

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Research Centres - Attractive Environment for Young Researchers

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German Research Foundation

Promoting Young Researchers - Tokyo April 15, 2009



DFG

Research Centers: Small Units and Large Clusters

Types of Research Centres

- 220 Research Units
- 250 Collaborative Research Centres
- 6 DFG Research Centres
- 37 Clusters of Excellence

(funding p.a., funding periods)

- (150 Mio. €, 3+3 years)
- (530 Mio. €, 4+4+4 years)
- (40 Mio. €, 4+4+4 years)
- (240 Mio. €, 5+5 years)

Additional Funding for top-level Research Universities

- 9 Institutional Strategies (110 Mio. €, 5+5 years)

Collaborative Research Centers (CRC)

- established in 1968 (Sonderforschungsbereich)
currently 250 temporary centres of excellence
- ambitious and extensive research on an
innovative subject at an internationally
competitive level
- lasting structural effects within the German
universities by creating core research areas
- funding for salaries, instrumentation,
consumables, travel, visiting researchers ...,
20 % overhead (+ university support)
- international collaboration: networking,
centre-to-centre cooperation,
joint transregional centre

40 Years!



Clusters of Excellence

- Local concentration of research competence
- Thematic focus and interdisciplinary cooperation
- Internationally visible and competitive
- Network under university leadership
- systematic career development for young researchers
- support by professional management
- ~ 6.5 Mio. € per year:
personnel at all levels, scientific infrastructure,
consumables, guest program, travel ...



Attractive for Young Academics: Research Environment

- Critical mass of excellent researchers
- Interdisciplinary cooperation
- Stimulating international atmosphere
- Networking (local and international)
- Career development, early independence
- Additional support for women and parents
- Optimal conditions for good ideas
- Encouragement for unconventional approaches
- Fast and easy access to excellent resources
- Transfer to applications
- High prestige



Attractive for Young Academics: Positions

Collaborative Research Centres

[percentage coming from outside of Germany]

~ 3000 postdocs [25 %]

~ 3000 graduate students [20 %]



Clusters of Excellence (2/09)

~ 100 full professors, 50 junior faculty (~100 positions still available)
[30 %] [40 %]

~ 600 postdocs, 1300 graduate students (several hundred positions still available)
[25 %] [20 %]

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Thank you for your attention !

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The German Excellence Initiative

"The enhancement of the university system in Germany is not geared towards generating a flat field, but towards creating mountain tops"



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The German Excellence Initiative

Aim:

- Strengthen Germany's universities
- Make them more visible and attractive internationally

Three lines of funding:

- Graduate Schools
- Clusters of Excellence
- Institutional Strategies

Budget: 1.9 billion € government funding for 5 years (2007 – 2012)

The German Excellence Initiative

