DFG: Organisation

### General Assembly
- Determines principles of work
- Receives the annual report and accounts
- Approves actions of Executive Board

- Institutions of higher education that are research institutions of general importance
- Other research organisations of general importance
- Academies of sciences and humanities, scientific associations

### Executive Committee
- Develops the strategic and conceptual direction of the DFG
-President, Vice Presidents
- President of the Stifterverband (advisory capacity)
- Secretary General (advisory capacity)

### Executive Board
- President
- Secretary General
- Conducts regular business
- Submits the annual report and accounts

### Senate
- Addresses research strategy and policy issues
- Provides policy advice
- Determines the structure of review boards
- 39 scientists and academics
- 3 permanent guests

### Joint Committee
- Decides on research funding
- Plans research policies and programmes based on Senate decisions
- Adopts the annual budget
- 39 senators
- 16 votes: representatives of the federal government
- 16 votes: representatives of the state governments
- 2 votes: representatives of the Stifterverband

### Head Office
- Administers the funding programmes
- Ca. 750 members of staff

### Reviewers
- Evaluate funding proposals (peer review)
- ca. 15,000 domestic and foreign scientists and academics per year

### Review Boards
- Assess the DFG’s review process
- 613 scientists and academics in 48 review boards

### Researchers

www.dfg.de/statutory_bodies
In 2018 the DFG had a budget of approximately 3.4 billion euros, provided by:

- the federal government: 2255.6 m euros
- the state governments: 968.8 m euros
- other sources: 27.9 m euros

Research funding* by scientific discipline for calendar year 2018 (in %)

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 15.6%
- Life Sciences: 34.2%
- Natural Sciences: 22.3%
- Engineering: 19.5%
- Interdisciplinary: 8.4%

* Based on all DFG programmes, including programme allowances

www.dfg.de/annual_report
The DFG serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating national and international collaboration among researchers. Scientific and academic excellence, the advancement of early career researchers, interdisciplinarity and internationality are key elements in the work of the DFG.

Promoting research includes supporting individual projects and research cooperation, awarding prizes for outstanding research achievements as well as funding scientific infrastructure and encouraging contacts in science and research.

### Research funding for new and ongoing projects by programme for calendar year 2018 (in €m and %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding (€m)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Grants</td>
<td>1180.1</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence Initiative Grants</td>
<td>566.2</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Programmes</td>
<td>229.0</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Research Centres</td>
<td>760.1</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Units</td>
<td>157.5</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Groups</td>
<td>214.3</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFG Research Centres</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Infrastructure Funding</td>
<td>207.6</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Prizes and Other</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The DFG serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating national and international collaboration among researchers. Scientific and academic excellence, the advancement of early career researchers, interdisciplinarity and internationality are key elements in the work of the DFG.

Promoting research includes supporting individual projects and research cooperation, awarding prizes for outstanding research achievements as well as funding scientific infrastructure and encouraging contacts in science and research.
Common aims:

- To promote research collaboration
- To foster the exchange of scientific information
- To build and maintain an extensive network of contacts
- To organise bilateral symposia and workshops
- To serve as information centres
- To maintain and extend contacts with current DFG fellowship holders and alumni
- To cooperate with other funding organisations
- To analyse research policy developments
International Representation of the DFG

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International cooperation in all funding programmes:

- The DFG supports international cooperation in all its funding programmes.
- Support for international cooperation in research is generally based on the principle of mutual responsibility. Researchers in Germany submit proposals to the DFG while their partners abroad apply for funding from the respective funding organisation.

General international funding opportunities:

- Through initiation funding the DFG supports the establishment of international cooperation projects or joint proposals.
- The DFG supports international scientific events in Germany.
- The Mercator Fellow module allows international visiting researchers to be integrated in DFG-funded research projects.
- The Walter Benjamin Programme enables researchers in the early postdoctoral phase to conduct their own research project in Germany and/or abroad.

Special international funding opportunities:

- The DFG carries out many joint calls for cooperative research projects with partner organisations worldwide.
- The DFG has special funding opportunities for research cooperation with Israel.
- To enable researchers to collaborate with project partners in developing countries, in certain circumstances these partners can be directly funded through a DFG research grant.

www.dfg.de/international
Global Research Council (GRC):
- An informal organisation, consisting of the Heads of Research Councils worldwide, pledged to find mutually acceptable paths to greater international research collaboration
- Represents the majority of public research from around the world that does not receive direct governmental funding
- Promotes common standards and presents a resource for those institutions wishing to build and sustain a world-class research landscape

Science Europe (SE):
- Umbrella organisation of largest European research and research funding organisations
- Represents shared interests for adequate science and research policy in Europe vis-à-vis national governments and the European Commission
- Prepares and publishes position papers on current science policy issues

European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi):
- Single source for information about all EU research funding opportunities which also gives advice and training on how to participate in the EU Research Framework Programme, in particular on submission of proposals and project management
- Supports the institutions of the KoWi supporting association with expertise on EU research funding
- National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Research Council (ERC), managed jointly with the EU Office of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
The DFG aims to advance gender equality in German academic research.

**Structural measures to promote gender equity include:**

- Engaging the commitment of DFG member institutions to Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality
- Increasing the percentage of women in the DFG’s decision-making bodies to at least 30 percent
- Ensuring appropriate, subject-specific involvement of female scientists in review processes
- Requiring DFG coordinated programmes to draw up and foster gender equality strategies
- Monitoring and reporting on gender equality

**Individual measures to promote gender equity include:**

- Analysing DFG funding programmes with respect to gender equality
- Accounting for personal circumstances when evaluating research proposals
- Enabling family-related part-time employment work for project leaders and providing additional project funds
- Offering temporary replacement opportunities and contract extensions for academic project staff due to family reasons
- Providing conference-related family allowances for Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group leaders
- Providing funds to supplement childcare costs for reviewers and members of DFG decision-making bodies
- Providing gender equality funding in coordinated programmes

www.dfg.de/equal_opportunities
Percentage of women in the individual grants programme based on the number of new proposals decided upon 2015–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Humanities and Social Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>33.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Excellent science requires diversity and originality, which is why diversity among the participants in this system plays such an important role. Factors that demonstrate diversity in the research system are:

► Internationality
► Cooperation among the various career stages
► Interdisciplinarity
► A variety of social and cultural backgrounds

The DFG considers it a matter of course that no one may be excluded from a career in science due to extra-scientific reasons, such as gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religion, ideology or state of health.

Apart from implementing this ban on discrimination, another key aspect of the DFG’s diversity drive is to make it possible to compensate for actual disadvantages that may be encountered in the decision-making process. Examples include cases in which applicants have longer periods of qualification due to disability or gaps in publications due to pregnancy or family leave.

To support diversity in the research system, the DFG pursues the following policy:

► Marketing of “Diversity in the Research System”
► Consideration of diversity factors in the design of funding programmes
► Compensation for disadvantages in individual cases, where this is necessary and possible within the scope of the statutory responsibilities of the DFG (individual consultation), whereby the requirements for the scientific/academic quality of research projects remain unchanged

www.dfg.de/diversity/en
Diversity in the Research System

The development of measures by the DFG to address diversity in the scientific and academic community has to take the specific situation of a variety of groups into consideration, including, in particular:

► Researchers submitting proposals
► Staff employed in projects funded by the DFG
► Peer reviewers acting on behalf of the DFG
► Members of the DFG’s statutory bodies (for example Review Boards, the Senate, the Joint Committee and the various Grants Committees)
► DFG liaison officers

Further information on the topic of diversity in the research system as a part of the responsibilities of the DFG and special information for disabled and chronically ill scientists and academics in the funding programmes of the DFG can be found at

► www.dfg.de/diversity/en

Information on equal opportunities between men and women in the scientific community and on measures for supporting parents in the continuation of their careers in science and the humanities can be found at

► www.dfg.de/equal_opportunities
To ensure that funding decisions are made on the basis of an open and fair assessment, the DFG has introduced a multi-stage system of “checks and balances”:

► Each proposal is formally examined by the responsible programme office.

► The programme office selects the reviewers (usually two).
  ► Selection criteria: Relevant expertise and absence of conflicts of interest.

► The proposal and review are presented to the responsible review board along with the programme office’s recommended decision.

► The proposal is evaluated from a scientific point of view by the members of the review board, who are elected by the community.
  ► Criteria: Comparative evaluation of all proposals on the basis of the review and with due consideration of the available financial resources

► The Joint Committee, on which all academic disciplines and the federal and state governments are represented, makes a decision on the review board’s recommendation.

The programme office notifies the applicants of the decision and shares reviewer comments. Reviewers remain anonymous throughout the process.
The DFG Funding Atlas presents comprehensive key indicators for publicly funded research in Germany.

**More than just a university ranking**

With its detailed analyses, the DFG Funding Atlas is the standard reference work on the success of German higher education institutions in obtaining third-party funding, making it more than just a university ranking. It presents data on third-party funding acquisition from the DFG, through direct R&D funding from the German federal government and through Horizon 2020. This includes both general figures and data for individual subject and funding areas.

**50 Years of Collaborative Research Centres and research funding in a European context and worldwide**

The 2018 Funding Atlas presents special analysis on two topics. Firstly, the 50th anniversary of the Collaborative Research Centres model provides an ideal opportunity to review and illustrate the success of the programme. The second focal topic is the special position of Germany and the UK in the European Research Area.

**Extensive web content**

The print and online versions of the DFG Funding Atlas are complemented by extensive digital data in the form of tables and analyses, allowing users to process the figures presented in the Funding Atlas for their own purposes. Graphically presented statistics on more than 80 institutions are also available to view or download. New interactive map views make it possible to view publicly funded research in individual federal states and regions according to individually specified selection criteria.

www.dfg.de/fundingatlas
DFG awards for 2014 to 2016 by higher education institution and research area (in € millions)

Abbreviations:
FU = Free University; HU = Humboldt University; KIT = Karlsruhe Institute of Technology; LMU = Ludwig-Maximilians University; MHH = Hannover Medical School; TU/TH = University of Technology; U = University
Purpose:
► To enable scientists and academics to carry out a research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited time period

Eligibility requirements:
► Qualified researchers (as a rule, those holding a doctorate) from all disciplines working at German research institutions
► Researchers working at institutions which serve purely commercial purposes or those who are not permitted to publish findings in a generally accessible form are not eligible to apply

Proposal requirements:
► A research project of high scientific quality and originality, carried out at an international level

Type and extent of funding:
► Modules:
  ► Basic module
  ► Temporary positions for principal investigators
  ► Replacements
  ► Temporary substitutes for clinicians
  ► Project-specific workshops
  ► Mercator fellows
  ► Public relations

Funding duration:
► The duration of funding is based on the individual project needs (as a rule, several years).

Proposal deadlines:
► First proposal: No submission deadline
► Renewal proposal: At least 6 months before the approved funds have been exhausted

www.dfg.de/research_grants
Individual Research Grants

Amount of funding reviewed and awarded as research grants in the individual grants programme* for each calendar year in million euros 2015–2018

| Year | Humanities and Social Sciences | Natural Sciences | Life Sciences | Engineering | Total
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>622.7</td>
<td>975.9</td>
<td>510.5</td>
<td>698.9</td>
<td>3227.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>622.7</td>
<td>975.9</td>
<td>510.5</td>
<td>698.9</td>
<td>3227.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>648.0</td>
<td>1055.4</td>
<td>647.6</td>
<td>779.5</td>
<td>3119.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>630.8</td>
<td>1109.2</td>
<td>641.5</td>
<td>742.6</td>
<td>3593.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New proposals
Heisenberg Programme
▶ Enables researchers who fulfil the requirements for professorship to prepare for a leading position in academia and research

Emmy Noether Programme
▶ Enables outstanding researchers at an early career stage (normally two to four years after completing a doctorate) to qualify for a professorship at a university by leading an independent junior research group

Walter Benjamin Programme
▶ Enables researchers aiming to pursue an academic career to carry out a project in the early postdoctoral phase at a host institution of their choice, in Germany (Walter Benjamin position) and/or abroad (Walter Benjamin fellowship)
10

DFG Funding Programmes for All Career Levels

Position in a DFG project

Professorship

Eligibility for professorship

Heisenberg Programme

Qualification for professorship

Emmy Noether Programme

Postdoc phase

Research Fellowship (international)

ELIGIBILITY TO SUBMIT DFG PROPOSALS

Doctoral position in Research Training Group

Doctorate

Assistant position in Research Training Group

Studies

R1 to R4 These descriptors refer to a framework by the European Commission that describes career stages for researchers.
Purpose:
► To enable outstanding early career researchers to rapidly qualify for a leading position in science and academia (such as a university teaching career) in Germany

Eligibility requirements:
Applicants need to have:
► An excellent doctorate and a very strong scientific track record (including publications in respected international journals or other comparable publications)
► At least two years of postdoctoral research experience
► Substantial experience in international research
► A research project of high scientific quality
Proposals may be submitted at any time up to four (licensed physicians: six) years after obtaining the doctorate.

Funding:
► Modules:
  ▶ Emmy Noether independent junior research group leader
  ▶ Basic module
  ▶ Temporary substitutes for clinicians
  ▶ Mercator fellows
  ▶ Project-specific workshops
  ▶ Public relations
  ▶ Family allowance

Funding duration:
► 6 years

www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en
Emmy Noether Programme

Number of new proposals for Emmy Noether independent junior research groups reviewed and approved by year 2015–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Humanities and Social Sciences</th>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Purpose:
► To provide outstanding researchers who fulfil the requirements for appointment to a long-term professorship with the opportunity to prepare for a leading position in science and research and to use the time to work on an advanced research topic

Eligibility requirements:
► Early career researchers holding a habilitation or an equivalent qualification for a professorship
► Internationally competitive research projects of high scientific quality
► Proposals may be submitted at any time.

Funding:
► Upon acceptance into the Heisenberg Programme, the following grant types are available:
  ► Heisenberg position
  ► Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians
  ► Heisenberg professorship
  ► Heisenberg fellowship

A research grant may also be requested for projects in Germany.

www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en
Number of new Heisenberg grantees* by scientific discipline 2018

* Based on modifications to the Heisenberg Programme in 2018, grantees are now able to select and change between different funding types; these are not reflected in the statistics.
Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators

Purpose:
► To provide outstanding researchers with funding to carry out an independent research project at a German research institution

Eligibility requirements:
► Doctorate
► Confirmation from the host institution that it will take on employer responsibilities for the term of approved funding and a guarantee to provide the framework for the successful completion of the project

Funding:
► Remuneration based on a standard postdoctoral level
► Staff
► Consumables and equipment
► Travel allowances
► Publication costs
► Other costs

www.dfg.de/research_grants
Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators

Number of new proposals reviewed and approved 2015–2018

- **2018**
  - Humanities and Social Sciences: 676 (207 received, 118 approved)
  - Life Sciences: 392 (155 received, 42 approved)
  - Natural Sciences: 483 (155 received, 42 approved)
  - Engineering: 142 (118 received, 42 approved)

- **2017**
  - Humanities and Social Sciences: 592 (182 received, 121 approved)
  - Life Sciences: 337 (151 received, 50 approved)
  - Natural Sciences: 433 (154 received, 50 approved)
  - Engineering: 140 (115 received, 50 approved)

- **2016**
  - Humanities and Social Sciences: 538 (142 received, 110 approved)
  - Life Sciences: 411 (115 received, 39 approved)
  - Natural Sciences: 356 (140 received, 39 approved)
  - Engineering: 133 (115 received, 39 approved)

- **2015**
  - Humanities and Social Sciences: 572 (183 received, 147 approved)
  - Life Sciences: 417 (115 received, 43 approved)
  - Natural Sciences: 425 (140 received, 43 approved)
  - Engineering: 133 (115 received, 43 approved)
Purpose:
- To enable researchers aiming to pursue an academic career, in the early postdoctoral phase, to independently conduct their own research project at a location of their choice. The project may be carried out at a research institution in Germany (Walter Benjamin position) and/or abroad (Walter Benjamin fellowship).

Eligibility requirements:
- Doctorate
- Internationally competitive research project (all disciplines)
- Walter Benjamin fellowship:
  - Integration in the German research system
  - Invitation from a host institution abroad
- Walter Benjamin position:
  - Statement from a researcher at the host institution
  - Statement from the institution agreeing to fulfil the role of employer

Funding:
- Up to two years
- Position (in Germany) and/or fellowship (abroad) plus allowance for travel expenses, direct project costs and publications
- Any additional funding required must be provided by the host institution (the support offered is a criterion in the review process).
- Recipients of a Walter Benjamin fellowship can apply separately for a return grant to enable them to reintegrate into the German research system.

www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin/en
Philosopher and literary scholar Walter Benjamin (1892–1940) is one of the most renowned representatives of his disciplines in the 20th century. Despite a doctorate assessed as summa cum laude in 1919, he did not pursue a typical career path in academia. He withdrew his habilitation thesis as others judged the work as too unorthodox for the academic domain.

Today, Walter Benjamin is highly regarded for his visionary oeuvre including “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”, “On the Concept of History” and his work on Charles Baudelaire. During National Socialism in Germany, he fled from the Nazis and committed suicide in exile in 1940. The DFG programme bears the name of an open-minded, gifted intellectual with many interests who is famous for pushing boundaries.
Purpose:
► To enable outstanding researchers with a proven scientific track record to pursue exceptionally innovative or higher-risk projects

Eligibility requirements:
► Researchers who hold or are eligible to hold professorships, especially at universities, and who have an outstanding CV and great scientific potential
► Exceptionally innovative, higher-risk projects of high scientific quality that cannot be funded within the scope of other DFG programmes or within the framework of the applicant’s own institution
► Proposals should include a five-page outline of the project and its objectives.
► Applications can be submitted at any time.

Funding:
► Duration of 5 years
► Includes:
  ► Staff
  ► Scientific instrumentation
  ► Consumables
  ► Travel allowances
  ► Publication costs
  ► Other costs

www.dfg.de/reinhart_koselleck_projects
Reinhart Koselleck, born in Görlitz in 1923, was one of the most important German historians of the 20th century. After studying history, philosophy, constitutional law and sociology in Heidelberg and Bristol, he completed his doctorate entitled “Kritik und Krise. Eine Studie zur Pathogenese der bürgerlichen Welt” (Criticism and Crisis, A Study on the Pathogenesis of the Middle Classes) in 1954. This is considered to be one of the most important historical theses written in the last century.

In 1965 he qualified as a university lecturer, obtaining his habilitation with his study entitled “Preußen zwischen Reform und Revolution” (Prussia between Reform and Revolution). After holding professorships in Bochum and Heidelberg he was appointed Professor of Theory of History at the University of Bielefeld in 1973, where he taught until his retirement in 1988.

Koselleck earned worldwide recognition for his works on the science of history. In Germany he is seen as one of the founders of modern social history. He was the co-editor of the lexicon “Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe” (Basic Concepts in History).

Reinhart Koselleck died on 3 February 2006.
The programme:
- The Excellence Strategy was adopted in 2016 by Germany’s federal and state governments to continue the strengthening of the universities begun with the Excellence Initiative (2005–2017) and to further enhance the country’s international competitiveness as a place of research. Funding is offered for top-level research, measures to enhance research profiles and collaborations in the research system.

Two funding lines:
- Clusters of Excellence are internationally competitive, university-based research groups with a funding period of seven years.
- Universities of Excellence strengthen individual universities or university consortia in the long term and further develop their leading international role in research. Institutions must demonstrate excellent research performance and an outstanding strategic concept. To be eligible to submit a proposal, a university must have at least two Clusters of Excellence and a consortium must have at least three.

Funding:
- This is a long-term programme. The federal and state governments provide €533 million per year, including €385 million for Clusters of Excellence and €148 million for Universities of Excellence.
- As of 1 January 2019, a total of 57 Clusters of Excellence are being funded at 34 universities.
- As of 1 November 2019, ten Universities of Excellence and one University Consortium of Excellence are being funded.

The Excellence Strategy is implemented by the DFG (for Clusters of Excellence) and the German Council of Science and Humanities (for Universities of Excellence).
Clusters of Excellence and Universities of Excellence 2019–2025

Clusters of Excellence

EXC (one applicant university)
EXC (two applicant universities)
EXC (three applicant universities)

Universities of Excellence

University
University Consortium

Clusters of Excellence

FU Free University
KIT Karlsruher Institut für Technologie
MHH Hannover Medical School
U University

Humboldt University
LMU Ludwig Maximilians University
TH/TU University of Technology

DFG

11/2019
Purpose:
► To create profile-building centres of excellence at universities
► To promote interdisciplinary cooperation
► To promote the training and advancement of early career researchers and gender equality in science and academia

Eligibility requirements:
► Proposals are submitted by universities (other research institutes can be included).
► Internationally competitive collaborations involving research projects of high quality
► Programme variation CRC/Transregios: Cooperation with several applying universities

Funding:
► Up to 12 years (three 4-year funding periods)
► On the average €2.3 m per year plus programme allowance for indirect project costs

International cooperation:
► Research partners from abroad may be integrated with research projects of their own.

Programme elements:
► Transfer projects
► Integrated Research Training Groups
► Outreach and public relations activities
► Information infrastructure projects
► Equal opportunities measures
► Start-up funding for projects by early career researchers

www.dfg.de/sfb/en
Collaborative Research Centres

Collaborative Research Centres funded in 2018 by scientific discipline

Most common countries of origin of foreign postdoctoral researchers in Collaborative Research Centres*

In 2018 funding for Collaborative Research Centres accounted for approximately 22.7% of the total amount of DFG funding.

* Based on the DFG survey of Collaborative Research Centres 2018 (reporting year 2018)
**Purpose:**
- An important strategic funding instrument concentrating scientific research competence in particularly innovative fields and creating internationally visible research priorities at universities

**Project requirements:**
- DFG Research Centres enable universities to establish research priorities on the basis of existing structures. The thematic focus must incorporate a high degree of interdisciplinary cooperation. DFG Research Centres are open for cooperation with partners from other research institutes, industry, associations and public institutions.

**Funding:**
- Funding for each DFG Research Centre averages approx. €6 m per year plus a programme allowance for indirect project costs; this may include initial funding for professorships, associated independent junior research groups, appropriate personnel and material resources.
- Maximum funding period of 12 years
- One funding term runs for 4 years (with the exception of DFG Research Centres that are also funded as clusters of excellence).
- Seven DFG Research Centres have been funded since 2001, two of which are still ongoing (as of 10/2019).

www.dfg.de/fzt/en
Funded since 2006

▸ University of Technology Dresden
   Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden (CRTD)
   Research Areas: Haematology/oncology/immunology, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, hard tissue replacement, cardiovascular diseases

Funded since 2012

▸ Collaboration between the universities of Leipzig, Jena and Halle-Wittenberg
   German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)
   Research Areas: Theory in biodiversity sciences, experimental and molecular interaction ecology, evolution and adaptation, physiological diversity, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, biodiversity synthesis
Purpose:
► To encourage coordinated, interdisciplinary, national and international cooperation between highly qualified researchers
► To advance knowledge in current areas of research interest and emerging fields through collaborative networked support over several locations

Priority Programmes are characterised by their novelty in terms of topic, form of collaboration or methodology, added value through interdisciplinary cooperation, and networking.

Eligibility requirements:
► Postdoctoral researchers from all disciplines working at German research institutions and universities
► DFG issues an open call for proposals.

Funding:
► Up to 6 years, which are divided into several funding periods
► Funding is available for up to 30 individual projects.

www.dfg.de/spp/en
Priority Programmes funded in 2018 by scientific discipline

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 13
- Life Sciences: 30
- Natural Sciences: 31
- Natural Sciences: 39
- Engineering: 288

Number of projects funded within Priority Programmes by scientific discipline and year 2015–2018

- 2018: 290 (Humanities and Social Sciences) + 928 (Life Sciences) + 1242 (Natural Sciences) + 1083 (Engineering)
- 2017: 306 (Humanities and Social Sciences) + 945 (Life Sciences) + 1173 (Natural Sciences) + 1077 (Engineering)
- 2016: 288 (Humanities and Social Sciences) + 876 (Life Sciences) + 1228 (Natural Sciences) + 991 (Engineering)
- 2015: 300 (Humanities and Social Sciences) + 760 (Life Sciences) + 1251 (Natural Sciences) + 988 (Engineering)
Purpose:

- Close collaboration between outstanding researchers to conduct a joint project that exceeds the scope of individual projects in terms of topic, duration and financial resources.
- Coordinated group of thematically closely related research projects, in any discipline, either in a single location or spread across multiple locations. Funding is offered for up to 8 years, with two periods of 4 years each. The Research Unit consists of various programme modules, combined in accordance with the relevant subject requirements. The proposal process has two stages: first a draft proposal is reviewed, and on the basis of this the applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal if appropriate.

The programme is offered in the following variations:

Clinical Research Unit:

- The topic focuses on basic, disease-oriented or patient-oriented clinical research. The aim is to create and strengthen permanent research-oriented structures in university hospitals, for example through the establishment of a research professorship. Clinical Research Units are primarily hosted by university hospitals at a single location (i.e. a single university hospital).

Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences:

- A funding instrument specifically tailored to the working methods used in the humanities and social sciences. Based at a single location (university), the collaborative format comprises intensive research by the participating scholars and a fellows programme for visiting researchers.

Number of Research Units 2015–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research Units</th>
<th>Clinical Research Units</th>
<th>Advanced Studies Centres in SSH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of projects funded within Research Units in 2018 by scientific discipline

- **Humanities and Social Sciences**: 363 projects
- **Engineering**: 250 projects
- **Life Sciences including 187 projects funded under the Clinical Research Units Programme**: 833 projects
- **Natural Sciences**: 459 projects
- **30 projects funded under the Advanced Studies Centres in SSH Programme**: 30 projects

11/2019
Purpose:
► To train especially qualified doctoral researchers and postdocs of any nationality within an interdisciplinary research programme
► To encourage participating doctoral researchers to complete their thesis within a specific period of time, embedded in a framework of experienced researchers taking responsibility for the research and qualification programme
► To encourage doctoral researchers in gaining scientific independence
► To provide structures for cooperation and exchange among doctoral researchers as well as for international networking
► To impart additional skills necessary for today’s labour market

Eligibility requirements:
► 5–10 established researchers submit a joint proposal.
► The proposal describes an internationally competitive research programme with an interdisciplinary focus and a corresponding qualification programme and supervision strategy.

Funding:
► Up to 9 years; one funding term runs for 4.5 years.
► Funding is provided for: doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships/positions, student assistants, travel allowances, research stays abroad, consumables, small equipment, start-up funding for researchers who completed their doctorates within the framework of the Research Training Groups, workshops, conferences, visiting researchers, key skills training, lump-sum allowance for equal opportunity measures, coordination
Research Training Groups* funded in 2018 by scientific discipline

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 35
- Life Sciences: 68
- Natural Sciences: 11
- Engineering: 11

Most common countries of origin of foreign doctoral researchers in Research Training Groups*

1. Italy: 101
2. India: 73
3. United Kingdom: 68
4. China: 64
5. Netherlands: 61
6. France: 50
7. USA: 45
8. Russian Fed.: 39
9. Switzerland: 34
10. Spain: 33

* Based on the DFG survey of Research Training Groups 2018 (reporting year 2018)

* Including International Research Training Groups
Purpose:
► To provide funding for international research training
► To promote the internationalisation of science and research in Germany on the doctorate level

Eligibility requirements:
► Faculty members working at German universities and their counterparts abroad apply jointly.
► The jointly devised research programme has to be of excellent quality and demonstrate the benefits gained from the integration of complementary expertise.
► The qualification programme and the supervision strategy are developed and implemented jointly by the partners.
► Joint application, submitted by 5 to 10 principal investigators each from the German university and the partner institution abroad
► Foreign partners are expected to acquire complementary funding from national sources.
► Cooperation is possible with any country.

Funding:
► Up to 9 years; one funding period runs for 4.5 years.
► The DFG supports the German partner with funding for: doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships/positions, student assistants, travel allowances, research stays abroad, consumables, small equipment, start-up funding for researchers who completed their doctorates within the framework of the Research Training Groups, workshops, conferences, visiting researchers, key skills training, lump-sum allowance for equal opportunity measures, coordination
International Research Training Groups funded in 2018 by scientific discipline

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 6
- Life Sciences: 8
- Natural Sciences: 16
- Engineering: 16

Number of International Research Training Groups funded in 2018 by partner country

- Canada: 1 Humanities, 4 Social Sciences, 5 Natural Sciences, 1 Other
- USA: 1 Humanities, 4 Social Sciences, 2 Natural Sciences
- China: 1 Humanities, 2 Social Sciences, 1 Natural Sciences
- Australia: 3 Humanities, 2 Social Sciences
- Japan: 2 Humanities, 2 Social Sciences
- United Kingdom: 2 Humanities, 2 Social Sciences
- Austria: 1 Humanities, 1 Social Sciences
- New Zealand: 1 Humanities, 1 Social Sciences
- Other countries*: 1 Humanities, 5 Social Sciences, 1 Natural Sciences, 5 Other, 2 Other countries

* Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, South Korea and Sweden
Sharing new knowledge:
Research generates new knowledge with potential benefits for industry and public services. The DFG promotes cooperation between researchers and non-academic partners (application partners) through transfer projects.

Purpose of funding:
► More innovation for society
► Fresh impetus for basic research

Application requirements and basic conditions:
Transfer projects can be applied for in conjunction with many of the DFG’s funding programmes and in all funded disciplines.
► A transfer project is based on a current or previous DFG project carried out by the applicant.
► The transfer project is carried out jointly by the academic and the application partners.
► The application partner must be substantially involved in the work programme.
► Funding is awarded to the academic partner.
Diverse cooperation possibilities:
Various forms of cooperation and transfer activities are possible depending on the scientific question being addressed and objective.

- Researchers are free to choose application partners.
- The collaboration may be individually designed.
- Transfer projects are equal partnerships.
- Publication and property rights issues are defined in a cooperation agreement.

* SMEs: small and medium-sized enterprises
The German Project Information System (GEPRIS) provides a comprehensive overview of DFG-funded projects. The database currently lists more than 120,000 DFG-funded projects involving over 78,000 scientists at more than 34,000 institutes at higher education institutions and non-university research institutions.

gepris.dfg.de/en
GERiT – German Research Institutions is a comprehensive, searchable information resource on research in Germany, offered by the DFG. It provides information on over 28,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions. With concise information in both German and English, GERiT helps researchers, students and prospective students in Germany and abroad who are looking for a German cooperation partner, research investment or the most suitable place to research or study in Germany. Links to the HRK Higher Education Compass and GEPRIS, the DFG project information system, give access to additional information about doctoral opportunities and DFG-funded projects at each institution. Users can search for research institutions geographically using interactive maps, by subject classification or with a free text search.

www.gerit.org

GERiT – German Research Institutions

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