

## Guidelines for AO VET Seed grant applications

→ Applications which do not conform to the website application format or guidelines may be returned to the applicant and will not be considered unless resubmitted by the deadline.

### General information

- The AO VET Seed grants are funded by AO VET, a Clinical Division of the AO Foundation, a Swiss non-profit organization dedicated to the world-wide advancement in the surgical treatment of trauma and degenerative disorders of the musculoskeletal system through research, development, and education.
- This call is open to all Clinical Divisions such as CMF, Spine, Trauma and VET
- With the AO VET Seed Grants, AO VET supports projects in a wide range of research fields including unconventional and novel projects. In particular, it favors projects related to basic, pre-clinical, and clinical research.
- Its mission is to provide predominantly seed money and favors researchers in the early part of their career. Senior investigators are not eligible for this program.
- The application process is a one-step approach:
  - 1) Open call for full proposals by the defined deadline

### Eligibility

- Young investigators ( $\leq 40$  years old) who are: 1) within five years of the completion of their terminal degree (eg MD, DVM, PhD, etc.) or 2) within five years of initiation of their first assistant professor position at an academic institution or 3) enrolled in residency programs or fellowships.

### Deadlines

The deadline for the submission of the full project is **Sunday, June 04, 2023, at end of the day CET (Central European Time)**.

## Application forms

### 1) Full application

The full application must be submitted in English on the provided full application form. Do not exceed the indicated number of characters and pages. Full applications which are incomplete or do not comply with our guidelines will not be considered.

Check that the contract has been seen by your legal institution and that they agree to our template as the contract template is fix and no subject of negotiation.

The following topics must be covered in the application under these headings:

- General Information: at least 3 keywords must be chosen from the provided pdf keyword list
- Description of principal investigator's future career desires and focus (applicable for young researchers as described in the section 'Eligibility')
- Personal data including an abbreviated CV
- Abstract of the research project
- Outline of the problem
- State of the art in this field
- Past research of the applicant in this field
- Hypothesis, open questions, aim of the project
- Detailed research plan:
  - Study design, study subjects, specimens or materials
  - Predictor and outcome variables
  - Methods for taking measurements
  - Data management and planned analyses including sample size estimate (a sample size estimate includes setting the level of power)
  - Animal model (see next section Animal model)
- Relevance of the project
- Time schedule
- Relevant literature by the applicant and by other authors

**The application form must be e-mailed as an unprotected Word-document to Tania Bosque at [ao.npr@aofoundation.org](mailto:ao.npr@aofoundation.org). Please do not edit any font and do not use full text capital letters (no changes on format)**

## Animal model

If an in vivo animal model is used in the planned research work, please describe the model in detail. The description should include: anesthesia protocols, treatment protocols, pain management, surgical techniques, post-operative care, criteria for removal from the study if necessary, and euthanasia protocols.

The AO Foundation is committed to animal welfare and requires AAALAC standards in AO Foundation sponsored external research:

With the grant application, AAALAC Accreditation has to be provided if AAALAC accredited by either providing a copy of the AAALAC accreditation certificate or the certificate from your Federal or local authority, confirming that you meet the standards. If the applicant's animal research unit is not AAALAC accredited, the national accreditation has to be approved by AO VET. In case the applicant's animal

research units is not national accredited, the form 'Animal Care Program Description for Non-AAALAC Facilities' has to be submitted. These documents must be in English, official translations can be accepted.

Please see

- a) AO Foundation Guiding Principles on Human Care and Use of Animals in Research and Education
- b) Institutional Research Animal Program Review Policy
- c) Animal Care Program Description for Non-AAALAC Approved Facilities

## Clinical trials

If the grant application includes a clinical trial, we recommend you visit the following websites which will provide useful information:

[www.consort-statement.org/](http://www.consort-statement.org/)

<http://www.strobe-statement.org/>

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/health/helsinki89.html>

## Medical Devices

Please note that any medical device development cannot be funded via this call. For medical device development, please contact AO Development Incubator.

<https://www.aofoundation.org/Structure/innovation/AO-Development-Incubator/Pages/default.aspx>

The current AO VET Seed Grant call is not focused on product development

## Funding policy

### Amount and duration

AO VET Seed grants provide support up to CHF 7,500 with a maximum duration of one year. AO VET highly encourages applicants to submit small grant proposals. For example, investigators may consider seeking funds to support primary or secondary data analyses, systematic reviews with meta-analyses, or manuscript preparation.

### Salaries

Salaries for the applicants (main applicant and co-applicants) will normally not be approved. If the project is only possible with some funding for the applicants, it must be clearly shown that the funding requested is essential, project specific and well documented.

Written and signed confirmation from the head of your institution is required with the application that no alternative source of income (including salary, stipend or grant) is available.

### Travel expenses

Only project specific travel expenses with a maximum amount of CHF 1,500 for conferences will be covered.

### Indirect costs

No overhead contributions are made to the submitting organization

### **Additional funding**

Additional funding from other AO institutions or any other source must be disclosed in detail. If other funding is available, it must be made clear how this will affect the overall budget of the project if the AO grant application is successful.

### **Collaboration with AO Institutes**

Applications that involve collaboration with the AO Research Institute (ARI) Davos have to be approved by its director prior to submission. For this reason, the AO Research Institute (ARI) Davos, must be contacted at least 3 weeks prior to the submission deadline, at the very latest by **May 19, 2023**. It is the responsibility of the applicant to get a written confirmation from the above-mentioned AO Institute.

**The application form must be e-mailed as an unprotected Word-document to Tania Bosque at [ao.npr@aofoundation.org](mailto:ao.npr@aofoundation.org).**

⇒ Use the excel budget template to calculate your budget and transfer all numbers into the application form. Do not change the formulas in this template.

## Conditions

### **AO VET Membership**

AO VET Membership (e-member) is a condition for the PI of the funded project  
<https://aovet.aofoundation.org/membership>

### **Publication**

The PI and Co-Investigators might be interviewed for sharing interim / final results and project updates. Further publication is expected in peer-reviewed journals.

## Review and decision process

### **Notification**

The applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail within a week regarding receipt of the application.

### **Review process**

The AO VET Research and Development Commission is an independent group of world class scientist and researchers and is responsible for the peer review process of the submitted projects.

### **Decision**

Decisions with regards to funding of full proposals will be communicated by the **end of July 2023**.

It is not our policy to enter into any discussions and we do not accept a resubmission of an application previously declined.

### **Duration and start of project / study**

The maximum duration of the project / study is 1 year.