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

2019 Call for Austrian–Japanese Joint Projects &
Joint Seminars

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1. Introduction

On the basis of their long-standing cooperation and bilateral agreement, the *Austrian Science Fund (FWF)* and the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)* are glad to jointly offer the possibility to apply for **Austrian–Japanese joint projects and joint seminars**.

2. Eligible topics

The call is open to all areas of basic research, including clinical research.¹

3. Deadline

Proposals for joint projects and joint seminars must be submitted to FWF by **4 September 2019** (FWF: date of postmark). Note: for joint proposals 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 the latest by by **1 December 2019**.

4. Call procedure

Project proposals must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Japanese and the Austrian project partners and must be submitted **in parallel to FWF (Austrian team) and to JSPS (Japanese 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. In cases where a joint project or joint seminar is approved, the two parts of the project are funded separately by FWF and JSPS.

The JSPS documentation and regulations for this call can be found [here](http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/programme-clinical-research-klif/).

5. Joint projects

FWF/JSPS joint projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners. The project parts should be **closely integrated** such that one part could not be

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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/](http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/programme-clinical-research-klif/)

² Please note that in Japan, applicant’s affiliated institutions may set earlier deadlines.
carried out without the other, and there should be substantial scientific/scholarly input from both sides.

5.1. Project duration

At FWF, joint projects submitted in response to this call may have a duration of up to three years. Please note that JSPS will fund only up to 2 years. Applicants to 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.

5.2. Cost calculations/Eligibility

The budgets for the Austrian and Japanese parts of the project must be calculated in line with FWF and JSPS guidelines, and the two project parts will be funded separately by FWF and JSPS, respectively. Thus, the costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the FWF guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects or, in case of clinical research proposals, those of the clinical research programme. Austrian applicants must meet the FWF eligibility criteria as stated in the above-mentioned guidelines. For the Japanese project part, the JSPS cost guidelines and eligibility criteria apply.

5.3. How to prepare a proposal

Joint project proposals must be prepared with due attention to the regulations on both sides. The titles of the two applications must be identical.

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. Additionally, application requirements as outlined in this call document have to be considered.

The Austrian proposal must describe the entire Austrian-Japanese 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 project partner abroad along with an indication of their specific contribution to the project and/or relevant skills
- The distribution of work between the Austrian and Japanese project parts, 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 must also 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 JSPS
- All of the necessary administrative and financial data and forms, annexes to the project description as well as an academic abstract and enclosures according to FWF standards
- An academic curriculum vitae (CV) and a description of previous research achievements and a publication list, prepared according to FWF standards, for the project team members in Austria and the project partner abroad

### 5.4. Submission of applications

Joint proposals must be submitted in parallel to FWF and JSPS 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 and completed online via the FWF Elane system (https://elane.fwf.ac.at) under the "I – International Projects" programme category. All the necessary forms must be filled out online, and additional documents such as the project description uploaded.

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 **4 September 2019** 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 signature (e.g., mobile phone signature), and sent to FWF (office@fwf.ac.at) by e-mail by the deadline. 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 of the number of ongoing projects and the submission of funding applications applies (cf. here).

### 5.5. Evaluation and funding decisions

FWF and JSPS 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.

On the Austrian side, the evaluation for joint projects will be carried out according to the evaluation criteria of the guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects or, in the case of clinical research proposals, those of the clinical research programme (see Appendix II “Notes and questions for reviewers”). The evaluation will focus on scientific excellence and include the
international cooperation arrangement(s) and the complementarity and integration of the contributions by the Austrian and Japanese project partners.

For the selection criteria on the Japanese side, the JSPS guidelines apply.

A maximum of three joint projects can be funded in this call.

6. 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 projects.

6.1. Project duration

Joint seminars submitted in response to the FWF/JSPS call are limited to a maximum duration of one week.

The seminars must be held between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.

6.2. Cost calculations/Eligibility

The budgets for the Austrian and Japanese parts of the project must be calculated in accordance with FWF and JSPS guidelines, respectively. The costs eligible for funding are divided between FWF and JSPS 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. The FWF generally provides up to €10,000 in funding for each joint seminar approved.

The Austrian applicant must have led at least one FWF-funded project in the 10 years prior to submitting an application for a joint seminar. Please note that FWF will fund no more than 2 joint seminars per applicant within a period of 5 years.

For the Japanese project part, the JSPS cost guidelines and eligibility criteria apply.

6.3. How to prepare a proposal

Proposals for joint seminars must be submitted to JSPS (Japanese team) and FWF (Austrian team) in accordance with the applicable guidelines on form and content.

Each application must be prepared and submitted by one person on behalf of all seminar participants. The titles of the two applications must be identical.

Applicants to FWF should refer to the Guidelines for Joint Seminars for details.
6.4. Submission of applications

Applications to FWF must be submitted on paper and on a data storage device (USB stick/CD-ROM) with due attention to the regulations and the call deadline.

6.5. Evaluation and funding decisions

FWF and JSPS evaluate the applications independently and take their funding decisions separately. A joint seminar can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organisations. On the Austrian side, applications for joint seminars are presented to a competent member of the FWF Board for a written assessment. No international review procedure is carried out for joint seminars.

A maximum of one joint seminar can be funded in this call.

7. 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 calendar 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 may also refer to the Information Sheet on Joint Projects/Joint Seminars for further information.

8. Contact details

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