

VIP² Vienna International Postdoctoral Programme

at the Vienna BioCenter

Guide for applicants

Scientific excellence and signs of independence are the hallmarks of VIP². As such, the program is open to highly motivated and talented young scientists of all nationalities, whether they are aiming for a career in academia or in the private sector.

The first call for applicants will be open between 15 April and 15 June 2019, and we expect successful applicants to start in January 2020. All applications must be submitted via our online submission system (SelApp) – link available on our website when the call is open.

Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must hold a PhD in life sciences or related disciplines such as physics, engineering, chemistry, or mathematics.
- The proposed scientific project must match the research carried out on campus (participating host groups are listed on the website). Candidates are strongly advised to communicate with their preferred mentor(s) to compose their individual research project.
- Applicants must have at least one first-author publication or manuscript published on *bioRxiv* or *arXiv*.
- By the time of the call deadline 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.
- Applicant must have completed the online application, detailed listed below, including 2 reference letters.

Information to be completed in online platform:

- CV: personal history including name, contact details, current place of education/employment, nationality, scientific training starting from Bachelor's, honours, certification of PhD training
- Indicate the group with whom you would like to work with (primary mentor). The VIP² will have a two-mentor-scheme, if you already have a name in mind you can enter it here.
- Link or DOI of first-author publication or manuscript on a preprint server.
- Upload a five-page scientific project proposal for the lab of interest
- Upload one-page explanation of the project written for the public, outlining the societal impact
- Contact details for two referees and the respective letter uploaded directly by the referees.

Selection procedures

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

The selection is a two-step procedure:

- Step 1: Eligibility check and written review
- Step 2: On-site presentation and interview.

Step 1: Eligibility check and in-depth review of the application (15 Jun – 10 Sep)

Applications will be checked for eligibility and qualified applications will be sent out for review. Applicants will be informed by email by 30 June about their eligibility status and whether their application 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: 2 external and 1 internal. Reviewers will provide numerical scores for the following points:

- Past history of achievements (40% of total score), *including assessment of reference letters and manuscript*
- Proposal (60% of total score)

Applicants will be ranked based on their average score of the three evaluators. The VIP² recruitment committee determines the quality cut-off and the invitation cut-off (top 20 candidates).

All applicants will be informed by email about the results of the evaluation, by 10 September. Applicants who pass the cut-off will be informed of the Step 2 requirements. Candidates who did not pass the Step 1 evaluation will be informed of their numerical score and the cut-off.

Step 2: On-Site Presentation and Interview (early October)

The on-site visit consists of a poster presentation and a 20-minute interview. The poster and the interview will be scored (1-10) by the evaluation panel members, the final score will be an average of the poster and interview score.

Applicants will be ranked based on their average score and two cut-off scores defined. The quality cut-off defines the number of candidates that are of high enough quality to be accepted into the program. The funding cut-off is defined by the number of fellows that can be funded by VIP² (15 fellows).

If there are more fellows who pass the quality cut-off than the number of available fellowships, the fellowships will be awarded according to the numerical ranking, and the remaining, high-quality fellows will be put on a waiting list in case awardees decline.

Within one week after the on-site presentation the program manager will inform applicants if they were 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.