



Austrian Science Fund (FWF) – Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

The First Austrian-Israeli Scientific Research Programme *2019 Call for Joint Research Projects*

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1. Introduction

Within the framework of the **Austrian-Israeli scientific cooperation** and on the basis of the cooperation agreement signed in 2018, the *Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel (MOST)* and the *Austrian Science Fund (FWF)* are glad to **jointly announce their first call for proposals for bilateral Austrian-Israeli Joint Research Projects**.

Joint Research Projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners. The project parts should be **closely integrated** such that one part could not be carried out without the other, and there should be balanced scientific/scholarly input from both sides.

2. Eligible topics

FWF and MOST are providing financial support for joint research projects carried out by researchers from both countries. Austrian-Israeli principal investigators are invited to submit joint research proposals **in two thematic areas** as described below.

2.1. Genetics' and Epigenetics' Contribution to Human Health

Genetics and epigenetics contribute fundamentally to gene function in living systems. The paradigm that genetic and epigenetic alterations are two separate mechanisms has now been revised by insights into their mutual dependence. Both genetic and epigenetic elements ultimately determine normal and abnormal gene expression. This joint call for proposals focuses on the relationship between genetics and epigenetics in human health and disease.

2.2. Heritage Science—Cultural and Natural Heritage

Heritage science is a vibrant inter- and transdisciplinary field, straddling the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences. Broadly conceived, it deals with the world's natural and cultural heritage, and explores a wide range of issues including biodiversity and geodiversity as well as tangible and intangible aspects of history, heritage and culture. This joint call for proposals focuses on research in those areas, including research with practical contributions to society, theory-building, and methods development.

3. Call procedure

The proposal must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the Austrian project partners and must be submitted **in parallel to FWF (Austrian team) and to MOST (Israeli team) in accordance with each agency's application guidelines**.



Applications will be **processed independently** by **both organisations according to their standard evaluation and decision-making procedures.**

On the Austrian side, the evaluation will be carried out according to the evaluation criteria of the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research proposals, those of the [Clinical Research Programme \(KLIF\)](#) (see Appendix II “Notes and questions for reviewers”), focusing on scientific quality and including the international cooperation arrangement(s) and the complementarity and integration of the contributions by the Austrian and Israeli project partners. The evaluation on the Israeli side includes application relevance as an additional criterion. It should be noted that only projects ranked highly by both FWF and MOST can be funded.

3.1. Project duration

Joint projects submitted in response to this call may have a duration of **three years**. The proposed project duration must be identical for both project parts.

3.2. Cost calculations/Eligibility

The budgets for the Austrian and Israeli project parts must be calculated in line with FWF and MOST guidelines, and the two parts will be funded separately by FWF and MOST, respectively. Thus, the costs for the Austrian part must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research proposals, those of the [Clinical Research Programme \(KLIF\)](#). Only project-specific costs (including general costs) can be requested from FWF. Austrian applicants must meet the FWF eligibility criteria as stated in the above-mentioned guidelines.

For the Israeli project part, the MOST cost guidelines and eligibility criteria apply (see [here](#)).

3.3. Deadline

Proposals must be submitted concurrently to FWF and MOST no later than **31 July 2019 (FWF: date of postmark)** with due attention to the requirements of both partners.

Note: for proposals to FWF which fall into the category of clinical research, an approval from the relevant ethics commission or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission is required at least by 1 December 2019.

4. How to prepare a proposal

4.1. Requirements at MOST

At MOST, applications for joint projects must be prepared and submitted in English using the appropriate “**Application and Research Grant**” form, which is obtainable at the MOST website (www.most.gov.il). The form must be **signed by the Israeli and Austrian principal investigator** including **institutional authorisation**.

For further information, please refer to the MOST Call for Proposals document (see [here](#)).

4.2. Requirements at FWF

At FWF, applications for joint projects as part of international research funding programmes must follow the guidelines for [Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research proposals, those of the [Clinical Research Programme](#) (KLIF). Additionally, application requirements as outlined in this call document have to be considered.

The Austrian proposal must describe **the entire Austrian-Israeli project** in which the connection between the two project parts and the **resources to be deployed on each side should be clearly described**.

The **project description** (no more than 20 pages) submitted to FWF must include additional information on:

- A brief description of the **project partner** abroad along with an indication of their specific contribution to the project and/or relevant skills
- The **distribution of work** between the partners, as well as the **resources** to be contributed by the partners
- The **added value** of the cooperation

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

- All of the necessary **administrative and financial data and forms** as well as an **abstract, annexes and attachments** according to FWF guidelines
- An academic **curriculum vitae (CV)** and **publication list**, prepared according to FWF guidelines, for the project team members in Austria and the project partner in Israel
- A **letter of intent** (letter or e-mail) in which the project partner in Israel confirms his/her intention to submit a matching parallel application to MOST



5. How to submit a proposal

Joint proposals must be submitted in parallel to FWF and MOST with due attention to the call deadline and the regulations of each partner. Applications submitted by one side only will not be accepted.

5.1. Requirements at MOST

Please refer to the MOST Call for Proposals. The MOST regulations for the submission of applications can be found [here](#).

5.2. Requirements at FWF

Applications to FWF must be submitted online at <http://elane.fwf.ac.at> **by 31 July 2019 at the latest**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

To submit the application online, applicants are required to register at the address shown above. All the necessary forms must be filled out online; additional documents such as the project description can be uploaded. For additional information, see the “Quick reference” guide at <http://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

When submitting the application, applicants must choose the “**I – International Projects**” programme.

Once the application has been submitted, a [PDF cover sheet](#) will be generated. **This cover sheet must be signed by hand and stamped by the responsible representative of the applicant’s research institute before being sent to the FWF by conventional mail by 31 July 2019 at the latest**. The application shall not be considered officially submitted until the FWF receives the signed and stamped cover sheet. Alternatively, the signed and stamped cover sheet can be scanned in, signed using the applicant's qualified electronic signature (e.g., mobile phone signature) and sent to FWF by e-mail (office@fwf.ac.at) **by 31 July 2019 at the latest**. Please note that a scanned, signed and stamped cover sheet is invalid if it does not have a qualified electronic signature.

Please note that the FWF policy on the restriction on the number of ongoing projects and the submission of funding applications applies (see [here](#)). After submission, applicants to FWF are required to rectify any errors in their applications within 10 days after being notified of the errors by the FWF office.

For further details on how to submit a proposal, please consult the FWF application guidelines.

6. Evaluation and funding decisions

FWF and MOST evaluate the applications independently on the basis of their evaluation criteria and take their preliminary funding decisions on the basis of the reviews received.

After the parallel evaluation process, the proposals will be discussed for final ranking by a joint Austrian-Israeli committee. MOST and FWF will decide which and how many projects will be jointly funded.

It is the intention of the parties to support up to 6 joint projects.

It is important to note that at FWF, joint projects in co-operation with partner organisations abroad will be reviewed in competition with all other (national) proposals. A joint project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organisations.

It is expected that the results of this call will be available by March 2020.

7. Contact details

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