

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)– Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) *2021 Call for Austrian-Taiwanese Joint Projects and Joint Seminars*

Table of contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Call procedure	2
3. Joint Research Projects.....	2
3.1. Project duration	2
3.2. Subject areas	3
3.3. Deadline	3
3.4. Cost calculations	3
3.5. Proposals preparation	3
3.6. Submission of applications	4
3.7. Evaluation and funding decisions	5
4. Joint seminars	5
4.1. Project duration	5
4.2. Subject areas	5
4.3. Deadline	5
4.4. Cost calculations	5
4.5. Proposals preparation	6
4.6. Submission of applications	6
4.7. Evaluation and funding decisions	6
5. Additional information	6
6. Contact details.....	7

1. Introduction

The *Austrian Science Fund* (FWF) and the *Ministry of Science and Technology* of Taiwan (MOST) jointly offer the possibility to apply for bilateral **Austrian-Taiwanese Joint Research Projects and Joint Seminars**.

Joint Research Projects enable the funding of closely integrated bilateral research projects for which funding must be secured in Austria and in Taiwan. The aim of **Joint Seminars** is to fund theme-based workshops or seminars for the purpose of initiating bilateral research co-operations and preparing proposals for joint projects.

2. Call procedure

Project applications must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Taiwanese and the Austrian partners and must be simultaneously submitted to **FWF (Austrian team)** and to **MOST (Taiwanese 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.

Applications to FWF must include **a letter of intent** (letter or e-mail) in which the project partner confirms his/her intention to submit a matching parallel application to MOST.

3. Joint Research Projects

Joint Research Projects are cooperation arrangements in which researchers from two countries work together on a single research project. The project parts in Austria and Taiwan should be **closely integrated and combine complementary expertise** such that one part could not be carried out without the other, and there should be substantial scientific/scholarly contribution from both sides.

3.1. Project duration

Joint projects submitted in response to the FWF/MOST call are limited to **a maximum duration of 4 years**. The proposed project duration of both project parts must be identical.

3.2. Subject areas

The call is open to all fields of basic research, including clinical research¹.

3.3. Deadline

Proposals for joint projects must be submitted to FWF and MOST by **8 April 2021 (FWF: date of postmark)**.

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

3.4. Cost calculations

The two project parts will be funded separately by MOST and FWF respectively. Thus, the costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research proposals, those of the [clinical research programme](#). Only project-specific costs (including general costs) can be requested from FWF. The costs for the Taiwanese part are to be calculated in accordance with the MOST guidelines of Add-on Grant for Bilateral Cooperation.

3.5. Proposals preparation

To apply for a joint project, parallel applications to MOST and FWF are required in accordance with the guidelines specified by MOST and FWF.

Proposals submitted to FWF should follow the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research proposals, those of the [clinical research programme](#), while Taiwanese applicants must follow MOST guidelines.

The Austrian proposal must describe the **entire Austrian-Taiwanese 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:

- The **distribution of work** between the partners

¹ For the distinction between basic research and clinical research (KLIF programme), please see <http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/programme-clinical-research-klif/>

- 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 **academic abstract in English; annexes 1 – 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 applicant in Taiwan** (in accordance with FWF guidelines)
- The **PDF cover sheet**, which has to be filled out, signed, stamped, and sent to FWF by conventional mail or as an e-mail attachment (PDF file with a qualified electronic signature). The application is not officially considered to be submitted until FWF receives the cover sheet.

For further details on how to prepare the proposal, please consult the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#).

The MOST documentation for the call can be downloaded [here](#).

3.6. Submission of applications

Joint proposals with **identical titles** must be submitted in parallel to FWF and MOST with due attention to the regulations and the call deadline. Applications submitted by one side only will not be accepted. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

Applications to FWF must be submitted online at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at> **by 8 April 2021 at the latest**. When submitting the application, applicants must choose the “**I – International Projects**” programme.

Please note that the [signed PDF cover sheet](#) which is generated **at the end** of the online submission process must be **submitted to FWF by 8 April 2021 at the latest** (see also Section 2.2.3. of the [FWF Application Guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects](#)). An online submission submitted by the deadline but without a signed cover sheet will not be processed. Please note that the cover sheet must bear the original signatures of the applicant and a representative of the host institution.

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

The application of the Taiwanese part must be submitted online through the Add-on Grant for Bilateral Cooperation in the Academic Research Service Portal. The MOST announcement and relevant regulations for the submission of the Taiwanese applications can be found [here](#).

3.7. Evaluation and funding decisions

FWF and MOST evaluate the applications independently and take their funding decisions separately on the basis of the reviews received. A joint project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organisations. It is expected that the results for the Joint Projects will be available **by November 2021**.

4. Joint seminars

FWF/MOST joint seminars are workshops/seminars that focus on specific, well-defined topics for the purpose of initiating bilateral cooperation projects and preparing applications for joint projects.

4.1. Project duration

Joint seminars submitted in response to the FWF/MOST call are limited in duration from 2 to 4 days. The seminars must take place between **1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022**.

4.2. Subject areas

The call is open to all fields of basic research.

4.3. Deadline

Proposals for joint seminars must be submitted to FWF and MOST by no later than **8 April 2021 (FWF: date of postmark)** with due attention to the requirements of both partners. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

4.4. Cost calculations

The budgets for the Austrian and Taiwanese parts of the project must be calculated in accordance with FWF and MOST guidelines respectively. The costs eligible for funding are divided between FWF and MOST on the basis of the **event's location**. The "sending organisation" pays the **international travel costs** for its country's group members, while the "host organisation" covers **local expenses**, including the guests' hotel costs. FWF generally provides up to **€10,000** in funding for each joint seminar approved. For the Taiwanese project part, MOST generally provides up to **NT\$400,000** for each joint seminar approved following MOST cost guidelines.

4.5. Proposals preparation

Proposals for joint seminars must be submitted to MOST (Taiwanese team) and FWF (Austrian team) using the forms required by each funding organisation. **The titles of the two applications must be identical.** Applicants to FWF should refer to the [Application Guidelines for Joint Seminars](#) for details. Applicants in Taiwan should refer to the guidelines on the MOST side.

4.6. Submission of applications

Applications to FWF must be submitted online at <http://elane.fwf.ac.at> by **8 April 2021**. When submitting the application, applicants must choose the “**AJS – Joint Seminars**” programme. Applicants must adhere to the requirements for the submission of joint seminar proposals of the [FWF Application Guidelines for Joint Seminars](#). 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 including attachments can be uploaded. For additional information, see the “Quick reference” guide at <http://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

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 FWF by conventional mail **by 8 April 2021 at the latest**. The application shall not be considered officially submitted until 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 signature² (e.g., mobile phone signature), and sent to FWF (office@fwf.ac.at) by e-mail by **8 April 2021 at the latest**.

4.7. Evaluation and funding decisions

FWF and MOST evaluate the applications independently and take their funding decisions separately on the basis of the reviews received. A joint seminar can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organisations. The processing time of an application for Joint Seminars is at most six months.

5. Additional information

In calls with fixed deadlines such as this one, applicants are given the opportunity to correct proposals that do not meet the FWF’s formal requirements. Any necessary corrections must be made within 10 days of notification by the FWF Office. If the proposal still does not meet

² For example, <https://www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at/web/digitales-osterreich/die-burgerkarte>

the FWF's requirements after the 10-day period, the FWF Executive Board can decide to reject the proposal without further review.

Applicants to FWF should also refer to the [Information Sheet on Joint Projects/Joint Seminars](#) for further information.

6. Contact details

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