FWF Information Day

1,000 Ideas Programme

25.11.2019
Agenda

- Objectives of the programme
- Who is eligible to apply?
- What types of funding can be requested?
- Format of the research proposal
- Forms and annexes
- Rejection without review
- Submission process
- Decision making process
- Recommendations
Objectives of the programme

- Promotion of radically new and risky as well as particularly original research ideas that are beyond the current scientific understanding.
- Research ideas or research hypothesis should have a high potential to transform a field of research and/or to fundamentally question established paradigms in science and research.
- Provision of seed funding for research ideas not yet supported by existing funding programmes. The exploratory phase is expected to provide initial evidence of the feasibility of the idea and the underlying research hypothesis.
- By designing a double-blind selection procedure, the FWF aims to identify projects worthy of funding exclusively on the basis of the project idea and the conclusive description of their realisation.
Who is eligible to apply?

- All Austrian research institutions are eligible to apply. There is no limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by a research institution.

- The principal investigator (PI) must be employed at least 50% time at an Austrian research institute for the duration of the project.

- Only one project proposal per principal investigator. Application does not interfere with limit on the number of FWF projects.

- The principal investigator must show that he/she possesses the basic (arts-based) research qualifications by means of publication record:
  - At least two publications, peer-reviewed and internationally visible with a substantial and independent contribution on the part of the principal investigator => programme-specific form
What types of funding can be requested?

- Project-specific costs are eligible for funding
  - Minimum of €50,000,- and maximum of €150,000,-
  - Duration: 6 months to maximum 24 months
- Personnel costs
  - Personnel costs of the principal investigator (max. 50 %)
  - Post-docs or senior post-docs (up 100 %)
  - No doctoral candidates
- Other costs
  - Equipment costs
  - Material costs
  - Travel costs
  - Cooperation arrangements
  - Other eligible costs
- General project costs => 5 %
Format of the research proposal

Anonymity – no identification of

- principal investigator’s identity - incl. cooperation partners,
- career stage(s),
- name of research institute(s)

Research proposal

- 3 pages research approach: presentation of the scientific foundation as well as the innovative aspects of the idea; emphasis on the highly risky or original approach and the transformative potential.
- 2 pages project implementation: methodological approach and implementation plan for verifying the hypotheses and/or working on the research questions.
- 1 page risk assessment about the critical points; short description of what could be learned in case of failure.
- 1 page references: Self-citation possible to a small extent
Contents of the project description

- **Research approach (3 p.)**
  
  All of the following items must be addressed:
  - Arts-based research or scientific/scholarly foundation,
  - Originality and/or risk involved,
  - Novelty and (especially) innovative elements,
  - Transformative potential (related to the research area / field).
  - All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects as well as sex-specific and gender-related aspects must be described briefly.

- **Project implementation (2 p.)**
  
  The following items must all be explicitly addressed:
  - Description of the methodological approach for verifying the hypotheses or working on the research questions,
  - Coherent plan for implementation adjusted to the planned duration of the project.

- **Risk assessment (1 p.)**
  
  To be addressed
  - Risk assessment,
  - Learning potential in the case of failure.

- **References (1 p.)**
Required parts of the application

Files:
- Proposal.pdf (project description with sections 1-4 in one file)
- Cost_justification.pdf
- CV.pdf

Forms:
- Academic abstract
- Application form
- Cost breakdown
- Co-authors
- Programme specific data form: Proof of academic qualifications

Optional file uploads:
- Cover_Letter.pdf (= Letter accompanying the application)
- Quotes_equipment.pdf
- Quotes_other_costs.pdf
- Ph.D_certificate.pdf and third-party_confirmation.pdf
- Arts-based_research.pdf
Application check at FWF

Formal check, main aspects

- Scientific qualification form
- 50% employment contract of the PI - confirmation by research institution
- all parts of the project description, cost justification and CV available; page numbers total and adhered to in the different parts, proper headings, etc.

- **No subsequent submissions - only corrections in specific forms**

Check for completeness

Examination of all project applications with regard to addressing

1. transformative potential, originality and/or high risk, novelty and innovative aspects, scientific basis
2. feasibility and implementation plan, methodology
3. risk assessment, learning potential in the event of failure
Rejection without review

All applications that deviate from the specified form requirements/formats, e.g.
- page numbers (total & in the subsections)
- font sizes & line spacing
- character limit for abstract
- required parts of the application etc.

and other requirements
- minimum requirement for publication performance
- anonymity
- structure or sections of the project description
- specifications for headings and content points to be addressed
- cost justification etc.

are subject to rejection without review with no exception.
Submission process

- Applications must be submitted exclusively online via the ELANE electronic application portal.
- Principal investigator & research institute must be registered in the electronic application portal.
- PI: choose PROFI first, subsequently 1000-Ideas programme; select respective research institution as soon as possible; documents to be uploaded as pdfs.
- Principal investigator creates and uploads files – no cover sheet required as in ad personam programmes.
- Responsible person at research institute submits application by 15 January 2020 (2 p.m. Vienna local time).
1000-Ideas decision-making process

Applications (submitted by research institution)

Scientific/administrative officers
- Formal check and content review

Reporters and alternates
- Pre-evaluation of anonymous applications
- Rating & Ranking along the total number of points

International Jury (15-16 members)
- Evaluation of anonymous applications
- Rating & Ranking along the total number of points

Jury Session
- Discussion of the best-ranked proposals
- Definition cut-off line
- Identification of max. 30 applications worthy of funding (ranking + random)

FWF Board
- Rejection/ Approval

Rejection (Executive Board)
Evaluation criteria

Criterion 1 (50% of the total score): Transformative potential of the research idea

- Assess the extent to which the underlying research idea has the potential to fundamentally challenge a research domain, an established notion of research, or the accepted status quo or cause an unexpectedly big leap in the current research domain. Consideration should also be given to whether the scientific/scholarly foundation of the research idea has been described in sufficient detail.

Criterion 2 (30% of the total score): Feasibility of the proposed research approach

- Indicate the extent to which the application has a complete and coherent methodological approach as well as implementation plan for verifying the hypotheses and/or working on the research questions.

Criterion 3 (20% of the total score): Coherence and strength of the overall research proposal

- Indicate the extent to which the project proposal displays a high degree of coherence between its three parts and stands out not only due to its content, but also its convincing manner of presentation. Assess also whether the risks associated with the project and the possible learnings in the case of failure have been addressed adequately.
Selection for funding

Selection Part 1: Jury (ranking incl. wildcard)
- Selection of the (max.) 15 best applications from the pool worthy of funding according to ranking
- In addition, each member has a wildcard to enforce one selected application against the opinion of the jury.
- Total number remains at max. 15 projects

Selection Part 2: FWF Board (random draw from pre-selected pool)
- From remaining pool worthy of funding, a further max. 15 applications will be drawn at random.

⇒ 15 applications from jury recommendation plus 15 applications from random selection

⇒ KS Session June 2020: Confirmation of max. 30 funded applications
Rejections

- No written comments will be sent to the rejected applicants.
- All non-funded applications in the pool worthy of funding can be submitted again in the next call (rejected with C1 status).
- All other applications will be set to C5, i.e. cannot be submitted in the next round.
Recommendations for applicants

- Register at Elane and ensure *your* research institution is registered
- Connect to your research institution early enough if you suspect difficulties with your 50% employment confirmation
- The research institution is doing the submission - finish your application part early enough to give the institution sufficient time to check your application

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NEUES ENTDECKEN
TALENTE FÖRDERN
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