FWF Open Access funding – the Open Access Block Grant (FWF-OA)

Starting January 1st 2024, the FWF replaces all its Open Access procedures and guidelines to a new system – the Open Access Block Grant. This Block Grant is awarded and signed on institutional level. The FWF Block Grant will be managed by the SSU Library.

REQUIREMENTS

The corresponding author must have a valid affiliation with ISTA and adds the following acknowledgement text to all publications upon submission:

> "This research was funded in whole or in part by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) [grant DOI]. For Open Access purposes, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright license to any author accepted manuscript version arising from this submission."

For publications in German:

> „Diese Forschung wurde gänzlich oder teilweise durch den Wissenschaftsfonds FWF finanziert [Grant-DOI]. Zum Zweck des freien Zugangs hat der:die Autor:in für jedwede akzeptierte Manuskriptversion, die sich aus dieser Einreichung ergibt, eine „Creative Commons Attribution CC BY"-Lizenz vergeben."

The Article Processing Charge (APC) invoice has to be sent to OpenAccess@ista.ac.at.

ELIGIBLE

The OAP can only be used to cover the following OA publishing costs:

- **Fully Open Access** (gold OA): costs for peer-reviewed publication under a CC BY license in a DOAJ listed gold OA journal
- **Transformative Open Access**: publications under transformative Open Access agreements must be published under a CC BY license and without an embargo period. See a list of ISTAs transformative agreements here: https://ist.ac.at/en/research/library/publish-communicate/oa/#agreements

There is **no funding** and covering of costs out of the FWF Bock Grant for:

- Hybrid Open Access (e.g. costs for Nature publications): except they are part of a transformative agreement
- Costs for publications with licenses other than CC BY license
- Costs for delayed or retroactive Open Access publication
- As before: no other costs associated with publication like page charges or color charges

PROCEDURE

If you want to ensure that the APC is covered by FWF, please check your publishing options with the library before submitting to a specific journal. To make use of the rights retention strategy, you have to include the above mentioned acknowledgements already in the first submission (adding them later don't give you the legal benefits of publishing the last submitted version in a repository without an embargo!).

As soon as your APC invoice arrives, please send it to OpenAccess@ista.ac.at. Include your research group cost center and the acknowledgments/funding information so that the library team can check which funding (FWF Block Grant, ISTA OA fund) is eligible. We will then create the ISTOS order including the correct cost center(s). If the invoice is not eligible, the costs will be booked on the research group cost center.

Initial FAQs

1) **Why is the change happening?**
   Beginning with 2024, the FWF changes the way how they fund APCs. In the past an additional grant for the publication costs could be acquired. From 2024 onwards, FWF gives ISTA a block grant and ISTA books eligible APC invoices on the grant. In cooperation with the grant office, the library will take over this task. Furthermore, the library will automatically check each APC invoice if they are eligible for the ISTA OA fund or if maybe a different grant can be used. If none of those options apply, the costs will be booked to the group cost center. This will guarantee the most effective way to allocate ISTA budget.

2) **How is the new APC process working?**
   If you have identified an invoice for an APC, please mail it to OpenAccess@ista.ac.at including the following information: CC of the research group, information if the invoice was already paid by credit card, and - if not on the invoice - the title of the article. If possible, copy/paste the acknowledgements (or at least the list of acknowledged grants) for the correct booking of the costs. The library will then take care of the ISTOS order, the FWF block grant/other grants and the ISTA OA fund.

3) **What is an Article Processing Charge?**
   Article processing charges (APC) that have to be paid to published an article Open Access.

4) **What's about other costs like color and page charges?**
   Those extra costs were never covered (neither by FWF/EU nor ISTA OA fund) and will not be in future. They remain within the research group budget.

5) **How does the processes look like if an invoice has to paid fast via credit card so that the article gets published?**
   The library has no interest in slowing down the publishing process! You can pay with your ISTA credit card first and send us the invoice afterwards – just please mark the invoice as already paid!

6) **How is this new process affecting the ISTA OA fund?**
   The eligibility for the ISTA OA fund will be also checked by the library during the APC process. No extra steps from your side necessary.

7) **What if a scientist doesn't want to pay for Open Access?**
   Scientists have always the option to contact the library before submission which publishing options a journal offers. Be aware that most funding agencies (especially EU and FWF) have quite strict Open Access regulations, so if scientists acknowledge a funder they have to meet their conditions!

8) **I forgot to acknowledge the funder**
   If a grant is not listed within the funding information/acknowledgements, you are not eligible to receive APC costs for your publication via FWF Block Grant.

9) Where to find my grant DOI?

FWF has implemented a unique persistent identifier for each grant, the grant DOI. You can find it in the FWF research radar https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/discover/research-radar.

Version	Name of Editor	Effective date	Change
1	PaDa, DoEr	19.12.2023	Creation of the document
2	DoEr	21.02.2024	Add FAQ 9 (FWF Grant DOI)