

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

- VIP² | Vienna International Postdoctoral Program

at the Vienna BioCenter (VBC)

Scientific excellence and signs of independence are the hallmarks of VIP². We seek highly motivated and talented scientists of all nationalities to conduct ambitious research projects on an **international, interdisciplinary** and **inter-sectoral** campus.

The third VIP² call for applications will be open between **1 March** and **15 June** 2021. We expect successful applicants to start in **January 2022**. All applications must be submitted via our [online submission system](#).

Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must hold a PhD in life sciences or related disciplines such as physics, engineering, chemistry, computer science, medicine or mathematics.
- The proposed scientific project must match the research carried out on the VBC campus (applicants should name one or more potential host groups).
- **Interdisciplinary** and **inter-lab** projects are highly encouraged!
- Applicants are strongly advised to communicate with their preferred [host group leader\(s\)](#) and discuss with them the research proposals.
- Applicants must have at least one first-author publication. Manuscript deposited in bioRxiv or arXiv will be accepted.
- By the time of the call deadline (15 June) applicants must also undertake transnational mobility according to the Marie Curie Action. That is, they should not have resided in or carried out their main activity (work, studies) in Austria for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline.

Application requirements:

Applications can only be submitted via our online submission system. The following information must be provided in the on-line form:

- personal information: name, contact details, current place of education / employment
- main scientific area (choose one from the [7 research areas](#) at the VBC) and up to 5 keywords
- DOI of at least one first-author publication or manuscript
- contact details of two referees. The system will send an automatic email to referees with instructions. At least one reference letter has to be uploaded into the system **BEFORE** the application can be submitted.

The following documents have to be uploaded:

- CV with details of education, scientific training starting from Bachelor degree, honours, etc.
- PDFs of transcripts and certificates of degrees / training
- a project proposal (max. five pages excluding reference list) that compliments the aims of the host lab(s)
- a one-page explanation of the project written for the public, outlining the societal impact
- Written proof (letter or email) from the chosen group leader indicating his/her support for the application

Selection procedures

The VIP² Recruitment Committee oversees the selection procedures. The committee is composed of a chairperson and representatives of the seven research areas at the VBC. (Potential hosts of applicants are excluded from the selection committees.)

The selection is a **two-step** procedure:

- Step 1: eligibility check and in-depth review of the applications
- Step 2: panel interview (on-site or on-line)

Step 1: eligibility check and in-depth review of the applications (16 June – 15 September)

Applications will be checked for eligibility and the qualified applications will be sent out for review. Applicants will be informed by email by 30 June about their eligibility status and whether their applications will go out for in-depth review. In cases of appeal, the candidate must appeal the eligibility decision in written form to the program manager by email. If eligibility is clarified within 6 working days, the application will be considered further.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by 3 topic-appropriate experts. The reviewers will provide numerical scores for the following points:

- Past history of achievements including assessment of the reference letters and publication(s) / manuscript(s) (40% of total score)
- VIP² proposal (60% of total score)

Applicants will be ranked based on their average scores of the three reviewers. The VIP² recruitment committee determines the quality cut-off threshold and a list of invitees for the step 2.

All applicants will be notified by email about the results of the evaluation by 30 September. Applicants who pass the Step 1 successfully will be informed of the Step 2 requirements and procedures.

Step 2: panel interview (mid-October)

The interview consists of a 25-minute presentation / discussion with an interview panel on applicant's PhD project or one previous research project (~5 minutes) and the proposed VIP² research project (~20 minutes). The interview will be scored by the panel members. The final cut-off threshold will be defined by the interview committee allowing the highest possible number of candidates that are of sufficient quality to be accepted into the program through this call.

Within one week after the panel interview the program manager will inform the applicants if they are successful or not by email. Successful candidates must notify the program within 3 weeks whether they accept the offer. Applicants who contest the procedure must do so by email to the program manager within 10 days of each decision.

Starting date of fellowship: **1 January 2022**

Benefit

Salary

All VIP² fellows will be hired under full-time employment contracts (40h) by the host institute. All four participating institutions follow the [salary scheme](#) of the [Austrian Science Fund](#) (FWF), Austria's central funding organization for basic research.

Research costs

All the required research costs will be financed by the host lab / institute.

Social Contributions

- All VIP² employment contracts include a full health insurance plan that can be extended to children and unemployed partners.
- Social security includes fully paid maternity leave (16 weeks), possibility of paid parental leave (up to 24 months), pension contribution, and accident insurance.
- Families receive additional support for each child (“Familienbeihilfe”) that ranges from 110 – 170 EUR per month per child, depending on the age of the child.
- Tax deductions apply to single-income families.

Relocation Costs

Mechanisms are in place to contribute to the relocation costs of the fellows.

Best of luck!