

VIENNA RESEARCH GROUPS 2026

Environmental Systems Research

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Call 2026

Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators

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→ Environmental Systems Research

The 17th Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators Call 2026 can fund up to three group leader positions as part of WWTF's ESR program.

Scope of the Call

This call is open to all topics and areas in Environmental Systems Research, and researchers from all disciplines (e.g., natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, health sciences, climate research ...) are welcome. The future Vienna Research Group is expected to develop a distinctive research profile that tackles fundamental and interdisciplinary questions in environmental research using cutting-edge methodologies. Their research should aim to significantly expand current knowledge and have the direct potential to contribute to meaningful societal advancements. Research that extends beyond academia and aims to build strong collaborations with non-academic partners is strongly encouraged.

Candidate's profile

- VRG leaders are young researchers, generally postdocs, who seek to advance their research career by establishing an independent research group and assuming leadership responsibility for several group members.
- VRG candidates are up to eight years after PhD; care duties may extend this period up to four years. WWTF takes unconventional research careers into consideration.
- WWTF especially encourages Vienna-based research institutions to propose female group leaders. The successful appointment of a female VRG leader is rewarded with a financial benefit in the amount of € 60.000 for the

Vienna host institution to support its gender mainstreaming activities.

Eligibility & characteristics of a Vienna Research Group (VRG)

- The call invites universities and research institutions in Vienna to apply together with a promising young scientist for a group leader position. Active recruitment procedures are mandatory.
- VRG leaders are independent in designing their research and recruiting their staff.
- The prospective host institution in Vienna has to provide a well-defined career track.

Funding

- WWTF can fund up to three positions with up to € 1.8 million per research group over a period of six to eight years.

Timeline

- Information session (online): 29 January 2026, 2pm CET
- Submission deadline: 10 March 2026, 2pm CET
- Hearings and Jury Meeting: September 2026 (exact dates tbd)
- Funding decision: October 2026

Process

- Application via WWTF Funding Portal
- International Peer Review
- Hearing with an international jury

Please check the Call Specifications for all details.

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Vienna Science
and Technology Fund

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