

LIFT_C Call for Project Proposals

As part of introducing and establishing the Linz Institute for Transformative Change (LIFT_C), the institute issues research calls designed to stimulate more inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations.

The current performance agreement with the Austrian Ministry of Science, Education & Research places the LIFT_C at the crossroads in a pivotal position to not only identify, but also address, social and global challenges by conducting research from various disciplinary perspectives that include social sciences, business, law, medicine, natural sciences, engineering, and ethics.

The LIFT_C focuses on the conditions, consequences, and impact of systemic change processes and multi-level transformation.

Topics

In this call we welcome inter- and transdisciplinary projects that inform research and practice on socio-ecological transformative change. The urgency of addressing multiple ecological crises is undeniable, yet organizing for transformation requires a deeper integration of social, technical, and ecological dimensions and a fundamental re-organization of socioeconomic arrangements and institutions. Recognizing the complexity and interconnectedness of these elements, this call for research proposals seeks to explore and advance understanding of how socio-ecological transformative change can be imagined, stimulated and sustained. *Projects may consider one of the following themes:*

Synergy between Ecological and Social Transformation: Proposals should investigate how ecological/technological initiatives can be integrated with social sustainability principles. This theme encourages exploration of strategies that ensure ecological/technological solutions are equitable, culturally inclusive, socially beneficial (e.g., less inequality, better health)

Innovative Social Arrangements for Sustainability: We invite research that critically examines and proposes new forms of organization, work, community engagement, public health provision and (re-)use of resources. Proposals should focus on how these arrangements can contribute to and accelerate ecological transformation. Proposal also can focus on how to cope with consequences of the climate crisis and related crisis (e.g., pandemics), for instance, exploring medical responses to new health challenges or other forms of climate crisis adaptation strategies.

Understanding Dynamics of Socio-Ecological Change: This theme focuses on the actors and dynamics driving change within socio-ecological and socio-technical systems. Research should aim to unravel the complexities of these dynamics, including the roles of policy, socioeconomic institutions, societal attitudes, and technological and medical advances in facilitating or impeding sustainable change.

In addressing these themes, we invite applicants to harness the synergies of conducting groundbreaking research and engaging in learning partnerships with local, national and international stakeholders from private sector, civil society or public sector.

Only those projects with an inter- or transdisciplinary character are eligible for consideration.

Funding

Funding of up to € 250,000 per project application is available.

Please see: [jku.at/lit](https://www.jku.at/lit) for detailed information about funding guidelines.

Researchers

Researchers (those already holding a Ph.D. / Dr. scient.med) are invited to submit a project proposal to receive funding under the JKU LIFT_C program. An interdisciplinary/multi-disciplinary research approach is mandatory in order to follow the LIFT_C funding scheme.

The JKU LIFT_C Call is open to all researchers (from the JKU as well as from other institutions) however, **if selected for funding, a PI from another institution will have to move to Linz and accept employment at the JKU for the duration of the project. Collaborating universities are encouraged to participate in the project, but cannot directly receive funding.** In addition, permanent JKU employees (*Stammpersonal*) may take part in the JKU LIFT_C call but their efforts must be in-kind (requesting no salary beyond full-time employment) as part of the correct financial administrative procedure.

Location

The project must identify a hosting JKU institute/department and a point of contact (the institute or department head). The host is required to provide office space and any other infrastructure. We recommend adding a Letter of Confirmation issued by the hosting institute/department to the proposal.

Cooperations

Since LIFT_C exclusively promotes inter- and transdisciplinary research, cooperations are essentially in order to fulfil the challenges of LIFT_C. The JKU LIFT_C encourages societal stakeholders (corporations, civil society organizations, public administrations) to take part and encourages partners to assist in co-funding the project. However, the JKU LIFT_C does not permit stakeholders to be funded by LIFT_C.

The Submission Process

Applicants are required to submit a written proposal that follows a template (in English). The project proposal should include a funding plan that covers salaries (please include an approximate annual salary increase of 9%) and reasonable allowances for consumables; travel, and small equipment to be funded in exceptional cases only. The project proposals will be reviewed and discussed in a plenary meeting by an external multidisciplinary panel of international renowned experts. The JKU Rectorate will render a final decision in regard to funding.

The criteria used to evaluate whether or not a project is eligible for funding will be based on the application's scientific excellence, the applicant's outstanding scientific and academic background and record, the project's applicability on transformation, and its inter-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary approach.

The proposal deadline is March 11th, 2024. Each project proposal must be submitted in English and include a standard cover sheet, the principal investigator (that individual will also be a JKU LIFT_C project leader), the project's duration, the requested amount of funding for the project, the contact information of the JKU institute/department hosting the project, the contact information of the industrial company assisting in the project (if applicable), the project's primary objectives, any major equipment expected/needed, and a short abstract.

Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed and discussed in a plenary meeting by an external multidisciplinary panel of international renowned experts. The JKU Rectorate will render a final decision in late Summer 2024.

Send your application to: liftc_call@jku.at by March 11th, 2024.