texts can be found on the FWF website.

In addition, the FWF requires a data management plan (DMP) for all approved projects. This plan should also be sent to the FWF when returning the grant agreement. The template for the DMP can be viewed and downloaded on the FWF website.

The guidelines specified in the grant agreement on acknowledging the FWF as the funding institution and the FWF's [Open-Access Policy](#) apply for any publication of project results (e.g., academic publications, research data, conference contributions, and media reports).

6 Appendices to the Application Guidelines

6.1 Appendix A: Information on the research institute and description of financial aspects

Information on the lead research institution and any associated research institutions and the description of project finances must be presented **in English** using the following structure and appended to the project description as Annex 2. Costs must be broken down and adequately justified for each point below. The list of and justification for the requested funds must correspond to the costs indicated in the *Cost breakdown* form.

a) Details on the applicant's research institution and – if applicable – of associated research partners

- Existing personnel (not financed by the FWF, usually the principal investigator and research personnel at the research institution(s))
- Existing infrastructure

(b) Information on the funding requested:

- Explain briefly why the personnel requested is needed for the project (number and type of requested position, job descriptions, extent of employment, and duration of involvement in the project)
- Explain briefly why the non-personnel costs requested are justified (equipment, materials, travel, and other costs). If funding for equipment is requested, applicants must explain why this does not constitute part of the basic equipment of the given research environment - see also [Section 2.3.2.](#)

Please list and provide justifications for the following:

Personnel costs:

Equipment costs:

Material costs:

Travel costs:

Other costs (including independent contractor agreements):

6.2 Appendix B: Notes and questions for reviewers of Elise Richter Projects¹¹

The FWF actively supports equal opportunities and equal treatment in all of its programs. The review of an application must not put applicants at a disadvantage for non-research-related reasons such as age, gender, etc. For example, instead of considering the applicant's actual age, the review process should focus on how the length of the individual's research career corresponds to their research achievements to date.

Our commitment to equal opportunities also means considering breaks or delays in applicants' research careers (e.g., due to parental leave; long-term or chronic illness; disability; caring responsibilities; etc.), which may have led to publication gaps, atypical career paths, or limited international research experience. Please also see our information for reviewers on [unconscious bias in the decision-making process](#).

Only the ten most important academic publications and the ten most important additional research achievements of the applicant are to be considered when evaluating the application. As a signatory to the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), the FWF also emphasizes that, in assessing research performance, reviewers should refrain from using journal-based metrics such as journal impact factors, Article Influence Scores, or the h-index.

Please review the current proposal¹² based on the following seven assessment criteria: 1) innovation and novelty, 2) quality of the proposed research, 3) approach and feasibility, 4) applicant's qualifications, 5) career development, 6) ethics, sex and gender, and 7) overall evaluation. For each of these criteria except 6) we ask you for both written comments and a rating on a scale from "outstanding" to "poor." Please be aware, however, that the FWF's funding decision will be based primarily on reviewers' written assessments rather than the ratings assigned.

Please keep in mind that sections 1 and 2 will be forwarded to the applicant in full and in anonymous form. If the proposal is approved, the research institution may have access to the anonymized reviews submitted to the applicant.

¹¹ Further information can be found on our website: [FWF's mission statement and values](#) and the [Application Guidelines for Elise Richter](#).

¹² The project proposal must meet the FWF's formal requirements. Please bear these in mind when writing your review. (Key formal requirements: 20 pages max. for the project description including figures and tables; 5 pages max. for the list of references; 3 pages max. for the academic CV, including a description of previous research achievements and the ten most important publications. For further details, please see the [Application Guidelines for Elise Richter](#).)

Section 1:

1. Innovation and novelty

Is the proposed research innovative? Does it make an original contribution to its field?

2. Quality of the proposed research

Are the research questions formulated clearly? Are they timely, challenging, and likely to lead to relevant insights?

3. Approach and feasibility

Is the research design well-conceived, clearly formulated, and suitable for answering the research question(s)? Is there a well-organized work plan? Have the methods been chosen well and does the proposal describe them in sufficient detail?

4. Research-related qualifications of the applicant

How well is the applicant qualified to carry out the proposed research? How would you assess the academic qualifications the applicant? In evaluating the applicant's qualifications, please consider her career stage, taking unorthodox career paths and circumstances that may have slowed down her progress (e.g., parental leave, long-term or chronic illness, disability, caregiving responsibilities) into account.

5. Career development

Is the project planned in such a way that the applicant will be qualified to apply for a professorial position in Austria or abroad upon completion of the project (objective of the funding program)?

5. Ethics, sex and gender

Ethics: Have ethical considerations been addressed satisfactorily?

Sex-specific and gender-related aspects: Applicants are required to address any relevant sex-specific and/or gender-related elements inherent in research questions and/or research design. Please assess whether the treatment of these components is adequate.

6. Overall evaluation

What is your overall impression of the proposal? Specifically, what would you consider its key strengths and weaknesses? Please give reasons for your answers, taking as much space as you need.

Section 2: Optional recommendations for the applicant

If you are in favor of the project being funded, you may want to add to the formal assessment in section 1 by making further and perhaps more informal comments or suggestions here. However, please note that these remarks, too, may also have an impact on the FWF's funding decision, especially if they amount to substantive criticism of the project.

Section 3: Confidential remarks to the FWF

Please use this space to make any comments that you do not want submitted to the applicant. Feel free to also give us feedback about the evaluation process and your interactions with us.