

Call for collaborative Austria-ILL PhD projects

As part of the Scientific Member agreement between Austria and the Institut Laue Langevin (ILL) for the period 2024 – 2030, about five funded PhD projects are available and it is planned to select these in two calls, now and in the second half of 2026. These projects are intended to strengthen the Austrian neutron community in all regions and across a range of scientific areas and experimental techniques. They should provide researchers based in Austria with continuous, high-level support in the preparation and realisation of neutron experiments, principally at the ILL. All projects must involve a scientist from an Austrian research organisation and an ILL scientist.

Application timeline:

- Deadline for applications: 10 Sept 2025 (midnight CET)
- Selection of projects: 30 Sept 2025

Application process:

- All applications (in English) must be sent by email to Austria2025@ill.eu by midnight (CET) 10 Sept 2025.
- The application must be based on the completed application form (attached), which includes a description of the project and the applicant's brief CV.
- It is anticipated that the successful projects will involve three-year PhD contracts at ILL. If longer PhD durations are required, this must be possible administratively with the Austrian research organisation and the funding for this additional period must be specified.
- In case a candidate for the position is already identified by the applicant, a letter of motivation and a CV of the candidate must be provided as part of the application.
- The applications will be evaluated in terms of excellence by a panel representing Austria and ILL.
- Cofunding is strongly encouraged in order to make the best use of the available funding.
- The selection of projects may take longer than announced above if there are many applications.

Successful projects:

- The PhD student's time will be split between Austria and ILL in the most practical way according to the requirements of the partners – Austria and ILL.
- A successful application will depend in part on the level of cofunding proposed by the host institution.
- The candidate for the position at ILL must be approved by both partners.
- The applicant must sign an agreement with the ILL defining the responsibilities of each party and any sharing of costs, including cofunding, and resources.

Please send any questions to Martin Fally (martin.fally@univie.ac.at), Mark Johnson (johnson@ill.eu) and Peter Fouquet (fouquet@ill.eu)

Austria-ILL Project Application Form

Proposal Number

(to be filled in by Austria - ILL)

Title of project:

1st Supervisor in Austria:

Name and first name phone/email Laboratory/University/Institute webpage

2nd Supervisor in Austria (optional):

Name and first name phone/email Laboratory/University/Institute webpage

University in which the student will be enrolled:

1st ILL supervisor:

Name and first name phone/email ILL Instrument group

2nd ILL supervisor (optional):

Name and first name phone/email ILL Instrument group

Main research area of your project:

☐ Material Science ☐ Magnetism ☐ Nuclear & Particle Physics
☐ Soft Condensed Matter ☐ Biology & Health ☐ Instrumentation and Methods
☐ Other

Number of years?

Collaboration with Industry? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Co-financing of salary of candidate: ☐ No ☐ Yes
==> total contribution over project period:

Amount and nature of other financial contributions to the project:

ILL instruments involved in the project:

Laboratory support facilities involved in the project:

☐ Simulation support (C-Lab) ☐ SANE ☐ Material Science Support Lab
☐ SAXS support through PSB ☐ PSCM Lab ☐ Chemistry Labs
☐ Cont. level 2 biology Lab ☐ EMBL Lab ☐ Deuteration Lab

Other Laboratory support facilities needed for the project and its availability at the Austrian supervisor lab

ABSTRACT (1400 characters):

This is the abstract of the project proposal which should have a maximum of 1400 characters, and should give a succinct summary of the goals and methods of the proposed project.

1/ Description of project (2 to 4 pages)

Guidelines:

- Give a general outline of the thesis or research topic proposed. Place it in context by briefly describing the state-of-the art in the relevant field in relation to your proposal.
- Give an account of any preliminary work you have done in the field. Include references to publications on the topic. Where appropriate, you may enclose copies of the most important publications (in paper or PDF format)
- Give details of the scientific aims of the proposal.
- Indicate which experiments will be conducted within the framework of the project (specifying the amount of beam time needed and, if possible, on which ILL instruments).
- Give a detailed work plan for the project, specifying for each year the objectives, the methods employed and the expected results.
- Identify expensive items which will have to be purchased in the framework of the thesis (with an estimation of their price).

2/ brief CV (please limit your publication list to your top 5 publications in the last 5 years) of all the supervisors in Austria and at the ILL.

3/ if the project already has a candidate, please add the candidate motivation letter and the CV