Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Third-Party Funding: Opportunities and Programs

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https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/research/szf/
### Individual Grants

- Research Grants (Sachbeihilfe)
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme
- Research Fellowships

### Coordinated Programs

- Research Units (Forschergruppen)
- Collaborative Research Centers (Sonderforschungsbereiche)
- Research Training Groups

- Eligibility: researchers (PostDoc) at German universities or comparable institutions of higher education

- Allowance rate individual grants: 30-40%
Research grants

Purpose
• Enable scientists and academics to carry out a research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited time period.

Duration and Requirements
• Flexible depending on the specific project (often: 3 years)
• Extendable
• Peer review

Typical extent of funding
• 1-2 PhD students/ researchers
• 1 student assistant
• Consumables (incl. travel, workshops)
Purpose
• Give outstanding researchers the opportunity to satisfy the prerequisites for appointment as a university professor by leading an independent junior research group and performing relevant teaching duties

Duration and Requirements
• 3 + 3 years
• Peer review

Typical extent of funding
• 1-2 PhD students, 1 PostDoc
• 2 student assistants
• Consumables (incl. travel, workshops, etc.)
Heisenberg Programme I

Purpose

• Enable outstanding researchers who meet all the requirements for appointment to a long-term professorship to prepare for a senior academic role while continuing their research work

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<tr>
<th>Heisenberg position</th>
<th>Heisenberg professorship</th>
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<tr>
<td>• 3 + 2 years</td>
<td>• 3 + 2 years</td>
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<td>• E14/E15</td>
<td>• W2/W3</td>
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<td>• habilitation or an equivalent qualification</td>
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<td>• Peer review</td>
<td>• Joint proposal by researcher and the university</td>
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<td>• University provides permanent position</td>
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<td>• Peer review</td>
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Research Fellowships

Purpose
• Enable researchers at an early stage of their scientific career to carry out a clearly defined research project at a place of their choice abroad or to acquaint themselves with new scientific research methods

Duration and requirements
• 3 months to 2 years
  • not extendable
  • 6 months return fellowships
• Peer review

Typical extent of funding
• Fellowship depending on the country (California approx. 3.400€ / month)
**Purpose**
- Fund research groups in which those involved collaborate closely on specific medium-term research projects whose anticipated findings would not be able to be achieved within the scope of the individual grants programme.

**Duration and requirements**
- Usually 2 x 3 Jahre
- Two stage application (draft + full proposals)
- Decisions on first-time funding for Research Units are made by the DFG's Senate four times per year
- Draft proposals can be submitted at any time
Typical extent of funding

• Medium, one-digit group size:
  • 1-2 PhD students per project, 1 student assistant, consumables

• “Z-Projekt“, funds for
  • Visiting scientists, workshops, travel, press/PR
  • Gender equality
Why participate in coordinated projects?

• Work on highly relevant questions in an inspiring environment
• Very good infrastructure and comfortable funding
• Networking in Germany and abroad
• Visibility
• Employability / „Berufbarkeit“
• Establishing a „DFG track rescord“
Third-party funding

- Federal government (Federal Ministry of research and education, BMBF, and others)
- Foundations
  Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Einstein Foundation Berlin, Volkswagen Foundation, etc.
- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
- Land (federal state(s), e.g. Berlin IBB)
- International funding agencies
- **Targeted calls** following a political agenda (HighTech strategy of the federal government)
- **Framework programmes** (sustainable development, photonics, etc.)
- Within these calls: **Junior research groups**
- Allowance rates and funding volumes vary noticeably between calls
- Focus **programmes for universities** (e.g. tenure track programme, German Institutes)
BMBF / federal government

- The digital economy and society
- The sustainable economy and energy
- The innovative workplace
- Healthy living
- Intelligent mobility
- Civil security

- Extensive support from the research service center with the proposal and the project
- Other Federal Ministries have own framework programmes and calls
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

- Focus of Funding: researchers from abroad
- Funding line for researchers from Germany: **Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship**
- **Host for research fellows**
- **Awards**: AvH professorship, Anneliese Maier & Sofia Kovalevskaja research award, ...(for researchers from foreign institutions only)
Feodor Lynen Fellowships

- PhD 4 years prior to application
- 6 to 24 months abroad
- Fellowship (1.750 €) plus addition for specific country, consumables
- Return fellowships

Allowance rate: 40%

Proposals can be submitted at any time, decisions are made in February, June, and October
Aims

• To promote excellent cross-institutional research projects in Berlin.
• To raise the visibility of Berlin as a centre of research excellence.
• To enable new forms of cooperation between universities and non-university research institutions.
• To evaluate new fields of research, to give strategic advice on identifying focuses of future research.
• To encourage top international scientists to collaborate with Berlin institutions.

Mainly individual funding
Einstein research project
 Comparable to a DFG research grant, but the project has to be especially innovative, interdisciplinary and strategically important

Einstein circle
 Regular meeting (2-3 p.a.) of a fixed group of researchers (from Berlin and elsewhere) for three years to prepare a joint proposal within another funding line

Einstein Junior Fellow
 W2 equivalent for 3 years, tenure track option
Focus: high risk, innovative research
Individual and Project funding
Freigeist fellowship
Lichtenberg professorship
Life? – A Fresh Scientific Approach to the Basic Principles of Life
Experiment! – In search of bold research ideas
Freigeist Fellowship

- up to 1 million €
- up to 5 (+3) years
- outstanding junior researchers who wish to carry out research at the boundaries between established fields of research
- prerequisites: PhD degree no longer than four years prior to submission; linked to research institution in Germany; completed change of academic environment and research sojourn abroad

Deadline: October 11, 2018
Lichtenberg-Professur

- up to 1.5 million €
- up to 5 years
- outstanding (young) researchers who want to carry out independent research in innovative and interdisciplinary areas
- prerequisites: tenure-track commitment of the university; up to 4/7 years of postdoctoral experience; research experience abroad; change of academic environment
- 10-12 Professorships per year

Deadline: June 5, 2018
Life? – A Fresh Scientific Approach to the Basic Principles of Life

- up to 1.5 million €
- up to 5 years
- researchers at all stages of their postdoctoral career; single or integrative joint projects (up to 5 partners), opt. to include international partners
- outstanding projects at the interface between natural and life sciences investigating the principles of life

Deadline: autumn 2018
Experiment! – In search of bold research ideas

- up to 120,000 € (flexible use)
- up to 18 months
- postdoctoral researchers and professors in Germany, optionally international partners
- short application; anonymized jury selection plus lottery (test phase)

Establish counterintuitive hypotheses as well as unconventional methodologies or technologies, and to focus on entirely new research approaches.
Focus: Internationalisation of research

Fellowships for stays abroad for researchers from Germany (usually up to 3 months)

Fellowships for visiting researchers

Support for scientists in danger
The GIF Regular Program supports cooperative research projects conducted jointly by German and Israeli scientists.

The GIF Young Scientists’ Program aims to encourage young scientists and help them establish first contacts with potential counterparts in Israel or Germany. The program supports researchers within 8 years after completing their Ph.D.

The aim of the GIF Young Scientists' Meetings (GYSM) is to create a platform for young scholars from both countries. (5 years after after Ph.D.)
Awards & career development

Awards
- Smaller discipline-specific awards
- Please contact the RSC if you want to / need to be nominated by the university

Coaching & Qualification
- Several offers from different funding agencies (e.g. Robert Bosch foundation)
Innovation as an option

An increasing number of funding organizations offer funding lines to explore innovation potential / proof of concept, e.g.

- **Validation of the innovation potential of scientific research, VIP+**  
  Federal ministry of economics

- **Transfer projects (DFG)**

Advise & Support : Humboldt-Innovation GmbH
Research Service Center

Explore funding opportunities online
• ELectronic Research Funding Information System (ELFI)
  all funding agencies with current or standing calls
• DFG.DE
  Comprehensive information in English on every funding line and its regulations and procedures
• FOERDERINFO.BUND
  Federal funding advisory service for research and innovation. Most calls are published in German
Three third-party funding teams

- DFG
- EU
- Third-party funded research

and... team innovation management (Humboldt Innovation)

Contact the respective team depending on the funding line you are interested in.