

Information for applicants

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) – National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

2024 Call for Austrian-Taiwanese Joint Research Projects

Vienna, November, 2024

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what
matters.

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1 Introduction

A cooperation between the **Austrian Science Fund (FWF)** and the **National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)** gives researchers the opportunity to apply for bilateral **Austrian-Taiwanese** Joint Research Projects.

Joint Research Projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners; therefore, the project parts should be **closely integrated** and there should be relevant **research input** from both sides.

2 Procedure

Project applications must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Taiwanese and the Austrian partners and must be submitted to both the **FWF (Austrian team)** and the **NSTC (Taiwanese 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 NSTC approve the respective proposals.

3 Thematic Scope

The call is open to **all areas of scientific research**, including clinical research.

4 Project Duration

Joint Projects submitted to FWF and NSTC call can have a duration of **up to four years**. The **project duration must be identical** for the project parts in Austria and Taiwan.

5 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 \(KLP\)](#) apply.

For the Taiwanese part of the project, the NSTC eligibility requirements apply.

6 Cost Calculation

The two project parts will be **funded separately by the FWF and the NSTC**, respectively.

Costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research, with the guidelines for the [Clinical Research](#) program.

For cost-related questions, we recommend consulting the scientific project officers in the FWF specialist departments prior to submission.

For the Taiwanese part of the project, the NSTC's cost guidelines apply.

7 Deadlines

The deadline for submission of joint research proposals to the FWF is **January 22, 2025, 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**.¹ The time of submission is considered as the time at which the proposal is approved for submission by the lead research institution and submitted to 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.

¹ Please note that, in Taiwan, the parallel application must be submitted to the NSTC by January 22, 2025, 5:00 pm (Taipei local time).

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.

8 How to Prepare a Proposal

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

The Austrian team must prepare their proposal pursuant to the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, for clinical research, those of the [Clinical Research program](#), while Taiwanese applicants must comply with NSTC guidelines. Additionally, any application requirements as outlined in the respective call documents on both sides apply.

The Austrian proposal must describe the **entire Austrian-Taiwanese 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 to the FWF 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)
- **Proof of publication output** of the FWF principal investigator (according to FWF guidelines, section 2.2.4 “Publication output”)
- The **CV and publication list of the principal investigators in Austria and in Taiwan** 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 NSTC.

9 How to Submit a Proposal

Joint proposals with **identical titles** must be submitted to both the FWF and the NSTC in compliance with all relevant regulations and before the national 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 **January 22, 2025, 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.

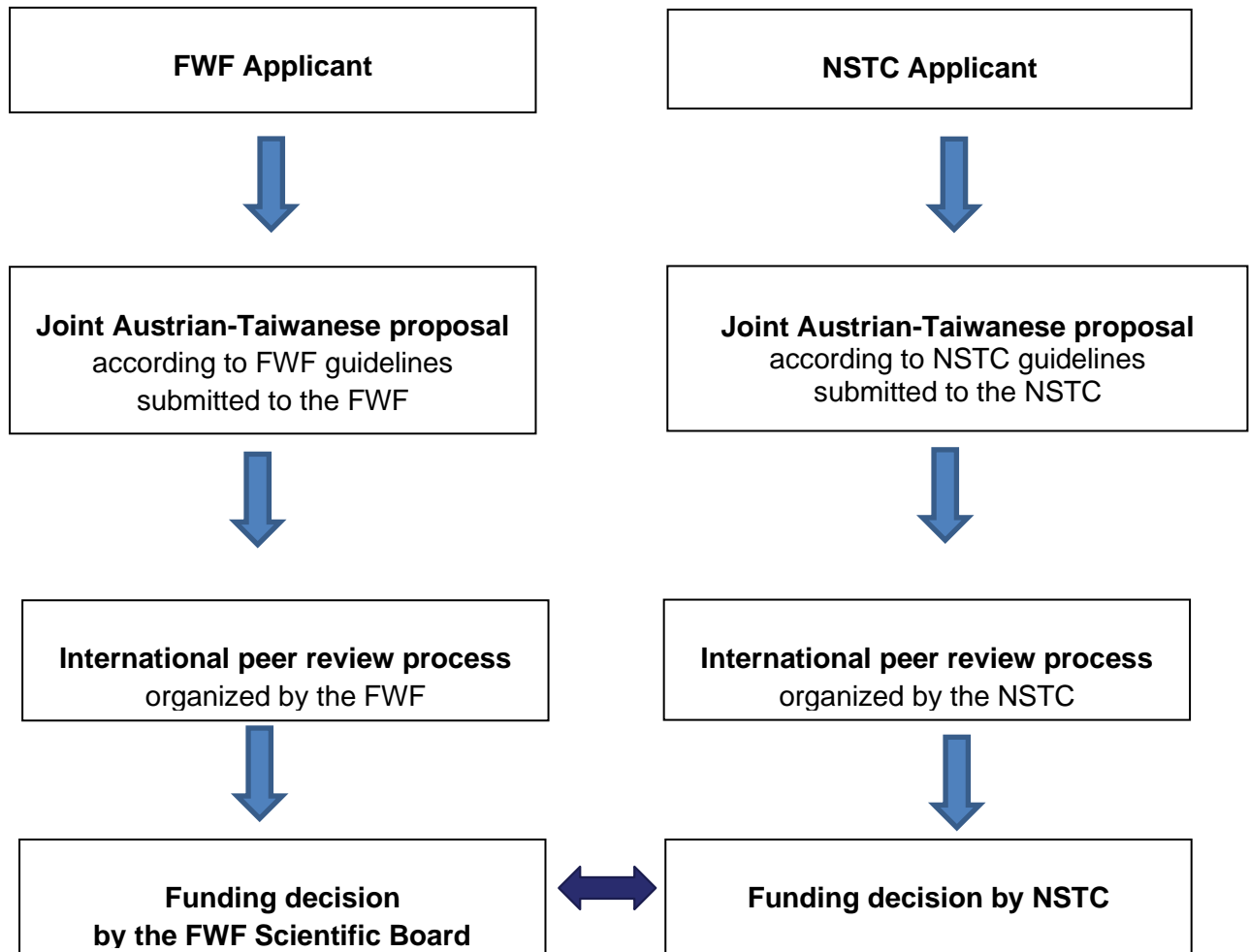
For the Taiwanese project part, the NSTC guidelines apply. The regulations for the submission of Taiwanese applications (in Chinese) can be found [here](#).

10 Evaluation and Funding Decision

The FWF and the NSTC will 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 **by October 2025**. Insofar as possible, the Taiwanese and Austrian partners' projects should start and finish on the same dates.

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

11 Graphic Summary



12 Contacts

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