

Information for applicants

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) – National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)

2026 Call for Austrian-Korean Joint Projects

Vienna, January 2026

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matters.

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1 Introduction

A cooperation between the **Austrian Science Fund (FWF)** and the **National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)** gives researchers the opportunity to apply for bilateral **Austrian-Korean Joint Projects**.

Joint Projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners, meaning that the project parts should be closely integrated and there should be relevant research input from both sides.

Funding for bilateral Austrian-Korean Projects must be secured in Austria and in Korea.

The funding amount on the Korean side is 100 million KRW per project, totaling 300 million KRW over 3 years. The funding amount on the Austrian side is approx. €100,000 per year, totaling approx. €300,000 over 3 years.

2 Call procedure

Project applications must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Korean and the Austrian partners and must be submitted to both the **FWF (Austrian team)** and the **NRF (Korean 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 Project may be funded only if both the FWF and NRF approve the respective proposals.

3 Eligible topics

Austrian-Korean principal investigators are invited to submit joint proposals in three thematic areas as described below:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Quantum research
- Biotechnology

4 Project duration

Joint Projects submitted to the FWF and NRF call may have a duration of **three years**. The proposed **project duration must be identical** for the project parts in Austria and Korea.

5 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](#) apply.

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

All **Austrian research institutions**¹ are eligible to apply. 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 Korean part of the project, the NRF eligibility requirements apply. The information is available on the [NRF website](#).

6 Cost calculation

Each agency provides funding for the costs incurred by its own country's team according to its own rules. This means that costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#). For clinical research proposals, the criteria of the [Clinical Research program](#) apply.

For cost-related questions, we recommend consulting the scientific project officers in the FWF specialist departments prior to submission.

For the Korean part of the project, the NRF's cost guidelines / [criteria for the use of National Research and Development Funds](#) apply.

¹ Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal.

7 Deadlines

Submissions on [elane](#) start on February 11, 2026. The deadline for submission of joint research proposals to the FWF is **March 26, 2026, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**. The time at which the proposal is approved for submission by the lead research institution and submitted using the FWF's digital application portal [elane](#) is documented as the time of submission. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

Note: for Clinical Research proposals, the Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission² or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission **within four months** of submission of the project proposal.

Please note that, in Korea, parallel applications must be submitted to the **NRF by March 26, 2026, at 6:00 pm (Seoul local time)**. Submission will start on February 11, 2026. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

8 How to prepare a proposal

To apply for a Joint Project, parallel applications to both NRF and the FWF are required in accordance with each organization's own guidelines.

The Austrian team must prepare their proposal in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, those of the [Clinical Research program](#), while for Korean applicants, the NRF guidelines apply. Any application requirements outlined in the respective call documents on both sides also apply.

The Austrian proposal must describe the **entire Austrian-Korean 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**; all required **annexes** with PDF bookmarks which must

² 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.

- 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 (in accordance with FWF guidelines, section 2.2.4 “Publication output”)
 - The **CV and publication list of the principal investigators in Austria and in Korea** must be included. Up to three additional CVs/publication lists can be included (in accordance with FWF guidelines).
 - Applications to the FWF must include a **letter of intent** confirming the project partner’s intention to submit a matching parallel application to the NRF. Austrian applicants should note that the NRF requires a letter **signed by both the Korean and the Austrian partners**. A template for this letter will be provided by the Korean partner and will be made available on each agency’s website. The letter can also serve as a confirmation of the project partners’ intention to prepare and submit a matching parallel application to the partner agency.

9 How to submit a proposal

Joint proposals with **identical titles** must be submitted to both the FWF and the NRF in compliance with all relevant regulations and before the national call deadline. Please note that the FWF applicant/principal investigator named in the application submitted to NRF must be identical with the person acting as the applicant to the FWF.

Applications to the FWF must be submitted online using the [elane](#) digital application portal starting on **11 February 2026**. When submitting your application, please choose the program category “**PIN – International Programs**.” The online submission must be completed by **March 26, 2026, 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).³ 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 rectify any issues with their applications if they do not meet the FWF’s formal requirements. Any necessary corrections must be made **within 10 working 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.

³ Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution.

For the Korean project part, the NRF guidelines apply. The regulations for the submission of Korean applications can be found [here](#).

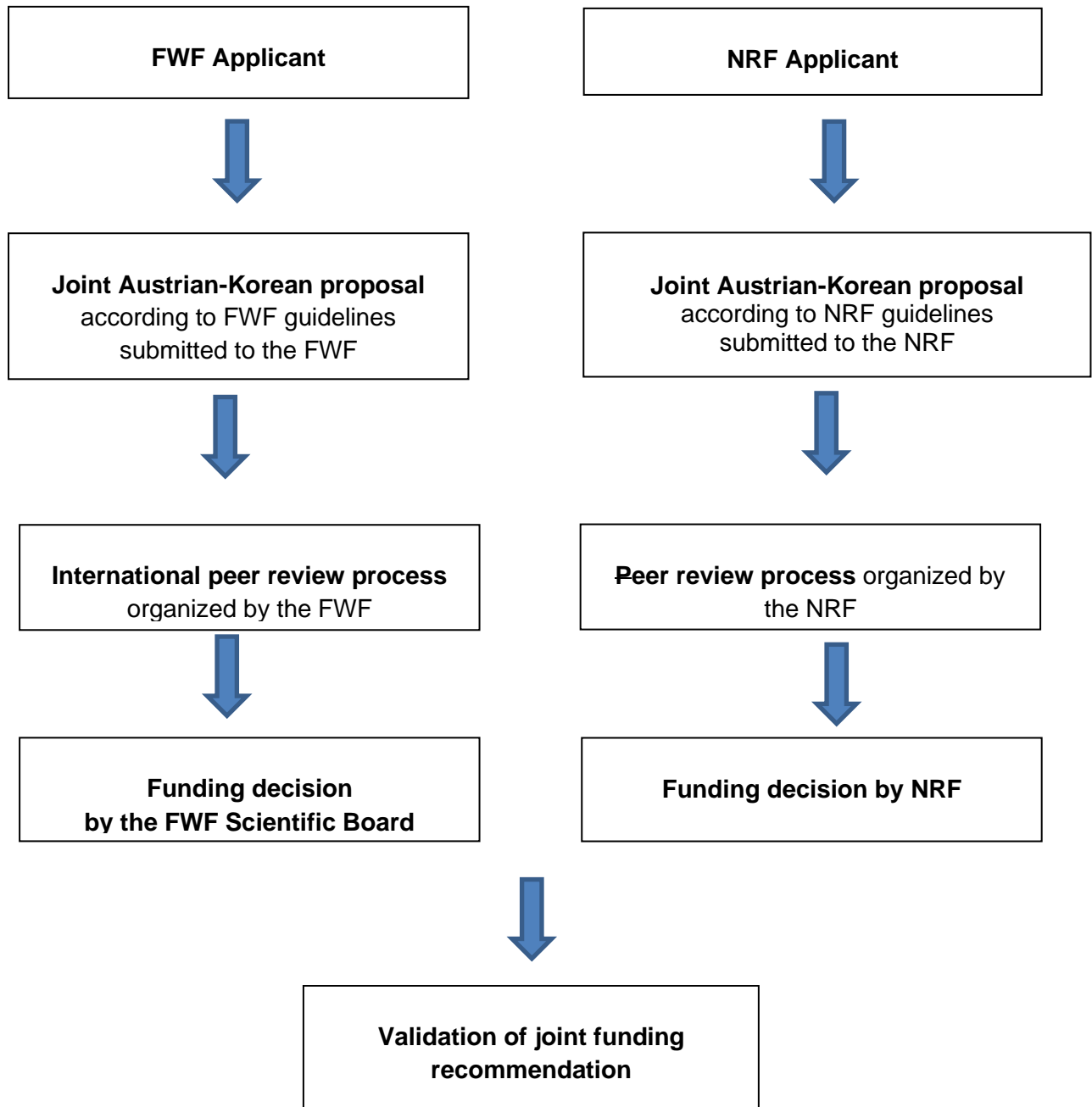
10 Evaluation and funding decision

The FWF and NRF 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.

After the parallel evaluation process, the NRF and the FWF will decide which and how many projects will be jointly funded. The two funding agencies plan to fund up to 5 Joint Projects.

Results are expected to be available **by October 2026**. Insofar as possible, the Korean and foreign partners' projects should start and finish on the same dates.

11 Graphic summary



12 Contacts

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