

WISSENSCHAFT ZUKUNFT PREIS 2022

FOR MASTER'S THESIS

VALID FROM 1 MARCH 2022



DEADLINE: 11 APRIL - 31 MAY 2022

SUBMISSIONS: preise.einreichsystem.at

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PREFACE

Der Wissenschaft Zukunft Preis (referred to as "WZP" in the following text) of Gesellschaft für Forschungsförderung NÖ (GFF) has been awarded on an annually changing topic since 2014.

In 2022, the Gesellschaft für Forschungsförderung NÖ will present a WZP with a new design in terms of content and graphics.

The new WZP has no thematic restriction, includes all scientific disciplines and exclusively awards academic theses assessed as "very good". The prizes are awarded in the following three categories:

- **Bachelor thesis**
- **Master and diploma thesis**
- **Dissertation/PhD thesis**

I OBJECTIVE

The WZP is intended to highlight and reward high-quality academic achievements of young academics at the beginning of their academic career.

2 PRIZE MONEY

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| • Bachelor thesis | € 500,- |
| • Master and diploma thesis | € 1.000,- |
| • Dissertation and PhD thesis | € 2.000,- |

A total of up to four academic theses from all three categories will be awarded prizes.

The prizes will be awarded at the Lower Austrian Science Gala in autumn 2022.

3 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WZP IN THE CATEGORY BACHELOR THESIS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- The application must have been submitted online, in full, on time and in the correct form.
- There must be a comprehensible reference to Lower Austria.
- Submission is possible in German or English.
- The thesis was approved in 2019 at the earliest, assessed as "very good" and the corresponding study programme - an FH degree programme or regular university study programme at an Austrian or European university - was successfully completed.
- Work with a blocking notice will not be accepted

AGE OF THE SUBMITTING PERSONS

- from the year of birth 1994 (and younger).

4 SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission to the WZP is only possible via the application form in the GFF online submission system preise.einreichsystem.at and must be made by the deadline.

The submission period runs from 11 April to 31 May 2022.

REQUIRED SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

A fully completed online application includes:

- Personal data and information on the study programme or the research topic according to the electronic submission form.
- Fields for questions a) to d) are to be completed directly in the application form.
 - a. Please describe your motivation for the research.
 - b. Why is your research innovative?
 - c. What are the results and findings of the thesis and what points of contact does it open up for future scientific questions or practical implementations?
 - d. Please describe the relation and/or relevance of the research for Lower Austria.
- Executive summary of the Master thesis.
- Assessment report, certificate or a document documenting the assessment of the thesis with "Very good" or an assessment equivalent to this.
- Confirmation of positive completion of studies for the submitted thesis.
- Curriculum vitae.
- List of publications if available.
- The complete thesis in electronic form.
- Listed cooperations with companies in Lower Austria must be proven with a confirmation from the company. Theses with a Confidential clause will not be accepted.

5 REVIEW PROCESS

AWARD WINNERS ARE DETERMINED IN THREE STAGES

All funding applications submitted on time are subject to a three-stage assessment process.

Stage 1: Formal preliminary review by the GFF.

Stage 2: Preliminary assessment of content by the jurors (first half of June 2022). On the basis of defined assessment criteria, each juror ranks the assessed academic theses according to the number of points achieved.

Stage 3: Determination of the award winners at the jury meeting (second half of June 2022). The prize-winners will be selected from among all the best-ranked per category - the four best-ranked per juror.

I EVALUATION CRITERIA

CRITERION I: IS THERE A REFERENCE TO LOWER AUSTRIA? YES/NO EVALUATION

The Lower Austria reference is given if at least one of the four criteria listed below is fulfilled. If none of the four criteria is fulfilled, the submission is eliminated from the evaluation procedure. Residence in Lower Austria of a submitting person is not relevant for the assessment of the relevance to Lower Austria.

- The thesis was written at a Lower Austrian research institute / in the course of studies in Lower Austria.
- The research dealt with in the thesis refers to Lower Austria.
- The research was (partly) conducted in Lower Austria.
- The thesis was written in the context of a cooperation with companies or institutions in Lower Austria.

CRITERION 2: QUALITY OF MASTER THESIS

Possible points	Criteria
0 - 3	Quality of the thesis (language, citation, etc)
0 - 3	Interesting, well elaborated research question / thesis question well presented / relevance of the research question
0 - 3	The scientific approach chosen for the thesis was worked through and argued in a methodologically sound and critical manner
0 - 3	The thesis provides interesting / new results / quality of the preparation and presentation of these results
12	Erreichbare Maximalpunkte

The ranking of the submissions takes place according to the highest score.

CRITERION 3: QUALITY OF MASTER THESIS

Possible points	Criteria
0 - 3	Innovative research question
0 - 3	Innovative methods / an innovative mix of methods were used
0 - 3	Thesis provides interesting / relevant results
9	Erreichbare Maximalpunkte

The ranking of the submissions takes place according to the highest score.

OPTIONAL, CRITERION 4: FREE EVALUATION AWARD OF UP TO 4 POINTS.

Here, additional comments as well as evaluations can be listed which have not been covered or not sufficiently covered by the criteria so far and which are to be particularly positively emphasised and evaluated in connection with the thesis.

Up to 4 extra points can be awarded.

6 JURY MEETING

Each juror announces the four best-ranked, whereby the total number of points determined is decisive. The prize-winners will be chosen jointly by all the jury members from among the first-ranked.

2 COPYRIGHTS AND DATA PROTECTION

The submitters must be creators of the submitted works and thus authors within the meaning of § 10 para. 1 of the Copyright Act, BGBl No. 111/1936, as amended.

The personal data will be processed, if necessary, for the duration of the entire business relationship (including any necessary data transfer to external jurors) and beyond in accordance with the legal retention and documentation obligations within the framework of the currently applicable Austrian Data Protection Act (DSG) and the European Data Protection Regulation (DSGVO).

3 FINAL PROVISIONS

These guidelines do not constitute a legal claim to the granting of a subsidy, neither in terms of reason nor in terms of amount.

The place of jurisdiction for all disputes arising from the granting of funding is the Regional Court of St. Pölten.

These Guidelines shall enter into force on 01.03.2022 and shall apply to the WZP 2022. Amendments and the current version shall be published on the GFF website.