

Memorandum of Understanding

on Cooperation in German-Hungarian Research Training

1. Introduction

DFG and OTKA consider international collaboration to be an essential feature of scientific progress and encourage exchange and co-operation between scientists from Germany and Hungary and their colleagues abroad. Accordingly, both organizations offer a range of schemes to facilitate international contacts.

However, DFG and OTKA feel that it is useful and desirable to add to these existing means by creating a special focus on relations between researchers from both Germany and Hungary. Cooperation between neighbouring countries can offer practical and effective opportunities to combine forces, for example in relation to the study of issues of mutual interest, the development and expansion of high quality research centres, and the training of future research talent.

Therefore, DFG and OTKA are prepared to make resources available for programmatic cooperation between research groups in Germany and in Hungary. In order to enhance well structured and long-term partnerships, this funding scheme puts the focus on cooperation between Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) in Germany and Doctoral Schools in Hungary, aimed at the training of doctoral students in both countries.

2. Cooperation between Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) in Germany and Doctoral Schools in Hungary

Aim

The aim of the scheme is to promote international research training at centres of excellence in Germany and Hungary, within the framework of a research programme which is jointly established and implemented by researchers in both countries and which offers doctoral students in both countries excellent opportunities to develop their talents in the context of a joint doctoral training programme.

The joint research and study programme is expected to reveal both the excellency of the individual research sites as well as the integration of complementary expertise. The programme includes joint supervision of dissertations and approximately a six months mobility period. One of the major features is the systematic coordination of bilateral research projects, a parallel study and exchange programme, and the added value for international research training.

Applicants

- Germany:
group of researchers (min. 5) at a German university
- Hungary:
group of researchers (min. 5) at a university with postgraduate programme
- non-university institutions as associates

Review procedure

DFG and OTKA will base their decisions on the result of a peer review procedure. They will conduct this procedure jointly. All proposals should therefore be written in English and submitted to DFG and OTKA simultaneously.

Once the application has been received, DFG and OTKA will decide on the details of the review process and establish a joint group of referees. The recommendation made by this group of referees will be put forward to the respective grant committees at DFG and OTKA.

Application

- joint proposal (in English)
- common scientific aims
- conception of joint research and study programme
- bi-/trilateral project descriptions
- organisation of PhD students' exchange

Criteria

- scientific excellency of the teams
- quality and feasibility of the research programme
- quality and added value of research training
- quality and added value of scientific cooperation
- collaboration, coordination, and mobility between the research teams

Funding

The two partner groups are expected to provide own basic funding, in addition to complementary financing (overheads).

DFG (for the applicants from Germany):

DFG can support the German partner with the following means:

- stipends for doctoral students (also some postdocs, MA/BA students, undergraduates)
- consumables
- travel costs, exchange visits
- guest scientists
- workshops
- coordination costs

OTKA (for the applicants from Hungary)

OTKA can support the Hungarian partner with the following means:

- stipends for postdocs
- research costs for doctoral students
- travel costs, exchange visits
- workshops
- coordination costs

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

General items

1. Project / programme title
2. Addresses of the participating German scientists and partners (name, affiliation, address, telephone, fax, e-mail)
3. Number of doctoral students envisaged on each side
4. Indication of the research disciplines involved
5. Period for which funding is requested and proposed starting date
6. English summary of the proposal (not more than 30 lines; this will be used to give general information on the proposal to the deciding bodies and - once it is approved - the public)
7. Joint project / programme description: outline of the aims of the proposal, methods, and work-plan
8. Publication lists covering the last 3 years.

Research Programme

The proposal should describe in detail the common research objectives / complementary expertise of the participating research teams from both countries, such as:

- The research aims of the programme and expected added value of the cooperation
- Its components and their integration, scientific approach, methods, and work-plan
- The state of the art of current research in the field and identification of the problems
- Proposed joint theses topics
- Participants' previous work in the field (including relevant publications)
- Details of collaboration and coordination between the partners, including previous cooperation

Study Programme

- Details of training and organisation of the curriculum
- advanced courses and seminars (parallel and joint)
- coordination of PhD students' mobility period
- guest scientist programme
- workshops, summer schools
- soft skill seminars

Procedural details

- Criteria for admission of fellows to the German-Hungarian Research Training Group
- Performance evaluation
- Compatibility of the degree(s) to be conferred with the relevant statutes of the host university
- Which institutions will award the doctoral degrees? Are joint degrees envisaged?
- Other prerequisites

Infrastructure

- Affiliation with (inter)national research projects (EU-programmes, world wide programmes, national priority programmes)
- Relationship of the graduate programme to other local research facilities, especially those participating in the proposal
- A description of the infrastructure available to both partners (staff, space, other)

Funding

- Motivation and specification of the funds requested
- Details of complementary funding available for the partner (basic funds for PhD students, mobility costs, matching funds for joint activities)

Cooperation between Research Training Groups (Graduieratenkollegs) and Graduate Programmes in the partner country

In addition to a description of the research programme according to the above guidelines, the proposals should contain the following additional information:

- Description of the existing research training programme: aims, scope, curriculum, duration.
- If the proposal is put forward by already established PhD training programmes or Graduieratenkollegs, please append a copy of the original proposal. The description of the research and study programmes of the new joint proposal may refer to this and concentrate on additions and modifications due to the cooperation. Please give details on the individual PhD students and scientists involved in the exchange (name, thesis subject, thesis advisor(s), institutional affiliation, host institution, length of stay, is the doctoral student recipient of a fellowship or other source of funding? Are the theses advised by professors at both institutions?

Formal prerequisites

Approval by relevant authorities at the university (Rector) to provide the required infrastructure. Partner PhD students should be provided with work space during their mobility period.

Signatures

German principal investigator
Partner principal investigator

Dr. Reinhard Grunwald
General Secretary DFG

Prof. András Lipták
President OTKA