



Q&A

The following explanations are intended as an excerpt of the most common questions. They can be added to on an ongoing basis. The questions and answers are subject to change and are not exhaustive. If you have any further questions, please contact us using the contact options provided.

- **What are the benefits of participating in the Houska Prize?**

The Houska Prize is the largest private, application-oriented research award in Austria and has enjoyed a very good reputation for over 20 years. The aim is to bring excellent research results with an application perspective to the forefront, to make them visible and to provide them with highly endowed prize money.

- **Which projects does the Houska Prize address in the three categories?**

With the Houska Prize, the B&C Private Foundation honors outstanding projects/processes/services/products/findings in Austria in the field of science/research with application relevance. The evaluation criteria serve as a basis. Previous winners of the Houska Prize can be viewed on the www.houskapreis.at page.

- **Is it about economic potential or real economic implementation that has already taken place?**

The economic implementation is different in terms of development and weighting per category. While in the field of Higher Education Research (HF) an earlier phase of transfer or potential must be based, a project in the category of Non-University Research (AuF) already requires one or more implementation cooperation partners. In the case of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a clearly defined project must already be implemented. The evaluation criteria as well as the dossier questions per category provide information.

- **Is it about products, processes, services or results?**

Specific projects can be submitted that address either research findings (HF) or specific products, processes or services (AuF, SMEs). All of them are based on research results but must sufficiently demonstrate economic feasibility depending on the individual category.



- **Is economic breadth (many users/customers) or depth (niche) more in demand?**

There is no restriction on the part of B&C – the evaluation is left to the evaluation committees in order to filter out the best projects and applications in line with the criteria.

- **Are resubmissions possible?**

Yes, resubmissions are possible. The substantial changes to the previous application must be presented at the time of application.

- **Does a submission have to be made via the management level of the institution?**

On the part of the B&C Private Foundation, there is no nomination obligation with the management of the institution. However, we recommend informing the management level and involving them in the process.

- **How far back can the underlying project findings be?**

There is no fixed length of time when the findings/results have been made. However, the application must demonstrate that they are state-of-the-art and up to date.

- **How much evidence needs to be provided to support the application/economic implementation?**

Depending on the category, different "proofs" of economic implementation must be provided. This is specified in more detail in the application forms and the questions asked.

- **How big does the project result have to be?**

The assessment is the responsibility of the evaluation committees and is based on the criteria.

- **Can spin-offs and start-ups also be listed as business partners (in the categories of Higher Education Research and Non-University Research)? Can they also submit in the SME category?**

Yes, spin-offs and start-ups can be submitted or named in the SME category as well as partners in the other two categories. However, in the SME category they must meet the specified criteria. Only one category can be submitted per call year.



- **I have secret data, how is the information in the application handled, what can/must I keep to myself?**

The complete application is visible to employees of the B&C Private Foundation as well as to the evaluation committees. All of them are subject to a duty of secrecy – details can be found at the time of submission. As part of public relations work, all texts are coordinated in advance with the project coordinator as the central contact person. In the application, the requested parts must be reproduced in the desired level of detail in order to be evaluated by the evaluation committees.

- **In addition to economically successfully implemented technical innovations (for SMEs), are non-technical innovations also permitted?**

Yes, the prize is deliberately broadly advertised. However, the projects must meet the criteria.

- **What content should be included in the abstract?**

The abstract serves as the "business card" of the submission and is the part that the evaluation committees see first. The abstract is also used to address potential reviewers. Therefore, all relevant important elements of the submission should be present in the abstract. In the submission itself, there is also a field for a brief description of the project, which is used for external communication and must be understandable for a non-specialist audience/layperson/general public.

- **What content should be included in the dossier? What target group is it aimed at?**

To support the dossier, there are guiding questions for each category to be answered. The submission is first evaluated in a two-stage evaluation process by an advisory board within the category. Afterwards, a jury of experts across all categories will finally determine the winners. The advisory boards are anchored in the respective categories, but have a broad range of expertise due to the openness of the Houska Prize. They involve additional experts in the evaluation through external expert opinions.