

# Guidelines

## on the Duty to Cooperate

The duty to cooperate applies to members of the following organisations with **permanent** positions:

- Max Planck Society
- Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
- Helmholtz Association
- German locations of internationally funded research institutions
- Member organisations of the Leibniz Association, if, as an exception, these do not pay one-time amounts to the DFG
- Publicly funded research institutions associated with these organisations

Members with a duty to cooperate can only submit a proposal for a joint project together with a member of a German university. This joint project can only be funded if at least 50% of the total approved funds is intended for the member of the university. You should bear this requirement in mind when compiling the requested funds.

This cooperation requirement can also be fulfilled if the scientific planning and implementation of the joint project is lead-managed by the cooperation partner at the German university. This must be justified in the proposal.

The duty to cooperate does not apply if you are submitting a proposal as part of a Research Unit or Priority Programme, in the funding area of Scientific Library Services and Information Systems, or for funding for an international conference, a workshop for early career investigators or project academy, or for a Reinhart Koselleck project.

This requirement also does not apply if you have a **temporary** contract at your research institution. Prior to granting an award, the DFG Head Office will once again verify your eligibility. If your employment contract will become permanent before a decision is reached on your proposal, your eligibility will expire and we will no longer process your proposal.

If you are submitting a proposal for a temporary principal investigator position that is to be based at one of the above-named research institutions, the following applies: You can submit an independent proposal within a period of six years after completing your doctorate<sup>1</sup> provided your institution covers 45% of the project costs including the costs of the temporary position. In all other instances, the duty to cooperate applies and you can only apply for the temporary position as part of a joint project (see above).

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<sup>1</sup> In justified individual cases, particularly in the case of parental leave, the 6-year limit can be extended. In this case, please contact the DFG Head Office for advice before submitting a proposal, as otherwise your proposal cannot be processed.