Call for Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes 2023

General Information for Applicants
Before we start

• Sound and video are disabled during the presentation
• You may use the Q/A function to send us questions about content and the chat for technical problems
• Please note that the presentation will be recorded
• Make sure to turn on the microphone when you want to speak

• The recording and slides will be made available through our website
• Questions that should not get answered today will be included in the FAQ section of our website
Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft (LBG)

- is a non-university research organisation with a thematic focus on Medicine and Life Sciences.
- operates 17 Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes (LBI) together with academic and research partners.
- Focus of LBIs: interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, translational research addressing relevant and timely research topics
- Goal: to achieve scientific solutions to societal issues
Call for LBIs 2023

• 2 new Institutes will be funded
• LBI will conduct research in the field of Health Sciences
• Founding principle: “people, not projects” (Howard Hughes Medical Institute)
• LBI will offer outstanding scientists the financial support and organisational framework needed to produce output of the highest level.
• LBI is established at a host institution (University) and administrated by the LBG as the operating organization of the institute.
Health Sciences

- Health Sciences is an overarching description of all disciplines dealing with health (interpreted widely).
- Include all aspects from (bio-)medical to healthcare systems research, from basic science to the practical application of research findings.
- The focus lies on human health as it is impacted by real factors, such as predisposition, environmental and social factors, communication, health care system, etc. and include:
  - Classical areas such as biomedicine, immunology, infectiology, epidemiology, biostatistics, metabolism, pharmacology, nutritional and behavioural sciences, etc.,
  - Cross-cutting topics such as prevention, rehabilitation, environmental medicine or public health
Health Sciences to impact society

• The LBG's call guidelines encourage scientists and Partner Organisations to collaborate across disciplines in order to address topics that are not yet established or unconventional.

• Research at LBI takes a scientific approach to solving societal problems and issues.

• Excellent basic science with strong aspects or potential for research application

• Latest by the end of a LBI’s lifetime, the results of excellent research should reach an application or implementation in society.
„People, not projects“
Scientific excellence and translational research

• In the foreground are outstanding scientists (Institute Directors) able to introduce new areas of research and conduct excellent research.
• The Institute Director as well as the research proposal should demonstrate scientific excellence.

• “Researchers who bring innovative approaches to the study of” health sciences.
• “Scientists who have the potential to make significant contributions to science”.

www.hhmi.org
Organisation of LBI

- LBI is headed by an excellent Director
- Total staff ≈15 FTE (including third party funded personnel)
- A coherent research program: consisting of ≈3 program lines in interface topic areas (such as (bio)medicine, health sciences and public health,..)
- Exhibit a strong basic science core with transdisciplinary and societal links.
HR composition of LBI

• Institute Director
• Research Group Leaders
• Adjunct Principal Investigators (optional)
• Junior Researchers (Postdocs and PhD Students)
• Administrative and Specialist Staff
Institute Director

- Orchestrates and manages the LBI
- Leads 1 program line within the research program.
- Is able to attract excellent scientists and involve stakeholders to support the implementation and use of the research findings.
- Submits the application together with the Host Institution (University).
- Has a double affiliation (LBI and Host University): 75% for LBI research and 25% for university obligations (accordingly: salary is split 75-25%).

- Universities can use this Call to attract and bring in excellent international candidates.
Application criteria for Institute Director

• Has – or will have - tenured or tenure-track position at the Host Institution.
• Min. 4 and max. 15 years* of relevant professional experience since completion of PhD.
• Principal Investigator of at least 1 peer-reviewed grant with a duration of at least 3 years.
• Demonstrated scientific independence, e.g. publications without their PhD supervisor.
• Has leadership experience and potential.
• Impressive level of success in their research field according to their career stage, including 5 significant research outputs (as first or last author).
• Intends to remain employed at the Host Institution for the entire lifespan of the LBI.

* Can be extended based on paternal leave, clinical training etc.
Research Group Leaders

• Lead additional program lines
• Capable of covering a specific program line within the overall program;
• Supervise several younger scientists
• Act independently including in competing for projects and funding for the overall program.
• Two different types of Research Group Leaders can be considered:
  • the junior researcher, for whom this position represents a career jump
  • the established scientist, who would like to broaden and deepen his/her research base.
• May be identified after LBI start
• Employed by the LBG
Adjunct Principal Investigator (optional)

- 1 or a maximum of 2 Adjunct Principal Investigators (PI)
- Remains employed at other (also international) institutions.
- May run part of a program line along with the Research Group Leader
- Their expertise *supplements* that of the Institute Director and the Research Group Leader team.
- Serve to strengthen the research plan and *cross-institutional* cooperation
- If required: budgetary packages of up to 75,000€ for e.g. a predoc position or research material
Partnerships

• Research at the LBI is conducted in a partnership between organizations (consortium).
• Consortium is composed of Host Institution, Partner Organisations and Network Partners.
• Each LBI must include 1 Host Institution and at least 1 research-applying Partner Organisation in the consortium.
Host Institution (HI)

- Is the institution eligible to apply - all public and private universities in Austria are eligible.
- Employs or will employ the Director (dual affiliation 75-25% split).
- It houses the new LBI.
- Provides access to infrastructure to conduct the research (for which they will be compensated with a flat rate of 40% of personnel costs of the LBI staff employed at LBG).
- In general, LBI staff is employed at the LBG. However, staff members with tenure track positions, PhD students and clinical staff are employed at the Host institution (reimbursed from LBI budget).
- The Host Institution creates an attractive environment for outstanding scientists and offers independence while still bound to their own organization.
Host Institution – Framework with Universities Austria

- The use of specific research infrastructures (core facilities) is charged at internal cost rates.
- The Host Institution plays a key active role in exploiting the intellectual property rights (IPR) generated by the research and strives for appropriate utilisation. The partner organisations may also demand exclusive IPR from the Host Institution against payment of a fee.
- The name of the Host Institution will be incorporated in the name of the LBI: LBI for xx at the yy (Host Institution).
- Third-party funds secured by LBG employees go to and are managed by the LBG; the host institution may be involved as co-beneficiary.
Partner Organisations

• Research conducting institutions other than the Host Institution as well as research applying organisations from industry, the public sector or private institutions (associations, NGOs, etc.)
• Contribute to co-financing of 20% of the LBI’s budget (in cash)
• Can be based in Austria or abroad
• Contribute to developing the research plan, have access to know-how, resources, results and the opportunity to employ highly qualified personnel after LBI’s lifespan.
• Can acquire IP rights
• Have voting rights in the partner board meetings (annual meeting for LBI with partners)
Network Partners

• Contribute know-how, implement results and disseminate the findings in their environment
• Do not provide finances for the LBI
• Network partners in the Health Sciences sector are self-help organisations for patients, patient advocates, etc.
• The establishment of a suitable network will be supported by open innovation in science / citizen science/ outreach methods during and after the founding of the LBI.
• This ecosystem should play a significant role in the research and its implementation.
• Do not have voting rights at the annual meetings of the partners.
Consortium requirement for LBI

- Each LBI must include 1 Host Institution and at least 1 research-applying Partner Organization in the consortium.

- In exceptional cases:
  - a research-applying Partner Organization may join the consortium only within the first year after the establishment of the LBI.
  - A note to this effect must be included in the Letter of Institutional Commitment by Host Institution.
  - In this case, the prospective Partner Organizations must include a Letter of Intent with the application.
  - If no research-applying Partner Organization has joined the consortium at the beginning of the second year, the established LBI will be closed.
The LBG encourages open and inclusive lab cultures that actively share their scientific findings and provide effective mentorship and professional development to enable scientists from all backgrounds to thrive.

Special emphasis on:

- inter- and transdisciplinary research
- open innovation in science/ citizen science/ outreach
- open science
- diversity, equity and inclusion
- training and mentoring
Open Innovation in Science

“Process of purposively enabling, initiating, and managing knowledge flows and (inter/transdisciplinary) collaboration across organizational and disciplinary boundaries in scientific research”

OIS along the research cycle

INVolvEmENt
Citizens, patients, interest groups are actively involved in research.

- Co-applicants
- Members of advisory or steering groups
- Co-formulation of research ideas
- Co-identification of research questions
- Co-design of research design
- Co-Creation of information materials, tools, prototypes
- Joint data collection, analysis and interpretation
- Joint dissemination

“Public involvement in research is research carried out ‘with’ or ‘by’ members of the public rather than ‘to’, ‘about’ or ‘for’ them. It means that [...] people with relevant experience contribute to how research is designed, conducted and disseminated.” (link)

EXAMPLES
PATIO, HERO, Science4All, . . . [Project database]
Financing and duration

• LBI’s budget is a maximum of 1.5 million euro per annum.
• 80% of this sum (max. 1.2 million euro per year) is provided by the LBG and 20% (max. 300,000 euro) from the Partner Organizations in form of cash contributions. In exceptional cases, the partner contribution may be provided jointly with the Host Institution.
• In-kind contributions may be provided but do not constitute a component of the LBI’s budget and do not form part in calculating the 20% co-financing requirements.
• LBI has an initial lifespan of 7 years and, after positive evaluation, may be extended by 3 more years.
Selection process

1. Pre-selection by international expert jury

2. Pre-selected applications will be forwarded to international experts for scientific peer-review.

3. International expert jury selects applications for hearing based on the evaluations from peer-review.

4. At the hearing, the international expert jury selects the 2 LBI.
Selection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection criteria</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualification &amp; Potential of Institute Director and research team</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality &amp; feasibility of the Research plan</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of the Research Environment</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How well qualified is the **Institute Director** to conduct the proposed research programme (Institute Director profile)? How well qualified are the Research Group Leaders in combination with any Adjunct PIs to lead the programme lines? Does the proposed research question indicate **scientific excellence and relevance for the society**? Does the research culture (open science, diversity, equity, inclusion, training, and mentoring) meet the principles of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment?

Are the research questions, aims and methods **excellent, innovative and well structured**? Are the methods suitable and are they described in sufficient detail in the proposal? Have OIS/ citizen science/ outreach methods methods been adequately considered in the research plan? Can the research programme be conducted with the intended budget?

How do the Host Institution and Partner Organisations **contribute** to the project’s successful implementation? What scientific **facilities** can they offer?
“Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment”

Two main principles:

• **Quality and impact:** recognition is given to originality of ideas, professional research that goes beyond state-of-the-art, open science approaches and impacts of scientific, technological, economic, and/or societal nature.

• **Diversity, Inclusion, and Collaboration:** Recognizes diversity of research activities and research roles/careers (e.g. peer review, training, mentoring and supervision of graduate students, leadership roles, science communication and interaction with society, entrepreneurship, and industry-university collaboration). Gender equity, equal opportunity, and inclusion are also acknowledged.
Application documents

- To be submitted according to the full application principle via the submission platform (weblink available in March)
- includes the following documents, for which predefined templates can be found on the website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documents to be submitted</th>
<th>Process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Check form</td>
<td>Input in platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal form</td>
<td>Chapters 1-4: Input in platform; Chapters 5 and 6: Upload as attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost/Financing Sheet (Excel)</td>
<td>Upload as attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVs of Institute Director, Research Group Leaders and Adjunct PI</td>
<td>Upload as attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Institutional Commitment (from HI and Partner Organisations)</td>
<td>Upload as attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In exceptional cases: Letter of Intent (from Partner Organisations in prospect)</td>
<td>Upload as attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration (from Host Institution and Institute Director)</td>
<td>Upload as attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusion of Reviewers (optional)</td>
<td>Input in platform</td>
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Important dates

- Call Start: 1 February 2023
- Webinar: 15 February 2023, 3pm-5pm
- Webinar: End of March 2023
- Deadline for proposals: 2 May 2023
- On-site Interviews: September 2023
Contact and further information

- Information and call documents: [https://lbg.ac.at/lbi-call/](https://lbg.ac.at/lbi-call/)
- Mail: lbi_call@lbg.ac.at
- Phone: +43 (0) 1 513 27 50-44
Q & A: Selected team members of LBG

• Prof. Sylvia Knapp, Vice president
• Jürgen Busch, Senior Manager
• Sherin Alias, Information and Knowledge Manager
• Neda Motamed-Shad, Program Manager Clinical Research Groups
• Kurt Wolfsberger, Head of Finances and IT
• Anneliese Inreiter-Weiss, Head of Legal Affairs
• Christiane Grill, Senior Program Manager Priority Setting