

Research grants 2023/2024 funded by the Styrian Economic Chamber (WKO Steiermark)

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 **20th October 2023**.

- 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) 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 7th November 2023. 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 2023** (date to be announced). It is also possible to attend the meeting virtually. The Styrian Economic Chamber (IWS) is responsible for recording.

By **7th November 2023** (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 Styrian Economic Chamber 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 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 or July 2024), 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 2023/2024

What	When
Submission of the applications to the institutions of higher education	by 20 th October 2023
Nomination of the members of the panel of experts of each institution of higher education forwarded to forschungsstipendien@wkstmk.at	by 7 th November 2023
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 7 th November 2023
Forwarding the documents to the panel of experts	November/December 2023
Meeting of the panel of experts at the Styrian Economic Chamber	December 2023
Closing event (presentation of the awardees and their diploma/master theses and award ceremony)	June or July 2024, exact date and venue to be announced

Payment processing

- The **funding period** for the academic year 2023/2024 is set for **January to June 2024**. The research grant amounts currently to a total of € 2,100 per awardee. The institutions of higher education determine the payment modalities (e.g., 6 instalments of € 350 or a one-time payment of € 2,100).
- The respective institution of higher education is responsible for the **pay-out**. The total amount for the research grants per institution (€ 2,100 per awardee plus € 500 per supervising institute) is transferred by the Styrian Economic Chamber (IWS) to the respective institution in advance until the 17th January 2024 (see the following schedule).

What	When
Pay-out of the total amount for the research grants	until the 17 th January 2024
Pay-out of the research grants to the awardees by the institutions of higher education (monthly or one-time payment)	January to June 2024
Pay-out to the supervising institutes (€ 500) by the institutions of higher education	January/February 2024

Enquiry information

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WKO Steiermark