

Information for applicants

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) – Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

2024 Call for Austrian-Japanese Joint Research Projects

Vienna, June 3, 2024

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Contents

1 Introduction and objectives	3
2 Call procedure	3
2.1 Project duration	3
2.2 Subject areas	3
2.3 Deadlines	4
2.4 Eligibility	4
2.5 Cost calculation	4
3 Preparing the application	5
4 Submitting the application	5
4.1 Resubmissions	6
5 Evaluation and funding decision	6
6 Contact details	7

1 Introduction and objectives

A cooperation between the *Austrian Science Fund* (FWF) and the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science* (JSPS) gives researchers the opportunity to apply for bilateral **Austrian-Japanese Joint Research Projects**.

The aim is to fund high-quality, collaborative research projects that clearly stand out from ongoing national projects, create strong synergies between each country's teams, and promote the integration of joint research. Each side is expected to make a substantial scientific/scholarly contribution to the research. Applicants should also explain the **added value** of the cooperation, i.e., the special benefit resulting from the cooperation between the Austrian and Japanese groups.

Funding for bilateral **Austrian-Japanese Joint Research Projects** must be secured in Austria and in Japan.

2 Call procedure

Project applications must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Japanese and the Austrian partners and must be submitted to both the FWF (for the Austrian team) and to JSPS (for the Japanese team) in accordance with **each agency's application guidelines**. Applications submitted by only one side will not be accepted. For this reason, it is important that both project partners make sure that their counterparts submit a matching application.

Applications will be processed independently by both organizations according to their **standard evaluation and decision-making procedures**. This means that each project is evaluated on both sides, and the Joint Research Project may be funded only if both the FWF and JSPS approve the respective proposals.

2.1 Project duration

At the FWF, joint research projects submitted to this call may have a duration of **up to three years**. Please note that the JSPS provides funding only for a **maximum of two years**. Applicants to the FWF can apply for a third year, provided that the application includes adequate research-related reasons for the extension and a justification of the costs for the third year.

2.2 Subject areas

The call is open to all fields of basic research, including [clinical research](#).

2.3 Deadlines

The deadline for submission of joint research proposals to the FWF is **August 21, 2024, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**.¹ The time of submission is considered as the time at which the proposal is approved and submitted by the lead research institution via the FWF's digital application portal [elane](#). Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

Note: for clinical research proposals, the Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission² or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission **within four months** of submission of the project proposal.

2.4 Eligibility

The FWF-funded part of the project and all FWF applicants are required to meet the eligibility criteria specified in the FWF [Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#). For clinical research proposals, the criteria of the [Clinical Research program](#) apply.

Please note that the FWF policy on the restriction on the number of ongoing projects and the submission of funding applications applies (see [here](#)).

All **Austrian research institutions** are eligible to apply. Please note: Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal. The proposed research must be carried out in Austria under the auspices of the Austrian lead research institution. Applications are submitted by the research institution where the project is to be carried out. The research institution appoints a principal investigator to carry out the project.

For the Japanese part of the project, the JSPS eligibility requirements apply.

2.5 Cost calculation

Each agency provides funding for the costs incurred by its own country's team according to its own rules. This means that costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#). For clinical research proposals, the criteria of the [Clinical Research program](#) apply. For cost-related questions, we recommend consulting the scientific project officers in the FWF specialist departments prior to submission.

For the Japanese part of the project, the JSPS's cost guidelines apply.

¹ Please note that, in Japan, parallel applications must be submitted to JSPS by 3 September 2024 at 5:00 pm (JST).

² For clinical trials pursuant to the Austrian Medicines Act (*Arzneimittelgesetz*, AMG), the [CTIS](#) "Notification of decision according to Article 8 (1) of REG (EU) 536/2014" does not have to be available at the time of submission. This can be submitted later, but must be handed in before the project starts. Fees incurred in this context can be charged to the project, but must already be specified and justified in the project application.

3 Preparing the application

To apply for a joint research project, parallel applications to both JSPS and the FWF are required in accordance with each organization's own guidelines.

The Austrian team must prepare their proposal in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, those of the [Clinical Research Program](#), while Japanese applicants must comply with JSPS guidelines. Additionally, application requirements as outlined in the respective call documents on both sides have to be considered.

The Austrian proposal must describe the **entire Austrian-Japanese project**, including a clear explanation of the connection between the two project parts and the resources to be deployed on each side. The **project description** (no more than 20 pages) submitted to the FWF must include additional information on:

- The **distribution of work** between the partners
- The **added value** of the international cooperation

In order to be considered complete, the Austrian application must include:

- All of the necessary **administrative and financial data and forms** as well as an **academic abstract in English; annexes 1–3**, and where applicable 4, which must be attached to the **project description (proposal.pdf)**; and other **attachments**, to be uploaded individually (in accordance with FWF guidelines)
- The **CV and publication list of the principal investigators in Austria and in Japan** must be included. In addition, up to three CVs/publication lists can be included (in accordance with FWF guidelines).
- Applications to the FWF must include a **letter of intent** (letter or email) in which the project partner confirms their intention to submit a matching parallel application to the JSPS.

4 Submitting the application

Joint proposals with **identical titles** must be submitted to both the FWF and the JSPS in compliance with all relevant regulations and before the call deadline.

Applications to the FWF must be submitted online using the [elane](#) digital application portal. When submitting your application, please choose the program category "**PIN – International Programs**". The online submission must be completed by **August 21, 2024, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**.

Project funding is administered through the research institutions ([PROFI](#)); this means the application must be approved for submission by both the applicant and the respective research institution (= lead research institution).³ All forms required for the application must be completed online; other required documents such as the project description incl. annexes and any additional documents must be uploaded in full before the application can be approved for submission by the research institution. For additional information, please see the [elane user manual](#).

In calls with fixed deadlines such as this one, applicants are given the opportunity to rectify any issues with their applications if they do not meet the FWF's formal requirements. Any necessary corrections must be made within 10 working days of notification by the FWF Office. If the proposal still does not meet the FWF's requirements after the 10-day period, the FWF Executive Board can decide to reject the proposal without further review.

For the Japanese project part, the JSPS guidelines apply. The regulations for the submission of Japanese applications can be found [here](#).

4.1 Resubmissions

Applicants whose proposals were rejected in the previous call with Japan can resubmit their revised proposals to the FWF if they meet the necessary requirements. The proposal should be marked as a resubmission. Applicants can find detailed information on how to revise a rejected application in section 2.4 of the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research, in section 2.4 of the [Clinical Research program](#).

5 Evaluation and funding decision

The FWF and JSPS evaluate the applications independently and make their funding decisions separately on the basis of the reviews received. At the FWF, joint projects (program category: [Principal Investigator Projects International](#)) in cooperation with partner organizations abroad will be reviewed in competition with all other (national) proposals. A joint research project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organizations. Results are expected to be available **by March 2025**.

³ Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution.

6 Contact details

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