

Pursuant to its Funding Guidelines (as amended), the FWF has issued the following Nomination Guidelines for the

FWF Wittgenstein Award

Effective as of July 1, 2026

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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 Aims

The FWF Wittgenstein Award is Austria's most highly endowed research award. The aim of the Wittgenstein Award is to recognize excellent researchers who have already produced exceptional work and who occupy a prominent place in the international scientific community. The award guarantees researchers the maximum possible level of freedom and flexibility for their research, resulting in exceptional increases in productivity and scientific output. The substantial funding amount is intended to further enhance and expand the research opportunities available to the award winners and their teams, while also allowing them to employ highly qualified early-stage researchers. The program is aimed at researchers from all scientific disciplines; there are no quotas for individual research fields.

1.2 Who is eligible to nominate?

Candidates for the FWF Wittgenstein Award can be nominated by individuals in the following groups:

- Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Research at universities
- President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)
- President of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA)
- All previous FWF Wittgenstein Award winners

Please note that self-nominations are not permitted and that each individual eligible to submit nominations can name a maximum of one person for the FWF Wittgenstein Award per call.

1.3 Who can be nominated?

The following conditions and restrictions apply:

- All researchers who have not yet reached the age of 61 by the end of the nomination period (September 17, 2026), have been living in Austria for at least one year, and are permanently employed at an Austrian research institution are eligible for nomination.
- Nominated researchers must have made influential, internationally recognized contributions to the advancement of their field of research that have led to scientific progress in the field. They have published high-quality papers in renowned specialist publications (journals, publishers, etc.) and have an established network of collaborations with national and international researchers.

- Researchers who have been nominated for the FWF Wittgenstein Award for the last three calls in a row (2024, 2025, and 2026) can only be nominated again for an FWF Wittgenstein Award after a break of at least two years.
- Researchers who have already been awarded an FWF Wittgenstein Award cannot be nominated again.

1.4 What can the grant money be used for?

The following requirements apply:

- The grant money, amounting to a maximum of €2 million, can be used over a period of five years to carry out a research project and to cover project-specific costs, subject to the FWF's General Terms and Conditions. Project-specific costs include personnel and non-personnel costs that are necessary for conducting research work and that go beyond the resources provided by the infrastructure of the research institution. The funds are to be used exclusively for research work.
- The project financed with the grant money must be carried out at an Austrian research institution and under the auspices of an Austrian research institution.
- Use of the funds as personal remuneration for the award winner is not permitted.
- The award winner will continue to be eligible for all other FWF funding programs.

2 Form and content of the nomination

2.1 Submission

The information specified in [section 2.2](#) must be submitted to the FWF in **English** by email (office@fwf.ac.at), either as attachments or as a download link, by **September 17, 2026**.

The Wittgenstein Award nomination form (see [section 2.2](#)) must be confirmed with the qualified electronic signature (e.g., ID Austria) of the nominating person. If you do not have a qualified electronic signature, a hard-copy version of the Wittgenstein Award nomination form signed by the nominator must **also** be sent by post to the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna. Please note that a scanned version with a signature but without a qualified electronic signature is **not sufficient**.

2.2 Required documents

All documents must be written exclusively in 11 pt. font with 15–20 pt. spacing and at least 2 cm margins and using the document names specified below.

When preparing all documents for a nomination, please note that pursuant to the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), metrics such as journal impact factors, Article Influence Scores, or the h-index may not be included.

- ***fwf_wit_nomination_form.pdf***
Completed in full, with qualified electronic signature of the nominating person
- ***Nomination.pdf***
Nomination letter to be written by the nominating person (no more than 2 pages), clearly explaining why the nominee stands out in terms of academic excellence, international visibility, and subject-specific impact, making them particularly worthy of the 2027 FWF Wittgenstein Award.
- ***Statement_of_candidate.pdf***
Description of the nominee's academic achievements to date, including an outlook on any research work planned with the FWF Wittgenstein Award grant money
A maximum 5-page presentation (including any references) by the FWF Wittgenstein Award nominee, describing their previous academic achievements and contributions to the further development of their scientific discipline, including a brief overview of the research questions that could be investigated with the award funding (this section should be no more than *one* of the five total pages).
The following points must be addressed:
 - Presentation of previous research achievements and the particular significance of previous research results for the further development of the research field or beyond the nominee's own research field (e.g., for other research fields or beyond basic research)
 - Description of the nominee's position within the international scientific community as well as their most important national and international collaborations
 - Description of the nominee's own working group (if applicable) and its potential for development
 - Brief overview of the research questions that could be addressed if an FWF Wittgenstein Award is granted (this section should be no more than *one* of the five total pages). Note: If the award is granted, the award winner is free to amend the research questions.
- ***CV.pdf***
The nominee's academic CV (no more than 3 pages) with a publicly accessible link to a list of all the researcher's publications
- ***Selected_publications.pdf***
Separate list of the nominee's ten most important publications
- ***Publications.pdf***
List of all academic publications published by the nominee in the last five calendar years (categorized into "quality-assured publications" and "other publications")

3 Processing and decision on the nomination

All nominations are checked for completeness and any formal errors by the FWF Office.

Nominations that meet the academic and formal criteria will be sent out to international reviewers who have been selected by the respective decision-making bodies of the FWF. The FWF Scientific Board decides on an award winner once per year on the basis of recommendations issued by an international jury. The jury's recommendation is based on the results of the peer review. Nominators are notified of the decisions in writing.

Neither the nominator or the nominee are given access to the reviews obtained for the nominations.

At least three reviews are required for a positive decision.

4 Processing the funding

The project funded with the FWF Wittgenstein Award grant is administered by the research institution ([PROFI](#) mode) with the award winner as principal investigator.

5 Appendices to the Nomination Guidelines

5.1 Appendix A: Guidelines for reviewers (FWF Wittgenstein Award)

1. Quality of research to date and potential for future developments

- Significance of the candidate's area of research in the relevant international research community
- To what extent is/was the candidate's work innovative (groundbreaking)?
- Level of the candidate's integration in the international research community
- Rating of the candidate in comparison to their peers
- Assessment of the candidate's potential for future development should they receive the award

2. Quality of human resources

- Quality of the candidate's group (if applicable)
- Potential for future development of this group should the candidate receive the award (if applicable)

3. Additional aspects¹ (if applicable)

- Implications of research results for other branches of research
- Implications that go beyond basic research

4. Overall comparative evaluation of the candidate

- Would you recommend the candidate for a comparable award in your home country or another country, applying the criteria by which such a nomination would be assessed?

¹ Such aspects could include, for example: introduction of new methods or models in other research areas, inspiration for new research questions, influencing policy decisions, etc.

5.2 Appendix B: Checklist for submitting a nomination for the 2027 FWF Wittgenstein Award

- All documents listed below must be submitted to the FWF in **English** by email (office@fwf.ac.at), either as attachments or as a download link, by **September 17, 2026**.
- The Wittgenstein Award nomination form must be confirmed with the qualified electronic signature (e.g., ID Austria) of the nominating person. If you do not have a qualified electronic signature, a hard-copy version of the Wittgenstein Award nomination form signed by the nominator must **also** be sent by post to the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna. Please note that a scanned version with a signature but without a qualified electronic signature is **not sufficient**.
- **Components of a complete nomination (see [Section 2.2](#)):**
 - ***fwf_wit_nomination_form.pdf***: Form, completed in full, with qualified electronic signature of the nominating person
 - ***Nomination.pdf***: Nomination letter written by the nominating person (no more than 2 pages)
 - ***Statement_of_candidate.pdf***: Description of the nominee's academic achievements to date, including an outlook on any research work planned with the FWF Wittgenstein Award grant money (no more than 5 pages, including any references)
 - ***CV.pdf***: Academic CV of the nominee (no more than 3 pages)
 - ***Selected_publications.pdf***: Separate list of the nominee's ten most important publications
 - ***Publications.pdf***: List of publications published by the nominee in the last five years