The Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)

Research Assessment

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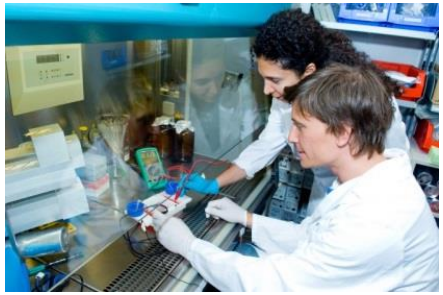
The Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)

a research institution



a learned society

an organisation promoting young scientists

Key Facts

- Founded in 1847
- 779 Members
- 29 Institutes:
  - 11 Natural Sciences
  - 15 Humanities and Social Sciences
  - 3 Other
- Staff: 1,382 Employees
  - 778 Scientists, hereof 682 Junior Scientists
- Budget 2014:
  - General Budget by Federal Ministry: EUR 94.4 Mio
  - Third Party Research Funds: EUR 35.3 Mio
  - Other: EUR 13.2 Mio
- Research Performance 2014:
  - 1,310 Peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals or anthologies
  - 44 Monographs and Editions
  - Ongoing Projects: 22 ERC Grants, 10 Start and 2 Wittgenstein Prizes

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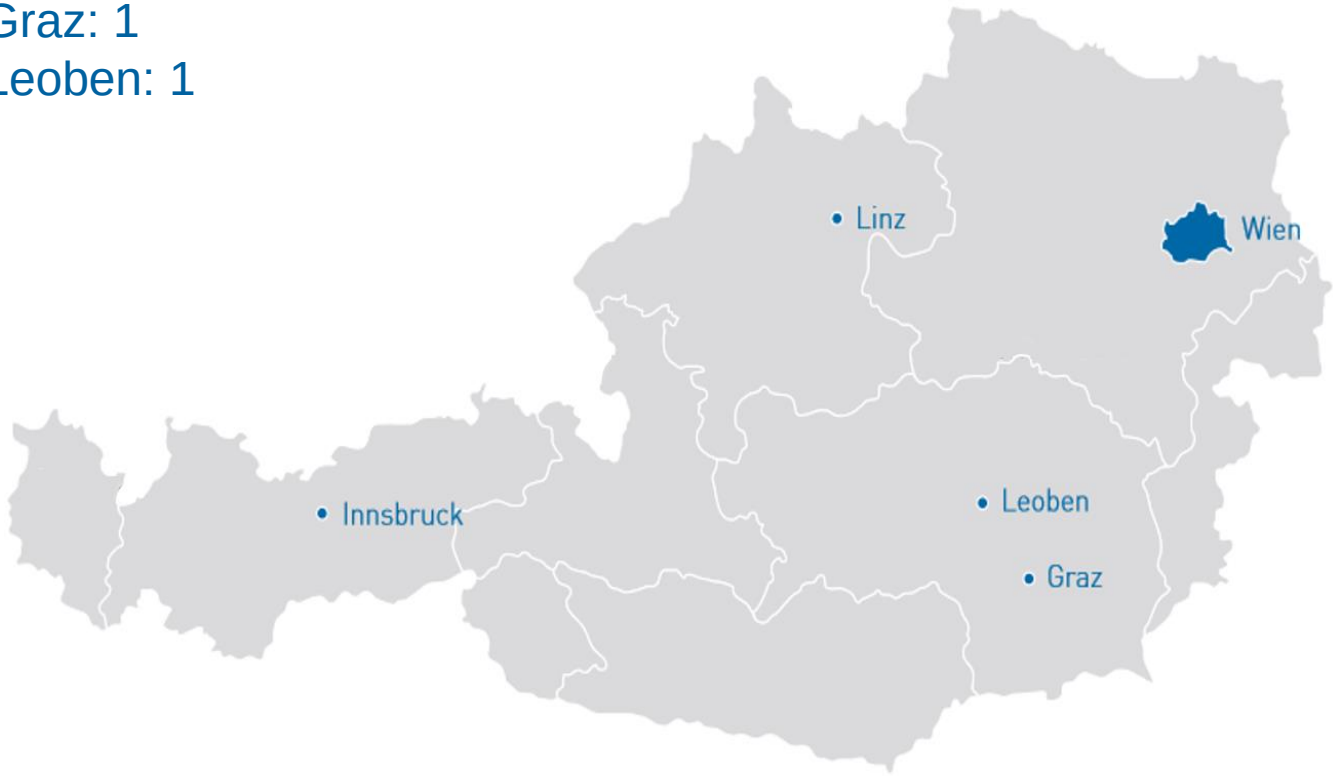
Institutes:

Vienna: 24
Innsbruck: 2
Linz: 1
Graz: 1
Leoben: 1



Institutes

Humanities, Cultural Studies, Social Sciences

Institutes in Archaeology and Classical Studies
- Institute for the Study of Ancient Culture
- Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology

Institutes in Asian Studies and Social Anthropology
- Institute of Iranian Studies
- Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia
- Institute for Social Anthropology

Institutes in the Humanities
- Institute for Medieval Research
- Institute for Modern and Contemporary Historical Research

Institutes in Cultural Research
- Institute for Corpus Linguistics and Text Technology
- Institute of History of Art and Musicology
- Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History

Institutes in the Social Sciences
- Vienna Institute of Demography
- Institute for European Tort Law
- Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research
- Institute for Urban and Regional Research
- Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies

Institutes

Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Technology Sciences

Institutes in Mathematics, Physics, Space Research, and Materials Sciences

- Johann Radon Institute for Computational and Applied Mathematics
- Institute of High Energy Physics
- Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information - Innsbruck
- Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information - Vienna
- Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics
- Acoustics Research Institute
- Space Research Institute
- Erich Schmid Institute of Materials Science

Institutes for Life Sciences

- CeMM – Research Center for Molecular Medicine
- IMBA – Institute of Molecular Biotechnology
- GMI – Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology

Other

- Audiovisual Research Archive
- Austrian Center for Digital Humanities
- Institute of Technology Assessment

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In Science and the Society – For Science and the Society

- Setting **priorities** in accordance with scientific developments, requirements of the society and the cultural situation
- Conducting **application-oriented basic research**, with the objective of gaining new knowledge
- Conducting **long-term research** by investing in the scientific retrieval, preservation and interpretation of the cultural heritage
- Attracting **extraordinary research per**sonalities on every career level from Austria and abroad
- **Cooperating** with scientific and science-promoting institutions and contributing to the Austrian research environment
- **Supporting** all scientific activities in the best possible way

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Innovation and Quality Strategy

- Offering an **attractive framework** with the OeAW career model
- Offering **best 20% of the young sc**ientists continuous career prospects
- Focus on **working groups**
- Expanding **Quality assurance and research controlling**
- **Performance-based funding**
- Opening up for **new research activities**
- **Reviewing** of research fields and research structures
- Active **third-party funding strategy**
- **Supporting scientists** effectively and efficiently
- **Investing** in research infrastructure

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Quality Management Measures

- Strictly quality-oriented **appointments** of Heads of institutes and **personnel evaluations** are integral for achieving research quality at the highest level
- Internationally renowned experts serve on **Scientific Advisory Boards** giving guidance
- **Evaluations of the institutes** by highly reputed external peer reviewers ensure the quality of research
- **Performance contracts** are negotiated between the Heads of each institute and the Presiding Committee
- **Performance-based funding** is recognized as a control tool
- **Benchmarking** with highly reputed external partners serves for further developing research
- Reliable quantitative and qualitative **indicators guide decision-making**

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Research Board

- Recommendations to the Presiding Commitee and General Assembly regarding the **Academy‘s research programme**
- Establishment of **general principles of quality control** in consultation with the Presiding Committee
- Nomination of **evaluation committees**
- **Recommendations** to the Presiding Committee and General Assembly regarding the **implementation of evaluation results, performance agreements**, and budget allocation for multi-year periods

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Critical Remarks

"…the explosion of various types of research assessment […] has already started to create – an obsession with measurement and monitoring, which may result in a ‹bean counting› culture detracting from the real quality of research and the boundless search for new knowledge.»

«… The demands of producing large quantities of data may create or extend a culture of regulations, instructions, lists of good practice etc., marked by an obsession with measurement and monitoring, all of which might well detract from creative freedom, flexibility and productivity.»

«…research assessment needs to be understood correctly and applied sensibly.»

«Goals, processes and criteria used should be defined clearly and transparently.»

«Above all, universities should stand firm in defending the long-term value of their research activity, ...»

(The League of European Research Universities, LERU 2012)

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Critical Remarks

"The symbol of transparency is a two-edged sword. In transparency we manifest democracy and clarity – shining light on dark spaces. Yet when you look at a transparent glass wall in daylight, what you see is a reflection of yourself. If we are to live in a world where we continue to encourage innovation, we need the messy vitality of opacity.

(Deyan Sudjic, Director of the Design Museum, London)