

MUI-START programme - 8th call

The MUI-START programme has been devised as a start-up fund for young scientists. The aim of the programme is to offer young scientists the opportunity of developing new project ideas, within the MUI research focuses, that could serve as basis for a subsequent successful application for third-party funding (e. g. FWF, ÖNB). The MUI-START programme funds only high quality scientific projects. Calls will be announced once a year. The 8th call of the MUI-START programme involves a three-step evaluation procedure. Please, read carefully the following instructions.

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must have a working contract with the Medical University of Innsbruck (MUI).
- Applicants must have completed their doctoral studies (e. g. PhD, clinical PhD). Proposals from applicants with an adequate degree (MD) and an excellent track record will also be considered.
- Upper age limit for applicants is 35 years by the submission deadline. Fully justified career breaks can be taken into account (e. g. parental leave, national service).
- Applicants' track record must be commensurate with their academic age. However, two (accepted) peer-reviewed international publications as first author are compulsory.
- Excluded from applying are:
 - Professors and heads of departments/divisions
 - PIs of third-party funded projects. (e. g. FWF, ÖNB...)
 - Applicants that have already received a MUI-START research grant
- Research proposals should have a clear connection to one of the University's research focuses, i.e.: a) Oncology, b) Neurosciences, c) Genetics, Epigenetics & Genomics, and d) Infectiology, Immunology & Organ and Tissue transplant.
- Gender aspects in research should be an integral part of the research strategy. Gender aspects should be accounted for in all relevant parts of the proposal.
- Only one proposal per applicant can be accepted.
- Applications "under the wing" of more established scientists (Schutzmantel-Madonnen Anträge) in which the young scientist should act as PI will be withdrawn.
- Clinical trials can be funded only if they represent a clearly defined study that can be completed in the predetermined duration of the project (max. 24 months).

Evaluation procedure

There will be a three-step evaluation procedure for proposals submitted under the 8th call.

First evaluation step: Proposals will be first assessed by the MUI-START jury and selected according to the following criteria: excellence of the applicant's track record, scientific quality of the proposal, relevance of the proposal for the MUI research focuses, inclusion of gender aspects in all relevant parts of the proposal, and potential of the proposal to be translated into an application for third-party funding.

Only proposals that satisfy these criteria will be selected for the second evaluation round (international peer-review).

Following peer-review by international experts the proposals will be ranked and the best applications short-listed. Short-listed applicants will be invited to an individual interview with the MUI-START jury (third evaluation step). Final decisions on proposals will be based on both the reviewer's scores and the outcome of the interviews.

Application guidelines:

- Total project costs cannot exceed € 30.000,00
- Personnel costs (only marginal employment contracts) may be covered only in exceptional cases that need to be fully justified. Funding of own position is not possible.
- Project specific costs (consumables, etc.) should be duly justified; competitive quotations must be provided for costs exceeding € 5.000,00. Travel expenses for one relevant conference or meeting per year may be covered provided an active participation is taken in the event (e. g. poster or oral presentation). Costs for travelling, accommodation and registration's fees will be reimbursed only at the level stated in the respective MUI guidelines: <https://www.i-med.ac.at/forschung/files/rkz-richtlinie.doc>.
- The maximum duration of a project is 24 months.
- Double funding of a project, or of work-packages from another project (e. g. FWF; ÖNB; TWF) is not allowed. Additional funding sources must be declared.
- Only selected proposals will undergo peer-review by international experts and the short-listed applicants will be interviewed by the MUI-START jury.
- Applicants may exclude up to two reviewers. Positive reviewer suggestions will be discarded.
- Only the referent in charge of a proposal will know the identity of the reviewers assigned to the proposal. The rest of the MUI-START jury will access the reviews anonymously.

How to apply:

Applications must be submitted online using the Grants, Applications and Reviews (GAR) platform of the MUI (<http://fld.i-med.ac.at/gar>).

The 8th call will be open from 1st February 2017 12:00 local time till 31st March 2017 23:59 local time.

- Please submit your proposal as PDF file using Arial 11, 1,5 spaced. Proposals should have a maximum of 12 DIN-A4 pages (points 2 – 9; without annexes and references)
- Only proposals in English will be accepted.
- Applicants must provide the following documents together with their application:
 - Curriculum vitae (indicating the duration of your MUI working contract)
 - Publication list (indicating the IF of publications)
 - Academic abstract (ca. 450 words)
 - Proposal

- Itemization of the requested funding ([Link](#))
 - Affirmation of the head of the department/division ([Link](#))
 - Affirmation of the head of the MUI animal facilities ([if applicable](#))
- **Expected begin of the projects: 01.10.2017**
 - Proposals should have the structure explained hereafter. Please include all predetermined points (with numbers) in the specified manner.

Proposal structure:

1. Cover sheet including the project title, 5 keywords, and the duration of the project (months)
2. Background and state of the art
3. Objectives
4. Working plan
5. Methodology
6. Outlook/perspectives: short overview on possible aims after completion of the proposed project (ca. ½ page)
7. Project schedule
8. Project costs: a thorough justification of the costs applied for must be provided in this section.
For an overview of the project costs use the form "[itemization of requested funding](#)".
9. Cooperation partners inside and outside the MUI
10. References
11. Studies subjected to regulations:
 - a. Permits for animal testing should be presented to the MUI research office (Servicecenter-Forschung) no later than the expected project start.
 - b. Permits for working with genetic modified organisms must be enclosed to the full proposal
 - c. Decisions of the ethics committee must be submitted to the MUI research office (Servicecenter-Forschung) no later than the expected project start.
12. Applicants and the personnel employed in the MUI-START projects must follow the rules of good scientific practice. Thus, the proposal should include following sentence: *"Hereby, I justify than in case of approval of the present proposal the rules of good scientific practice will be observed"*.
13. Proposals must include a statement that no application for funding of the same project has been submitted anywhere else, and that the MUI research office (Servicecenter-Forschung) will be notified without delay if such an application takes place.

Important information:

- If cross-references to a current or a submitted third-party funded project exist, a detailed explanation highlighting the differences between both projects must be included in the proposal.
- A scientific interim report including a summary of the obtained results, information on publications and presentations of results in congress, and a brief report on the use of funding is expected from grant recipients on an annual basis. Additionally, a presentation of the project results during the MUI-START Symposium is compulsory. The interim report and the abstract of the presentation for the MUI-START Symposium must be sent to the MUI research office (Servicecenter-Forschung) two weeks before the planned date of the MUI-START Symposium (October/November).
- Submission of a third-party funding application (e. g. FWF; ÖNB) is compulsory for all MUI-START grant recipients. The MUI research office must receive proof of such a submission within three quarters of the planned duration of the MUI-START project. Failure to apply for a third-party funded project will result in the cancellation of the payment of last quarter of the MUI-START grant budget.
- If the PI leaves the University before the scheduled end of the project (e. g. employment somewhere else) the project funding will be immediately cancelled and a final report on the project must be provided. For parental leaves (either mother or father), the project may be interrupted temporarily and resumed at a later date.
- Proposals that do not fulfil the formal criteria described in these guidelines will be discarded without exception. Please pay particular attention to the sequence and numeration of the individual points described before and justify thoroughly in the text all the costs applied for. Use the form "itemization of requested funding" ([Link](#)) for an overview on the project costs.

Further information:

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