

Information for applicants

# Austrian Science Fund (FWF) – National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)

2025 Call for Hungarian-Austrian Joint Projects

Vienna, January 2025

Discovering  
what  
matters.

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## 1 Introduction

A cooperation between the **Austrian Science Fund (FWF)** and the **National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)** of Hungary gives researchers the opportunity to apply for bilateral **Hungarian-Austrian** Joint Research Projects. Joint Research Projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners; therefore, the project parts should be **closely integrated** and there should be relevant **research input** from both sides.

## 2 Procedure

Project applications must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Hungarian and the Austrian partners and must be submitted to **both the FWF (Austrian team) and NKFIH (Hungarian team)** in accordance with **each agency's application guidelines**. Applications submitted by only one side will not be accepted. For this reason, it is important that both project partners make sure that their counterparts submit a matching application.

Applications will be processed independently by both organizations according to their **standard evaluation and decision-making procedures**. This means that each project is evaluated on both sides, and the Joint Research Project may be funded only if both the FWF and NKFIH approve the respective proposals.

### 2.1 Project Duration

Joint Projects submitted to FWF and NKFIH call can have a duration of **up to four years**. The **project duration must be identical** for the project parts in Austria and Hungary.

### 2.2 Thematic Scope

The call is open to **all areas of scientific research**, including [clinical research](#).

### 2.3 Deadlines

The deadline for submitting joint proposals to the FWF is **March 31, 2025, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**<sup>1</sup>. The time of submission is considered as the time at which the proposal is approved for submission by the lead research institution and submitted to the FWF's digital application portal [elane](#). Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that, in Hungary, the parallel application must be submitted to the NKFIH by the deadline indicated on the NKFIH website.

Note: for clinical research proposals, the Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission<sup>2</sup> or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission **within four months of submission** of the project proposal.

The call deadline<sup>3</sup> for submitting joint proposals to the NKFIH is expected to be on 31 March 2025. The submission link will be indicated on the NKFIH website once the call has been launched by the Hungarian agency.

Please note that project proposals **must be submitted to both agencies by the respective deadlines**. Any proposals submitted to only one agency will be rejected. Please also note that the acronym and project title provided to each agency must be the same.

## 2.4 Eligibility

The FWF-funded part of the project and all FWF applicants are required to meet the eligibility criteria specified in the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#). For clinical research proposals, the criteria of the [Clinical Research program \(KLP\)](#) apply.

All Austrian **research institutions**<sup>4</sup> are eligible to apply. Please note: Research institutions must be registered in the FWF's research portal. The proposed research must be carried out in Austria under the auspices of the Austrian lead research institution. Applications are submitted by the research institution where the project is to be carried out. The research institution appoints a principal investigator to carry out the project.

For the Hungarian part of the project, the NKFIH's eligibility requirements apply.

## 2.5 Cost calculation

The two project parts will be funded separately by the FWF and the NKFIH, respectively. Costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research, with the guidelines for the [program for Clinical Research \(KLP\)](#). For cost-related questions, we recommend consulting the scientific project officers in the FWF specialist departments prior to submission.

For the Hungarian project part, the NKFIH's cost guidelines apply.

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<sup>2</sup> For clinical trials pursuant to the Austrian Medicines Act (*Arzneimittelgesetz*, AMG), the [CTIS](#) "Notification of decision according to Article 8 (1) of REG (EU) 536/2014" does not have to be available at the time of submission. This can be submitted later, but must be handed in before the project starts. Fees incurred in this context can be charged to the project, but must already be specified and justified in the project application.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that, in Hungary, parallel applications must be submitted to NKFIH by the deadline indicated on the NKFIH website.

<sup>4</sup> Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal.

### 3 How to Submit a Proposal

To apply for a joint research project, applications to both the NKFIH and the FWF are required in accordance with each organization's own guidelines.

#### 3.1 Formal requirements at the FWF

The Austrian team must prepare their proposal pursuant to the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, those of the [Clinical Research program \(KLP\)](#), while Hungarian applicants must comply with NKFIH guidelines. Additionally, any application requirements as outlined in the respective call documents on both sides apply.

The Austrian proposal must describe the **entire Austrian-Hungarian project**, including a clear explanation of the connection between the two project parts and the resources to be deployed on each side. **The project description** (no more than 20 pages) submitted to the FWF must include additional information on:

- The **distribution of work** between the partners
- The **added value** of the international cooperation

In order to be considered complete, the Austrian application must include:

- All of the necessary **administrative and financial data and forms** as well as an **academic abstract in English; Annexes 1–3** and where applicable 4, which must be attached to the **project description (proposal.pdf)**; and other **attachments**, to be uploaded individually (in accordance with FWF guidelines)
- **Proof of publication output** of the FWF principal investigator (according to FWF guidelines, section 2.2.4 “Publication output”)
- The **CV and publication list of the principal investigators in Austria and in Hungary** must be included. In addition, up to three CVs/publication lists can be included (in accordance with FWF guidelines)
- Applications to the FWF must include a **letter of intent** (letter or email) confirming the project partner's intention to submit a matching parallel application to the NKFIH

#### 3.2 Submission to the FWF

Proposals **must** be submitted online using the [elane](#) digital application portal. When submitting your application, please choose the program category “**PIN– International Programs.**” The online submission must be completed **by March 31, 2025, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time).**

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 institution (= lead research institution).<sup>5</sup> 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](#).

In calls with fixed deadlines such as this one, applicants are given the opportunity to correct proposals that do not meet the FWF's formal requirements. Any necessary corrections must be made **within 10 days** of notification by the FWF Office. If the proposal still does not meet the FWF's requirements after the 10-day period, the FWF Executive Board can decide to reject the proposal without further review.

Please note that the FWF policy on the restriction of the number of ongoing projects and the submission of funding applications applies (see [here](#)).

### 3.3 Resubmitting a previously rejected application

Applicants whose proposals were rejected in the previous call with Hungary can resubmit their revised proposals to the FWF if they meet the necessary requirements. The proposal should be marked as a resubmission. Applicants can find detailed information on how to revise a rejected application in section 2.4 of the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, in section 2.4 of the [Clinical Research program \(KLP\)](#).

## 4 Evaluation and funding decision

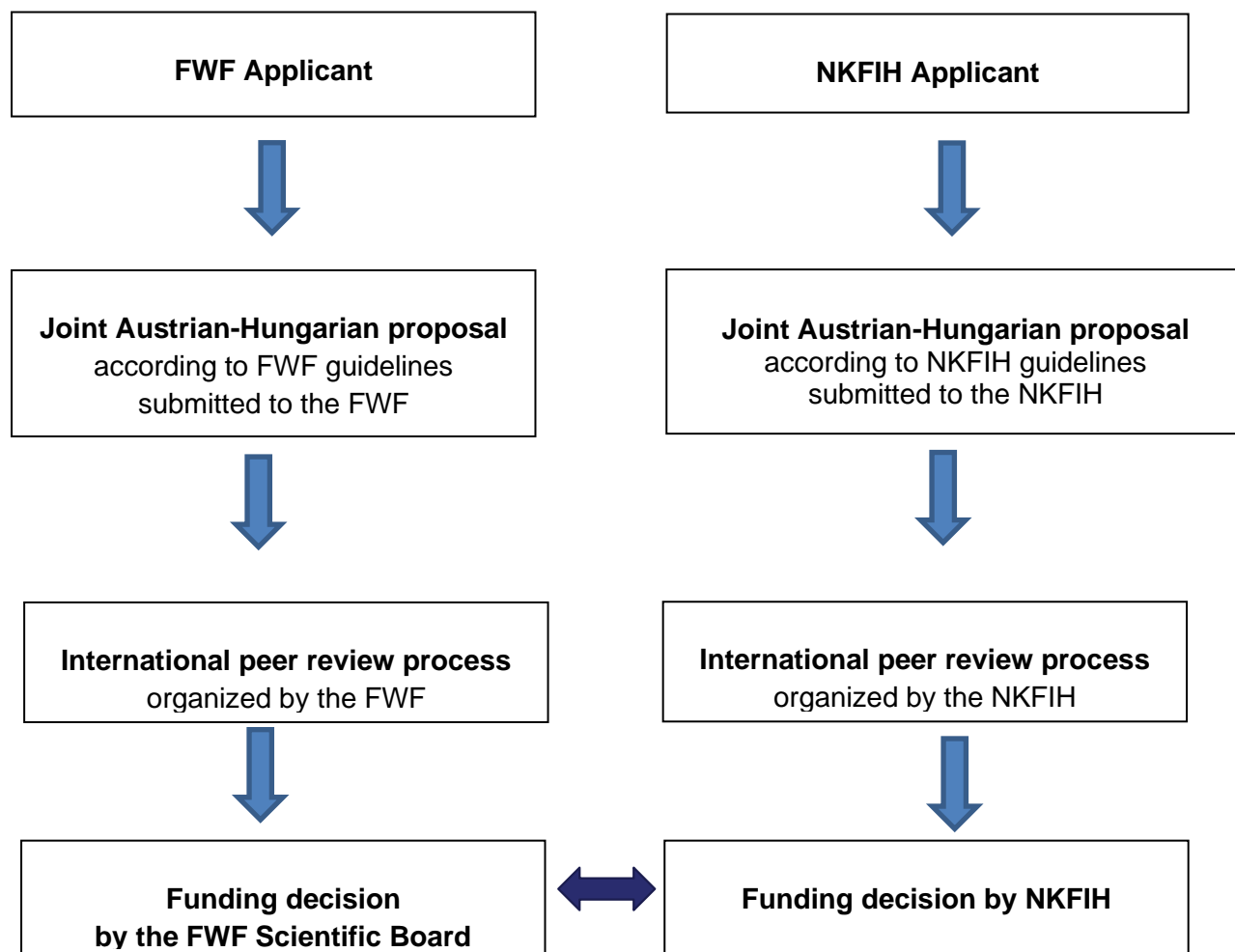
The FWF and NKFIH evaluate the applications independently and make their funding decisions separately on the basis of the reviews received. At the FWF, joint projects (program category: Principal Investigator Projects International) in cooperation with partner organizations abroad will be reviewed in competition with all other (national) proposals. A joint project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organizations.

Results are expected to be available by December 2025.

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<sup>5</sup> Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution.

## 5 Graphic summary



## 6 Contacts

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