

## Project Funding Taiwan-Austria

### Application Guidelines

The Project Funding Taiwan-Austria is financed by the BMBWF (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research) in Vienna and the MOE (Ministry of Education) in Taipei in equal parts. The programme intends to promote long-term cooperation between higher education institutions (universities, private universities, universities of applied sciences, university colleges of teacher education and non-university research institutions in the area of basic research) and research institutions in Taiwan and Austria.

The OeAD — Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation — will be in charge of administering all relevant programme procedures on the Austrian side. The MOE will be in charge of the administration of all relevant programme procedures on the Taiwanese side.

### Aims of the Programme

The aim of the programme is to stimulate joint activities and to contribute to direct collaborations among universities, higher education and research institutions. It is based on a mutual interest to considerably improve knowledge exchange on an international level and to strengthen the profiles of the institutions involved.

### Areas of cooperation

The disciplines covered by this programme are the natural sciences, technical sciences, social sciences, and arts.

### Who may apply?

Researchers at universities, private universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions in the area of basic research are eligible for application. The minimum requirement for **the Austrian** project coordinator is a PhD/Dr. degree. The minimum requirement for project members (3-5 project members from each partner) is an enrolment in a study programme (undergraduates, graduates).

For the Taiwanese side of the application please see the announcement of the MOE in Taipei.

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. Follow-up applications of bilateral partnerships whose project coordinator already received funding from this programme to carry out a joint project are not eligible.

## How to apply

It is up to the applicants to find suitable partners at the higher education institutions. All proposals must be submitted at both the OeAD by the Austrian project coordinator and at the MOE by the Taiwanese project coordinator. Applications which have not been received in time at the OeAD and the MOE are not eligible for funding. The call process is highly competitive, therefore not all applications can be guaranteed to receive funding.

**Austria:** The entire application for the research project must be submitted in English online at both authorities. The OeAD processes the call via an online application tool (the link will be published on the [programme website](#)). In Taiwan, the proposals have to be submitted via a project proposal.

The application must include the following documents/information:

- A brief academic CV for each project member (max. 3 pages)
- Project description including a methodological part (3-5 pages)
- Brief description of all partner institutions
- Brief description of the project tasks of all project members (Austrian and Taiwan)
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years
- Further cooperation perspectives
- Time schedule (the total duration of the project covering 1-2 years), included in the project description
- A financing plan (with cost statements regarding all revenues and expenditures) which can be included in the online application form (Austria)
- Letter of intent (incl. authorized signature)

Incomplete applications and applications not complying with the criteria will not be accepted for the further selection process.

## Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers and students between the participating partner institutions to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be provided for visits and the exchange of scientists and students conducting joint projects.

Visiting research stays in Taiwan and Austria are obligatory. The sending side will cover the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its own researchers.

## Funding Modalities

The project duration for proposed partnerships is set to a period of **one or two years**. The project start can be decided by the beneficiaries in frame of the schedule defined by the funding authorities. The earliest possible starting date is October 2024.

Only project members are eligible for a reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs for project-specific travels. Travel and subsistence costs include international and domestic travel costs. The project coordinators have to report all financial matters to their respective authorities.

#### Eligible costs for Austrian researchers:

- Monthly grant rate: € 1.000,-- (max. 4 months)
- Short term stays: € 100,-- per day (up to a maximum of 10 days)
- Travel costs subsidy: maximum € 1.500,-- based on the submitted invoices
- Up to € 2.000,-- per project of the granted funding may be applied for project-related material costs . Only project-specific material costs may be requested that are essential to carry out the research project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's infrastructure. Infrastructure or basic equipment of research institutions cannot be funded.

The reimbursement of air travels for Austrian researchers travelling to Taiwan will be made according to the actual costs incurred. Only flight tickets in the economy class or train tickets in the second class will be accepted. The use of a taxi instead of public transportation in Austria requires a written explanation. Supporting documents which have to be provided with the financial report are: Original ticket or, in case of air travel, the boarding card and the invoice plus proof of payment.

**We would like to point out that when planning the trip, the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness must be observed!**

Scholarships can only be awarded as part of approved projects. Only costs generated during the project period are considered eligible. This means that costs incurred before or after the project period will not be reimbursed. Unused funds have to be reimbursed to the project funding authority.

#### Eligible costs for Taiwanese researchers: see announcement of MOE

Travel and subsistence costs for Taiwanese researchers will be reimbursed according to the internal rules of procedures of the MOE.

### Evaluation Process

The selection follows a multistage process:

1. Examination of formal requirements and assessment of the application's plausibility
2. Expert evaluation procedure (peer-review)
3. Final joint decision of the two authorities BMBWF and MOE

All proposals have to be submitted to both national contact points. Proposals which are not submitted on both sides in time will not be considered for further procedures. After the call's closure, the OeAD and the MOE carry out a formal review of all documents. Furthermore, they prepare and exchange a list of all proposals received within two weeks. Among other information, the list has to indicate which proposals are formally valid or invalid, and which will be considered for further procedures or not.

The formal criteria are as follows:

- Timely submission
- Completeness of application documents
- Bilateral submission

Following the formal evaluation, all formally valid proposals will be submitted to **recognized national experts** in the fields of research represented by the proposals. An expert evaluation of each project will be carried out in Taiwan and in Austria at the same time. To receive comparable results, standardized evaluation sheets will be prepared and provided to the experts. Once the expert evaluations are completed, a summary of the results will be exchanged and used for the preparation of a joint selection committee.

The experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the intended research project, including
  - Feasibility of the joint research plan
  - Adequacy of the scientific method
  - Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved (max. 25 points)
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective (max. 15 points)
- Project applications submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project applications with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage (5 points) or female researchers (5 points) will receive up to 10 points additionally. (max. 10 points)

Maximum score: 50 points

On the Taiwanese side, national evaluation criteria for bilateral projects will be applied.

Based on the results of **national evaluations** carried out in Austria and in Taiwan, a joint shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the MOE and the BMBWF. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Taiwanese Joint Commission.

## Reporting and Publications

After completion of the first project year, an interim report must be submitted within one month by the Austrian project coordinator to the OeAD and by the Taiwanese project coordinator to the MOE.

Project coordinators have to submit a final report to the OeAD at the end of the project. They agree that the report will be published (min. 5 pages).

Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and Ministry of Education on Taiwan (MOE).

### Intellectual property

The project partners must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

### Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications will be published on the [website](#). Applications received after this date are not eligible for funding.

Please note that the OeAD and the MOE cannot be held responsible for applications that were not received. Principal Investigators have to ensure that their research partners submit their applications in time.

### Further information

#### In Austria

OeAD (Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation)  
Department for International Cooperation in Higher Education

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#### In Taiwan

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