

Call for proposals : “WPI Thematic Programs”

The Wolfgang Pauli Institute (WPI) is an interdisciplinary research training “Center of Excellence” in mathematics, physics and informatics/computer science.

The WPI organizes, with funding of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BM.BWF, "Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung"), the WPI Invitation and Pauli Fellows Program. Each year about 5 “Thematic Programs” are aimed to provide an international invitation scheme in fields of research where strong groups with post-graduate training already exist in Vienna. The choice of topics aims to encourage interaction between mathematicians, physicists, and informaticians/computer scientists thus fostering their interdisciplinary collaboration by the *thematic programs*. Each program has to contain a strong aspect of post-graduate and post-doctoral training; e.g. a link an FWF-funded “Doktoratskollegs” is welcome.

Each *thematic program* typically includes at least one “Pauli Fellow” as co-organizer over the whole duration of the program, in particular a senior French scientist on paid leave to the WPI in the frame of the “Institut CNRS Pauli”.

Co-funding : Note that the funding provided by the WPI matches the funding provided by the organizers from other sources, i.e. co-funding of 50 % is required, and every proposal has to contain a list of co-funding projects (on a national level and e.g. in the framework programs of the EC), where eventually also submitted proposals or credible plans to do so can be listed .

Gender-mainstreaming : thematic programs are encouraged to foster gender mainstreaming; e.g. programs including a female *Olga Taussky Pauli fellow* are given priority.

Duration of *thematic programs* is 12 months.

Program Funding

The WPI will provide a **financial support** for a thematic program that will typically be in the range of Euro 30,000 – 50,000. The total amount of WPI funding depends on the “cofunding” that the organizers provide from other sources, with a minimum requirement of 50 %.

Visiting scientists can be either reimbursed the hotel, if it is reserved by the WPI, plus a flat rate of one time 30 Euro, or receive a flat rate of maximum 80 Euro per night.

In case of longer stays, flat rate grants in a range of 1400 – 2000 Euro per month are foreseen.

In addition to this, WPI encourages long terms visits of scientists who are supported from other sources (e.g. sabbatical money), and who wish to collaborate with participants of the research programs and/or strong groups in Vienna. In this context, **Pauli Fellows** play a prominent role: these fellowships are in general awarded within the WPI Invitation Program, via proposition by the WPI general assembly and approvement by the WPI International Scientific Board. The WPI will mostly fund the additional local cost (e.g. accommodation, school attendance of children etc.) and travel for Pauli fellows, in exceptional cases a working contract including social security, according to a PostDoc salary of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is possible.

Visiting PostDocs within the *Thematic Programs* are working either under a contract of employment or a scholarship grant for a maximum duration of six months per year. Scholarship

holders are assumed to have permanent residence outside Austria and to have a health insurance on their own. Analogously, **PhD students** can be hosted at the WPI for periods up to 6 months at WPI with a scholarship grant amounting to Euro 1,000 to 2,000 per month.

Program Evolution. Accepted thematic programs will be allocated an initial WPI funding that can be modified in the evolution of the program in agreement between the responsible organizer and the WPI directorate, in order to optimize the impact of the WPI subvention.

Guidelines for Program Proposals

Submission of the 2-3 pages word, tex or pdf file is by e-mail to wpi@mat.univie.ac.at.
Deadline for the submission of proposals for new programs is 15 April 2025 with program activity starting from summer 2025 on, for one year until summer 2026.

Organizers are encouraged to consult the directorate about their projects in advance to help structure their project and eventually combine it with thematically synergetic proposals.

Proposal Content: proposals should contain:

- Names + e-mail addresses of the organizers, including a **responsible local organizer** (normally someone involved in a co-funding project) and at least one Pauli Fellow.
- Financial demand to the WPI.
- A list of actively involved groups / co-funding projects in Vienna and other additional sources of funding for visitors, post-docs.
- Specification of funding for the Pauli fellow(s).
- A suggested period.
- A list of planned “major events” like workshops, conferences, “schools” etc., including at least one school and one workshop (typical duration 1–3 weeks).
- A short description of the scientific goals of the program, about 1-2 pages in length, including a description of the international interactions.
- A preliminary list of scientists to be invited.

Three step peer assessment: Proposals can only be submitted by groups that have already passed an international peer reviewed evaluation. All proposals are discussed and ranked by the General Assembly of the WPI full members. The resulting list is thereafter sent to the members of the International Scientific Board which takes the final decision without the implication of an Austrian scientist, eventually overruling the proposed list of the WPI General Assembly.

Additional Funding: Organizers of programs have to assure 50 % additional external financial sources for their program: scientists willing to come (partially) on their own funds, direct contributions from other sources, other sources funding post-docs or graduate students actively participating in the program, etc. Combinations of WPI programs and conferences elsewhere, supported by other sources, are encouraged.

Collaboration between programs: the organizers of the *thematic programs* will be in continuous contact with each other in order to dynamically optimize the allocation of resources (office space and funding etc) and interdisciplinary contacts between the programs.