

Supplementary Information on Submitting Applications for the  
Funding Initiative

# AI Mission Austria (AIM AT)

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## 1 Introduction

As a new key technology, artificial intelligence (AI) has enormous potential to significantly change the economy and society. In Austria, for example, AI could double overall economic growth by 2035, and turnover in the AI sector is expected to increase by up to 40% by 2027. To leverage this potential and create added value for Austria as a business and research location, the three research funding agencies [aws](#), [FFG](#), and FWF have launched a joint funding initiative called AI Mission Austria (AIM AT). Through comprehensive funding for basic research, applied research, and business applications, this initiative is making a valuable contribution to creating a sustainable ecosystem around the key technology of artificial intelligence. The initiative is being funded by the “Fonds Zukunft Österreich.”

## 2 Eligible projects

The main objective of this initiative is to fund excellent basic scientific research in the field of artificial intelligence and to contribute to positioning Austria as a recognised research and innovation location for AI. Funding may be requested for projects with clearly defined objectives and methods, specific limits in terms of duration, and a budget that complies with the requirements of the FWF programmes [Stand-Alone Projects](#) (PAT), [ESPRIT](#) (ESP), or [Programme for Arts-Based Research](#) (PEEK). More detailed information on submitting projects under FFG programmes as part of the AIM AT Funding Initiative can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Applications must address a topic related to the field of artificial intelligence research. The AIM AT funding initiative is interdisciplinary and aims to support basic research in technology and computer sciences, projects in the biomedical, natural, social, and cultural sciences and the humanities, as well as arts-based research. Research questions can address the following topics, for example:

- Machine learning, symbolic and logic-based AI, symbolic methods, autonomous systems
- AI in climate research, biochemistry, or the medical field
- Highly complex social and ethical aspects of AI as well as the socio-economic and socio-cultural effects of the use of AI
- Explorations of AI in arts-based research

## 3 Applying for funding

Application requirements are analogous to the FWF programmes [Stand-Alone Projects](#) (PAT), [ESPRIT](#) (ESP), or [Programme for Arts-Based Research](#) (PEEK). The advancement of women and junior researchers is a high priority for the FWF, and these groups are strongly encouraged to apply for funding under the relevant funding instruments.

Applications may only be submitted online using the FWF's electronic application portal ([elane](#)). Please note that PEEK proposals are submitted “ad personam,” while PAT and ESP proposals are submitted by the research institution (PROFI). This must be taken into account when submitting an application via elane. When creating an application, applicants must first select the appropriate funding category (PAT, ESP, or PEEK) and then select “AI Mission Austria” from the drop-down menu.

At the end of the online application process for PEEK, a cover sheet is generated which must be sent to the FWF with the relevant signatures and stamps by postal mail or with a qualified electronic signature (for example, cell phone signature) by email ([office@fwf.ac.at](mailto:office@fwf.ac.at)). When submitting PAT or ESP online, the application must be approved by your research institution in [elane](#). The application will not be accepted until this approval has been granted.

Once the application has been received, applicants may only make changes or provide additional information if requested to do so by the FWF; any such changes or additional information must be submitted within a prescribed period of time after notification by the FWF.

In addition to the documents required for submission in the selected programme, the relevance of the submitted proposal to the topic of the call must be detailed in an additional form in elane. On the basis of this programme-specific form, the FWF will decide whether the submitted project actually meets the thematic requirements of the current call. If this is not the case, the applicant agrees that their proposal shall be processed and decided upon as a regular application according to the standard procedure.

## 4 Deadline

In the programme categories **PAT** and **ESP**, applications will be accepted online via the electronic application portal [elane](#) starting on **3 November 2022**.

In the **PEEK** programme category, applications will be accepted online via the electronic application portal [elane](#) starting on **1 March 2023**.

Funding will be awarded on an ongoing basis from the start of the application period until the available funds have been exhausted. Once this dedicated funding has been used up, any further applications will be processed and decided upon like regular proposals in the appropriate programme category.

## 5 Decision-making process

The <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-the-fwf/organisation/board> makes all final decisions on the awarding of grants, based on the results of an international peer review process. The Fonds Zukunft Österreich has provided funding worth a total of €1.9 million for the call