

## Information on funding the principal investigator's (PI's) salary

The FWF defines a grant-salaried principal investigator as a principal investigator whose salary is to be paid from the funding provided for the research project.

To be eligible, researchers must fulfil the requirements of the territoriality principle, i.e. that the researcher's main residence must have been in Austria for at least three of the last ten years at the time when the application is submitted, and/or the applicant must have been working continuously as a researcher in Austria for the last two years preceding the submission of the application.

The territoriality principle does not apply to:

- a. researchers submitting an application under the START Programme or the Programme for Arts-based Research (PEEK),
- b. researchers who are funded as part of the Lise Meitner Mobility Programme und want to continue their research work in Austria as a grant-salaried principal investigator after the end of their funding,
- c. researchers who can prove at the time when the application is submitted that they have a valid employment contract (at least 50%; not funded by the FWF) at an Austrian research institution for the planned duration of the project; the application must be accompanied by a confirmation from the researcher's employer.

The following types and amounts of remuneration are permitted:

1. For grant-salaried principal investigators at a research institution that is subject to the Universities Act 2002 or has a corresponding agreement with the FWF:
  - Contract of employment at the postdoc level;
  - Contract of employment at the senior postdoc level under the following conditions: Ph.D. grant-salaried principal investigators who have at least two years of research experience at the time when the application is submitted, or grant-salaried principal investigators who have already successfully served as principal investigator of a FWF project. The following documents must be included as proof: a copy of the Ph.D. certificate as well as third-party proof or confirmation of at least two years of research experience as a postdoc. This is not required if the principal investigator already has two years of research experience as a postdoc in projects funded by the FWF; however, this should be stated in an accompanying letter.
2. For all other grant-salaried principal investigators:
  - Research subsidy in the amount of a postdoc level, irrespective of a university degree,
  - Research subsidy in the amount of a senior postdoc level under the same conditions as in item 1 above.

For researchers who are self-employed<sup>1</sup> at the time when the funds are used for their salary, the personnel costs or salary amount to be requested must not exceed 50% of the full rate for independent researchers.

Income in addition to full-time employment (e.g. resulting from lecturer contracts) is allowed either up to 5 hours per week or up to the legally defined limit for marginal part-time employment (“geringfügige Beschäftigung”), provided that these additional occupations serve to promote the principal investigator’s career.

The FWF shall be informed immediately of any change of the extent of employment (also before approval).

In all cases, the current FWF [Personnel costs and salaries](#) and, for graduates of medicine in Austria, the “Personnel costs and salaries – Graduates of medical studies” shall apply. To ensure proper submission of the application, applicants should obtain information from the FWF (contact persons in the respective [Specialist departments](#)) before applying.

Female grant-salaried principal investigators (who intend at least 50% employment to be paid from the funding provided for the project in all programmes except **V, T, J, M**<sup>2</sup>) also have the option to request costs for personal development<sup>3</sup> up to a maximum of EUR 2,000.00 per year in the “Other costs” category. The costs must be briefly justified in the application.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see <https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/109/Seite.1090300.html> for a definition (german only)

<sup>2</sup> V = Elise Richter Programme; T = Hertha Firnberg Programme; J = Erwin Schrödinger Programme; M = Lise Meitner Programme

<sup>3</sup> Costs are only considered eligible if they arise from coaching or continuing education/training activities that make a direct contribution to the principal investigator’s career development. In this context, the term “coaching” refers to individual advising and support processes related to professional development. Continuing education/training activities with eligible costs include courses taken to acquire research-related skills, especially in the principal investigator’s field of specialisation (e.g., courses on methodology) and personnel development activities in didactics, academic/scientific writing and proposal writing (especially in English), personnel management/leadership and project management, conflict and problem resolution, research organisation, training in preparation for an appointment to a professorship, and other seminars directly related to career development, including those offered in the context of promoting women in research.