

FAQs: Multiple participation, COE & overlaps to ongoing projects

1. Multiple participation

When is a faculty member who is involved in two ongoing *doc.funds* projects eligible to participate in a new application?

Researchers can participate as a faculty member in no more than two ongoing *doc.funds* projects. If a researcher is already involved as a faculty member in two ongoing *doc.funds* projects, they cannot participate in any additional applications.

Faculty members involved in two ongoing *doc.funds* projects can participate in a new *doc.funds* application no earlier than 12 months before the end of one of the ongoing projects.

2. *doc.funds* & *doc.funds.connect* and Clusters of Excellence

Multiple participation in Clusters of Excellence (COE) and Doctoral Programmes (DK), *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect*

The coordinator of an ongoing DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect* project cannot simultaneously be the coordinator of a Cluster of Excellence.

If a researcher in a COE is intended to be the Director of Research (DOR), this person cannot serve as the coordinator of a *doc.funds* or *doc.funds.connect* application or an ongoing DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect* project.

Other members of a COE (key researchers, associate researchers, or BOD members that are not DORs) can be the coordinator of a *doc.funds* or *doc.funds.connect* application or an ongoing DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect* project.

All researchers mentioned in the COE can be ordinary faculty members in a *doc.funds* or *doc.funds.connect* application or an ongoing DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect* project.

Thematic differentiation and structures

It is possible to build on existing doctoral programmes or add to or expand existing structures. However, the same research work cannot be planned or carried out in the respective projects. It therefore follows that dissertation projects that are intended for funding in one of the programmes (COE, DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect*) or are currently being carried out in ongoing projects of these programmes may not be funded in one of the other

funding programmes (COE, DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect*) nor be planned in an application either.

Evaluation

Applications under the *doc.funds*, *doc.funds.connect*, and COE programmes are evaluated independently of each other.

After approval

In the case of receiving funding, it must be ensured that the doctoral candidates are treated equally in the above-mentioned programmes. Doctoral candidates funded through a DK, *doc.funds*, or *doc.funds.connect* project may not receive funding as doctoral candidates in the Training Unit of a Cluster. For the purposes of monitoring, the FWF will request an annual list of all doctoral candidates including abstracts for the three funding programmes in order to exclude any double funding.

3. Overlaps to ongoing *doc.funds* projects and follow-up applications

Can a follow-up application be submitted for an ongoing *doc.funds* project?

No. Applications planned as the follow-up project to an ongoing *doc.funds* project (follow-up applications) are not permitted during the duration of the *doc.funds* project. The earliest they can be submitted is after the end of the ongoing *doc.funds* project.

What needs to be considered in terms of differentiation to ongoing *doc.funds* projects?

Applications that are thematically close to ongoing *doc.funds* projects must fulfill both the requirements defined in the application guidelines as well as those listed below:

- 1) Research programme: Research questions / work must be planned and carried out that clearly differ from those of the ongoing *doc.funds* project.
- 2) Doctoral programme: The doctoral programme on which the application is based may not be the same one as the still ongoing *doc.funds* project.
- 3) Faculty: The majority (at least 50%) of the faculty are not the same as the faculty members of the ongoing *doc.funds* project. If the total number of faculty is increased compared to the ongoing *doc.funds* project, reasons must be given for this expansion.

The difference between the projects must be explained in the application in a clear and understandable manner. Even if only one of the above-mentioned requirements are not fulfilled, or there are reasonable doubts, the application can be rejected without review.