

„Profilbildung@TUGraz“: Initial Funding Program, 20th call

1. Initial funding program of the TU Graz

The main goal of the initial funding program is to support the profile formation of TU Graz. Initial funding (grants) will support preliminary work and preparation of potentially successful applications for competitive funding programs. An increase of applications on significant future topics is expected to lead to an increase of third-party funding. Calls for applications focus on national and international funding programs.

2. Initial funding program, 20th call

The 20th call especially addresses researchers of TU Graz who are members of the FoE and who have little experience in applying for third-party funding.

Applications on all subjects may be submitted within the 20th call of the initial funding.

2.1. Who is eligible to apply and what will be supported

All members of the FoE at TU Graz are eligible to apply, however preferably:

- young academics of TU Graz up to 12 years after their doctorate,
- newly appointed professors (no longer than 5 years of employment at TU Graz).

More experienced researchers should include a statement explaining why the initial funding is needed and how the project contributes to the profile formation (e.g. for the further development of the applicant in new research areas or through applications for collaborative top research projects such as SFB, DK, COMET centers).

It is required for applicants of the initial funding to act as applicant/PI/project manager of the planned project or project share of the TU Graz(-institute). It is important to ensure that the applicant has sufficient research experience.

Applications for the preparation of Horizon Europe proposals are expressly welcome.

Proposals which have already been completed or submitted will not be supported. Researchers who received initial funding within the last year (18th and 19th call) are not eligible for funding.

2.2. Priorities / Guidelines of individual Fields of Expertise

FoE Advanced Materials Science

Initial funding for applications for FFG basic projects is not possible.

FoE Mobility and Production:

Projects involving more than a single institute of the FoE Mobility and Production will be preferred.

FoE Sustainable Systems:

Projects involving more than one institution or faculty will be preferred.

FoE Information, Communication & Computing:

Projects, which include partners from several institutes of the FoE or international partners, will be preferred in case of equality.

Preference is given to projects where the focus of research is on new concepts, methods and systems in the field of the FoE. If the main focus of the application is on the solution of problems

in other application domains, the application should be submitted to the FoE assigned to the application domain.

2.3. Application and selection criteria

The application and allocation of initial funding is granted ad personam, but the endorsement of the head of the institute is required.

The winner projects, chosen internally, will receive funds in order to

- Scientifically formulate a research project for a complete/full application,
- Draft or specify the concept of the research project (methods, partnering structure, working process planning, etc.),
- Carry out preliminary work (research, measurements, etc.) in order to raise the quality of the application,
- Involve cooperation partners.

The content of the applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Quality and degree of innovation of the research project on the basis of the initial situation, research aims, approaches and working schedule
- Probability of success of the project application
- Contribution to profile formation and strengthening of the Fields of Expertise of TU Graz
- Qualifications of the applicant or the applying consortium

2.4. Budget and funding requirements

The selected projects will each receive up to 10 % of the budget of the planned research project, but no more than 10,000 €.

The approved initial funding of the 20th call is at the researcher's disposal for 12 months from the date of approval, i.e. from January 2024 until December 2024.

Eligible costs include:

- Personnel costs (staff, in exceptional cases also one's own salary for the time of an employment gap),
- Travel expenses (e.g. for the initiation of cooperation),
Please note: For projects with Unite! (Aalto University (Espoo/Helsinki), KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm), Wroclaw Tech, Technical University of Darmstadt, Grenoble INP-UGA, Politecnico di Torino, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Universidade de Lisboa) or strategic partner universities of Graz University of Technology (University of Strathclyde, Tongji University), additional 2,000 € can be applied for (handling via the International Office - Welcome Center).
- Material costs,
- Infrastructure/Facilities/Equipment costs (minor devices),
- Costs for meetings (Please note: entertainment/catering expenses are not eligible).

Costs incurred before January 2024 cannot be funded.

Beneficiaries must present the proposal by December 2024, which will either already have been submitted or will be submitted. Otherwise, a minimum of 50 % of the granted sum must be refunded (if necessary by the institute).

2.5. Submission of applications

The deadline for applications is **November 14, 2023**.

Applications should be submitted **by email to foe@tugraz.at**.

The application forms may be downloaded from <https://www.tugraz.at/go/anschubfinanzierung>.

The Vice Rector for Research will review the applications together with the Heads of Fields of Expertise and choose according to the criteria mentioned above.

The funding decisions will be announced by December 2023.