

Key Research Area Codex

Valid as of January 1st 2006

Abbreviations:

- FFF: Forschungsförderungsfonds, Research Promotion Fund
- FWF: Fonds zur Förderung wissenschaftlicher Forschung, Austrian Science Fund
- KRA: Key Research Area
- OeAW: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaft, Austrian Academy of Science
- OeNB: Österreichische Nationalbank, Austrian National Bank
- SAB: Scientific Advisory Board
- VR: Vicerector
- VUW: Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
- WWTF: Wiener Wissenschafts-, Forschungs- und Technologiefonds, Viennese Science, Research and Technology Fund

1. Aims of KRA promotion at the VUW

KRAs serve to structurize and organize the main fields of research at the VUW while distinguishing research, enhancing international visibility of the work groups involved and improving third-party funding.

Decision criteria:

- Scientific performance of applicants in the respective field of research
- Subject – matters must be relevant to veterinary medicine
- KRA Projects are based on publication-output only (no service)

Grants in the KRAs explicitly permit:

- new research activities (granting section 1)
- additional financing of projects that have received external funds (granting section 2)
- setting of thematic priorities and cluster formation (granting section 3)

General requirements for application (valid for all granting sections):

- The project application must include detailed information about statistical methods and a statistical pre – analysis
- Projects involving living animals must be approved by the institutional ethics committee. The applicant is responsible for compliance with animal protection laws.
- All project applications must be submitted to the respective KRA speaker.
- The use of internal expertise, equipment and resources should be benefited by establishing cooperations. The joint utilization of equipment and methods is a major concern of KRA granting. If no capacities are available on campus, outsourcing is possible.

2. Sections granted by KRAs

A) Granting section 1: Scientific Start – Up Grants

A Start-up grant is a single grant for up – and – coming researchers (maximal duration of grant: 2 years) that should enable successful third-party funding.

The sum available in this granting section may not exceed 20% of the total KRA budget.

- **Application**

Application for a start-up grant by ways of the KRA speaker in charge
To file in an application, the application form for start-up projects must be used (Intranet / Forschung / Formulare)

- **Criteria**

Contents / formal criteria:

- Aim of the research project
- Description of the experimental basis (material and methods)
- Finance- and resource plan
- Closing dates for applications

Applications can be submitted to the KRA's administration office throughout the year. The project proposals are to be presented on request of the KRA board. The presentation is public.

- **Selection procedure**

The selection and approval of project proposals is conducted by the KRA board four times a year, with or without consulting the SAB.

- **Financing**

Grants are limited to a maximum of €40.000,-- per project, of which max. €15.000,-- are assigned in the first year. After submission of a status report, a payment of further € 15.000,-- can be requested. The payment sum may be increased by max. € 10.000,-- if this additional amount is doubled by the respective subject area. The total financial capital allocated to projects in granting section 1 is communicated when the closing date has been scheduled.

- **Project evaluation**

One year after project approval, a report portraying all activities must be submitted to the KRA - board. If no development is evident, no further granting takes place.

B) GRANTING SECTION 2: Grants for established research projects

This grant is an additional financing of established projects performed by VUW researchers. The sum available in this granting section may not exceed 40% of the total KRA budget.

- **Application**

To file in an application, the application form for established projects (Intranet / Forschung / Formulare) and all relevant funded project proposals must be submitted to the KRA speaker in charge.

For projects funded by the FWF, an abstract as well as the notice of granting must be submitted.

- **Criteria**

The expertise available on campus should not be eluded (exclusion criterion!). The use of available expertise on campus is a major criterion when evaluating project proposals. Networks and work groups should be established at the VUW where possible.

- **Consideration of selection procedure excellence**

In principal, excellent projects are given preference.

Project classification:

- **Projects 1. priority** (Criterion: strict, anonymous international peer review)
FWF, WWTF, EU projects and others.
- **Projects 2. priority** (Criterion: national and international anonymous peer review)
ÖNB, FFF, ÖAW projects and others.

- **Projects 3. priority** (Criterion: no or rudimentary scientific peer review)
Projects sponsored by ministries, projects on behalf of industry and others.
- **Closing dates for applications**
Applications can be submitted to the KRA's administration office throughout the year. The project proposals are to be presented on request of the KRA board. The presentation is public.
- **Selection procedure**
The selection and approval of project proposals is conducted by the KRA board four times a year, with or without consulting the SAB.
- **Financing**
Grants are limited to max. 20% of the external funds received. In all cases, grants are limited to max. 15% of the total KRA budget. The financial capital available (capital per KRA) is adjusted to the capital available in granting sections 1 and 3. In case of financial shortage, a proportional cut back is performed. The allocation of grants takes selection procedure excellence into consideration. The total financial capital allocated to projects in granting section 2 is defined by the KRA board at the beginning of each year.
- **Completion of projects**
KRA grants cease with the expiry of external funds.

C) GRANTING SECTION 3: Submission of "Umbrellas" within the KRAs

The formation of umbrellas serves the thematic setting of priorities as well as the cross linkage of single projects at the VUW. This networking aims at achieving a cluster formation in research. This granting section is not in competition with start - up grants, meaning an umbrella is not a collection of start - up projects. The sum available in this granting section may not exceed 40% of the total KRA budget.

- **Application**
The application is submitted to the KRA speaker in charge in FWF format by means of a written application. The application is forwarded to the SAB, who recommends the establishment of the umbrella.
- **Criteria**
 - An umbrella must encompass an internationally renowned cluster of experts in the respective field.
 - The excellence of the experts must be proved by a corresponding track record.
- **Factors benefiting the formation of an umbrella:**
 - The integration of clinical aspects and / or field research (including research projects at the teaching and research farm)
 - Concentration of scientific activities with the same topic. A minimum of three divisions at the VUW must participate (including staff and resources)
- **Closing dates for applications**
Applications can be submitted to the KRA's administration office throughout the year.
- **Selection procedure**
The selection and approval of umbrella proposals is conducted by the KRA board within 4 weeks after receipt of the SAB's official statement.

3. Communication of the codex within the university

- **The KRA speakers** act as internal moderators and consultants for the external SAB. The speakers are appointed by the university leadership (rectorate). The speaker's tenure lasts 2 semesters. A re-appointment through the rectorate is possible.

Speaker's tasks

It is in the speaker's responsibility to examine internal requirements, inquire expert's opinions and prepare recommendations for the SAB.

- **The KRA board** consists of the KRA speakers, the dean for research, the dean for resources, the dean for clinics and the rector. The KRA board makes its decisions by consent. Should no consent be achieved, the rectorate decides.

The KRA board's tasks

- Definition of guidelines for KRA funding
- Administration of allocated resources
- Processing project proposals according to the KRA codex
- Decision concerning the allocation of grants
- Coordination of project evaluation
- Decision concerning continuation / cessation or introduction of a KRA

4. KRA evaluation

The KRAs are evaluated by the SAB three years after their implementation.

5. Continuation / cessation of KRAs

Based on the KRA evaluation, the KRA board / the rectorate decides about the continuation / cessation of a KRA.

Should there be an entirely new research field with a potential that promises future VUW – excellence, there is a possibility to rename / restructure an existing KRA or to add a new KRA. The financial capacity of the new KRA is defined by the rectorate.

In the case that a KRA is dropped, projects with approved grants are financed further. New applications are no longer accepted by the KRA board after the official expiration date of the respective KRA.

6. Publication of KRA relevant information

Information pertaining to the KRAs (closing dates, approvals, decisions, continuation / cessation of a KRA, contact etc) is published in the Intranet (Forschung / Profillinien). Following the implementation of the research homepage, general information will be published in the category "main fields of research / KRAs". Approved project proposals are announced in the intranet and "VUW – intern".

Addendum: the guidelines of the revised version of the Key Research Area Codex are valid as of July 1st 2007.

7. Regulation concerning patent rights

Research results that are to be published must be handed to the technology transfer office (FFI) of the VUW for patent screening before they can be released for publication.

The clearance / prohibition is communicated within 4 weeks.