

Supplementary Application Guidelines for the subject-specific
funding program

netidee SCIENCE

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Discovering
what
matters.

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1 General Information

The objective behind [netidee SCIENCE](#) funding is to support independent basic research on the opportunities and challenges presented by the internet and related innovations at Austria's universities and non-university research institutions. The netidee SCIENCE award for excellent online research is financed by the charitable foundation Internet Stiftung.

Funding is provided for forward-looking research projects that advance scientific knowledge about the internet, its underlying technologies and methods, and the resulting social aspects. Topics can range from projects on basic technologies, the Internet of Things, information security, and data protection, to research into communication systems, social networks, and new forms of digital communication and their impact on society. The netidee SCIENCE award does not focus on technology alone, but also on the economic, social, and political aspects of the internet.

The Internet Stiftung itself is committed to further developing the internet in Austria and to ensuring a free and well-regulated access to all that it offers. The netidee SCIENCE award and its funding for basic research in this field are intended to support and strengthen this guiding principle.

2 What Types of Projects Can Be Funded?

Eligible for funding are projects with concisely defined objectives and methodology which are subject to duration and funding limits analogous to the provisions of the FWF's [Principal Investigator Projects](#) or [ESPRIT](#) programs.

3 Submission

The guidelines and forms required for submitting a Principal Investigator Project (PAT) or an ESPRIT project (ESP) apply for this call. The submission deadline is **March 25, 2025 (2:00 pm local time Vienna)**.

All applications are submitted online using [elane](#), the FWF's digital application portal. Please note that both Principal Investigator Projects and ESPRIT are subject to the [PROFI](#) funding mode. When applying, first select the appropriate program (PAT or ESP), then choose "netidee SCIENCE" from **the drop-down menu**.

An additional program-specific form must also be filled out in elane. This form will help the FWF decide whether the Principal Investigator Project or ESPRIT project described in the application actually meets the thematic specifications of the current call. If not, the applicant agrees that the application will be processed and decided upon like a regular proposal in the Principal Investigator Project or ESPRIT programs.

Please note: A brief PR proposal summary in German and one in English must also be uploaded to elane as a general attachment (PDF format, no more than 3,000 characters) when submitting your netidee SCIENCE application.

The application must be approved for submission in elane by the research institution no later than March 25, 2025 (2:00 pm local time Vienna).

After the application has been submitted, changes/additions can only be made if specifically requested by the FWF. Changes must be made within the period indicated after receipt of notification (all requested changes are submitted online as supplementary applications).

Applications received after the submission deadline will be processed according to the standard provisions of the Principal Investigator Projects program or the ESPRIT program.

4 Eligible Costs

Depending on the proposed research, project-specific funds (personnel and non-personnel costs) can be applied for. The number of reviews required depends on the amount of funds requested.

5 Decisions

Funding decisions for the netidee SCIENCE program are made by the Board of the Internet Foundation within four weeks of the FWF Scientific Board's decision meeting in October 2025 and based on the Scientific Board's evaluation and recommendation.

The Internet Foundation is providing €400,000 in funding for this call.

If the required funding amount for an eligible project exceeds the amount available from the Internet Foundation, the FWF will cover the difference from its own budget.

Excellent reviewed proposals that cannot be funded by the Internet Foundation will be funded directly by the FWF according to the standard provisions of the Principal Investigator Projects program or the ESPRIT programs; the call-specific provision on general project costs (see [section 6](#)) does not apply to these applications, however.

6 Call-Specific Details

For Principal Investigator Projects funded by the Internet Foundation, the general project costs are automatically increased to 10%, while projects from the ESPRIT program receive 5% more budget.

Applications submitted for this call are not subject to the [application and project number limit](#).