

Guidelines

Research Grants Programme



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

I Programme Information

1 Objective

Research grants enable individuals to conduct, at any time, research projects with clearly defined topics and durations, regardless of the subject.

The DFG Head Office staff will be happy to advise you, especially if your proposal does not seem to fit into the module system (see section II below).

2 Proposals

2.1 Eligibility

Researchers in Germany, or those working at a German research institution abroad, who have completed their academic training (a doctorate as a rule) are eligible to apply for DFG research grants..

In general you are not eligible to submit a proposal if you work at an institution that is not non-profit or one that does not allow immediate publication of research findings in a generally accessible form.

Researchers who are employed at one of the institutes or member organisations of the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Society, Helmholtz Association or Leibniz Association, researchers working at a publicly funded institute associated with one of these organisations, and researchers working at international research facilities located in Germany should note the rules on the duty to cooperate.

www.dfg.de/formulare/55_01

Information on participation opportunities for researchers at research institutions abroad can be found in section III, Special Provisions on International Cooperation.

2.2 Format and deadline

Proposals may be submitted to the DFG at any time. Proposals should be submitted according to the instructions for project proposals.

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_01

3 Duration

The maximum initial funding duration is three years. Subsequently, a renewal proposal may be submitted for up to three additional years.

II Proposal Modules

As part of your research grant proposal, you may submit one or more of the following modules. For more details, please see the respective guidelines for each module.

1 Basic Module

Use the basic module to request funding for direct project costs, project-specific staff, and instrumentation necessary to carry out the project.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_01

2 Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators

If you would like to propose a position for yourself as the leader of this project, use this module to request funding for your temporary position as principal investigator.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_02

3 Replacements

If your project requires that you be released from teaching or administrative duties, you can use this module to request funding for a replacement to take over these responsibilities.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_03

4 Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians

If this project requires that clinicians conduct research, you can use this module to request funding for temporary substitutes to take over their patient-care responsibilities.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_04

In combination with at least one of the modules above, you may also submit one or more of the following modules:

5 Mercator Fellows

This module enables you to pursue an intensive and long-term exchange with researchers in Germany and abroad. Fellows will partially be on site but will remain in contact with you even after their stay.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_05

6 Project-Specific Workshops

If you would like to conduct workshops as part of your project, you may request funding to help you do so. Please note that this module cannot be submitted separately but only in conjunction with the proposed research project.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_06

7 Public Relations

To enable you to present your work to the general lay public, you can request funding for public relations. Please note that this module cannot be submitted separately but only in conjunction with the proposed research project.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_07

8 Standard Allowance for Equity and Diversity

This module can be used to request funds for targeted and project-specific measures to promote gender equality for researchers and diversity in research or to make jobs in science and academia more family friendly (including care).

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_14

Up to €1,000 per funding year may be requested as a lump sum for this purpose.

III Special Provisions on International Cooperation

It is easily possible to collaborate with researchers abroad within a research grant. Direct project funds from the basic module (travel funds and funds for guests) can be used for this purpose, for example, as can the Mercator Fellows module.

Furthermore, you may combine a research grant with cooperation with developing countries or with countries of the Middle East. In these special procedures, you can request funds for project implementation by a researcher abroad under the basic module. If approved, you would forward the funds to your cooperation partner abroad.

Researchers abroad may also be involved if it has been clarified in advance who will finance the international project component if approved. In the case of calls for proposals under the Weave Lead Agency Procedure and the Lead Agency Procedure with South Tyrol, financing is ensured within the given framework by the respective partner organisation.

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_013

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_016

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_014

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_017

IV Obligations

In submitting a proposal to the DFG, you

1. agree to adhere to the **principles of good research practice**.¹

The principles of good research practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, maintaining strict honesty with regard to one's own contributions and those of third parties, documenting results and rigorously questioning all findings.

¹ The principles of good research practice can be found in detail in the [DFG Code of Conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#) and in the funding guidelines for research grants, DFG forms [2.01](#) and [2.02](#)

2. recognise the DFG's **Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** (Verfahrensordnung zum Umgang mit wissenschaftlichem Fehlverhalten – VerfOwF)² as legally binding.

Scientific misconduct is defined as the intentional and grossly negligent statement of falsehoods in a scientific context, the violation of intellectual property rights or impeding another person's research work. The circumstances of each case will be considered on an individual basis. In cases where scientific misconduct has been established, the DFG may impose one or more of the following sanctions in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

- issuing a written reprimand to those involved;
- exclusion from the right to apply for DFG funds for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- revoking funding decisions (full or partial termination of the grant contract, demanding repayment of funds spent);
- demanding that those concerned either retract the discredited publications or correct the falsified data (in particular by publishing an erratum), or appropriately indicate the DFG's retraction of funding in the discredited publications;
- exclusion from serving as a reviewer for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- exclusion from membership in DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG bodies and committees.

² [DFG Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct, DFG form 80.01](#)

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to

3. use the grant exclusively and in a targeted manner to realise the funded project. The use and accounting of funds must conform to the relevant regulations of the DFG.
4. submit progress reports on the research according to the dates specified in the award letter and to present financial accounts to the DFG detailing the use of funds.

The DFG expects that the findings of the projects it funds be made available to the public.

V Data Protection

Please note the DFG's Data Protection Notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

www.dfg.de/privacy_policy