

Leaflet

Collaborative Research Centres

Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche) are joint interdisciplinary research centres based in universities, initiated by researchers to pursue research issues with a far-reaching and long-term perspective. The maximum funding duration is twelve years. Proposals have to be submitted by universities; neighbouring research institutions may participate with the consent of the university. The universities and other participating research institutions are required to provide adequate cost-sharing for staff, infrastructure, and equipment for the duration of funding.

Proposals must meet high scientific standards. Collaborative Research Centres enable the universities to pursue ambitious and costly research undertakings through a local concentration and coordination of effort and available resources. Specific attention has to be paid to the promotion of young scientists, as well as to the enhancement of gender equality.

A characteristic feature of Collaborative Research Centres is cooperation across the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments, and faculties. The centres are encouraged to collaborate with researchers in other universities and research institutes in Germany and abroad as well as with industry and other partners in the private sector.

The scientists involved in a Collaborative Research Centre decide on the scientific development and on all ongoing matters of their centre. To this end, they lay down their own bylaws, subject to approval of their university and in consultation with DFG.

Awards are made for periods of four years up to a maximum of twelve years. Each Collaborative Research Centre is evaluated every four years by a panel of peer reviewers on a two-day site visit. Reviewers are asked to evaluate the results achieved in the preceding funding period as well as the future research programmes and to give recommendations on the budget. The review is the basis for the annual funding decisions of the Grants Committee for Collaborative Research Centres. This committee consists of scientists appointed by the DFG Senate and of representatives of the Federal and state ministries re-

sponsible for research and higher education. Two scientific members of the Grants Committee participate in every site visit review.

The programme was established in 1968 and has contributed significantly to sharpening the research profile of those universities successful in constituting highly qualified, cooperating research communities in their midst.

For new initiatives, DFG offers the opportunity of a consultation in an advisory meeting on the basis of a pre-proposal (see DFG form 60.01e).

For further information, please contact Dr. Klaus Wehrberger, phone: +49 (228) 885-2355, E-Mail: klaus.wehrberger@dfg.de.