

Information for applicants

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

2025 Call for Austrian-Taiwanese Joint Projects

Vienna, November 2025

Discovering  
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 Projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners; meaning that the project parts should be closely integrated and there should be relevant research input from both sides.

Funding for bilateral Austrian-Taiwanese Joint Projects must be secured in Austria and in Taiwan.

## 2 Call 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 Subject areas

The call is open to **all areas of scientific research**, including [clinical research](#).

## 4 Project duration

Joint Projects submitted to the 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](#) 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**<sup>1</sup> 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 Taiwanese part of the project, the NSTC eligibility requirements apply.

## 6 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 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, 2026, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**.<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that, in Taiwan, parallel applications must be submitted to NSTC by January 22, 2026, at 5:00 pm (Taipei local time).

Note: for clinical research proposals, the Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission<sup>3</sup> or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission **within four months** of submission of the project proposal.

## 8 How to prepare a proposal

To apply for a Joint Project, parallel applications to both NSTC 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 Taiwanese applicants must comply with NSTC guidelines. Any application requirements outlined in the respective call documents on both sides also 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 must include:

- All of the necessary **administrative and financial data and forms** as well as an **academic abstract in English**; all required **annexes** with PDF bookmarks 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. Up to three additional CVs/publication lists can be included (in accordance with FWF guidelines).
- Applications to the FWF must include a **letter of intent** (letter or email) confirming the project partner's intention to submit a matching parallel application to the NSTC.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

## 9 Submitting 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. Please note that the FWF applicant/principal investigator named in the application submitted to NSTC must be identical with the person acting as the applicant to the FWF.

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, 2026, 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).<sup>4</sup> 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 can be found [here](#) (in Chinese).

## 10 Resubmissions

Applicants whose proposals were rejected in the previous call with Taiwan 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 “Resubmitting a previously rejected application” of the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research, in section 2.4 “Resubmitting a previously rejected application” of the [Clinical Research program](#).

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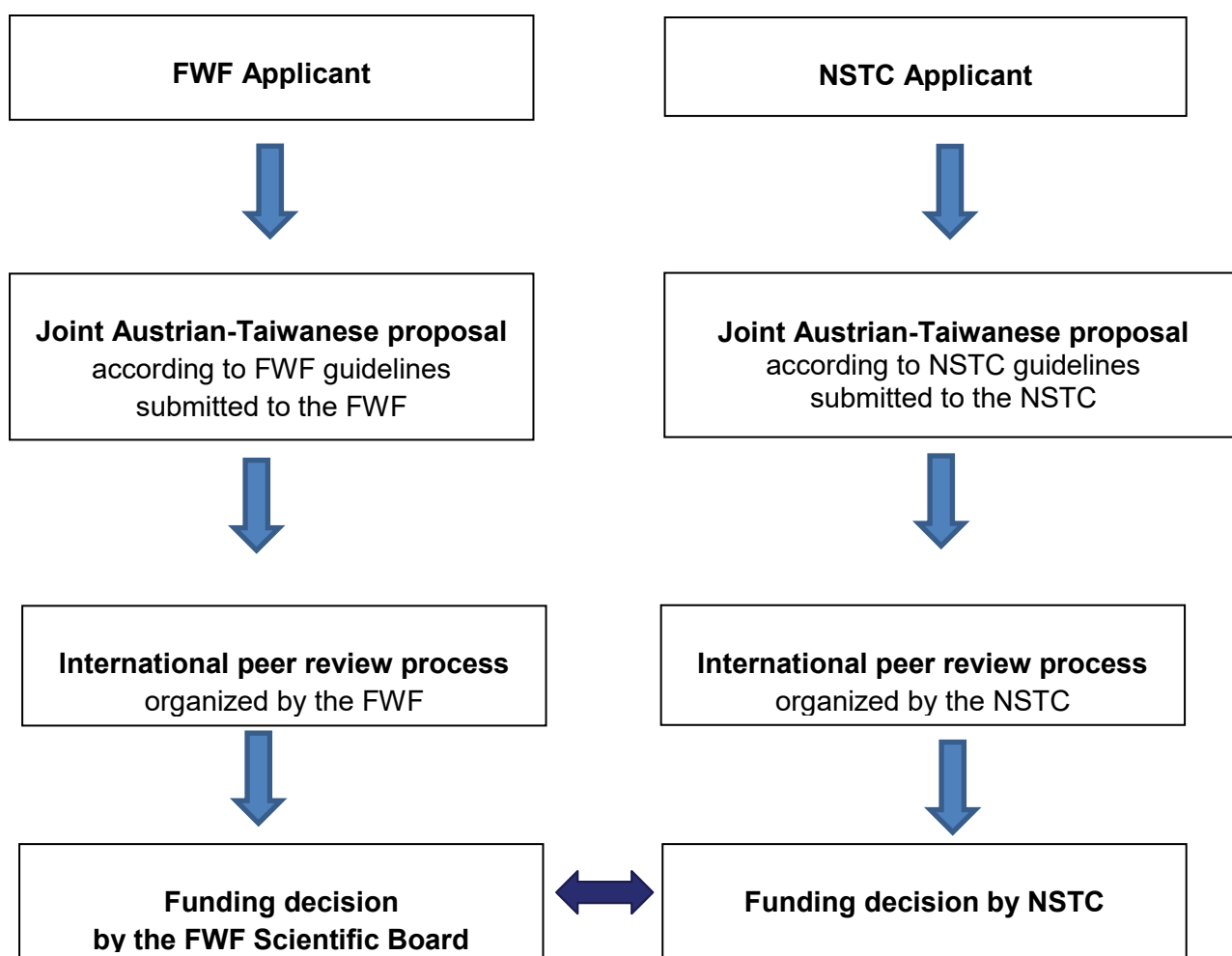
<sup>4</sup> Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution.

## 10 Evaluation and funding decision

The FWF and NSTC 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 Project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organizations.

Results are expected **by October 2026**. Insofar as possible, the Taiwanese and foreign partners' projects should start and finish on the same dates.

## 11 Graphic summary



## 12 Contacts

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