



**PERSPECTIVES FOR
OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH
RESEARCH OF
TRANSDISCIPLINARITY
CALL 2025**

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 1, 2025

FUNDING INFORMATION

Funder	University of Applied Arts Vienna
Source of project funds	Funds from the global budget according to performance agreement 2025–2027 (B1.2.5)
Name of the call	PORT – Perspectives for Opportunities through Research of Transdisciplinarity
Web link to the call	supportkunstundforschung.uni-ak.ac.at/en/enable/projects/#port
Funding amount	From €5,000 to €18,000 per project submission
First stage: Project Sketch	Submission via an online form by January 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM
Second stage: Project Proposal	(By invitation only) Submission to port@uni-ak.ac.at by May 12, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Project start	After funding approval, starting no earlier than November 1, 2026
Contact programme management PORT	port@uni-ak.ac.at or +43 1 711 33 2809

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PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The University of Applied Arts Vienna (Angewandte) invites submissions of new research ideas as projects to develop special potentials and perspectives as part of the call for proposals for the internal funding programme.

Funding is available for project ideas from researchers at all career stages and in all areas of expertise represented at the Angewandte. This call is about initiating and activating development and exploration, establishing a specific focus, and building networks. Set within a comprehensive, socially dynamic context, its aim is to address particular research questions and their exploration through art and science, continuously interweaving them in transdisciplinary ways and ensuring their long-term sustainability.

The resulting perspectives are then to be submitted as proposals to an appropriate third-party funding programme, aiming to strengthen the professionalisation, consolidation and establishment of inter- and trans-disciplinary research and teaching at the Angewandte, in collaboration with suitable national or international partners or practitioners.

In line with the Angewandte's overall strategy, the cooperative potential of employees should be actively promoted (see Development Plan 2025–2030).

The programme is open to all topics and follows a bottom-up approach, with funding calls planned on an annual basis. The submission process consists of two stages (see B1.2.5 of the Performance Agreement 2025–2027).

REQUIREMENTS

Project ideas must be innovative and funding for the project's implementation is contingent upon a subsequent submission for third-party funding.

Depending on the project, project-specific costs have to be submitted and presented in a comprehensible manner with a cost plan. The submission volume for each project should range between €5,000.– and €18,000.– (multiple funding is not permitted, simultaneous submissions must be noted).

Funds are allocated in the form of a grant. Accounting is carried out at the Angewandte through a department or an institute with the project's own cost centre number.

To ensure reliable planning, applicants must submit a timeline for up to 12 months, including the preparation of a follow-up application. A longer project duration must be justified comprehensively. The project should ideally be completed within two years, with a maximum of 12 additional months granted through a cost-neutral extension.

The Angewandte provides access to infrastructure, also to ensure the required documentation is in place and to ensure the integration of internal and relevant external project partners.

The process is comprised of two stages: For the first stage, titled 'Project Sketch', the submission period runs from December 1, 2025, to January 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Submission for the second stage, 'Project Proposal,' is only possible by personal invitation (submission deadline: May 12, 2026, at 2:00 PM). Funded projects ensure the documentation, dissemination and availability of findings in the framework of 'Research Integrity' and accountability through a binding implementation plan. This is accompanied by a comprehensive report on the content and finances, as well as a submission strategy for the intended third-party funding application.

All interested colleagues are invited to a PORT information event. Further information and registration (port@uni-ak.ac.at) can be found at supportkunstundforschung.uni-ak.ac.at/en/enable/projects/#port.

PORt-CRITERIA

The submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- High artistic and/or scientific competence, in relation to the project
- Interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary relevance of the project
- Contribution to the content and development prospects of the University of Applied Arts Vienna in accordance with the Development Plan 2025–2030
- Suitability of the undertaking with regard to the existing institutional setting, particularly to interdisciplinary and interdepartmental cooperation
- Suitability of the project-specific strategy for co-authorship of all cooperating individuals (internal or external project partners), for example, through the description of appropriate cooperation formats
- Feasibility of the project with regard to the submitted timeline
- Feasibility of the project with regard to the submitted cost plan
- Demonstrating knowledge of the relevance and significance of the societal context of the project
- Comprehensibility of the approach in relation to the project's objectives, methods and cooperation
- Equal treatment (Gender Equality Plan), diversity (Strategy for Diversity and Equal Opportunity) and ethical aspects (Best Practice Guide) in the framework of the 'European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity' have to be taken into account
- Suitability of the project for further strategy development/acquisition of third-party funding

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Those eligible to submit are individuals employed at the Angewandte or teams whose contact person (the main applicant) is an employee of the university. The contact person's work contract has to cover the winter semester 2025/26 and/or the summer semester 2026.

The so-called contact person must have an artistic and/or scholarly profile and be highly knowledgeable in their field.

Each contact person is permitted to submit only one application per call.

Applicants must obtain approval from the relevant head of institute or head of department for the project's integration. A screening of comparable projects at the institution is also required.

The project lead, respectively, the contact person, is solely responsible for decisions regarding the use of funds.

SUBMISSION

Only the contact person is eligible to submit. A time-limited project that is clearly described in relation to the PORT criteria can be submitted in English; English is required for peer-review.

First stage ‘Project Sketch’

The call opens on December 1, 2025. The project must be submitted with an expression of interest (sketch). This initial submission must be in English and sent no later than January 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM via the online form, which can be found in the base/Cloud app ‘Forms’ under the title “Submission for internal funding PORT: first stage ‘Sketch’”.

Second stage ‘Project Proposal’

Only by personal invitation. Having passed the first stage, the invited contact persons present the developed project in concrete, detailed terms. The second submission must be sent by May 12, 2026, at 2:00 PM to the email address port@uni-ak.ac.at, either as an attachment or via a base/Cloud link.

The required documents are to be combined in one single PDF (in English, A4 format):

- Download the submission form – Adobe Acrobat recommended for editing
- A formless exposé of up to four pages
- A timeline of up to two pages
- A cost plan in tabular form with detailed explanations justifying costs (no page limit)
- CV(s) of project-relevant individuals
- Informal approval from the relevant head of institute or head of department for the project’s integration

Only optional, to be included as supplementary file(s):

- Portfolio(s) of project-relevant individuals or ‘best practice example(s)’ as PDF
- Supplementary media presentation of the submission (e.g., a video lecture about the project idea, max. 10 minutes), please attach an additional presentation file as PDF via a base/Cloud link

COST PLAN

Only project-related costs can be submitted as part of the application. Each submission can range from a minimum of €5,000 to a maximum of €18,000.¹ The cost plan² is part of the evaluation process. Therefore, a detailed presentation of the cost plan in a clear format (e.g., tabular form) with detailed explanations that justify the expenses of internal and external project partners is requested.

The following types of costs are permitted

- Personnel costs: Secondary employment and/or work contract. For calculation assistance, refer to the current [FWF personnel cost rates](#). Calculations should include gross salary, employer costs, and indexing (+3%)
- External project partners: Can be involved through fees – service contracts, invoices, or employment³
- Travel costs: In the form of business trips⁴ (travel expenses, accommodation, daily fees,⁵ travel insurance)
- Costs of technical equipment/devices: Please verify whether the required equipment or software is already available at the Angewandte or another research institution (costs relating to purchase, use, or rental are eligible). New equipment will become part of the general research equipment at the Angewandte – please include a plan for its maintenance after the project ends
- Material costs: Consumables (e.g. tools, raw materials, special materials), services/fees, publication and communication costs, and other costs (e.g. fees, licence costs, insurance, archiving costs).

1 This includes all costs such as VAT, employer contributions (payroll taxes), and indexing.

2 The project's implementation is subject to the financial management guidelines ([Gebarungsrichtlinie](#) in German) of the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

3 Additional documents such as forms, information sheets, and downloads can be found on the base/Cloud under '[_Info_Personal](#)', i.e., the internal section of the base.

4 Refer to '[_Info sheet_Business trip](#)' as a guideline

5 Includes any personal meal expenses.

Additional resource requirements

- Potential reimbursement for the use of workshops and other university facilities. These must be coordinated in advance by the contact person, in consultation with the internal cooperation partners.
- Hospitality expenses may be included if project-specific requirements arise. These require the rector's approval but must be paid from the project budget (they must also be approved during the decision-making process).

For approved projects

The contact person will receive a dedicated internal assignment (German term: 'Innenauftrag') with the approved budget, as well as the project lead, including authorisation to sign (German term: 'Zeichnungsberechtigung') and budget monitoring. Questions regarding project management related to billing can be directed to Support Art and Research, the Human Resources Department, and Financial Accounting. The independent responsibility of the research management lies with the project coordinator (= contact person).

Employment contracts must be approved by the head of department.

The project will be considered complete once the short and final report, which serves as proof of how the grant funds were used, has been accepted by the programme management. If the short and final report is submitted within the project duration, an additional €250 will be granted to cover dissemination costs.

Note: For applicants with a fixed-term employment contract, the contact person or the individuals concerned must verify with the Human Resources Department whether it is possible to submit a subsequent application (e.g. to the FWF) in light of the amendment to the Universities Act (UG) 2021 regarding the chain contract regulation (German term 'Kettenvertragsregelung'). If this applies to you, please contact the Human Resources Department (personalabteilung@uni-ak.ac.at).

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

An external advisory board of experts will be appointed to determine which submitted projects will receive funding.

First stage

The evaluation criteria are made fully transparent in the [online form](#). The advisory board qualitatively evaluates submissions, also using a numerical rating scale. Two advisory board members are assigned to each submission. The contact persons of the projects are then invited to participate in the second stage.

Second stage

The advisory board evaluates the submissions based on the PORT criteria outlined in the call and prepares a list of recommended projects by ranking. Based on the PORT recommendation list, the rectorate decides on the allocation of funds according to the available project budget. The selected projects are then announced and published, and the respective teams are invited to proceed with implementation.

Approval

The earliest possible start date for funded projects with budgeting is November 1, 2026. The contact person must coordinate with the programme management regarding the start of the project.

Please note that submissions from the first stage and projects rejected from the second stage will be treated confidentially. Support Art and Research invites individuals or teams to a consultation to discuss further or alternative third-party funding strategies for project proposals.

DEFINITIONS

The terms used for the set-up of a PORT project team are explained below.

Contact person

Those eligible to submit entries are individuals employed at the Angewandte or teams whose contact person (the main applicant) is an employee of the university. The contact person's work contract has to cover the winter semester 2025/26 and/or the summer semester 2026.

The so-called contact person must have an artistic and/or scholarly profile and be highly knowledgeable in their field. The contact person contributed substantially to the process of conceiving or preparing the submission. Therefore, the contact person is considered a (co-)author of the project idea. As a contact person, an individual is permitted to submit one application per call. Applicants must obtain approval from the relevant head of institute or head of department for the project's integration. The project lead, respectively, the contact person, is solely responsible for decisions regarding the use of funds.

Project Partner

Project partners may be internal (a member of the University of Applied Arts Vienna) or external (national or international; natural or legal persons). Although there is no formal requirement regarding the number of project partners in a submission, this should be proportionate to the available resources.

IMPRINT

Call for proposals in accordance with the Performance Agreement 2025–2027 (B1.2.5), University of Applied Arts Vienna.

Notes on the processing and publication of personal data,
see supportkunstundforschung.uni-ak.ac.at/en/impressum/#port

For further information, see:
supportkunstundforschung.uni-ak.ac.at/en/enable/projects/#port



Contact programme management PORT

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