

WIENER WISSENSCHAFTS-, FORSCHUNGS- UND TECHNOLOGIEFONDS

Mathematics and...

Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators Call 2012

Guide for Applicants

Vienna, April 2012

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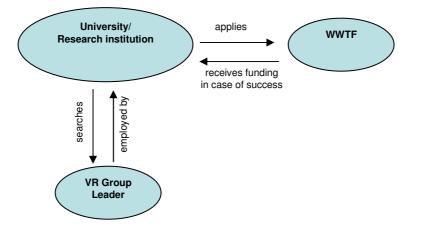
Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators – Some Facts

A Vienna Research Group is an assembly of researchers that launches individuals in their post-doc phase onto their next career step. Typically it is the **first "genuine" group** led by such a young researcher who undertakes leadership responsibility for several group members. Scientists who apply for this call are usually **two to eight years** after PhD; care duties may extend this period by up to four years. WWTF intentionally aims this initiative at very young researchers.

Vienna Research Groups operate for **six to eight years**. Key milestones are: (i) an **interim evaluation** after three to four years; and (ii) the end of the "first" phase, chiefly financed by WWTF, after five years. The second phase will depend on the framework and opportunities available at the home institutions and will run for one to three years. Funding by WWTF is supplemented, particularly in the second phase (i.e. years 6, 6-7 or 6-8), by a significant rise in financing by the home institution.

Vienna Research Group leaders are to be **independent** in designing their research work and recruiting their staff.

• Who is eligible to apply? In compliance with the Funding Guidelines for the Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators program this call is formally addressed to universities and non-university research institutions in Vienna. Individual persons are not eligible to apply.



• Formalities of writing the proposal: Given the fact that the proposal will be assessed by an international panel and that international peers will provide written reviews it must to be submitted in English. Costs and financing figures have to be quoted in thousands of Euro.



Please note that **page limits** are maximum limits which do not need to be reached. Rather you are encouraged to write concisely and to the point. Present the most significant content in a readily understandable manner. Go into sufficient detail as far as it is needed for experts and the panel to obtain a clear picture of the candidate and the planned activities.

Deadlines

Deadline Short Proposal	5 July 2012, 2 p.m.
Invitation Full Proposal	12 July 2012
Deadline Full Proposal	12 September 2012, 2 p.m.
Hearings at Panel Meeting	10-11 December 2012
Publication of Results	18 December 2012
Deadline Negotiations I	20 February 2013
Deadline Negotiations II	15 March 2013

First Steps & How to Use WWTF's Online Submission System

WWTF has an online submission system. Kindly follow these steps to submit a proposal. Please note: this call is formally addressed to universities and non-university research institutions. Individual persons are not eligible to apply:

Step 1 – Short Proposal:

1: Registration to the online submission system for WWTF funding applications Please register at <u>https://funding.wwtf.at/</u>. You register with your e-mail address and your surname; the password will then be generated automatically and sent to you by e-mail.

Note that you only have to *register once* to the Submission System; afterwards you can submit proposals to any current and future WWTF Call.

2: Log in, choose your Call and create a new proposal

Log in (using your e-mail address and the password sent to you by e-mail) and change your password if you want to. Then you have to choose the Call you want to submit your proposal to (sub-menu 'my proposals').

Create a new proposal form and open the respective form by clicking on it. (Note: The proposal will be called 'unnamed group leader' until you fill in the title in the online form)

3: Write your short proposal

Fill in the requested information in the online form. Upload your CV as a PDF¹ file.

- You can save your entries and change them at any time until you finally submit the short proposal by pushing the submit button.
- The sub-menu 'my data depot' allows quick access to all documents you have uploaded so far.

4: Submit your short proposal

The submit-button is available as soon as you have provided all requested information (signalled by a green check mark next to the chapter title; a single PDF proposal document is available). By pushing this button you finally submit your short proposal as it is.

Further you will have to submit one paper copy (incl. original signatures).

Please mind the firm deadline for both electronic and paper version of the proposal.

¹ Make sure your PDF files are compatible to PDF/A (i.e. PDF Version 1.4).



Step 2 - Full Proposal

1: Log in, open and write your full proposal

After having received the invitation to write a full proposal, log in and write your proposal. Fill in the requested information in the online forms for the respective chapters. Further, you have to upload the files for the appendix (i.e., detailed project calculations based on the table in the provided Excel file, a CV, Lols, LoRs), find the respective forms available for download.

- Part of the information will already be pre-filled with data from the short proposal. Please check carefully and adapt / complete where necessary.
- You can save your entries and change them at any time until you finally submit the full proposal by pushing the submit button.
- The sub-menu 'my data depot' allows quick access to all documents you have uploaded so far.

2: Submit your full proposal

The submit-button is available as soon as you have provided all requested information (signalled by a green check mark next to the chapter title; a single PDF proposal document is available). By pushing this button you finally submit your proposal as it is.

Further you will have to submit one **complete paper copy** (incl. original signatures). Any chapter of the proposal that has been filled in online can be saved as PDF and printed any time.

Mind: The applicants have to take care, that data provided in the final online-version and data in uploaded proposal files equals the hard copy handed in at WWTF office. This will be part of the formal eligibility check

In case of any problems with the online submission system, please do not hesitate to contact WWTF office.

Please mind the firm deadline for both electronic and paper version of the proposal.

The following pages provide a glimpse on the obligatory online forms. Please note that you can only submit a proposal via the online submission system!



PROPOSAL PHASE 1 – Short Proposal

Deadline: 5 July 2012





Proposal to the Vienna Science and Technology Fund – Short Proposal Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators

This flyleaf contains data on the institution acting as "**principal applicant**", and on the **person** to be recruited as Vienna Research Group Leader.

Principal applicant (host institution):	
Address / Website	
Proponent:	Who is the scientist at the host institution responsible for the coordination of the proposal? (Note: not the proposed person)
Phone/ Email:	phone number and email address of the proponent

Group leader (proposed person):	Who is the young scientist that would like to move to Vienna?
Current home institution:	
Current institute / group:	
Address / Phone:	
Email / Website:	

Year of PhD:	The year in which the PhD degree has been awarded	
Number of journal papers (peer reviewed)	To how many journal papers (peer reviewed) did you contribute?	
Number of citations	Kindly use a software like ISI Web of Science or Scopus to identify this figure	
Proposed field of research:	This is the title of your proposal.	
Keywords:	Please try to find significant keywords for your proposal.	

Outline of intended work (up to one page): Please give a short outline (not more than one page) on the envisaged scientific work plan of the Vienna Research Group Leader her/ his group

Motivation of the host institution to bring the proposed group leader to Vienna (up to 1/2 page): *Please give a* short outline (not more than half a page) on the primary/main motives of the host institution to bring the proposed group leader to Vienna.

What kind of long term career perspective can be offered to the candidate by your organisation?



Motivation to apply for the position as a Vienna Research Group Leader (up to 1/2 page): *Please give a short outline (not more than half a page) on the primary/main motives of the proposed group leader to come to Vienna and to apply for the position at the host institution.*

CV: please upload the group leader's CV (not more than three pages plus publication list). *Please classify your publications in a suitable manner by using sub-categories like peer reviewed journal publications / conference contributions / others*

Affirmations

In signing the application form, the principal applicant certifies that the information provided in the proposal is, to the best of her/his knowledge and belief, accurate and complete.

	Signing person
Principal applicant	A signature of the authorised person to sign on behalf of the principal applicant
	(i.e. host institution) is required, i.e. person(s) representing the management of
	the principal applicant (rector / director/ manager/).

PROPOSAL PHASE 2 – Full Proposal

Deadline: 12 September 2012





Proposal to the Vienna Science and Technology Fund – Full Proposal

Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators

Principal applicant (host institution):	See part 1. Information provided in the Short proposal will be automatically copied to the full proposal.
Address / Website:	
Proponent:	
Phone / Email:	
Project duration:	Vienna Research Groups are designed for a term of six to eight years. Please indicate here your choice: 5+1 year, 5+2 years, 5+3 years

Group leader (proposed person):	See part 1. Information provided in the Short proposal will be automatically copied to the full proposal.
Current home institution:	
Current institute / group:	
Address / Phone:	
Website / Email:	

Year of PhD:	Number of journal papers (peer reviewed):	Number of citations
Proposed field of research:		

Keywords:	Please try to find significant keywords for your proposal. These will
	be used to identify relevant peers to evaluate your proposal.

Optional:

Excluded peer evaluator 1:	You can name up to three persons and exclude them from reviewing your proposal without indicating any reason. These peers will not
Excluded peer evaluator 2:	be visible in the PDF generated for peer reviewing. The
Excluded peer evaluator 3:	information provided is only visible to WWTF/ panel members.



Affirmations

In signing the application form, the **applicants** (i.e. the institutional level authorised and responsible for signing, the proponent, and the proposed research group leader) certify that the information provided in the proposal is, to the best of their knowledge and belief, accurate and complete. They confirm the following:

- The persons involved will ensure compliance with all legal and procedural requirements regarding safety, ethical issues, notification requirements, immigration laws, public tender procedures, labour legislations, and any other relevant regulations.
- All persons agree not to exploit intellectual property as individuals, but within the set of rules of their institutions. All project related publications will mention WWTF as the funding agency.
- The persons involved confirm, that the research project submitted for WWTF funding is currently not subject to third party funding (like FWF, EU-funding, any other regional, national or international funding). The persons involved pledge to disclose if they intend to apply / have applied for funding for the same research project at other funding sources.
- WWTF is a founding member of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (www.oeawi.at). The persons and institutions involved confirm, that for treating any project related scientific misconduct they will fully cooperate with this agency.
- The persons involved confirm that they are aware of overhead regulations of their institution and the resulting distribution of the overhead (maximum 20%) paid by WWTF.
- Everybody employed in a WWTF project should get a fair contract with a minimum payment according to standards of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)/ "Kollektivvertrag" and a maximum total employment of 100%.
- All relevant modifications will be communicated promptly to WWTF.
- The principal applicant / host institution agrees to the use of space, equipment, resources and contribution as stated in the application and needed for successfully performing the project.
- The institution agrees to provide in-kind contribution as described in the application.

The contributions of partners or other third parties are documented in the appendix by Letters of Intent, each signed by the responsible rector/director/manager.

Principal applicant ""	Signing person A signature of a person representing the management of the principal applicant (rector/director/manager/) is required.
Proponent "…"	The proposal needs to be signed by the proponent of the proposal.
Group leader (proposed person) ""	The proposal needs to be signed by the proposed group leader.



1. Summary

Abstract (up to one page): Please provide an abstract of your intended work. Put some effort in writing this abstract; it will also be used to identify suitable peers to evaluate your proposal.

2. Vienna Research Group Leader

(Max. three pages excl. CV, should be written by the envisaged VRG leader)

Name / address / current position / financing

Please describe your current position. Please also add some information on the type of your position, eg. how this position is financed (permanent, via a grant...)

Career steps

Describe your career steps so far. Please add also in which groups you have been working up until now. Please note that WWTF takes unconventional research careers into consideration. You might add non scientific landmarks in your career as well.

Highlight of recent work

Describe the highlight of your recent work. This might be a publication, but also a major contribution to a scientific achievement in your lab.

Key publications

Rank your 3-5 most important publications and describe your contribution.

Describe your (scientific) leadership potential.

Please describe here your (scientific) leadership potential. As you are in an early stage of your career, give the panel and the referees the possibility to assess your leadership potential, e.g. through a clear vision how to lead a group or through demonstrated leadership potential outside science ...or in any other way you prefer.

Motivation for your application as a Vienna Research Group Leader (up to 1/2 page):

Please describe your motivation to take on the Group Leader Position and outline your relocation plans. Information from short proposal will automatically be copied. Please adapt as necessary.

CV: please upload your CV (not more than three pages + publication list).

Please classify your publications in a suitable manner by using sub-categories like peer reviewed journal publications / conference contributions / others



3. Host Institution

(Max. three pages)

Describe the host institution

Please note that this part should be more than a general description of the host institution. Put emphasis on this entity of the institution that attracts the candidate to come to Vienna. Name the department(s) / institute(s), in which the project will be carried out. As a general rule, the host institution is the principal applicant.

(If applicable) Describe additional institutions

If you wish to build a consortium: Please describe here your partner institutions briefly (no more than 10-15 lines per partner). Describe their role and how they interact with the new group. Partners are institutions apart from the principal applicant. Role and in-kind contributions have to be confirmed by a Letter of Intend (LoI)<mark>.</mark>

Describe the group leader's future research environment

Describe how the new group is embedded in the existing research environment. How will the new group leader be concretely integrated, both as regards the chosen topic of research and management?

Motivation of the host institution to bring the proposed group leader to Vienna (up to half a page)

Information provided in the short proposal will be copied automatically to the full proposal.



4. Work programme

(Max. six pages, should be written by the envisaged group leader)

State of the art in the proposed field and scientific challenges in the next years (about half a page)

Give a concise review of the state of the art in the proposed scientific field and the scientific challenges the Vienna Research Group Leader wants to address.

Relevant References (about one page max)

List key publications representing the state of the art in the respective research area.

Research plan (4 pages)

Consider that this section should provide external peers and panel members with a concise and yet complete picture of the research plan envisaged by the group leader and his/her group. Formulate the concrete research question(s) you would like to address and specify the objectives to be achieved and your theoretical and methodological approaches. Try to outline your work programme as concrete as possible and give the panel a clear picture that you know which work packages to start with. Nobody expects a milestone planning for the next six to eight years, but a clear vision and outline of your future research.

Disclosure of other applications for funding: Is the proposed research plan (or parts of it) submitted for funding elsewhere?

WWTF reviews whether specific proposed work steps are already funded elsewhere or whether the proposal was submitted to another funding institution. In order to avoid dual funding continuous exchange among the WWTF and e.g. the FWF (the Austrian Science Fund) concerning funded projects is taking place. Applicants agree in writing to act accordingly and to provide full information in all related matters. Infringing upon this regulation can lead to termination of assessment and in case of funding extensive reimbursement of payment is demanded.

Optional: Upload additional materials to this chapter

If you wish to use diagrams, pictures... please upload them here.



5. Integration of the proposed group leader

(About three pages)

Description of recruiting procedures

Please describe the recruiting process for the proposed group leader (search process, principles of selection and criteria applied). If there was a search committee, briefly describe the role of the committee who was involved and the search criteria applied.

Gender management

Female scientists in Austria are clearly underrepresented in leading positions which is, among other reasons, due to gender biases in selection procedures (see e.g. Margo Brouns, Elisabetta Addis: Gender and Excellence in the Making, Synthesis report, European Commission 2004). It is a goal of the WWTF and of the Austrian scientific community to overcome these biases. Please describe your institution's policy to avoid gender biases as well as the concrete steps undertaken during recruiting and selecting the leader of the proposed Vienna Research Group.

Status of the group leader during the funding period

Describe the contractual relationship with the group leader and her/ his status within the home institution.

Time plan, evaluation process (1 page)

Evaluation plan: Vienna Research Groups are designed for an overall term of six to eight years. The first phase always takes five years, during which the Group is mostly financed by WWTF. After three to four years, an evaluation shall be performed. Please describe here your concrete schedule and the envisaged evaluation process. Please note that the evaluation has to be organised jointly by the principal applicant and WWTF.

Perspectives for the group leader after the funding period

WWTF believes that long term perspectives for researchers are a prerequisite to hire good people. What is the principal applicant's strategy about tenure track models? Is there potential for development of the group after the funding period and a successful evaluation, and if so, in what direction?

Support structure

What measures are set that the integration of the new group leader runs smoothly? When the group leader has arrived: Is there a support in terms of administration? How will the access to scientific personal (doctoral students, post docs) be organized?



6. Resources (Max. three pages)

Describe the envisaged group and its size

How will the group be set up? Which qualifications are needed and when?

Describe the equipment and materials needed

Shortly describe the equipment and materials needed to successfully perform the group's research. Describe the availability of these equipment and materials. What should be funded by WWTF?

In-kind contributions - statement

The applicant's in-kind contributions have to amount to at least 20% of the total amount applied for. These in-kind contributions have to be described in detail, and – if provided by partners – need to be documented in the appendix in the form of Letters of Intent covering items and amounts indicated.

Often, basic infrastructure and basic equipment are classified as in-kind contribution: Basic infrastructures as office premises equipped with telephone, internet, laboratory etc., must be available anyhow, so that work in the given research area can be taken up upon signing of the contract. Other categories are internal labour, materials/software or cash.

Overhead policy

WWTF pays overheads of up to 20% of the fundable direct costs (being personnel costs and other costs). Please indicate the institution's overhead policy with regard to this proposal.



Personnel costs and internal labour

Personnel costs (requested WWTF funding)	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 5
Personnel costs (contribution/ internal Labour)	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 12
Overall	

Equipment/ materials / others

Equipment / materials / others (requested funding)	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 6
Equipment / materials / others (on own account)	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 13
Overall	

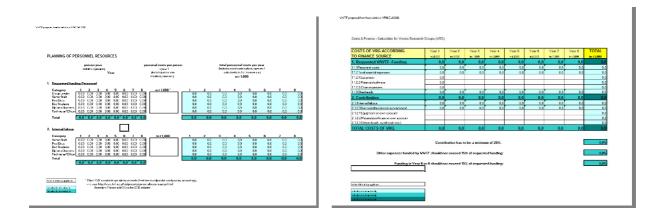
Overheads

Overheads	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 10
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Overall project costs

Requested WWTF funding	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 4
In-kind contribution	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 11
Total costs of VRG	See excel table Costs&Finance field J 17

→ Please fill in Excel Table "Personnel" and "Costs&Finance"



Some Words on Eligible Costs

Funding can be extended to any costs that are assignable to the project and are reasonable in terms of the project and scientific field:

- labour cost of the Vienna Research Group leader;
- labour cost of project staff;
- cost of project-related materials, events, travelling or specific organisational activities within the scope of the funded project, including a contribution towards the cost, if any, of moving and setting up the Group;
- third-party costs, specifically for external contributions, consulting, human resources development, studies and software;
- cost of laboratory and other equipment for the Vienna Research Group;
- overheads of up to 20% of the directly fundable costs.

WWTF has not set any unit rates for the **personnel costs** of the group, but suggests that the Austrian Science Fund's rates can be used as minimum reference rates (see: <u>http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/projects/personalkostensaetze.html</u>). As the Group will start in Vienna in 2013 at the earliest, we suggest to use 2012 rates plus an annual increase of 3%. The staff categories are defined as follows (international degrees have to be adjusted to these definitions):

Personnel Category	Minimum salary p.a. for 100% employment according to FWF standards 2012 + 3%
Senior Staff	68.680 €
Post Docs	62.430 €
Doc Students (30 hrs/week)	35.740 € (47.660 € for 40 hrs/week)
Diploma Students	5.440 €
Technician/Office	41.560 € (depending on qualification)

Equipment: This covers devices, instruments, system components and other durable goods that have to be purchased **in addition to** the available initial equipment and basic infrastructure, with a view to providing the group leader and his/her group with better infrastructure. If the purchases planned exceed the amount of \notin 20,000.- incl. VAT, the following questions need to be answered:



- 1. Is there any available, comparable equipment which could be modified for the tasks envisaged? If so, what would be the cost of modification as compared with that of purchase?
- 2. Is comparable equipment available within a reasonable distance (i.e. in Vienna)? If so, is there a chance of shared use?
- 3. What are the expected follow-up costs (recurring maintenance and repair, upkeep, consumption of energy, water, gases, coolants, etc.)? Costs accuring after the end of the WWTF funding period will, naturally, have to be covered by the principal applicant.
- 4. Note: If WWTF funding is desired, this equipment can be rented, leased, adapted, or bought. If devices are bought, pro rata depreciation rates can be funded. If special equipment is used on own account, pro rata depreciation rates should give the value of contribution.
- Material(s) and Software: This covers expendable material; appliances up to € 1,500.- € excl. VAT. Please provide a realistic estimate. Software: Requisite software that is not yet available can be purchased if no suitable software can be provided by the incorporating group(s).
- "Other": This covers, for example, the costs of travelling to scientific congresses or the costs of events and workshops organised internally or service contracts (paid on a lump sum basis).

Appendix

For uploading documents please make sure that in sum documents uploaded as appendices do not exceed 10MB and that all files must be uploaded in PDF format.

Letters of Intent (Lols) of any participating institution with in-kind contributions to the project. Such a Letter of Intent is not needed from the group leader's host institution.

Letters of Recommendation (LoRs) may be provided (max. 2).



Letter of Intent

[Insert Official Letterhead of Confirming Institution Name Institution Address]

Place, Date

To whom it may concern:

Herewith we confirm the commitment to the research project entitled

[NAME OF RESEARCH PROJECT]

and submitted to the WWTF "Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators Call 2012". In case of funding the institution will grant access to all necessary resources as outlined in the present project proposal. The overall in-kind contribution (in 1,000 \in , short k \in) by our institution is confirmed as follows:

- Internal labour: k€
- Materials/software on own account: k€
- <u>Others (cash, overheads):</u> <u>......</u>k€
- <u>Total in-kind contribution:</u> <u>k€</u>

Sincerely yours

Signature
[Spell out Name]

Stamp of the Institution

