Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy

POST-DOC CONNECT GRANTS
Call for Applications 2026

The Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy (FGGA) at the University of Vienna is currently accepting applications for its POST-DOC CONNECT initiative.

Aims

The FGGA POST-DOC CONNECT initiative aims to support up to 4 early-stage researchers who are currently not at a scientific institution inside Vienna (external researchers) in preparing proposals for research projects that are envisaged to be carried out at the FGGA in the event of funding.

The POST-DOC CONNECT grant is intended for short-term stays (one stay for up to 2 weeks per applicant) of external researchers (up to 7 years after their doctorate + 1.5 years per child) with established researchers[1] at the FGGA. The grant is limited to a maximum of 2,500 euros per applicant and is provided to cover travel and accommodation. The stay must take place and be billed in the calendar year 2026.

The stay should be dedicated to developing a joint project proposal such as ERC Starting Grant, MSCA EU Postdoctoral Fellowship, FWF ASTRA Awards, or FWF ESPRIT, for which the external researcher will be brought to FGGA through third-party funding. To ensure the intended dedication of the stay, a viable concept for such a proposal must be submitted with the application for a POST-DOC CONNECT grant.

Successful applicants are offered an online consultation on funding opportunities through the FGGA / UNIVIE third-party funding service prior to their stay, so that the stay can be used as efficiently as possible for substantive work.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the grant, applicants should:
- Hold a PhD / doctoral degree (in a discipline that is represented at the FGGA, or the applicant has a close relationship with one or several of the FGGA disciplines)
- Have obtained their PhD degree no more than 7 years ago (+ 1.5 years per child)
- Not be currently at a scientific institution inside Vienna[2].

Application

The application should be written in English and include the following elements:

1. Information on the i) targeted funding agency and scheme/call, ii) intended stay at the FGGA (e.g., 2 weeks in May 2026), iii) intended date of submission of the project proposal, and iv) intended starting date of the project at FGGA
2. Concept for a research proposal (synopsis / 3 pages max.), outlining the research idea, objectives and questions, the innovativeness and originality of the planned research, the approaches to be taken, and the name(s) and role(s) of the FGGA host(s)

3. Confirmation letter of the FGGA host researcher(s)
4. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max.)
5. Key research fields, achievements, and results so far after the PhD / doctoral degree (1 page max.)
6. Full publication list (internationally peer-reviewed journal articles only)
7. Copy of PhD / doctoral certificate

The application (all documents merged into one PDF file) should be submitted by email to dekanat.fgga@univie.ac.at by Sunday, November 16, 2025.

Selection Process

The dean's team of the FGGA, with support from the board of the FGGA doctoral school VISESS (Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences) will select the successful grant recipients. The selection will be based on the scientific quality of the concepts for research proposals and the fit of the proposed research with the research direction of the FGGA host(s). If all criteria are equally fulfilled, preference will be given to women for the purpose of promoting gender diversity.

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[1] The group of established FGGA researchers includes all FGGA scholars with a permanent contract, and all FGGA Tenure Track Professors.

[2] We encourage interested researchers who have been employed at the University of Vienna in the past to contact dekanat.fgga@univie.ac.at well in advance before submitting the application to allow for a check of the individual successive contract regulation (§109 Austrian University Law). For a successful application, employment at the University of Vienna for the entire duration of the project must be possible.