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# Gender Disparities in Academic Research Funding in Austria: A Current Overview

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## Abstract

**Background:** The distribution of funding in academic research is crucial for career development, enabling the successful realization of scientific ideas by providing paid support for coworkers. In Austria, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is a key national institution for research funding.

**Aim:** This study aims to investigate the gender distribution of academic research funding in Austria for proposals funded starting after January 1, 2025. Using a publicly available database of funded research projects across all scientific disciplines, the research funds granted to both females and males have been analysed.

**Results:** A total of 282 proposals funded by FWF commenced in 2025, with 166 (59%) granted to males and 116 (41%) to females. The funding volume awarded to males amounted to 66.3 million euros (60.4%), while females received 43.4 million euros (39.6%). The mean project volume awarded to females was 6.3% lower than that granted to males ( $p=0.037$ , ANOVA test of logarithmic values).

**Conclusion:** Despite gender equality initiatives in Austria, an asymmetry still persists in the distribution of competitive academic funding between genders, indicating a need for further improvement.

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