

## GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

- VIP<sup>3</sup> | Vienna BioCenter Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Program 3

VIP<sup>3</sup> program fosters **excellence** and **innovation** in life sciences. We seek highly motivated and talented scientists of all nationalities to conduct ambitious, **interdisciplinary** and **collaborative** research projects on our **international** and **inter-sectoral** campus.

The second VIP<sup>3</sup> call for applications is open between **1 March** and **31 May 2026**. We expect successful applicants to start around **November 2026**. All application documents must be submitted to [vip-3\(at\)vbc.ac.at](mailto:vip-3(at)vbc.ac.at).

### Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must hold a PhD degree by 31 May 2026 in life sciences or related disciplines such as physics, engineering, chemistry, computer science, medicine or mathematics.
- The proposed scientific project must be **interdisciplinary** and **collaborative** by combining the expertise of two [research groups participating](#) in the call.
- Applicants must have at least one (co-) first-author publication. Manuscript deposited in one of the public servers will be accepted.
- By the time of the call deadline (31 May 2026) 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 by email to [vip-3\(at\)vbc.ac.at](mailto:vip-3(at)vbc.ac.at). The following information will be collected in the **application form** (downloadable from the [“Applications” page](#)):

- Personal information: name, contact details, current place of education / employment

- 5 keywords for the areas of the research proposal
- Title, journal name and DOI of at least one (co-) first-author publication or deposited manuscript
- Contact details of 2 referees. Applicants should arrange with their referees as early as possible. Both reference letters should be sent by the referees **directly** to [vip-3\(at\)ybc.ac.at](mailto:vip-3(at)ybc.ac.at) **before** the call deadline. The two hosting PIs for the planned research project are not eligible to serve as referees.
- If applicable, list of researchers (name, current affiliation) who should be excluded from reviewing the proposal due to potential conflict of interest

The following documents make up the main body of the application:

- CV (up to 2 pages) with information on education, scientific training starting from bachelor's degree, honours, etc.
- PDFs of transcripts and certificates of degrees / training from Bachelor's degree onwards.
- Description of major past-achievements and their impact (half a page)
- Statement of research motivation and interests (half a page)
- Abstract of the research proposal (max. half a page)
- Research proposal bridging at least two of the participating research groups in the call (up to 3 pages including reference list)
- Statement on the expected broader impact of the project beyond the scientific outputs to the public (half a page)

Please *combine all the documents in a **single PDF** (ideally no more than 20 pages) using the file name "VIP3 2026 LASTNAME.pdf"*

### Selection procedures

VIP<sup>3</sup> is committed to a transparent, unbiased, and fair recruitment process.

The evaluation of the applications is coordinated externally by the **European Science Foundation (ESF)**, <https://www.esf.org> following a stepwise procedure:

- Step 1: online application and eligibility check.  
(Applicants will be informed by email no later than 10 June 2026 about their eligibility status and whether their applications will proceed to the next step.)

- **Step 2:** evaluation and selection procedure coordinated by the ESF.
  - **Step 2a:** in-depth evaluation of the written applications by topic-appropriate, international reviewers chosen by the ESF
  - **Step 2b:** online panel interview by international panel members appointed by the ESF

### Evaluation criteria:

Each eligible written application will be reviewed by 2 topic-appropriate, international experts. The reviewers will provide reports and numerical scores (1-4 with 4 being the highest) for the following aspects:

- Past history of achievements including assessment of the reference letters and publication(s) / manuscript(s) (40% of total score)
- VIP<sup>3</sup> proposal (60% of total score)

If the average grade from the 2 reviewers is equal to or above 3, the application will proceed to the next step- online interview. Those graded below 3 will be rejected. The program manager will inform the rejected applicants by email no later than 31 August 2026.

The interview panellists assess the performance of the candidate again in two parts: presentation of past research and presentation of the VIP<sup>3</sup> proposal. After each interview, the panel members will jointly formulate a consensus report and determine a final grade for the interviewee.

ESF will assemble a final ranking list based on the grades from the interview panel.

The final cut-off threshold will be defined by the ranking list and the number of offered positions allowing the highest possible number of candidates that are of sufficient quality to be accepted into the program through this call.

All applicants will be notified by email about the evaluation results of their applications by 30 September 2026.

Successful candidates must notify the program within 3 weeks thereafter whether they accept the offer.

Earliest starting date of the fellowship: **1 November 2026**

## Appeal:

In case an applicant contests any decision during the selection procedure, the person may appeal in writing to the program manager within 10 days after the decision is communicated to the applicant.

## Benefit

### Salary

All VIP<sup>3</sup> fellows will be hired under full-time employment contracts (40h) by one of the host institutes following that institute's salary scale. The salary reference is 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 groups / institutions.

### Social Contributions

- All VIP<sup>3</sup> employment contracts include a full health insurance plan that can be extended to children and unemployed partners.
- Social security includes fully paid maternity leave, possibility of paid parental leave, pension contribution, and accident insurance.
- Families receive additional support for each child ("Familienbeihilfe") that ranges from 130 – 200 EUR per month per child, depending on the age of the child and the number of kids in the family.
- Tax deductions apply to single-income families.

### Relocation Costs

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

### Contacts:

- For research-related questions: please contact the relevant group leaders directly.
- For VIP<sup>3</sup> program related questions: please write to [vip-3\(at\)vbc.ac.at](mailto:vip-3(at)vbc.ac.at).

**Best of luck!**