

Application Call 2025

ANNIVERSARY FUND

of the City of Vienna for the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna

With the establishment of the "Anniversary Fund of the City of Vienna for the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna," the City of Vienna celebrates the 150th anniversary of BOKU in 2025 and acknowledges the cooperation with one of Vienna's most important universities.

Through the joint and coordinated approach to addressing key issues by BOKU University and the City of Vienna, the synergies between science and industry are aimed to be actively promoted.

The established fund serves the following objectives

- Strengthening science-based collaboration in core areas between the City of Vienna and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna
- Reinforcing collaboration between science and industry in the areas of competence of BOKU, integrated with the business fields of the City of Vienna
- Promoting the connection between business and sustainable development, thereby strengthening the economy and quality of life in Vienna
- Strengthening the university and scientific location of Vienna by targeting the integration of activities between BOKU and the City of Vienna
- promoting young scientists at BOKU University

The following funding instruments are available:

- I. City of Vienna-BOKU Research Funding**
- II. BOKU Best Paper Awards**
- III. BOKU Talent Awards** (for outstanding Master's theses or dissertations)

In the "City of Vienna-BOKU Research Funding" instrument, research projects from all fields of BOKU, focusing on the theme: **"(Viennese) Paths into the Future: Sustainable and Resilient Supply Systems in a Societal Transformation,"** will be supported in 2025.

The "BOKU Best Paper Awards" and "BOKU Talent Awards" will honor submissions from all fields of BOKU.

I. City of Vienna-BOKU Research Funding:

As part of the City of Vienna-BOKU Research Funding 2025, research projects from all areas of BOKU, in conjunction with the focus on "(Viennese) Paths into the Future: Sustainable and Resilient Supply Systems in a Societal Transformation," can receive funding ranging from €35,000 to €90,000, with a project duration of a maximum of 2 years. A total of up to €175,000 will be available for the "City of Vienna-BOKU Research Funding" projects.

Submitted projects should contribute to the vision of a sustainable metropolitan region, particularly addressing the institutional and technical design of various supply systems (e.g., in the areas of food, mobility, housing, energy), making them resilient to acute ecological and political challenges.

The projects should focus on ecological and social sustainability dimensions of supply systems and contribute to developing positive narratives and solutions in the current societal transformation.

It may include **a variety of topics**, for example mobility, biodiversity, nutrition, agriculture and forestry, sealing, supply and disposal, energy provision, natural resource use, health, and recreation. The projects must have a reference to Vienna and should align with the context of the SDGs. Projects related to the "Vienna 2030 – Economy and Innovation" strategy, the "Smart Climate City Strategy Vienna," or current city projects are especially welcome.

Interdisciplinarity is also encouraged. Stakeholder involvement in an appropriate context will be positively evaluated, and its relevance must be briefly outlined in the application.

In accordance with the strategic principles outlined in BOKU's development plan, the research projects should be designed and carried out with a strong focus on scientific quality and sustainability criteria (see [BOKU's sustainability webpage](#)).

As the fund aims to support early-career researchers, all BOKU researchers who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Doctoral degree obtained no more than seven years ago (parental leave and maternity protection periods are not counted)
- Employment contract with BOKU for at least 20 hours per week
- Documented scientific experience

Appointed Professors, Associate Professors and Private lecturers are not eligible to apply. The project must be primarily conducted at BOKU.

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document (max. 20 MB) to researchfunds@boku.ac.at using the application form available at:

Download Application Form: www.boku.ac.at/fos-researchfunding.html

The following documents are required:

1) Project description, including

- Short summary for public communication in German (max. 1 A4 page)
- Scientific abstract in German and English (max. 1/2 page each)
- Detailed description of the planned research in English (5 to 8 pages excluding references): Research question, state of the art, previous work, project objectives, and innovation, detailed work plan with methodology, contribution to SDGs
- If applicable, reference to the City of Vienna's relevant business areas (approx. 1 page); an expression of interest from the respective business area is welcome

- Timeline and cost plan: The funding may cover personnel, material, and travel costs associated with the project. Transitional funding for PhD candidates is not allowed. If a PhD candidate is involved, it is expected that they will be engaged for the majority or entire project duration.
- 2) **Cost calculation Table**, see www.boku.ac.at/fos-researchfunding.html
 - 3) **Detailed Curriculum Vitae** including a list of publications and a description of the scientific competence and the previous societal impact of the applicant's research, particularly in the field of the application.
 - 4) Proposal of at least ten potential, exclusively international reviewers, ensuring that any possible conflicts of interest are carefully avoided (for details, see the application form).

Please submit the electronic project notification (ePM) two weeks before the deadline.

Note: For a complete submission, the release via ePM is absolutely required!

(Please follow the [Richtlinie zur Planung und Einreichung von Forschungsvorhaben gem. §§ 26 und 27 UG](#))

II. **BOKU Best Paper Awards**

Each year, a maximum of five top publications from BOKU may be awarded a prize of €1,500 each. Publications from all subject areas of BOKU are eligible for submission.

PhD students, graduates, and young researchers from BOKU who have completed their doctorate within the last seven years are invited to apply. The author who has contributed predominantly to the work is eligible to apply. The publication must have been primarily developed at BOKU and published or accepted for publication since 2023.

Application documents must be sent in digital form as a single PDF document (max. 20 MB) to researchfunds@boku.ac.at using the application form:

- 1) Application form: Download from www.boku.ac.at/fos-paperawards.html
- 2) A scientific original paper published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed and renowned international journal
- 3) Justification for the award worthiness of the publication (max. one A4 page)
- 4) Detailed CV, including a list of publications
- 5) In the case of a multi-author publication, a concrete description of the applicant's contribution must also be submitted, as well as a signed confirmation from the applicant that the approval of all co-authors for submitting the publication has been obtained.

III. **BOKU Talent Awards (for excellent Master's theses or dissertations)**

Each year, prizes are awarded for outstanding scientific theses from all subject areas of BOKU.

A maximum of five Master's theses will be awarded a prize of €1,500 each, and a maximum of three dissertations will be awarded €3,000 each. The theses must have been approved at BOKU since 2023.

Application documents must be sent in digital form as a single PDF document (max. 20 MB) to researchfunds@boku.ac.at using the application form:

- 1) Application Document: Download from www.boku.ac.at/fos-talentawards.html
- 2) A brief summary of the thesis for public relations in German (max. one A4 page)
- 3) Detailed CV, including a publication list if applicable

- 4) Documentation of the evaluation of the work (evaluation of the Master's thesis or dissertation report)
- 5) Statement from the supervisor on the award worthiness of the thesis
- 6) Certificate of Master's or PhD completion at BOKU
- 7) Master's thesis or dissertation

Submission for all listed funding instruments:

Submission Deadline: June 30 2025

Applications are requested to researchfunds@boku.ac.at

For submissions to the City of Vienna-BOKU Research Funding: Please ensure that the release via ePM is completed at the time of submission.

The awarding of the prizes and research funding will be decided by the Board of the Anniversary Fund of the City of Vienna for the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) (expected by the end of 2025).

Information:

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<https://short.boku.ac.at/fos-fonds.html>



Eva Schulev-Steindl
Rector



Daniel Löcker
Secretary-General



Christian Obinger
Vice-Rector for Research and
Innovation

Information on the processing of personal data

As of 25 May 2018, the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR) is directly applicable in all Member States of the European Union.

The GDPR, inter alia, provides for extended information requirements in regard to the processing of personal data.

In fulfilment of those obligations (in particular Art 13 GDPR) we are hereby informing you about the processing of your personal data carried out by us.

1. What type of personal data (hereinafter “Data”) will be processed?

Name, surname, address, date of birth, phone number, Email address, bank detail in case of winning, date of the bestowal of the master’s degree, date of graduation, publication, project idea, master’s thesis, dissertation

2. What is the purpose of the data processing?

Implementation of the selection process, determination of the award winners, organisation of the award ceremony

3. What is the legal basis for the data processing?

☒ Art 6 (1) (a) GDPR – Consent

We would like to point out that the consent can be revoked at any time with effect for the future. This entails

☐ no adverse consequences for you.

☒ the following adverse consequences for you: participation in the call is not possible

Upon revocation of consent we will in any case no longer process your Data for the above mentioned purpose from this time and, in particular, erase any Data (still) stored, unless the Data is processed on the basis of one of the following legal bases.

☐ Art 6 (1) (b) GDPR – required for the fulfilment of a contract concluded with the data subject

☐ Art 6 (1) (c) GDPR – required for the fulfilment of a legal obligation of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

☐ Art 6 (1) (d) GDPR – required to protect vital interests of the data subject or another natural person

☐ Art 6 (1) (e) GDPR – the processing is in the public interest or is carried out in the exercise of official authority

☐ Art 6 (1) (f) GDPR – required to safeguard the following legitimate interests of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna or a third party (the interests or fundamental rights or freedoms of the data subject do not prevail):

4. Is there an obligation for you as a data subject to provide your Data to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna?

☒ No

☐ No, but the provision of the Data is required for the conclusion of a contract. If the Data are not provided, this will result in a situation where the contract cannot be concluded.

☐ Yes, since the provision of the Data is a statutory or contractual requirement. If the Data is not provided, this will result in the following:

5. Is automated decision-making (including profiling) part of the processing?

☒ No

☐ Yes, namely:

Please describe under this item the logic underlying the automated decision-making as well as the significance and the intended consequences of processing for the data subject.

6. Will the Data be transferred to other persons or entities in whole or in part?

☐ No

☒ Yes, in the course of processing your Data will be transferred to the following recipients for the above-mentioned purpose:

Board of trustees, in case of winning: authorized personnel for the further organisation of the process and consultants

7. Are the recipients mentioned under Item 6 located outside the EU/outside the EEA and/or are they an international organisation?

☒ No

☐ Yes

8. How long will the Data be stored and/or what are the criteria for determining the storage period?

The data will be deleted 5 years after the award ceremony.

9. What are your rights as a data subject?

Generally, you have a right to request from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna access to and rectification or erasure of your Data or restriction of processing concerning you or to object to processing as well as the right to data portability.

To exercise these rights please contact our data protection officer (for contact details see Item 10).

In addition, you have the right to lodge any appeals you may have with the data protection authority.

10. Contact details of the controller and their data protection officer:

- **Controller**

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Gregor-Mendel-Strasse 33
1180 Vienna

- **Data protection officer**
Muthgasse 11/II
1190 Vienna
datenschutz@boku.ac.at

General and more detailed information on the topic of data protection at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna can be found at www.boku.ac.at/datenschutz.