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Background

With the Houska Prize, the B&C Private Foundation honors outstanding research results that combine exceptional research achievements and economic relevance.

Aim of the Houska Prize

The Houska Prize makes application-oriented R&D results visible and highlights outstanding innovation and research excellence with market proximity in Austria. It honors Austrian researchers at universities, in non-university research institutions and SMEs that combine innovative findings with an application perspective. Depending on the category, this includes products, processes, methods or services as well as research and development results with the high relevance for exploitation.

Dates

Submission	**01.09.2025 – 28.10.2025**
Online information event	16.09.2025, 10.00 am CET
Online information event	01.10.2025, 02.00 pm CET
Project assessment by advisory boards and jury	03.11.2025 – 10.02.2026
Announcement of nominees	11.02.2026
Houskaprize ceremony award 2026	Tuesday, 21.04.2026

The Houska Prize

The Houska Prize is awarded in three categories: Higher Education Research, Non-University Research, and Research & Development in SMEs.

The total prize money is EUR 760,000. EUR 250,000 will be distributed per category and will be staggered as follows:

1st Prize	EUR 150,000
2nd Prize	EUR 70,000
3rd Prize	EUR 30,000

In addition, the Mariella Schurz Prize, endowed with EUR 10,000, will be determined by students and awarded to a nominated project at the award ceremony.

Evaluation

After a formal review by the B&C Private Foundation, the applications will be evaluated by external committees in a two-stage process: by advisory boards per category and by a jury. Three projects will be nominated and ranked by the committees.

Submission

Submission is made exclusively via the website www.houskapreis.at using an online form with direct queries and additional obligatory and optional uploads. All uploads must be uploaded in PDF format in A4, font min. 11 pt., line spacing 1.25 pts.

A person (project coordinator) must be specified. He/she acts as the central contact person for the B&C Private Foundation throughout the entire process.

Cross-institute/cross-institutional submissions are possible and desired. Submission can only be made in one category, double submission is not permitted.

In particular, the following aspects must be addressed in the applications:

- Description of the underlying (scientific) research results, including explanation of the methodological research approach
- Presentation of the innovation content/potential and the unique selling point
- Presentation of the planned economic implementation and indication of the existing/intended economic partner with a business location in Austria for the project implementation or the already recognizable or realized economic success/benefit
- Description of the contribution to Austria as a business location
- Description of the impact (output, outcome, and impact) and contribution to the SDGs

In the case of a repeated submissions, a description of the main progress of the project must be provided. Optionally, a maximum of two reviewers can be excluded for reasons of competition (short justification).

General information

The prize money awarded should be used for further research activities. All prize money will only be paid out to the institution and not to private individuals. In case of a capital gains tax obligation, this is withheld and paid by the B&C Private Foundation to the tax office. Beyond the payment of the prize money of the Houska Prize, the winners are not entitled to any further benefits or beneficiary rights vis-à-vis the B&C Private Foundation.

The personal data provided will only be passed on to the members of the advisory board and the expert jury for the purpose of evaluation, and to our PR agency for communication work.

The data protection information [www.bcprivatstiftung.at/datenschutz-informationen) applies. Legal recourse is excluded.

Details per category	Higher Education Research	Non-University Research	Research & Development in SMEs
Maturity of the project	Economic implementation is imminent (high potential foreseeable) or has already taken place	Economic implementation has already taken place	Economic implementation has already taken place and the project has been complete
Quality of research and science	Cutting-edge scientific research at the international state-of-the-art	High-quality (scientific) research at the state-of-the-art	Concrete project based on high-quality state-of-the-art research
Eligible to submit	• 23 state universities (incl. CD labs) • 19 private universities • 21 universities of applied sciences • Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) • Institute of Science and Technology Austria A detailed list can be found under the link	Austrian Non-University Research Institutions A detailed list can be found under the link	Companies that ... • have their headquarters and their main research activities in Austria. • are not in a shareholding relationship with the B&C Group. • correspond to the definition of SMEs of the EU and also of the FFG. • have up to 249 employees. • have an annual turnover of ≤ EUR 50 million. • have been in existence for 2 years (entry in the commercial register before 31.12.2023). • are already generating sales on the market with their innovation.
Uploads	Abstract (1 page, German and English) Dossier (max. 10 pages, English)	Abstract (1 page, German and English) Dossier (max. 10 pages, English)	Abstract (1 page, German and English) Dossier (max. 10 pages, German or English)
Additional evidence (online upload)	At least 1 Letter of Intent (LOI) with a business partner (German or English)	At least 1 proof of cooperation with a business/application/implementation partner (German or English)	Optional: Letter of recommendation from a research partner (German or English)

Evaluation criteria	Higher Education Research	Non-University Research	Research & Development in SMEs
Quality of science/research	40 %	30 %	20 %
Innovative content and unique selling point	10 %	10 %	10 %
Economic feasibility	20 %	20 %	
Economic success/benefits		10 %	40 %
Economic relevance for Austria	20 %	20 %	20 %
Effect and impact	10 %	10 %	10 %

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