

# WISSENSCHAFT ZUKUNFT PREIS 2023

FOR MASTER'S THESIS

VALID FROM 1. DECEMBER 2022



**DEADLINE: 27 FEBRUARY – 12 APRIL 2023**

**SUBMISSIONS: [preise.einreichsystem.at](https://preise.einreichsystem.at)**

GESELLSCHAFT FÜR FORSCHUNGSFÖRDERUNG NIEDERÖSTERREICH M.B.H.

A-3100 St. Pölten, Hypogasse 1, 1. OG  
T: +43 2742 27570-0  
E: office@gff-noe.at

LG St. Pölten  
FN 363476 z  
www.gff-noe.at

WISSENSCHAFT • FORSCHUNG  
NIEDERÖSTERREICH



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## PREFACE

The Wissenschaft Zukunft Preis (in the following text abbreviated to "WZP") of Gesellschaft für Forschungsförderung Niederösterreich (GFF) is awarded annually.

The WZP is open to all topics, has no age restriction and covers all scientific disciplines. The WZP is awarded exclusively to academic theses that have been evaluated as "very good" and have a connection to Lower Austria.

The following are awarded

- **Bachelorarbeit**
- **Master-/Diplomarbeit**
- **Dissertation/PhD-Thesis.**

## I OBJECTIVE

The WZP is intended to highlight and reward high-quality scientific achievements by academics at the beginning of their scientific careers. This prize is intended to be an additional motivator for the award winners to continue working and researching in the respective scientific field.

## 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 2023.

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

- There is no age restriction.
- There is no thematic restriction. Papers from all scientific disciplines can be submitted.
- Submission is only possible online. The submission must be complete, on time and formally correct.
- There must be a comprehensible reference to Lower Austria. See chapter 6 "Evaluation criteria" on page 6.
- Submission is possible in German or English.
- The thesis must not be older than three years, so were not approved until 2020 at the earliest.
- The thesis has been evaluated as "very good" and the corresponding study program – an FH degree program or regular university study program at an Austrian or European university - has been successfully completed.
- Theses with a blocking notice are not accepted.

## 4 SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission to the WZP is only possible via the application form in the GFF online submission system [preise.einreichsystem.at](https://preise.einreichsystem.at) and must be made by the deadline.

The submission period runs from 27. February bis 12. April 2023.

### 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. Thesis with a Confidential clause will not be accepted.

## 5 REVIEW PROCESS

### **DIE ERMITTLUNG DER PREISTRÄGER\*INNEN ERFOLGT IN DREI STUFEN**

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 evaluation of the content by the jurors (mid-April to mid-May). Based on defined evaluation criteria, each juror nominates three academic theses per category.

Stage 3: Determination of the award winners at the jury meeting (end of May).

## 6 EVALUATION CRITERIA

### **CRITERION 1: 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 discussed in the thesis refers directly to Lower Austria (or originated via the platform „Themenbörse Abschlussarbeiten“ <https://www.gff-noe.at/themenboerse/>).
- 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 BACHELOR THESIS**

<b>Possible points</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
0 - 3	Innovative research question
0 - 3	Innovative methods / an innovative mix of methods were used
0 - 3	Thesis provides interesting / relevant results
<b>9</b>	<b>Achievable maximum points</b>

**OPTIONAL, CRITERION 3: 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.

## **7 JURY MEETING**

At the end of the evaluation process, each juror nominates his/her three best-ranked submissions per category (= bachelor's theses, master's theses/diploma theses and dissertations/PhD theses).

From the group of all best-ranked submissions, the prize winners are then jointly determined by all jury members at the jury meeting.

## **8 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).

## **9 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 01.12.2022 and shall apply to the WZP 2023. Amendments and the current version shall be published on the GFF website.