Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Funding opportunities

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Research Service Center @ HU
Funding as part of the game

- as researcher you need to have...
  - Publications
  - Supervision
  - Fellowships/awards/grants
  - Teaching
  - International experience
  - Network
Funding landscape

- Personal grants vs. Project grants
  (own salary) vs. (institutional commitment)

- German Public funding
- German Private funding
- EU funding
- International funding
German public funding

- German Research Foundation/Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

- Federal Ministries
  - Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
  - Ministry of Health (BMG)
  - Ministry of Economy and Innovations (BMWI)
DFG funding

Individual programmes

• research grants (Sachbeihilfe) no deadlines, no age limits, funding for positions, travels, publications, equipment, grant period: 3y

• Walter Benjamin Programme no deadlines, usually early career researchers, funding for positions, travels, publications, equipment, grant period: 3y

• Own position same eligibility criteria as above, grant period: 3y

• Emmy Noether groups phd age: 2-4 y, to qualify for later leadership options by leading an own research group with juniors, grant period: 3+3y, international experience, excellent publications

• Research scholarships usually early career researchers, grant period: 2y (+0,5y return period), scientific quality and originality on international level

• Heisenberg programme phd age: 5-7y, excellent track record with good prospect in DE academia, grant period: 5y

Co-ordinated programmes

• Senior research groups (Forschergruppen)
• Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche)
• Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs)
## DFG funding chain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MA level</th>
<th>PhD students</th>
<th>Early Postdocs</th>
<th>Advanced Postdocs</th>
<th>Preparing for professorship</th>
<th>Professorship or different academic top positions</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Emmy Noether-Programme</td>
<td>Heisenberg-Professorship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Heisenberg-Scholarship</td>
<td>Research professorship FOR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RTG* scholarship</td>
<td>Research scholarship (abroad)</td>
<td>Research scholarship (abroad)</td>
<td>Research scholarship (abroad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance in RTG*</td>
<td>RTG* position</td>
<td>Own position (Germany)</td>
<td>Own position (Germany)</td>
<td>Own position (Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance in DFG-Projekt</td>
<td>Project position in DFG-Project</td>
<td>Project position in DFG-Project</td>
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*RTG – Research Training Group
FOR – Research Units
((Kolleg)Forschungsgruppen)
Federal Ministries

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is the main sponsor for research in Germany

• Funding for specific thematic areas
  Examples: „Europe from the outside“, „Socio-ecological research“

• Get an overview about the different themes at [ELFI](#)
German private funding

• There is no total overview about all private foundations in Germany.
• Private foundations are supporting individual grants and project grants both bottom up and top down research
• https://stiftungssuche.de/

Key Players

• Volkswagen-Stiftung:
  • Freigeist Fellowships, phd age: 4y, up to 2.2m € for up to six years of funding, 1-2 associates (graduate or PostDoc), research stay abroad as prerequisite
  • Volkswagen also funds many other types of research

• Einstein-Foundation Berlin:
  • Einstein Junior Fellowships, phd age: 4-7y, up to 3 years for own position and up to 100k € on directly incurred costs – important: needs to be connected to long-term perspective at a Berlin based university of research institute

• Thyssen Foundation:
  • Project funding with own position included
EU funding
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action: Individual Fellowships

• Open to researchers of any age, nationality or discipline - typically first or second postdoc (sometimes also third postdoc)
• Excellent Science – bottom up approach - YOU define your research project
• MSCA is about mobility, career development and training of researchers

**TYPES** (deadlines around mid-september each year)

- **European Fellowships (EF)**
  - For postdoctoral researchers coming to or moving within Europe to conduct research for 12-24 months
  - Eligibility: PhD degree, and: You may not have spent more than 12 months within the last 3 years in the country you wish to go to.
  - Grant: own salary, consumables

- **Global Fellowships (GF)**
  - For postdoctoral researchers from Europe moving to a Third Country (=not EU- or Associated Country, so you go e.g. to US, Australia, Brazil) for 12-24 months and returning to Europe for a mandatory 12-month return period.
  - Eligibility: PhD degree, and: You may not have spend more than 3 years within the last 5 years in the Third Country you wish to go to.
  - Grant: own salary, consumables
EU funding
ERC grants (European Research Council)

- Excellent Science – bottom up approach - YOU define your research project
- ERC is only about excellent research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting Grants (StG)</th>
<th>Consolidator Grants (CoG)</th>
<th>Advanced Grants (AdG)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phd age: 2-7 years</td>
<td>Phd age: 7-12 years</td>
<td>Phd age: 12 years +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant: up to 1.5m €</td>
<td>Grant: up to 2m €</td>
<td>Grant: up to 2.5m €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application deadline: 2021</td>
<td>Application deadline: 2021</td>
<td>Application deadline: 26. august</td>
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International Funding

• Grants in the country you go to

• EU funding to go to other countries
Funding applications - tips and tricks

CV
• Education/ positions/ fellowships, awards, grants/ teaching/ supervision
• Organization of scientific meetings/ Commission of trust (reviewer, board member,...)/ major collaborations
• International experience, other experiences depending on funding programme
• Institutional link (HU address and email)
• Web-profile

Publications
• Start with some overview statistics (e.g. number of peer reviewed papers/ number of books/ first-last-author/ H-index/ high-ranked journals...)
• Highlight your name
Funding applications - tips and tricks

Proposal

• Excellence
  • Research question/ aim – objectives/ hypothesis
  • State-of-the-art – gap/need
  • show your expertise (your publications), preliminary data

• Methods
  • Work plan – link to your objectives/ your approach – what will be done, how, by whom, when (timeline, results/ deliverables)
  • Risk-gain balance, innovative aspects
  • Resources – what do you need to conduct your project and what is already in place (team and equipment)

• Impact
  • Outcome – scientifically (incl. IPR), career wise, society
  • Communication – publications, open access, outreach
Funding applications - tips and tricks

Additional elements

• Research vision – where do you want to go
  • With your scientific research idea
  • Regarding research environments/ groups

• Network
  • In Germany to get known professional organisations
  • International to get invited to participate in projects
Sum up

• Funding plan (incl. grant decision dates)
• Research plan
• Avoid 10 applications from the same group to one foundation/organisations
• Consider if research positions outside of academia could be an option (non-university research institutions, public sector ...)