

Information for applicants

# FWF-JSPS

2023 Call for Austrian-Japanese

Joint Research Projects and Joint Seminars

June, 2023

Discovering  
what  
matters.

**Important information:**

*Please note that proposals for bilateral Austrian-Japanese Joint Research Projects have to be submitted in the PROFI<sup>1</sup> funding mode.*

*Proposals for bilateral Austrian-Japanese Joint Seminars can continue to be submitted in the ad-personam<sup>2</sup> funding mode.*

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<sup>1</sup> For programs in the PROFI mode, the application is submitted to FWF through the applicant's research institution.

<sup>2</sup> For programs in ad personam mode, the application is submitted by the researcher; if the application is approved for funding, the grant agreement is concluded directly with the researcher.

## 1 Introduction and aim of the program

The *Austrian Science Fund (FWF)* and the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)* are now inviting applications for bilateral **Austrian-Japanese Joint Research Projects and Joint Seminars**.

The aim of **Joint Research Projects** is to fund high-quality, bilateral 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.

The aim of **Joint Seminars** is to fund theme-based workshops or seminars for the purpose of initiating bilateral research collaborations and preparing proposals for joint research projects.

Funding for bilateral Austrian-Japanese Joint Research Projects and Joint Seminars 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 both to the **FWF (Austrian team)** and to **JSPS (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 or Joint Seminar may be funded only if both the FWF and JSPS approve the respective proposals.

## 3 Joint Research Projects

Joint Research Projects are cooperation arrangements in which researchers from two countries work together on a single research project. The parts of the project conducted in Austria and Japan should be **closely integrated and combine complementary expertise**, such that one part could not be carried out without the other. 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.

### 3.1 Project duration

At the FWF, joint research projects submitted in response 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.

### 3.2 Subject areas

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

### 3.3 Deadlines

The deadline for submission of joint research proposals is **August 29, 2023 at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**.<sup>3</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.

Note: for clinical research proposals, the Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission<sup>4</sup> or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission **within four months** of submission of the project proposal.

### 3.4 Who is eligible to apply?

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 \(KLIF\)](#) apply.

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.

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that, in Japan, parallel applications must be submitted to JSPS by September 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm (JST).

<sup>4</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.

### 3.5 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 \(KLIF\)](#) apply.

### 3.6 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.

Proposals submitted to the FWF should comply with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#) or, in case of clinical research proposals, those of the [Clinical Research Program \(KLIF\)](#), 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 1–4**, 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 applicants 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.

### 3.7 Submitting the application

Joint research 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.

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

Applications must be submitted to the FWF on the electronic application portal [elane](#) by **August 29, 2023 at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**. When submitting the application, please select the program category **“PIN – International Projects.”**

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>5</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](#).

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

### 3.8 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. A joint research project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organizations. It is expected that the results for the Joint Research Projects will be available by **March 2024**.

## 4 Joint seminars

FWF/JSPS 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 research projects.

### 4.1 Project duration

Joint Seminars submitted in response to the FWF/JSPS call are limited in duration to no more than 1 week. The seminars must take place between **April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025**.

### 4.2 Subject areas

The call is open to all fields of basic research.

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<sup>5</sup> Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution.

### 4.3 Deadlines

Proposals for Joint Seminars must be submitted to the FWF by **August 29, 2023**.<sup>6</sup> (FWF: date of postmark). Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

### 4.4 Who is eligible to apply?

The FWF-funded part of the Joint Seminar and all FWF applicants are required to meet the eligibility criteria specified in the [Application Guidelines for Joint Seminars](#).

Eligible to apply are researchers working in Austria who possess excellent research qualifications, sufficient time resources, and have access to the infrastructure necessary to carry out the proposed research. No specific academic title is needed, nor is Austrian citizenship required; however, the project must be carried out in Austria or under the auspices of an Austrian research institution at which the principal investigator works. Applications for Joint Seminars may only be submitted by an individual natural person; institutions or companies may not apply.

The Austrian applicant must have led at least **one FWF-funded project** in the **10 years prior to submitting the application**; the program is also open to researchers who have received grants under FWF fellowship programs and to DK faculty members who have been evaluated by the FWF. The FWF will fund no more than 2 Joint Seminars per applicant within a period of 5 years.

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

### 4.5 Cost calculation

The budgets for the Austrian and Japanese parts of the project must be calculated in accordance with the FWF and JSPS guidelines, respectively.

The costs eligible for funding are divided between the FWF and the JSPS based on the **event location**.

The “sending organization” pays the **international travel costs** (including overseas insurance) for its country’s group members, while the “host organization” covers **local expenses**, including the guests’ hotel costs. The FWF generally provides up to **€10,000** in funding for each Joint Seminar approved. For the Japanese project part, JSPS generally provides up to **JPY 2,500,000** for each Joint Seminar approved according to JSPS cost guidelines.

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<sup>6</sup> Please note that, in Japan, parallel applications must be submitted to JSPS by September 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm (JST).

## 4.6 Preparing the application

Proposals for Joint Seminars must be submitted to the JSPS (JSPS team) and the FWF (Austrian team) using the forms required by each funding organization. The titles of the two applications must be **identical**.

Applicants to the FWF should refer to the [Application Guidelines for Joint Seminars](#) for details. Applicants in Japan should refer to the JSPS guidelines.

## 4.7 Submitting the application

Applications to the FWF must be submitted online using the [elane](#) digital application portal. When submitting the application, please select the program category “**AJS–Joint Seminars**.” All Joint Seminar proposals must comply with the requirements specified in the [FWF Application Guidelines for Joint Seminars](#).

To submit the application online, applicants need to create an account on [elane](#) or log in if they have already registered. All the necessary forms must be filled out online; additional documents such as the project description including attachments can be uploaded. For additional information, please see the [elane user manual](#).

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 **no later than August 29, 2023**. The application shall not be considered officially submitted until the FWF has received 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 ([citizen card/mobile phone signature](#)), and sent to the FWF ([office@fwf.ac.at](mailto:office@fwf.ac.at)) by email by **no later than August 29, 2023**.

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

## 4.8 Evaluation and funding decision

FWF and JSPS evaluate the applications independently and make 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 organizations.

The processing time for Joint Seminar applications is at most **six months**.



## 5 Additional information

In calls with fixed deadlines such as this one, applicants are given the opportunity to rectify any issues with their applications that 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.

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

## 6 Contact details

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