

Wittgenstein Award

Differences from the General Principles of Decision-making Procedures

Introductory remarks: all decisions relating to the Wittgenstein Award are taken by an International Jury. Decisions are based on written reviews (exclusively from international experts).

Nomination of candidates:

The following persons are entitled to nominate candidates for the Wittgenstein Award: University Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Research, the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the President of the IST Austria and all previous Wittgenstein prizewinners. Once a year, before the deadline for nominations, these people may propose leading researchers in Austria for consideration for the Award. Nominations must be in accordance with the current version of the "Guidelines for nominations for the Wittgenstein Award".

Nominations are received by the FWF Secretariat and are checked for completeness and for conformance to the guidelines. Project numbers are assigned to them and the nominators receive confirmations of receipt of their nominations.

The FWF's Board (comprised of FWF Reporters) assigns a reporter to each nomination. Two co-Reporters are also assigned to each Wittgenstein nomination. In addition, each nomination is also assigned to two members of the International START/Wittgenstein Jury, generally those whose expertise is most closely related to the candidate's field.

The guidelines for handling conflicts of interest, as set out in the "General Principles of Decision-making Procedures", apply equally to the Members of the International Jury.

Initiation of international review:

Fundamentally as described in "General principles of the decision-making procedure".

In each case, the International Jury will decide whether a nomination should be sent for review. Following receipt of the nominations, the Jury also proposes referees based on suggestions from the reporter or the alternate.

Wittgenstein nominations may be rejected without review for formal reasons. Such decisions are taken by the FWF's Board following discussions with the International Jury. Nominations may also be rejected without review if the candidates do not meet the required standard. Such decisions may only be taken by the members of the International Jury assigned to the particular nomination.

Minimum number of reviews:

For a positive decision on a particular application a minimum of 4 reviews are required. If it is clear from the reviews that the decision will be negative, a decision may be based on fewer reviews.

Structure of a review:

Reviews comprise written statements. Referees are requested to address particular questions.

Funding decisions:

Decisions on the award of a Wittgenstein Prize are taken by the International Jury in its annual meeting, which generally lasts for two days.

The International Jury reaches its final decisions in a closed session, i.e. in the absence of the FWF Board. Decisions are taken after discussions on the merits of the various nominations and are generally unanimous.

After public announcement of the results (generally within a week of the Jury meeting), the decisions are formally prepared by the FWF Secretariat and communicated to the prizewinner and to the person who nominated him/her. No excerpts from reviews are sent and the standardized justifications for a rejection, which are stated in the “General Principles of the decision making procedure”, are not applied to this programme.

The FWF Secretariat supports the reporters and the International Jury in their work.