

Call for Project Proposals

Researchers (who have already obtained a PhD degree) are invited to submit project proposals for funding under the JKU LIT program. The JKU LIT focuses on excellent, application-oriented research in all areas of science and technology along the entire innovation chain. The emphasis is on high risk – high gain projects. The JKU LIT encourages collaborative and inter-/multi-disciplinary research.

The JKU LIT program is not meant to be a funding agency in its own rights. Rather, it aims at providing seed budget to encourage excellent research with the final goal of obtaining external funding. The JKU LIT supports various types of projects:

Project Types

Young Career Projects

Who?	Early Career Researchers (PhD obtained within last 5 years or longer if reasonably justifiable)
What For?	To encourage young researchers to start their own research groups. Young Career Projects shall lead <u>young researchers to scientific independence</u> . The funding should strengthen CVs by increasing international visibility by excellent research to improve chances for obtaining external research funding and faculty positions.
How Long?	A Young Career Project may fund the PI (in part if needed) and/or 1-2 PhD student/s (30hrs/wk) for up to 2 years. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 200.000,-

Seed Projects

Who?	Open to All Researchers
What For?	To encourage the establishment of <u>transdisciplinary collaborations</u> to establish initial results/proofs of concepts for high risk – high gain research. The primary goal of Seed Projects is to strengthen ideas to improve the chances for obtaining highly competitive external research funding.
How Long?	A Seed Project may fund the PI (if needed), a Post Doc or PhD student (30hrs/wk) for up to 2 years. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 200.000,-

SeedplusMED Projects

Who?	Open to All Researchers – Cooperation projects MED – MED/RE/SOWI/TN
What For?	To encourage the establishment of <u>transdisciplinary collaborations</u> between the medical faculty (1 PI) and one of the other JKU faculties (1 PI).
How Long?	A Seed Project may fund the PI(s) (if needed), Post Doc(s) or PhD student(s) (30hrs/wk) for up to 2 years. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 200.000,- (€ 100.000,- for each PI, separate budgets required).

Co-Funding Projects

Who?	Open to All Researchers
What For?	To support underfunded projects of excellence funding schemes such as Marie Curie Fellowships, ERC Grants and other excellent underfunded projects. The actual funding may vary depending on the deficiencies of the underfunded project after project costs and overheads and admin costs have been consumed. We only fund genuine salary.
How Long?	The Co-Funding may support the underfunded project for the length of the project but no more than 5 years.

Incoming Scientist Projects

Who?	Open to All Incoming Researchers
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What For?	To support incoming scientists with excellent CV and project ideas, who were not active in research in Upper Austria for at least 1 year. This funding scheme is focusing on the scientific excellence of the applicant, high gain/technical potential of the applicant and the applicant's research vision fitting/complementing research at JKU LIT.
How Long?	The funding is granted for up to 3 years. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 300.000,-

Topics

The call is open to all areas of science and technology. There is no restriction to particular topics. However, it is expected that projects complement and strengthen existing areas in the technical, natural, social, medical, and legal sciences of the JKU. The implications on technology and industrial relevance have to be explained clearly.

Researchers

The JKU LIT is open to all researchers (from JKU and other institutions). No preference is given. However, **if funded, researchers from other institutions must move to Linz and accept employment from the JKU for the duration of the project.** Researchers from the Kepler University Hospital require an entrustment according to §29 paragraph 9 UG. Furthermore, JKU permanent staff (Stammpersonal) may participate in the JKU LIT, but their contributions must be in-kind (no salary may be requested beyond full time employment) for financial-administrative correctness.

Location

The project must identify a hosting JKU institute/department with a point of contact (head of institute or head of department). Office space and other infrastructure must be provided by this host. It is recommended to add to the proposal a Letter of Confirmation issued by the hosting institute/department.

Industrial Participation

The JKU LIT allows industrial participation and encourages the industrial project partners to co-fund the project. However, the JKU LIT does not allow the funding of industrial partners.

Submission Process

Young Career, Incoming Scientists Projects, Seed and Seedplus MED Projects require a proposal. The writing style of the proposal should follow the template (in English). The project proposal should include a funding plan covering salaries (please add an approximate annual salary increase of 4% (2025) and 3% (2026 and 2027) and reasonable allowances for consumables and travel (in exceptional cases). The project proposals are evaluated by reviewers nominated by the FWF. An internal expert committee proves the plausibility of the reviews. The final funding decision is made by the JKU Rectorate.

The criteria to assess whether a project is eligible for funding is based on the application's scientific excellence, the applicant's outstanding scientific and academic background and record, the project's technical relevance, and its inter-/multi-disciplinary approach.

Co-Funding Projects require the original proposal and evaluation results together with a funding plan covering salaries and reasonable allowances for consumables and travels. No additional evaluation is necessary if the existing evaluation is convincing and confirms the excellent nature of the project. The funding decision is made by the JKU Rectorate.

The proposal deadline for the next call is April 29th 2024. Every project proposal must be submitted in English with the standard cover sheet, that clearly identifies the project type, the principal investigator (who will also become a JKU LIT project leader), the duration of the project, the project funding requested, the JKU host contact, the industrial contact (if applicable), the primary goals, major equipment expected/needed, and a short abstract.

Funding guidelines please see <https://www.jku.at/en/linz-institute-of-technology/research/lit-calls/>.

Please send your application to: lit@jku.at by April 29th 2024.