



Austrian Science Fund (FWF) /  
Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)

# PERMANENT CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

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## 1. Introduction

Since 2008, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) have offered researchers the opportunity to apply for bilateral Russian-Austrian joint projects.

## 2. Call procedure

Applications are handled according to the **classic procedure**, meaning that proposals must be submitted **in parallel** to the FWF (Austrian team) and to the RFBR (Russian team). In cases where a joint project is approved, the two parts of the project are funded separately by the FWF and RFBR.

### 3. Deadline

Proposals are accepted continuously (there are no application deadlines) but must be submitted at the same time to FWF and RFBR with due attention to the requirements on both sides.

### 4. Joint projects

FWF/RFBR joint projects are basic research projects (including clinical research) in which scholars from Austria and Russia cooperate in pursuing a common research goal. The projects should **combine the complementary expertise** of the project partners, and the project parts should be so **closely integrated** that one part could not be carried out without the other. In addition, both research teams are expected to make **substantial scholarly contribution to the project**.

### 5. Project duration

Joint projects submitted in response to the FWF/RFBR permanent call are limited to a maximum duration of 4 years.

### 6. Subject areas

The call is open to all fields of basic research (including clinical research<sup>1</sup>).

### 7. Cost calculations

The budgets for the Austrian and Russian parts of the project must be calculated in line with FWF and RFBR guidelines, respectively. The costs for the Austrian part of the project are to be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#), or, in case of clinical research, the [FWF Application Guidelines for Clinical Research](#). Only project-specific costs up to a maximum of € 400,000 (including general costs) can be requested from the FWF. Up to 2,500,000 Russian rubles per year can be requested from the RFBR.

### 8. How to apply

The titles of the two applications must be **identical**. Proposals submitted to FWF must follow the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, the

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<sup>1</sup> For the distinction between basic research and clinical research (KLIF programme) please see <http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/programme-clinical-research-klif/>

[FWF Application Guidelines for Clinical Research](#), while Russian applicants must follow RFBR guidelines. The Austrian proposal must be submitted in the funding category “**I – International Projects**” and describe the **entire Austrian-Russian project**. The application must include **a presentation of each project partner** explaining their special contributions to the project and their competencies. Proposals submitted to FWF must include **additional information** on:

- The **added value** of the co-operation
- The **distribution of work** between the Austrian and the Russian project part as well as the resources to be contributed by the partners

Applicants to the FWF should also refer to the [Information Sheet for Joint Projects / Joint Seminars](#) for further details.

In order to be considered complete, applications for joint research projects must include the following parts:

- FWF application forms for international cooperation projects (application form, *Programme-specific data* form, *Co-authors* form and *Cost breakdown* sheet; other forms as required, e.g., for scientific equipment).
- **Abstracts** (in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, the [FWF Application Guidelines for Clinical Research](#))
- **Free-form application** (in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, the [FWF Application Guidelines for Clinical Research](#), comprising:
  - Project description (no more than 20 pages)
  - Literature cited in the application and index of abbreviations (no more than five pages)
  - Academic CVs (no more than three pages per person) of the project participants (project leader on the Austrian side and research staff, where already known; project leader on Russian side)
  - A list of academic publications (especially those relevant to the project) in the last 5 years (no more than 5 pages) for each researcher on the project team
  - A separate list of the 10 most important academic publications in each researcher's entire career to date
  - Domestic and international cooperation arrangements essential to the project can be evidenced by means of collaboration letters (no more than three). Any such letters are to be inserted at the end of the proposal file.

For proposals in the area of clinical research, the Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission. The document must be sent to FWF together with the other submission documents. The Russian partner must follow the rules of RFBR.

Finally, the application must include a letter of intent (letter, fax or email) in which the project partner confirms his/her intention to submit a matching parallel application to the RFBR.

The RFBR documentation for the call can be downloaded [here](#).

## 9. Submission of applications

The submission must be made online at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

When submitting the application, applicants must choose the programme “**I – International Projects**”. The cover sheet generated at the end of the online submission process must be printed out, **signed and sent to the FWF by conventional mail** (Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna, Austria). Alternatively, the signed/stamped cover sheet can be scanned in, signed using the applicant's qualified electronic signature and sent to the FWF by e-mail ([office@fwf.ac.at](mailto:office@fwf.ac.at)). An online submission without a signed cover sheet will not be eligible for review. Please note that the cover sheet must bear the original signatures of the applicant and a representative of the host institution.

For further details on how to submit a proposal, please consult the FWF application guidelines mentioned above.

## 10. Evaluation and funding decisions

The FWF and RFBR evaluate the applications independently and take their funding decisions separately on the basis of the reviews received. A joint project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organisations.

## 11. Contact details

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)
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