

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Fachkräftestipendium
Name of the instrument - English translation	Skilled Workers' Grant
Scheme ID	328
Country	 Austria
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Grant for individuals
Sub-type of instrument	Lump-sum support
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	The scheme provides a wage-replacement payment for workers who have no higher education qualifications during participation in educational programmes selected by the dedicated body (published in a yearly list) for up to three years. Eligible programmes cover a broad range of secondary and post-secondary (mainly vocational) programmes. Support for fees can be also provided, however, coming under different other lines of support provided by the Public Employment Service. The scheme had been implemented as an alternative to the paid educational leave scheme, as the latter had been rarely used by adults starting from a low-skilled position/aiming at an intermediate level of qualification. 100% of eligible costs can be covered. The scheme offers a lump-sum grant as a wage replacement of EUR 30.60 (2020) per day.
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Level of operation	National
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	Not applicable
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable
Relevance	Key instrument

Legal basis	Bundesrichtlinie des AMS, BGS/AMF/0722/9943/2013 §§ 34b Arbeitsmarktservicegesetz (AMSG), § 80 AMSG, §§ 1 Abs. 3 and 13 Arbeitsmarktpolitik-Finanzierungsgesetz (AMPFG), § 12 Abs. 5 i. V. m. § 18 Abs. 4 AIVG
Objective(s) and target(s)	To cover the specific need for skilled workers in Austrian companies through higher qualifications. By upgrading their qualifications or changing and improving their careers, the increased risk of unemployment for employees and the unemployed with qualifications below the technical college level is to be counteracted. As a result, the career opportunities and income opportunities of women can be positively influenced in the long term, both in traditional and non-traditional occupational areas, in the interests of gender equality
Year of implementation	2014
Year of latest amendment	2019
Operation/management	The grant is administered by the PES
Eligible group(s)	Unemployed, persons on leave for educational reasons and former self-employed persons who suspended their business activity without a tertiary degree.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	no
Education and training eligible	Secondary and post-secondary programmes in shortage occupations as defined by an annually updated list.
Source of financing and collection mechanism	PES
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	The scheme offers a lump-sum grant as a wage replacement of EUR 30,60 per day.
Volumes of funding	EUR 5 560 000 in 2017 EUR 3 812 000 in 2018 EUR 3 679 000 in 2019
Beneficiaries/take up	5 307 in 2019, of which 59% women, 28% under 25 years, 62% between 25 and 45; 10% older than 45 years, 4 278 in 2018, 4 835 in 2017
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	Public Employment Service Austria (AMS)
Monitoring/evaluation reports available	Danzer, L., Lechner, F., Riesenfelder, A. (2020), Evaluierung des Fachkräftestipendiums, Endbericht zum Projekt; L & R Sozialforschung, Studie im Auftrag des AMS https://www.ams-forschungsnetzwerk.at/downloadpub/2020_AMS_FKS_LundR%20...
Most relevant webpage - in English	Not available

Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.ams.at/arbeitsuchende/aus-und-weiterbildung/so-foerdern-wir...
Recent changes	2019. Extension of the grant until the end of 2022 Recent changes in response to COVID-19 No changes
Sources	https://www.ams.at/arbeitsuchende/aus-und-weiterbildung/so-foerdern-wir... https://www.ams.at/content/dam/download/ams-richtlinien/001_fks_RILI.pdf https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/arbeit_und_pension/fachkraeftestip... Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Familie und Jugend (2020), Aktive Arbeitsmarktpolitik in Österreich 2014 bis 2020 - Dokumentation https://www.ams-forschungsnetzwerk.at/downloadpub/2020_AMS_FKS_LundR%20...