


Module

Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians



A module can only be applied for within the appropriate modularised programme. To determine which modules are available to you, please consult the DFG's programme guidelines relevant to your proposal.

I. Objective

This module can be used to request funding for staff to take over the patient-care responsibilities of physicians (human or veterinary medicine) participating as researchers in a DFG-funded project.

II. Description

Medical researchers who are also practicing clinicians typically spend a substantial amount of their time on patient-care responsibilities. For research projects funded by the DFG, physicians already employed by the host institution and mostly working in patient care may be temporarily released from their clinical obligations with the help of grants for temporary substitutes. Such grants are designed to enable physicians to focus exclusively on a scientific project and advance their qualifications as researchers. This applies to basic-research projects as well as projects in patient-oriented, clinical-scientific research.

To fund a temporary substitute position for a clinician, a flat amount is awarded per year. The amount is based on the category “Rotationsstelle”. For details, see the following overview (available in German only)

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12/60_12.pdf

If a partial release is wanted, with partial continuation of clinical duties, a proportionately smaller grant may be requested for the temporary substitute.

It is also possible for several individuals to share a temporary substitute position.

Because the DFG grant for temporary positions for principal investigators cannot be used for part-time employment (except for childcare and dependent-care reasons or disability/chronic illness), physicians wanting to participate part time in a research project may request a temporary substitute for themselves.

III. Special Provisions

If a physician previously working primarily in patient care requests funding for a substitute in order to work **exclusively** as a researcher on a DFG-funded project, the proposal requirements are the same as those described in the guidelines for temporary positions for principal investigators.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_02/52_02_en.pdf

If a proposal for a temporary substitute is submitted later than the project proposal, it can only be considered if it specifies the DFG-funded project on which the physician to be substituted will work. In addition, it must explain why this personnel requirement could not be predicted at the time the project proposal was submitted and why it cannot be covered by core support.

Temporary substitute positions cannot be granted for projects not funded by the DFG.

For coordinated programmes such as Collaborative Research Centres, Research Units and Clinical Research Units, this module must be submitted by the spokesperson/coordinator/leader of the central project on behalf of the entire network.

The hiring decision for the DFG-funded temporary substitute position rests

- with the grant recipient under the Individual Grants Programme;
- (usually) with the spokesperson of the Research Unit;
- with the leader of a Clinical Research Unit.

For Collaborative Research Centres, hiring authority is regulated by the statutes.

Note that for reasons of employment law, the employer must consent to the DFG-funded substitution of a staff clinician. This issue should be settled with the employer before a substitute is sought.

IV. Proposal Instructions

State and justify the number of requested substitute positions.

1. Individual Grants Programme

Please provide information on the current positions of physicians set to participate in the project (e.g. funding, employment term, pay grade) and explain why the temporary substitute position is necessary (extent of clinical duties). Also describe the institution's general staff situation.

2. Coordinated Programmes

Requests for temporary substitutes must generally be made in the central project proposal. They must explain the criteria according to which the substitute will be hired (training or rotation plan). The renewal proposal and/or the final report must describe how the pool of substitutes was actually used.