



Please note that the call with the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) will be closed by 1 October 2020 until further notice.

Applications can be submitted until 30 September 2020.

Bilateral proposals for Austrian-Russian research projects can be submitted to the next call between FWF and the Russian Science Foundation (RSF).

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) /
Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)

PERMANENT CALL FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

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1. Introduction

Since 2008, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and the **Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)** have offered researchers the opportunity to apply for **bilateral Austrian-Russian Joint Research Projects**¹.

2. Call procedure

Project applications must be submitted in parallel to **FWF (Austrian team)** and **RFBR (Russian team)** in accordance with each agency's application guidelines. In cases where a joint project is approved, the two parts of the project are funded separately by FWF and RFBR. 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 RFBR.

3. Deadline

Proposals are **accepted continuously** (there are no application deadlines) but must be submitted at the same time to FWF and RFBR with due attention to the requirements on both sides.

4. Subject areas

The call is open to all fields of basic research (including clinical research²).

5. Joint projects

FWF/RFBR joint projects are **basic research projects (including clinical research)** in which scientists or scholars from Austria and Russia cooperate in pursuing a common research goal. Joint Research Projects should combine the **complementary expertise** of the project partners; the project parts should be closely integrated so that one part could not be carried out without the other and there should be **substantial scientific input from both**

¹ *The research institution of the Russian principal investigator has to be located within the internationally recognized borders of Russia.*

² *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/>*

sides. Proposals without strong interaction between the partners should be submitted as separate proposals in the standard funding schemes of FWF and RFBR.

6. Project duration

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

7. Cost calculations/Eligibility

The budgets for the Austrian and Russian parts of the project must be calculated in line with FWF and RFBR guidelines, respectively. The costs for the Austrian part of the project are to 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. Austrian applicants must meet the FWF eligibility criteria as stated in the above-mentioned guidelines. For the Russian project part, the RFBR cost guidelines and eligibility criteria apply.

8. Proposals preparation

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

The titles of the two applications must be **identical**.

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

- A brief description of 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 the Russian project parts** as well as the **resources** to be contributed by the partners
- The **added value** of the co-operation

In order to be considered complete the application must include an academic curriculum vitae (CV), a publication list and a description of previous research achievements, prepared

according to FWF standards, for the project team members in Austria and the project partner abroad.

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. The document must be sent to FWF together with the other submission documents. The Russian partner must follow the rules of RFBR.

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

9. Submitting the application

Joint proposals must be submitted in parallel to FWF and RFBR with due attention to the regulations of each partner. Applications submitted by one side only will not be accepted.

Applications to FWF must be submitted online at <http://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

To submit the application online, applicants are required to register at the address shown above. All the necessary forms must then be filled out online; additional documents such as the project description can be uploaded. For additional information, see the “Quick reference” guide at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at>.

When submitting the application, applicants must choose the “**I – International Projects**” programme. 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 (Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna, Austria). 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. Please note that a scanned signed and stamped cover sheet is invalid if it does not have a qualified electronic signature.

For further details on how to submit a proposal, please consult the FWF application guidelines mentioned above. Please note that the FWF policy on the restrictions of the number of ongoing projects and the submission of funding applications applies (cf. here). The RFBR regulations for the submission of applications can be found [here](#).

10. Evaluation and funding decisions

FWF and RFBR 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.

11. Contact details

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)
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