

BioTechMed-Graz Flagship Projects 2025

Objectives

BioTechMed-Graz aims to launch high-impact **Flagship Projects** that unite the strengths of its three partner universities. **Flagship Projects** are designed to support excellent basic and translational research. Female scientists are particularly encouraged to apply.

The successful projects will:

- Demonstrate scientific excellence
- Enhance international visibility and competitiveness to position BioTechMed-Graz as a global leader in this field
- Align with the four core research areas¹ of BioTechMed-Graz
- Foster cross-institutional and international collaboration
- Be led by Principal Investigators (Lead-PIs) with proven track records of scientific excellence and leadership
- Lay the foundation for competitive national or international follow-up funding

Eligible projects and application requirements:

- Projects must focus on basic science or technical/clinical translation
- **Leading Principal Investigators (Lead-PIs):**
 - Each project must have one responsible Lead-PI
 - The Lead-PI can only apply for one project as Lead-PI
 - The Lead-PI must be a full member of BioTechMed-Graz
 - The Lead-PI should demonstrate proven expertise and a strong research track record, including:
 - Publications in high-impact journals
 - Successful acquisition of research grants
 - Proven leadership or participation in programs like FWF Cluster of Excellence, FWF doc.funds, FWF SFB, FFG Comet, or European Research Funding
- **Project Members (Co-PIs):**
 - The consortium must include at least three project members (Lead-PI and Co-PIs), with **all three** BioTechMed-Graz partner universities represented
 - PIs can participate in a maximum of three Flagship Project proposals

¹ <https://biotechmedgraz.at/en/biotechmed-graz/research/research-areas/>

Funding Coverage

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Core facility and external services
- Travel costs
- Consumables

Grant Size

The maximum funding volume is €1,200,000 over three years, starting in January 2026. Extensions beyond this period are not generally anticipated but may be granted in exceptional circumstances, provided they are cost-neutral.

Application

Format: DIN A4, 1.5 line spacing, font size 11

A complete proposal consists of the following elements:

- *Title and abstract (1 page)*
- *Max. 5 keywords*
- *Background and previous work (max. 2 pages including figures, figure legends)*
- *Objectives and specific aims (max. 5 pages including figures, figure legends and references)*
- *Organization of the research program (max. 3 pages)*
 - Short description of the research proposal and the contribution of each member of the consortium
 - Requested funding and a justification
 - Integration of the project in the scientific landscape of BioTechMed-Graz and Austria
- *Curriculum vitae of the Lead-PI and Co-PIs (1 page, each)*
- *Track record of the project consortium (2 pages) including:*
 - Ten publications (lead authorships), relevant to the project, after 2014
 - Granted patents
 - Research grants
 - Prizes and awards
 - Examples of leadership in industrial innovation, and/or clinical translation

Evaluation criteria

All BioTechMed-Graz **Flagship Project** proposals will be evaluated on the basis of scientific excellence, the reputation of the Lead-PI and the consortium members (Co-PIs), as well as the potential to receive national and international follow-up grants (e.g., FWF- or EU-funded excellence programs). After an initial formal check, the proposals will be evaluated by an independent jury, established by the European Science Foundation (ESF). Applicants can exclude a maximum of three reviewers as part of the submission process. Shortlisted projects will be invited to a public hearing in November 2025. The final decision will be made based on the reviewer evaluations and the hearing performance.

Submission of applications

The complete application must be submitted electronically via the online platform provided by the ESF. The link to the platform will be published on www.biotechmedgraz.at/en at latest four weeks before the deadline.

Timeline



Contact

BioTechMed-Graz Office: office@biotechmedgraz.at

Appendix

Typical questions to be answered by the reviewers:

Research Projects:

- Does the proposed research address important challenges in basic science or technical and clinical translation?
- Are the objectives state-of-the-art or beyond state-of-the-art?
- Is the proposal feasible?
- Is the research methodology appropriate to address the objectives?
- Is the research project a basis for potential future national and international grants (e.g., FWF- or EU-funded grants)?
- Are the proposed timescales and resources adequate and properly justified?

Principal Investigator and consortium members:

- Have the PI and the consortium members demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- Has the PI demonstrated scientific leadership and management ability?
- Have the PI and the consortium members demonstrated successful collaborations in the past (e.g., by common publications or successful grant applications)?
- How does the track record of the PI compare to his/her peers at the same stage of career development?

Personnel costs²:

	working hours per week	2026	2027	2028
Senior PostDoc	40h	€ 102.176,95	€ 104.731,37	€ 107.349,66
Postdoc	40h	€ 92.472,14	€ 94.783,95	€ 97.153,55
PhD-Student	30h	€ 52.228,23	€ 53.533,94	€ 54.872,28
Technician (IIIb)	40h	€ 63.554,56	€ 65.143,43	€ 66.772,01
Technician (IIIa)	40h	€ 56.121,77	€ 57.524,82	€ 58.962,94
Student	20h	€ 24.654,37	€ 25.270,73	€ 25.902,50

² Corrected version from March 28, 2025.