

Research grants 2025/2026

Award process of research grants

- The institutions of higher education inform their departments/institutes about the 22 research grants in total awarded by the Styrian Economic Chamber and provide the applicants with a **sample application form**. Any queries in this regard are answered by the Styrian Economic Chamber (see enquiry information). Furthermore, the sample application form should include the contact details of the supervising institutes or tutors as well as of possible cooperation partners. The **deadline for submitting** the applications to the respective institution of higher education is **24th October 2025**.
- Each institution of higher education carries out a preselection of the applications received and selects the **top 5**. Since there is the possibility that not all nine institutions of higher education submit five applications and thus not all 45 are utilized, application-intensive institutions have the option to submit up to five additional applications. From this pool, applications are prorated until the **limit of 45** is reached.

A **panel of experts** comprised of twelve members (one representative per institution of higher education and three representatives of the Styrian Economic Chamber/Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunfts fonds) decides on the submitted applications. Provided that sufficient applications are submitted, each institution is awarded at least one research grant by the Styrian Economic Chamber; however, the applicant ranked highest by the respective institution of higher education does not necessarily have to be selected by the panel of experts as well.

All applications have to be forwarded to the Styrian Economic Chamber (forschungsstipendien@wkstmk.at) **until 10th November 2025**. The Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunfts fonds of the Styrian Economic Chamber makes the applications available to the panel of experts (date to be announced); the panel then performs a preliminary assessment.

- The **meeting of the panel of experts** will take place **in the premises of the Styrian Economic Chamber in December 2025** (date to be announced). It is also possible to attend the meeting virtually. The Styrian Economic Chamber (IWS) is responsible for recording.

By **10th November 2025** (at the same time the applications are forwarded), the Styrian Economic Chamber (forschungsstipendien@wkstmk.at) has to be informed about which staff member of the respective institution of higher education will participate in the meeting of the panel of experts.

- The **selected awardees are announced** by the Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunfts fonds immediately after the panel meeting. Rejections are – as was the case in the past years – sent out by the respective institutions of higher education.
- Upon acceptance of the grant, the awardees **entitle** the Styrian Economic Chamber/Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunfts fonds and the institutions of higher education **to use the videos and photographs** of the research grants events **for media purposes**. A declaration of consent is obtained from all supervising tutors who will participate in the awardee videos for the closing event.
- **In the summer semester (June 2026), a closing event** with the awardees and their families, the representatives of the institutions of higher education, the members of the panel, the supervisors and possible cooperation partners as well as the representatives of the Styrian Economic Chamber will be organized. In course of the event the awardees and their master/diploma thesis will be presented. Furthermore, the winner of the award “WKO research award for young scientists” for the economically most relevant master/diploma thesis (cash prize of € 1,000) will be announced. The venue of the closing event will be the Styrian Economic Chamber.

Schedule 2025/2026

What	When
Submission of the applications to the institutions of higher education	by 24 th October 2025
Nomination of the members of the panel of experts of each institution of higher education forwarded to forschungsstipendien@wkstmk.at	by 10 th November 2025
Preselection by the institutions of higher education and forwarding the top 5 applications resp. the top 10 applications maximum (in case of a high application rate) to forschungsstipendien@wkstmk.at	by 10 th November 2025
Forwarding the documents to the panel of experts	November/December 2025
Meeting of the panel of experts at the Styrian Economic Chamber	December 2025
Closing event (presentation of the awardees and their diploma/master theses and award ceremony)	June 2026, exact date and venue to be announced

Payment processing

- The funding period for the academic year 2025/2026 is set from January to June 2026. The scholarship amounts to a total of € 2,500. Payment to the scholarship recipients will be made as a one-time disbursement by the Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunftsfonds after the completion of the video shoot in April 2026. The payment to the supervising institutes (each € 500) will be made by the respective university. The corresponding amount will be transferred to the universities by the Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunftsfonds in April 2026.

What	When	Who
Pay-out of the total amount for the research grants	April 2026	Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunftsfonds
Pay-out of the research grants to the awardees by the institutions of higher education (monthly or one-time payment)	April 2026	Erzherzog-Johann-Zukunftsfonds
Pay-out to the supervising institutes (€ 500) by the institutions of higher education	April/May 2026	institutions of higher education

Enquiry information

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