



WIENER WISSENSCHAFTS-,
FORSCHUNGS- UND TECHNOLOGIEFONDS

Guide for Writing a Full Proposal

“Mathematics *and ...*” Call 2014

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Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF)
Schlickgasse 3/12
1090 Vienna, Austria
T: +43 (0) 1 4023143-19 (Alexander Wöhrer)
F: +43 (0) 1 4023143-20
alexander.woehrer@wwtf.at
<http://www.wwtf.at>

About WWTF

The Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF) is the only larger Austrian private non-profit organization established to promote science and research. WWTF started its funding activities in 2003. WWTF funds excellent scientific research(ers) following the highest international standards in order to promote Vienna as a city of science and research.

WWTF provides substantial funding for larger multi-annual research projects at home institutions located in Vienna (“Project Funding”), as well as striving to attract excellent researchers from abroad to Vienna (“Science Chairs”, “Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators”). WWTF runs calls resulting in a tough competition for funding with an average success rate of less than 20% (a rate that varies, however, from call to call).

Currently, WWTF runs the following thematic programmes: “Life Sciences” (*2003), “Mathematics and ...” (*2004), “Information and Communication Technology” (*2008), and “Cognitive Sciences” (*2011). The financial resources of WWTF originate from the “*Privatstiftung zur Verwaltung von Anteilsrechten*” from which WWTF receives about six to nine million € annually.

In addition, WWTF runs the following funding programmes for the City of Vienna: The “University Infrastructure Programme” (*2006), “Social Sciences and Humanities in Vienna” (*2008, 26 projects funded), “Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators” (*2010, 8 groups funded) with a total annual funding volume of about 5 million €.

With 30 Research Calls so far between 2003 and 2013, about 100 million € have been dedicated to funding 171 research projects and 16 science chairs/research group leaders.

While the thematic funding programmes are established in close coordination with Viennese RTD policy and initiatives, the review and selection process lies strictly in the hands of international scientists not employed in Austria. The main selection criterion for funding is excellent scientific quality according to the highest international standards. For each call, an appropriate international expert jury is established. Additionally, for each proposal a number of written peer reviews are obtained. In a two-day meeting in Vienna the juries formulate a funding recommendation based on the reviews and on their own expertise. This recommendation is then formally accepted by the WWTF Board of Directors.

The governing body is the WWTF Board of Directors. It is complemented by the WWTF Advisory Board composed of Viennese scientists and representatives from the economy, society and politics. The WWTF Office manages all funding activities and is the contact point for all applicants.

Important Issues

The **Call Fiche** including contact information of the WWTF call managers is available at www.wwtf.at. The formal criteria for a WWTF MA 2014 project include a minimum funding volume of 200.000 € with an upper range of up to 650.000 € and a planned duration of 2-4 years.

The **Principal Investigator (PI)** of a WWTF project must have a Viennese home institution where the project is affiliated. This includes researchers moving to Vienna with a Viennese affiliation and work place in case of funding. Project **partners** may be based worldwide or elsewhere in Austria and may receive funding of up to 20% of the total funding applied for. Partners outside Vienna are an option; they are neither obligatory nor a formal criterion for acceptance.

For **Universities**, WWTF projects are according to §27 of the “Universitätsgesetz 2002”; authorized signatures from the university / scientific institution acting as the home institution are therefore mandatory at the submission stage. In case of funding, the institution will be the formal contract partner with the Principal Investigator taking full scientific and financial responsibility.

WWTF funding may be used for all project-related costs; however, the main focus should be on funding scientific personnel. Everybody employed in a WWTF-funded project should get a fair contract with a *minimum wage* according to the “Kollektivvertrag” (collective agreement) of the Austrian Universities or – for staff employed at non-university institutions – according to the standards of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) standards available online at www.fwf.ac.at/de/projects/personalkostensaetze.html. A *maximum total employment* is set at 100%. The personnel categories are:

- **Senior Personnel:** highly qualified scientists, usually already in permanent employment
- **Post Doc:** or equivalent qualification, including Senior Postdocs
- **PhD Student:** or equivalent qualification
- **Diploma Student:** Bachelor or Master students
- **Office/Technician:** office staff or technical staff (proportional funding only)

The funding by WWTF under this scheme is not intended to cover investment in general infrastructure, however pro rata depreciation rates for the project duration are fundable for **equipment** necessary for the project. WWTF funding also covers **materials** (consumables and small devices up to 1,500 € each), **travel costs** (incurred for attending project related scientific events and invitations), **publication costs** (including cost for patent filing and open access publication), self-organized **workshops / conferences**, and **other project related costs**.

WWTF pays a **maximum of 20% overhead**. Overhead (“indirect costs”) is calculated as 20% of the direct costs of the project. The total funding volume is calculated as direct + indirect costs. A separate project account / SAP number for bookkeeping is necessary for each

project and the direct costs must be reported to WWTF. The overhead is paid as a flat rate with no strings attached. Kindly stick to the overhead regulations of the involved institutions.

Compliance with the rules for good scientific practice is mandatory even at the proposal stage.

Funding Criteria

This WWTF call aims to support teams of scientists that strive for **innovative mathematical methods leading to applicable solutions in and together with other disciplines** (a mathematical applicant together with a partner from another discipline or vice versa). Thus, cooperation between researchers from different disciplinary contexts is a formal criterion for funding. The key selection criterion for this call is scientific quality, i.e., both the applicant and the submitted project must be scientifically outstanding. The innovative aspect of a project is a major criterion in the review of the proposals. Innovation is expressed through “inner-mathematical mobility” regarding promising application domains (e.g. computational humanities, energy, traffic, etc.) OR strong methodological extension (e.g. method itself or combining methods). Projects involving truly novel interdisciplinary collaborations will be given clear preference. Further criteria refer to the ability and innovativeness of the project **to bridge disciplines** and to its potential **medium term economic or social benefits**.

In order to assess and evaluate the interdisciplinary and innovative nature of the research endeavor, the above points need to be clearly outlined within the proposal. Generally, applicants for funding as well as the submitted project proposals need to be characterized by **top scientific quality**.

Evaluation Process

In this call a **two-stage submission process** is used. Full proposals have to be submitted upon invitation by **23-05-2014 2 pm**.

Evaluation procedure in detail:

The evaluation of full proposals is carried out through a combination of remote assessment by international reviewers and a panel meeting of international experts in Vienna. **Two jury members** are assigned to each proposal which at first undergoes **written peer review** by at least three international reviewers. The content of the full proposal must be consistent and in accordance with the successful short proposal, extending it by providing full details about the approach, state of the art, etc.

Jury meeting in Vienna: At this meeting, the funding decision will be made.. It includes the comprehensive evaluation of all proposals on basis of written peer reviews and the jury’s own expertise resulting in a recommendation “to be funded” or “not to be funded” for each proposal.

The formal funding decision (confirmation of jury recommendation) will be made by WWTF Board of Directors.

Applicants will receive anonymized full text reviews and a summary of the jury discussion after the formal funding decision.

How to use WWTF's Online Submission System

1. Go to <https://funding.wwtf.at>
2. **Log in**, choose the call and short proposal
3. **Full proposal**: fill in requested information in *online forms* and *upload requested files* (in PDF format). You can access the system multiple times and modify provided information anytime.
4. **Submit proposal**: the submit button becomes active only after all requested information has been filled in and uploaded; after submission no changes are possible anymore.

Note: The submission system closes at 2 pm on the day of the deadline. The full proposal has a size limit of maximum 5 MB.

Required Structure of a WWTF Full Proposal

Applications to WWTF undergo an assessment by international scientists, thus all proposals must be written in **English**. Please write precisely and to the point! Note that the appendix is comprised only by the CVs of the project team you are allowed to update if needed.

The short proposal to WWTF covers nine parts: (1) Basic Information, (2) Project Summary, (3) Outline of Approach, (4) Innovative Aspects, (5) Interdisciplinary Aspects, (6) Economic/Social Relevance, (7) Key References, (8) Principal Investigator, Affirmations and Authorization, and (9) Appendix.

A full proposal to WWTF extends the short proposal with the following:

Some parts of the full proposal must be written offline and then uploaded (as a PDF file to allow images, tables, etc.) into the WWTF submission system. Please be concise but go into enough detail to allow an evaluation by international peers. You may use the word-processing software of your choice but we kindly ask you to use a **font type such as Arial and a font size of 11pt. Line spacing should be at least 1.5 pt.** Please do not add any header or footer since these (page numbering, proposal number, title of proposal) will be added automatically in the WWTF submission system once the proposal is completed and a single PDF file is generated. You may include images, drawings, tables, etc. to improve the scientific presentation (size limit for the overall proposal is 5 MB). Note that the title of research and the list of applicants must be identical to those on the short proposal. **No substitution, deletions or additions of applicants are allowed.** A maximum of information has

been automatically transferred from your short proposal. You should check this. Keep in mind that the full proposal is an extension of the short proposal you have already submitted.

1. Project Summary

1.1. A general description (about 1000 characters, online) in German language is mandatory and will be used by WWTF for public relations work in case of funding but will not be visible in the final electronic proposal and print-out. We ask you to use a public style abstract and not simply translate the scientific abstract into German.

Applicants may **exclude** up to three peers from reviewing your proposal without indicating any reasons. The names will be stored in the WWTF database and will not be visible in the electronic proposal and print-out. Applicants may **suggest** up to three peers from a field of competence that enables them to review the proposal. No previous publication activity or research cooperation with the suggested reviewer should be evident. Please provide up to five keywords or phrases that describe the reviewers' fields of competence to enable a balanced set of reviewers to be chosen. Please note that no reviewer will be asked who is currently working at an Austrian institution.

1.2 The scientific abstract in English (**max. 1500 characters, online**) will be the first information jury members and peer reviewers read.

1.3 State of the Art and Scientific Challenge (max. 3 pages, PDF upload)

Give a concise review of the state of the art in international research and the scientific challenges the project wants to address in the chosen field(s).

1.4 Project Summary (max. 2 pages, PDF upload)

Formulate concrete research question(s) you would like to address in the project. Summarize the objectives, hypotheses, approaches and research plan. Describe wherein the leap ahead within the field lies. Remember that the funding criteria address international quality standards and visibility.

1.5 Measuring Project Success (max. 500 characters, online)

What are the results and output you aim for and finally want to be assessed by after having finished your project? What are your dissemination strategies for the project's outcomes?

2. Research Project

2.1 Outline of approach (max. 7 pages, PDF upload)

Describe the detailed research plan including the methodology you want to use in order to answer your research questions and to test your hypotheses. Describe your basic working principles and why the chosen approach/specific mix of approaches is the most suitable for

your project should clearly indicate the contribution to be made by each team member to the collaboration.

2.2. Innovative Aspects (max. 1500 characters, online)

Describe which aspects of the proposal are especially novel/innovative. How does the project differ from the ongoing research activities of each team member?

2.3 Characterization of the Approach for Bridging Disciplines (max. 1750 characters, online)

Which disciplines are working together within your research project and are there any (new) cooperation between different institutions encouraging new approaches? What are the project's underlying rationales and working principles for bridging disciplines?

2.4 Economic/ Social Relevance of Proposed Research (max. 750 characters, online)

Illustrate what the prospective benefits in social and economic terms of your project might be and when they are to be expected. Also outline what niche your project's results might fill, possibly referring to what the respective market or societal needs are.

2.5 References (max. 2 pages, PDF upload)

List the relevant references for the proposal and highlight (e.g. in bold face) among those a maximum of ten key publications representing the state of the art in the respective research area(s). References should include: author(s), title, journal or publisher and place, year, page numbers and any other necessary data.

3. Project Team

People cannot be added and changes from the initial short proposal project team setup are not allowed.

3.1 Gender Management Policy (max. 750 characters, online)

Please describe how your project deals with gender equality issues during job announcements, recruitment of staff and working environment.

3.2 Plans for Human Resources Development (max. 750 characters, online)

Please describe how your project contributes to human resources development in science (e.g., - providing opportunities for research, staff exchange, teaching and mentoring).

4. Project Budget (online form)

WWTF provides substantial funding for scientific projects covering all project related direct costs plus a maximum of 20% overhead (i.e., „indirect costs“). Thus WWTF requires an explanation of your cost planning principles (about one page, 3000 characters), and a detailed planning of personnel costs (which should comprise the major part of the project related costs) as well as planning of project related costs for equipment, materials, travelling, publications, organization of workshops/ conferences/ ... and other project related costs.

For cost planning an „WWTF Cost Planning Tool“ (Excel file) is available, however, only the numbers provided in Tables 1, 2, and 3 in the submission system will be considered as requested WWTF funding. Please do not upload the excel file. Costs are calculated in **thousands of Euro (one decimal position)**.

In **Table 1 (Planning of personnel costs)** the names and staff category of all persons listed in part „3. Project Team“ are automatically filled. Please first choose the funding source (WWTF, in-kind, WWTF & in-kind) and then add the average yearly time commitment for each project year. Finally, for those persons where WWTF funding is requested, fill in the salary corresponding to a 100% employment in the first project year. The total funding applied for each person will then automatically be computed including a 3% annual salary increase. At the end of Table 1 you will see the total personnel costs applied for from WWTF.

In **Table 2 (Planning of project related costs for equipment, materials, travelling, publications, organization of workshops/ conferences/ ..., and other costs)** please provide a concise description of costs per cost category/ institution as well as the funding applied for.

In **Table 3 (Total funding applied for per institution)** the direct costs will be automatically filled in using the information provided in Tables 1 and 2. Kindly add the overhead percentage (i.e., indirect costs) per involved institution as a numeric value between 0.0 (no overheads claimed) and 0.2 (20% overheads claimed). Finally, Table 3 will give you an overview on the total funding applied for from WWTF per involved institution. *Note: Minimum funding volume is 200,000 €, the upper limit is 650.000 €.*

You are also asked to briefly *describe the overhead policy* of each involved institution.

Last but not least you must *disclose other applications for funding* of the same project: Is this project (or parts of it) already subject to ongoing requests for funding?

5. Affirmations and Authorization

WWTF requires the Principal Investigator and Core Team Members to sign a print-out of the affirmation form. In addition, WWTF requires that the print-out contains the signatures of the authorized person(s) of all participating institutions to which the persons signing the “Authorization” are affiliated in case of funding.

All signatures are required only on the proposal print-out. Multiple copies of the respective pages might be used for signing. Faxed or scanned and printed pages are accepted.

Note: Hard copy version submission (including all signatures) via mail service allowed – post stamp counts and is accepted up to May 23, 2014.

6. Appendix

The appendix stays the same as the one you have already submitted for the short proposal. You are allowed to update the individual CV files. Either to include recent developments or to provide additional contextual information like employment intensity or educational/maternity leave accounting for gaps in publication, etc.

In Case of Funding

The **Formal Funding Contract** will be made between WWTF and the Home Institution of the Principal Investigator (for universities according to §27 of the University Law 2002), the PI has full scientific and financial responsibility. Projects may start immediately but **not later than 6 months** after the formal funding decision has been made. During the project duration WWTF pays funding rates half a year in advance to the PI's Home Institution, who is then responsible for distribution to the partner institutions (if applicable).

WWTF monitoring during the runtime of projects includes annual online reports delivered by the PI to WWTF with an overview on the scientific results achieved, personnel employment and funding spent as well as project outputs. WWTF office also makes site-visits to learn about the project progress and working environment of the personnel employed. WWTF offers the possibility to adopt the work plan according to project needs.

After the project has ended a comprehensive final report must be submitted online. WWTF may organize an **ex-post evaluation** by international peers („Evaluation Day“) for all projects funded within a specific call.



1090 Wien, Schlickgasse 3/12
Tel.: +43-1-402 31 43, Fax: DW-20
office@wwtf.at
www.wwtf.at