

NEUES ENTDECKEN

TALENTE FÖRDERN

IDEEN UMSETZEN

FWF

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

In accordance with its Funding Guidelines of 1 January 2019
(as last amended), the FWF has issued the following

Application Guidelines for the Lise Meitner Programme (Incoming/Reintegration)



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1. General Information

1.1. Aims of the programme

The “Lise Meitner” training and career development programme aims to

- attract highly qualified researchers of all disciplines from abroad to research institutions and research programmes in Austria and take targeted measures that provide them with a maximum of support in their research work and career development during the postdoc stage. Mentoring by the co-applicant is an especially important part of this programme;
- create added value through the research cooperation between co-applicants and the Lise Meitner Fellows by opening up new fields of research, by establishing new research approaches, methods, processes, and techniques, and by sustainably enhancing the quality of research at the host institutions;
- integrate fellows into the research institutions and thus generate “brain gain”;
- promote cooperation between Austrian researchers and the Lise Meitner Fellows’ countries of origin;
- provide researchers who have been outside Austria for a long period of time with the opportunity to re-establish themselves at an Austrian research institution during the post-doc stage.

1.2. Deadlines

There are no submission deadlines for this programme; applications can be submitted at any time.

1.3. Who is eligible to apply?

The following researchers are eligible to apply:

- **Incoming:** Postdocs from abroad who do not fulfil the [territoriality principle](#) at the time of submitting the application. This means that an application may only be submitted by researchers whose main place of residence has been in Austria for less than three of the last ten years and who have not worked continuously in Austria for the last two years.
- **Reintegration:** Postdocs whose main place of residence has been outside of Austria for at least four years at the time of application (regardless of whether they fulfil the [territoriality principle](#)) and who are seeking to re-establish themselves at an Austrian research institution through the Lise Meitner Programme.

Applicants for a Lise Meitner Fellowship must have

- A doctoral degree (PhD). An application may be submitted at an earlier point in time if all the other requirements are fulfilled and if it appears that the applicant will receive the official doctoral degree (PhD) within the average processing period (approx. four months).

- a co-applicant at the Austrian research institution where the project will be carried out. Please note that the number of ongoing/ approved projects in which one researcher can serve as co-applicant is limited to a total of two projects (either a Lise Meitner and a Hertha Firnberg project or two Lise Meitner projects), and that the submission of another application as co-applicant is not permitted until 12 months before the end of one of these ongoing/approved projects).

Please note that there are limits to the number of ongoing/approved projects in which one researcher can serve as principal investigator. Further information on restrictions concerning the number of ongoing projects and limits on the submission of applications can be found at [Restriction on the number of projects](#).

1.4. What types of projects can be funded?

Funding may be requested for projects in the field of basic research that are clearly defined, convincingly described in terms of objectives and methods, and limited in time (no more than 24 months). Basic research refers to research that is knowledge-oriented and whose value is primarily defined by its significance for the advancement of science and scholarship. Aspects of a research project that go beyond the realm of science and scholarship may be mentioned, but they will not play a part in the assessment of whether the project should be funded. Double funding is not permitted (see [Funding guidelines](#)).

The **funding period** is 24 months.

Additional information

Part-time employment (at least 50%) is possible and, if applicable, must be indicated in the forms as well as the project description. However, the total duration of the requested project must not exceed 24 months.

Since this is an incoming programme, stays abroad (e.g., in connection with international cooperation arrangements, field work, etc.) must not exceed three months per project year.

Researchers may only serve once as the principal investigator of a Lise Meitner project.

1.5. What requirements must be met to apply?

Applicants must show that they possess the research qualifications needed to carry out the project by means of a publication record over the last five years commensurate with their career stage, which demonstrates their international visibility.

The following criteria are decisive in assessing an applicant's publication record and initiating the review process:

- **Peer review:** All the publications listed (or more than half in the case of the humanities) must have been subject to a quality assurance procedure in line with high international

standards, which usually means that journals should be listed in the Web of Science, Scopus, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). For journals not listed in those databases, or monographs, edited volumes or contributions therein, or other publication types, the peer-review procedure must be documented on the publisher's website to which applicants should provide a link. Should no such documentation be available on the website, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence that the publication has been subject to an appropriate quality assurance procedure.

- **Number and quality** of the applicant's publications must be commensurate with his/her career stage. At least two publications must be peer-reviewed and internationally visible publications with a substantial and independent contribution on the part of the applicant.
- **International nature:** In the natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences, most of the publications listed must be in English. In the humanities and cultural studies, as well as arts-based research, most of the applicant's publications must have a wider than national reach.

Should an applicant fail to meet one or more of the above criteria, the applicant must include an explanation with the application. In cases of doubt, the decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide whether the research qualifications are adequate.

1.6. What types of funding can be requested?

Principal investigator's salary

Meitner Fellows who have at least two years of research experience as a postdoc (since the date of conferral of the PhD) and can provide adequate proof of such experience receive a [senior postdoc salary](#). Principal investigators who cannot show at least two years of postdoc experience receive a [postdoc salary](#).

Project-specific costs

In addition to the principal investigator's salary, EUR 12,000.00 per project year is available for project-specific costs. Of those costs, up to EUR 2,000.00/year may be allocated for coaching or personal development.

Publication costs

As part of the [Peer-Reviewed Publications programme](#), the FWF provides additional funding upon request for publications resulting from approved projects, up to three years after the end of the project.

Travel costs

The principal investigator receives a travel subsidy. Funding can also be requested for the travel costs of family members (spouse/partner and children), provided that they will reside with the applicant in Austria for at least six months.

Additional subsidy for children

This is paid for children who will reside with the principal investigator in Austria for at least six months. The amount is EUR 1,500.00 (before taxes) per child per year and is prorated based on the actual stay of the child in Austria.

Removal allowance

A one-time lump-sum payment of EUR 2,200.00 (before taxes) is paid to help defray the additional costs of relocation. The FWF would like to point out that it cannot assist in arranging accommodation in Austria.

1.7. Applying for additional funding

Applicants for a Meitner project

- cannot submit parallel applications to the FWF for the same programme or for another programme for the promotion of junior researchers (Erwin Schrödinger, Hertha Firnberg, Elise Richter or Elise Richter PEEK). Applicants may apply for FWF funding in other programme categories by submitting a separate proposal, provided that they meet the application requirements of the respective programme;
- can also apply simultaneously to other agencies for funding for the planned research project. However, applicants are obliged to promptly notify the FWF in writing of such applications to other funding institutions as well as their decisions. The decision-making body of the FWF will decide whether and how much of the third-party funds will be deducted. If substantially identical applications are approved by other national and international funding bodies, and their scope of funding is sufficient to carry out the planned research project, the applicant must choose one of the approved grants. A combination is not permitted.

2. Application content and form

2.1. Sections of the application

For an application to be complete, it must contain the following sections:

1) **Academic abstract** in **English** comprising no more than 3,000 characters (incl. spaces; no formulas or special characters). The academic abstract will be used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must be divided into the following sections:

- Wider research context / theoretical framework
- Hypotheses / research questions / objectives
- Approach / methods
- Level of originality / innovation
- Primary researchers involved

2) **Project description incl. annexes:**

- Project description of no more than 50,000 characters (incl. spaces) on no more than 20 consecutively numbered pages, incl. table of contents, list of abbreviations, headings, figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc.;

Please note that annexes are an integral part of the application and must be attached to the project description in the following order as part of the *proposal.pdf* file (see also [Section 2.3](#))

- Annex 1: List of References
- Annex 2: Academic curricula vitae and description of previous research achievements
- Annex 3: Career plan
- Annex 4: Co-applicant's letter of recommendation
- Annex 5 (where applicable): Collaboration letters
- Annex 6 (optional): additional letter of recommendation

Attachments to be uploaded individually:

- Mandatory: publication list for the last five years, broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed see also [Section 2.4](#)).
- Where applicable: cover letter; list of reviewers to be excluded (see also [Section 3](#)); report on results or final report for follow-up applications, response(s) to reviews, for resubmissions; in the case of resubmissions, overview of all the changes made in the resubmitted application.

3) **Completed forms**

- Required forms: *academic abstract*, *application form*, *Programme-specific data* and *Co-authors form*;
- Optional forms: *National / International cooperation arrangements form*.

2.2. Form requirements

2.2.1. Language of application

To allow applications to be reviewed by international experts, applications must be submitted in English. If desired, a version in German or another language may be added as a supplement; however, submission solely in German or another project-relevant language other than English is permitted only in exceptional cases. Such exceptions apply exclusively to applications from the fields of linguistic and literary studies which concern only texts in German or languages other than English. In all such cases, it is absolutely necessary to consult the responsible project officers of the [Strategy - Career Development Department](#) prior to application and then submit an academic abstract of the project and a brief, convincing justification on the grounds of research for submission in a language other than English. The final decision shall be made by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

2.2.2. Formatting

The project description, annexes 1-3, and the attachments must be written in 11 pt. font (except for headings, captions, tables, and footnotes), with 1.5 line (15-20 pt.) spacing and at least 2 cm margins. The beginning of each paragraph should be clearly recognisable (e.g., by indenting the first line and/or spaces between paragraphs). Applicants must comply strictly with all upper limits (e.g., number of pages, attachments, etc.).

Citations in the text and the list of works cited (*References*) in the application must be in line with the conventions of the respective discipline, preferably according to a widely-used style guide (e.g., *Chicago Manual of Style*, *APA Publication Manual*). Applicants are free to choose the citation conventions or style guide they prefer, but they must apply them/it consistently throughout the application. If available, a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be used for the literature cited.

2.2.3. Submitting the application

The application must be submitted online at <https://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>.

1) Required parts of the application:

a) Files:

- *Proposal.pdf* (project description incl. annexes 1-4 and where applicable 5 and 6, with PDF bookmarks, at least for the major sections)

- *Publication_list.pdf* (publication list of the applicant and the co-applicant for the last five years, broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed)

b) Forms:

- Academic abstract in English
- Application form
- Programme-specific data
- Co-authors (mandatory information)
- National and international cooperation arrangements (*optional*)

2) Optional file uploads:

- *Cover_Letter.pdf* (= accompanying letter)
- *Negative_list.pdf* (= list of reviewers who should be excluded)
- *Follow.pdf* (= report on results or final report of the previous project in the case of follow-up applications)
- *Overview_Revision.pdf* (=in the case of resubmission, overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application)
- *Revision.pdf* (=in the case of resubmission, an overall response to all the reviewers or, if preferred, a short response to each reviewer saved in a separate file: *Revision_A.pdf*, *Revision_B.pdf* etc.)

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 the FWF by conventional mail. The application shall not be considered officially submitted until the 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 signature¹ (e.g., mobile phone signature), and sent to the FWF (office@fwf.ac.at) by e-mail. Please note that a signed and stamped cover sheet is invalid if it does not have a qualified electronic signature.

2.3. Project description and annexes

The description of the project must include the following contents:

2.3.1. Scientific/scholarly aspects

- Clearly defined aims and hypotheses or research question(s) of the project

¹ For example: <https://www.digital.austria.gv.at/citizen-card-concept>

- Description of the project's anticipated level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation²
- Relevance to international research in the field (international state of research)
- Methods
- Intended [cooperation arrangements](#) (national and/or international) as part of the planned project should be explained in the project description. This explanation should specify the people with whom the cooperation arrangement shall take place and the subject of the intended cooperation arrangement(s) or the contribution to the project. All of the national and/or international cooperation arrangements that were stated to be essential in the project description should be listed on the Cooperation arrangements form and be evidenced by a collaboration letter.
- Work plan and timeline
- All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects³ of the submitted project and the planned handling of them must be described in a separate section. This aspect should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any ethical issues.
- All potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects⁴ in the planned project as well as the planned implementation of these research questions must be described in a separate section. This aspect should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any sex-specific and gender-related issues.

3) Information on the research institution and career development

- Justification why this research project should be carried out at this research institution, and what added academic value is to be expected from this collaboration
- Importance of the project for the academic and research reputation of the applicant and his or her career development

² Examples of projects worthy of funding include, among others:

- Research on new ideas and/or examination of new research questions,
- Application or development of new research methods, new technologies, or original approaches to solving research questions,
- Application or modification of existing methods, technologies, or approaches to new research questions.

Please note that the next logical step or the incremental further development of published data is not considered to be innovative or original.

³ For instance, the European Commission's [Ethics for Researchers](#) or [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) can serve as a guide here.

⁴ Positioning and reflecting on the research approaches in the planned for the project in terms of sex-specific and gender-related issues, for instance: Is the research approach likely to produce sex-specific and gender-related findings? If so, what findings? How and where are these integrated into the research approach? (For information on checking the relevance of sex-specific and gender-related issues to a project, see <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-the-fwf/gender-issues/fix-the-knowledge/fix-the-knowledge-detail/>)

2.3.2. Annex 1: List of references

- List of literature cited in the application on no more than five pages

2.3.3. Annex 2: CVs and description of previous research achievements

The academic CVs and research achievements of the applicant and the co-applicant should be described on no more than three pages per person.

2.3.3.1. Required contents for academic CVs

- Name and contact details of the person, address of the research institution, and relevant websites. It is also required to provide a publicly available link to a list of all published publications; the use of ORCID is expressly recommended for this purpose.
- List of academic milestones and relevant positions held to date (with a brief explanation of any career gaps, if applicable).
- Main areas of research and short statement of the most important scientific/scholarly results achieved to date.

2.3.3.2. Required description of previous research achievements

- Academic publications⁵: list of no more than ten of the most important published or accepted academic publications (journal articles, monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, proceedings, etc.), broken down into a) peer-reviewed publications and b) non-peer-reviewed publications. In accordance with the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA), journal-based metrics like the journal impact factor should not be included.
- Additional research achievements: list of no more than ten of the most important scientific/scholarly research achievements apart from academic publications, such as awards, conference papers, keynote speeches, important research projects, research data, software, codes, preprints, exhibitions, knowledge transfers, science communication, licenses, or patents.

2.3.4. Annex 3: Career plan

- Career plan to be signed by the applicant and the co-applicant (no more than two pages). This should contain information about the aims of the programme regarding the applicant's academic development opportunities as well as any potential employment opportunities after the end of the funding period.

⁵ Publication lists must include: all authors, complete titles, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated; for publications with more than 20 authors, an "et al." reference can be used.

2.3.5. Annex 4: Co-applicant's letter of recommendation

- with the signature and letterhead of the research institution providing following information:
 - importance of the research project to the aims of the programme
 - justification for selecting the applicant (qualifications, potential career development, and planned support)
 - description of the expected added value generated for the Austrian research institution by collaborating with the project participants.

2.3.6. Annex 5: Collaboration letters

- (where applicable): Confirmations of national and international cooperation partners (collaboration letters, no more than one page) that are stated to be essential in the project description;

2.3.7. Annex 6: Additional recommendation

- (optional): one additional letter of recommendation

2.4. Mandatory appendix: Publication list

- A list of the applicant and the co-applicant of all publications published in the last five years⁶ (broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed) should be uploaded (*Publication_list.pdf*).

This list helps the FWF to determine if there are any potential conflicts of interest with reviewers and thus speeds up the process of identifying reviewers. This list will not be forwarded to the reviewers.

2.5. Forms

All required forms must be completed in their entirety. For the application to be legally binding, the FWF requires the cover sheet generated automatically at the end of the submission process including the original signatures and stamps:

- Affirmation of applicant,
- Declaration on ethical rules,
- Affirmation of co-applicant,
- Declaration of consent by the applicant's research institution.
- Consent of the applicant relating to GDPR

⁶ see footnote 5

Co-authors form: All persons who have made substantial research-related contributions to the conception and writing of the application should be named as co-authors. A brief description of the nature of each contribution should be included; where there are no co-authors, applicants should state this explicitly on the form.

2.6. Additional attachments

In addition to the project description and the forms, the following attachments should be uploaded, where applicable:

- Cover letter;
- List of reviewers who should be excluded;
- If the project submitted is the continuation of an FWF-funded project, a report on previous results or a final report and a list of publications resulting from the project should be uploaded in the language of the application (no more than six pages);
- For the attachments needed in the case of revising a rejected application (resubmission), see [Section 2.7](#);

It should be noted that any annexes or attachments in addition to the ones mentioned above shall not be considered in further stages of the process (such as further letters of recommendation, publications not yet published).

2.7. Revising a rejected application (“resubmission”)

A resubmission is defined as the revision of an application which has already been rejected with the same or similar research questions, regardless of the programme category. Where an applicant submits an application on the same or very similar research questions yet does not consider it to be a resubmission but an entirely new project, the applicant must submit a separate accompanying letter to the FWF Office explaining how the research questions have changed. For example, changes in research methods alone are not sufficient for a proposal to qualify as a completely new project. In cases of doubt, the decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide.

- If the project submitted is a resubmission of a rejected application, the applicant should indicate this at the beginning of the project description (e.g., in a footnote).
- An accompanying letter containing an overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application must be submitted to the FWF; this overview will not be passed on to the reviewers.
- Response(s) to reviews: the applicant can decide whether the response(s) should be passed on to the relevant previous reviewer or all reviewers (see [Section 3](#)). These response(s) should address the suggestions and criticism expressed in each review of the previous application and point out the changes made on that basis. Such responses are not necessary in the case of reviews written by persons who are to be excluded from the review process for the resubmitted application. However, such exclusions must be justifi-

ed and will also be counted toward the list of reviewers who should be excluded for the resubmission.

If all the reviewers are to receive this response, the applicant must submit a document containing an overall response.

If these responses are to be passed on only to the reviewers who were previously involved, the applicant should include a short response to each review in a separate document.

Resubmissions must show changes. In the case of resubmissions of applications that have been rejected for the standardised reasons C3, C4, and C5, the changes need to be substantial (based on the comments in the reviews). If such changes are not made, the application will be returned without review by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

3. Processing and decision on the application

The FWF Office undertakes a formal check of the application. A detailed description of the decision-making process, the criteria for selecting international reviewers, detailed rules concerning conflicts of interest and the composition of expert juries and boards can be found in the [General principles of the decision-making procedure](#).

The **review process** generally takes about six months. When it is completed, the FWF Board considers the reviews and decides whether the proposal should be supported. The applicant will be informed in writing of the FWF's decision.

At least two reviews are necessary for an application to be approved.

Requests for changes and returning applications without review

Incomplete applications or those which do not comply with the FWF's regulations or which contain formal errors (in particular, those which exceed the permitted length) will not be processed further by the FWF until the applicant has rectified the problems within a reasonable period of time (generally three weeks). If the problems have not been resolved within this period of time, the decision-making bodies of the FWF will return these proposals without review. Similarly, the decision-making bodies of the FWF will return without review applications that have been previously rejected by the FWF and resubmitted without any relevant revisions.

All applications that conform with the FWF's regulations will be sent for review. The reviewers (generally persons working outside of Austria) will be selected by the members of the FWF Board and confirmed by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

Once the review process has begun, no more changes can be made to the application.

The most common reasons why applications are returned without review by the decision-making bodies of the FWF are (a) that the applicant's track record of publications does not

meet the requirements (see [Section 1.5](#)) and (b) that the application is missing specific hypotheses or research questions (see [Section 2.3](#)).

Reasons for rejection

The reasons for rejecting a project will be assigned one of five categories (C1–C5) and will be sent to applicants along with the reviews. A detailed description of the categories can be found in the [General principles of the decision-making procedure](#).

Resubmissions

If the application is a resubmission of a previously rejected proposal, the FWF will generally contact those reviewers who provided *constructive* criticism on the previous application. Reviewers who gave entirely positive or negative comments will generally not be contacted for a second review. However, please note that all resubmissions are also evaluated by new reviewers.

Proposal bans

Applications that are rejected for reason C5 will be barred for 12 months (from the date of the decision) and cannot be resubmitted during that period.

Applications that have been submitted three times and rejected for reasons C3 or C4 (i.e., the original application and the respective resubmissions) are also barred for 12 months (from the date of decision); rejections for reasons C1 or C2 do not count towards this total.

Exclusion of reviewers

Applicants may include a separate document with a list of reviewers who should not be asked to review the application due to possible conflicts of interest. A detailed description of the FWF's rules concerning conflicts of interests can be found in the [General principles of the decision-making procedure](#).

This list may include up to three potential reviewers whom the applicant believes may have conflicts of interests. The list should be accompanied by a brief explanation of the grounds for this belief. If the grounds for exclusion are professionally and technically sound, the FWF will generally fulfil such requests and will exclude those reviewers from the review process.

Please note that the FWF does not wish to receive, nor will it consider a list of possible reviewers from applicants.

4. Legal status

In the case of approval, a grant agreement will be concluded with the FWF, in which the relevant rules regarding amount of funding, duration, payment, proper use of funds, and reporting are stated in detail.

The principal investigator is an employee. Universities according to the 2002 Universities Act (UG 2002) and research institutions that have a relevant agreement with the FWF are the employer; in all other cases, the co-applicant is the employer of the principal investigator. In this case, the co-applicant, as the employer, is responsible to the FWF for compliance with the relevant provisions of labour and social security law.

5. Compliance with legal requirements and standards of research integrity

The FWF would like to point out that the applicant and the co-applicant must comply (see also the “Declaration on ethical rules” in the cover sheet) with all legal requirements and safety provisions (e.g., Federal Disabilities Act) that apply for his or her project and obtain all the necessary permits (e.g., from the Ethics Commission, the Commission for Animal Experimentation, the Federal Monuments Authority Austria, or the relevant foreign authorities).

Applicants must also comply with the guidelines for [good scientific practice](#) of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI) when submitting the application and carrying out the project.

If there is reason to believe that an applicant has failed to comply with these standards, the FWF will arrange for the ombudsperson of the respective research institution or the [Austrian Agency for Research Integrity](#) (ÖAWI) to carry out an investigation. The FWF reserves the right to suspend, in part or in whole, any procedures related to applications or ongoing projects until the investigation has been concluded. For more detailed information, see [FWF procedure in cases of suspected scientific misconduct](#).

6. Publication of project data and results

The FWF would like to point out that should the project be approved, the FWF will publish on its website a summary of the project in German and English for public relations purposes – which must be sent to the FWF when returning the grant agreement – as well as the amount of funding granted and, on project completion, summaries of the final report of the project. The principal investigator should ensure that these summaries are written in such a way as to rule out any possible restrictions on patent applications arising from the results of the project.

In addition, the FWF requires a data management plan (DMP) for all approved projects. This should also be sent to the FWF when returning the grant agreement. The template for the DMP can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/open-access-policy/research-data-management/>.

In presentations and publications of project results (e.g. scholarly publications, research data), applicants must comply with the relevant requirements on acknowledging the FWF as the funding institution and the FWF's [Open Access Policy](#).

APPENDIX: Notes and questions for reviewers in the Lise Meitner programme⁷

In all of its programmes, the FWF actively supports equal opportunities and equal treatment. The review of an application must not put applicants at a disadvantage for non-research-related reasons such as age, gender, etc. For example, the review of applications should not focus on the applicant's actual age, but on the relation between the applicant's previous research achievements and the length of his/her research career. For the FWF, equal opportunities also means taking into account any unavoidable delays in applicants' research careers that have led to publication gaps, less time spent abroad, etc. (e.g., due to well-founded, extended qualification periods; time spent raising children; long-term illness; caring for relatives; etc.).

In writing your review, please keep in mind that your comments in the first section of the review will be forwarded to the applicant and, where applicable, other reviewers, in an anonymous way.

The FWF would like to point out that the length and the form of the project proposal must fulfil the form requirements⁸ of the FWF, and therefore we ask that you keep these restrictions in mind when writing your review.

The FWF is obligated to ensure the best possible use of public-sector funds for basic research according to scientific/scholarly research criteria. We therefore ask you to comment on the following aspects of the application in Section 1a. What are the specific strengths of the project? Does it have weaknesses, and if so, what are they?

Section 1a (forwarded to the applicant in its entirety):

- 1) Level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation of the application
- 2) Scientific/scholarly quality of the proposal
- 3) Approach/methods and feasibility of the proposal
- 4) Academic qualification of the applicant (based on her/his academic age)
- 5) Academic qualification and suitability of the co-applicant as a mentor as well as the quality (international research reputation) of the research environment

⁷ Further information on the FWF's corporate policy and mission or the application guidelines for the Lise Meitner programme can be found on our website at: (<http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/ueber-den-fwf/leitbild/> and <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/meitner-programme/>)

⁸ Form requirements: Project description incl. figures, tables and abbreviations, no more than 20 pages; list of literature cited, no more than five pages; academic CVs and description of previous research achievements of the project participants incl. the ten most important publications, no more than three pages each.

- 6) Importance of the project for the career development of the applicant, and the expected added value generated for the Austrian research institution by the collaboration of the applicant and co-applicant (brain gain)
- 7) Additional aspects:
 - a) Ethical aspects
 - b) Sex-specific and gender-related aspects
- 8) Overall evaluation with consideration of the key strengths and weaknesses. Please give a clear recommendation for or against funding a project.

Section 1b (optional remarks to the applicant)

Reviewer's recommendations to the applicants for implementing the project (in the case of approval). The recommendations made here should not play a role in the funding decision.

Section 2 (confidential remarks to the FWF)

Other comments intended solely for the FWF.