

Supplementary Application Guidelines for the subject-specific
funding program

WE&ME Award

June 26, 2025

Discovering
what
matters.

Contents

1	What Types of Projects Can be Funded?.....	3
2	Submission	3
3	Eligible Costs.....	4
4	Decisions	4
5	Call-Specific Details	4

1 What Types of Projects Can be Funded?

In cooperation with the [WE&ME Foundation](#) (founded in 2020 by the Ströck family), the FWF is inviting research proposals for the WE&ME Award. Projects should be dedicated to deciphering the pathomechanism and/or the effects and possible treatments of ME/CFS-PAIS with the cardinal symptom PEM (post-exertional malaise). The WE&ME Foundation is particularly interested in biomedical projects and studies. A prerequisite for studies is that patient cohorts fulfill the strict inclusion criteria according to the Canadian Consensus Criteria (CCC) and/or the International Consensus Criteria (ICC). The research must be relevant to the goal of improving and advancing these fields.

Eligible for funding are projects with concisely defined objectives and methodology, which are subject to duration and funding limits analogous to the provisions of the FWF's [Principal Investigator Projects](#) (PAT) or [Clinical Research](#) (KLP) programs.

2 Submission

The application guidelines and forms required for the Principal Investigator Projects (PAT) or Clinical Research (KLP) programs apply. The deadline for submission (i.e., approval of the application for submission by the research institution) is **October 9, 2025 (2:00 pm local time Vienna)**. 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 institution (= lead research institution).¹

Please note that for projects submitted to the Clinical Research program, proof of approval or confirmation of fundamental approval from the ethics committee responsible is required by April 1, 2026.

When applying, first select the appropriate program (PAT or KLP), then choose “WE&ME Award” from **the drop-down menu**. An additional program-specific form must also be filled out in elane. This form will help the FWF decide whether the Principal Investigator Project or Clinical Research project described in the application actually meets the thematic specification of the current call. If not, the applicant agrees that the application will be processed and decided upon like a regular proposal in the Principal Investigator Project or Clinical Research programs.

After the application has been submitted, changes/additions can only be made if specifically requested by the FWF. Changes must be made within the period indicated after receipt of notification (all requested changes are submitted online as supplementary applications).

¹ Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution if it has authorized the applicant to approve it themselves.

Applications received after the submission deadline will be processed according to the standard provisions of the Principal Investigator Projects or Clinical Research programs.

3 Eligible Costs

Depending on the proposed research, project-specific funds (personnel and non-personnel costs) can be applied for. The number of reviews required depends on the amount of funds requested.

4 Decisions

Funding decisions for the WE&ME Foundation are made by the Board of the Foundation within four weeks of the FWF Scientific Board's decision meeting in June 2026 and based on the Scientific Board's evaluation and recommendation.

The WE&ME Foundation is providing up to €450,000 in funding for this call. If the required funding amount for an eligible project exceeds the amount provided by the WE&ME Foundation, the FWF will cover the difference from its own budget.

Excellent reviewed proposals that cannot be funded through the WE&ME Foundation will be funded directly by the FWF according to the standard provisions of the Principal Investigator Projects program or the Clinical Research programs; the call-specific provision on general project costs (see [section 5](#) below) does not apply to these applications, however.

5 Call-Specific Details

For Principal Investigator Projects or Clinical Research projects funded by the WE&ME Foundation, the general project costs are increased to 10%.

Applications submitted for this call are not subject to the [application and project number limit](#).