

## Call for Project Proposals

We invite researchers (who have already obtained a PhD degree) to submit project proposals for funding under the JKU LIT program. JKU LIT focuses on excellent, practically-oriented research in all areas of science and technology along the entire innovation chain. The emphasis is on High Risk – High Gain projects. JKU LIT encourages collaboration, particularly with a focus on interdisciplinary research.

The JKU LIT program is not meant to be a funding agency in its own rights. Rather, it is meant to provide seed money to encourage excellent research with the final goal of obtaining external funding. JKU LIT will support various types of projects – from early career researchers who need to strengthen their CVs to become competitive and scientifically independent; to senior researchers who need seed funding to help establish collaboration or to obtain preliminary results, finally enabling high risk/high gain project applications (ERC, FWF, ...).

### 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 students (30hrs/wk) for up to 2 years. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 200,000,-

#### Co-Funding Projects

Who?	Open to Early Career Researchers
What For?	To support underfunded projects of excellence funding schemes such as Marie Curie Fellowships, PhD scholarships, and others. 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 Researchers
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 will be 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.

We especially encourage submissions in the focus research areas of the JKU

- Digital Transformation
- Sustainable Development
- Transformation in Finance and Financial Institutions

However, the LIT call is open to other technologically related areas as well

## 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.** 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).

## 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 a Letter of Confirmation issued by the hosting institute/department to the proposal. This would improve the chances for approval.

## Industrial Participation

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

## Submission Process

**Young Career, Incoming Scientists Projects** and **Seed 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 bear in mind to add an approximate salary increase of 3 % annually) and reasonable allowances for consumables and travel. The project proposals will be evaluated by reviewers nominated by the FWF. An internal expert committee will prove the plausibility of the reviews. The funding decision will be made by the JKU Rectorate.

The criteria to assess whether or not a project is eligible for funding is based on the application's scientific excellence (high risk / high gain), the applicant's outstanding scientific and academic background and record, the project's technical relevance, and its interdisciplinary 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 will be made by the JKU Rectorate.

The proposal deadlines for the next call is November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019. 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 (if applicable), the industrial contact (if applicable), the primary goals, major equipment expected/needed, and a brief abstract.

Please submit a short description of your proposal as well (see ppt-template proposal in a nutshell [jku.at/lit](http://jku.at/lit)).

Funding guidelines, please see [jku.at/lit](http://jku.at/lit).

For further details, please see Q&A @ [jku.at/lit](http://jku.at/lit).

Please send your application to: [lit@jku.at](mailto:lit@jku.at) by November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019