Application guideline: Eligibility / Procedure / After approval

Eligibility  Fundamental criteria / Funding criteria / Exclusion criteria

Fundamental criteria

Strategic fit level 1 – Your project is in one of the funding areas Daylight Research, Healthy Ageing, Ophthalmology, and complies with the foundation’s focus in the respective area. Please make sure you have read the information on the specific funding areas and know what we do not support therein.

Strategic fit level 2 – Impact oriented: With a limited budget the foundation focuses on new and innovative ideas, on projects that bring a change of perspective or the creation of new interdisciplinary bridges. Your vision of impact and your plans for how you will transfer the project results in order to foster change are crucial for the strategic fit.

Project scope – Your basic or applied research project will last 1 to 4 years and the budget request is around CHF 50,000-100,000 per year. For requests exceeding this amount we recommend you contact us beforehand.

Other funding sources – The application must establish why the project is not eligible for other funding sources and why you wish to be funded by Velux Stiftung. Projects that are eligible to be funded by a national funding agency (for example, the Swiss National Foundation, National Institute of Health, etc.) have a low likelihood to go into peer review or to be funded. The project application therefore needs to establish why sufficient support cannot be obtained through other sources. Having too many grants with a national funding agency is not sufficient to bypass this criterion.

Employment – As principal investigator you must be a permanent employee of a university or other permanent research institution.

Project management – The principal investigator is responsible for directing the grant and the employing institution must agree to manage the grant.

Collaborations - The foundation welcomes international and interdisciplinary collaborations. The approved amount will be paid out to the PI’s institution which is responsible to distribute the funds to the collaborators and compile the necessary reports. In case your project has an interdisciplinary approach that involves several of our funding areas, we ask you to define the main funding area. The main funding area is defined by where your project results will contribute to change.
Funding criteria

The foundation will first elect project applications which show a strategic fit to the foundation’s funding policy and don’t fulfil any of the exclusion criteria. Only then your project will enter the peer-review process.

The foundation’s funding criteria are based on three pillars:

- Impact
- Scientific quality
- Resources

Here we present a shortened version of the funding criteria. The document Funding Criteria offers a more detailed description.

Impact

Originality and novelty, outside-of-the-box thinking – at best your project achieves more than the incremental development of a single discipline.

Your project addresses an important problem or a critical barrier and aims to contribute to a sustainable solution with a positive impact.

Your project is based on an original idea, that bring a change of perspective or the creation of new interdisciplinary bridges.

Your project results have the potential to cause a change and have leverage.

As PI of the project, you will design the output measures in order to maximize the knowledge transfer to the relevant target groups.

Scientific quality

If the peer-review affirms the scientific excellence of your research proposal, the board will consider your project for funding. Although scientific excellence is necessary it is not sufficient for a positive decision of the board.

Resources

The project should involve people with expertise from all the necessary disciplines. The PI should show leadership to transfer the results and take advantage of the project’s potential.

The project should benefit from institutional support and a productive scientific environment.

Does your project not follow the standard approach of a research project? We might be able to offer exceptional funding in the form of: (Convertible) Loan, Mezzanine capital, Equity. If this is a relevant option for your project, please contact us before you apply.

For a more detailed explanation, we recommend reading our Funding Criteria.
Exclusion criteria

Project applications that fulfil one or more of the following criteria will not be sent out for external peer-review and will not be funded:

- Project applications **outside the strategic funding areas** – Daylight Research, Healthy Ageing, and Ophthalmology. Please read the [funding areas](#) section to see what we do not support within the funding areas.

- Project applications **eligible for funding from other sources** such as national funding agencies (for example, the Swiss National Foundation, National Institute of Health, etc.) The application needs to establish a convincing argument as to why no sufficient alternative support can be obtained. Having too many running grants with a national funding agency is not sufficient to bypass this criterion.

- Project applications that **do not formally conform to the application template** of the foundation, or that do not contain enough details to be thoroughly evaluated by an external expert.

- Project applications that **do not propose concrete measures to promote the transfer of knowledge** to the relevant target group(s). The project application should convincingly show how the project results will contribute to an envisioned outcome.

- Project applications that **only contribute to incremental progress** in the field of research. With its limited budget, the foundation focuses on projects that make a big difference.

- Project applications which have been **previously rejected** are not allowed for resubmission. Newly submitted projects based on the same concept or idea as a rejected project also fall into this category.
Procedure

Application procedure

Next deadline: please refer to our website for the latest information.

For details what information is needed to apply through our web portal, please refer to the application factsheet.

Application must be submitted on our web portal.

Evaluation & peer-review process

- Velux Stiftung will first assess your application’s strategic fit to the foundation’s impact orientation and funding area. We also check if the application fulfils any of the exclusion criteria. Applications which do not pass the initial assessment are rejected without peer-review.

- If the application passes this initial assessment, scientific excellence is evaluated through external peer-review. Please be aware that scientific excellence is necessary but not sufficient to receive funding.

- For external peer-review your application documents are sent to at least one independent international expert. The assessment is based on our Funding Criteria.

- In some cases, we give the applicant the opportunity for a rebuttal/reply.

- All decisions on project applications are taken by the foundation board.

The steps from submission to decision are depicted on our website.

After approval

Funding agreement

Within 1 to 2 months a funding contract will be signed.

Your project begins within 6 months.

Reporting

- Reports must be compliant with the application for the next instalment of the grant to be paid.

- Reporting includes scientific and financial interim reports and final reports, respectively. Two years after the end of the project, the foundation will request an evaluation report.

- Changes in the project plan or budget must be approved by the foundation in advance.
• Templates for reports are available under [Downloads].

Conditions of payment

• The project must have its own account within the PI’s university or organization.
• A maximum amount in CHF is confirmed in the funding contract.
• The grant is paid out in several instalments.
• Reports must be compliant with the application for the next instalment of the grant to be paid.
• Changes in the project plan or budget must be approved by the foundation in advance.
• 10% of the grant or at least CHF 20,000 will be withheld until the final reports are approved.
• For more details, check the [general funding terms].

Intellectual property

• Remains with the applicant.
• There are no consequences in the case of open use.
• In case of commercial use, repayment of the grant after cost deduction is possible.

Communication

• The PI provides pictures that the foundation can use for its own communication and are free of third-party rights.
• The foundation must be referred to as ‘Velux Stiftung’.
• For logo and acknowledgement regulation, see [Downloads].

Legal

• Only Swiss law is applicable.
• Only courts of Zurich are applicable.