DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

21/09/2023
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Information presented on the following slides are valid 21st September, 2023. Please check www.dfg.de for updates and current regulations.
1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources
The DFG is the largest independent and self-governing research funding organisation in Germany.

- It is an association under German private law.
- It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects.
The DFG – Our Mission

The DFG

► funds research projects in the area of knowledge-driven research,
► maintains dialogue with society, politics and business, advises state institutions,
► supports the transfer of knowledge.

It takes particular care to promote

► international cooperation,
► early career researchers,
► gender equality and diversity in science and the humanities.
In 2022,

- the DFG funded around **31,750** projects with a budget that totalled **€ 3.9 billion**
- the DFG came to **22,300 funding decisions** based on peer-reviewed evaluations by **16,600 reviewers**
- almost **€ 1.3 billion** of the budget was spent for **17,700 individual grants projects**
Amount of Research Funding Awarded by Programme in 2022 (in €m and %)

- Individual grants programme: 1,337.6 (34.2%)
- Collaborative Research Centres: 986.1 (25.2%)
- Research Units: 207.1 (5.3%)
- Research Training Groups: 281.7 (7.2%)
- Priority Programmes: 244.3 (6.2%)
- Infrastructure funding: 322.8 (8.3%)
- Prizes, other: 54.3 (1.4%)
- Excellence Strategy: 461.6 (11.8%)
- Research Centres: 13.4 (0.3%)

For more details, visit: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics
Amount of Research Funding Awarded by Scientific Discipline for Each Calendar Year 2019 to 2022 (in €m and %)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics
Funding Rates* in the Individual Grants Programme by scientific discipline
2019 to 2022 (in %)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics/processing_times_success_rates

* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.
Source: New Individual grants
Eligibility

Researchers

► who have completed their scientific training, i.e. who hold a **doctorate** and

► who (would like to) work **in Germany**.
Open, bottom-up choice of research topics

Basic research in any field of science and the humanities

No age restrictions

Unbiased review based on scientific criteria

Individual career phases and family-related career breaks are considered in the review process

10 Principles of Effective Career Support in Academia

No deadlines*

excl. Priority Programmes, international calls etc.
Topics

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2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **Walter Benjamin Programme**
- **Emmy Noether Programme**
- **Heisenberg Programme**

For individuals/investigators:
- Own proposal
- For projects/themes

For open positions:
- Job application

For projects/themes:
- Individual Research Grant incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

For open positions:
- Postdoc Position in a DFG-funded project

For appointable positions:
- Professorship

Resources:
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers)
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes)
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes)
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes

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www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes
Positions for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in DFG-funded projects:

- **Duration** of funding depends on the project
- **Employer**: A university or research institute in Germany
- **Position**: E13-E14 TvöD/TV-L
- **Apply** to the project’s PI

Visit [www.gepris.dfg.de](https://www.gepris.dfg.de) for more information on DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs.

Individual projects, Research Units, Priority Programmes, Collaborative Research Centres, Research Training Groups.
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **own proposal**
  - for individuals/investigators: Walter Benjamin Programme, Emmy Noether Programme, Heisenberg Programme
  - for projects/themes: Individual Research Grant (incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators)

- **job application**
  - for open positions: Postdoc Position in a DFG-funded project

[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers)
[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes)
[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes)
Individual Research Grants offer you an opportunity to pursue your research project in Germany

Funding generally for up to three years

Your host institution becomes your employer

Flexible funding modules:
- Staff, consumables, travel
- Instrumentation, publication funding, public relations
- ...
- module »Temporary Position for Principal Investigators«
  E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L
New Awards in the Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators Scheme by Scientific Discipline 2019 to 2022

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **Walter Benjamin Programme**
- **Emmy Noether Programme**
- **Heisenberg Programme**

- **Individual Research Grant**
  - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

- **Postdoc Position**
  - in a DFG-funded project

For more information, visit:
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers)
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes)
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes)
Aim: Promoting autonomy and mobility in an early postdoc phase

Mobility: applicants should move to a new host institution, either abroad or in Germany – or combining stays at different places

Career support: host researcher advises you on your research career and introduces you to academic networks

Duration: Funding for up to two years
In Germany

**Position:** E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L
(or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)
You are employed by your host institution

Abroad

**Fellowship:** 1,750 €/month +X
+ foreign allowance
+ cost of living allowance
+ child allowance (if applicable)
+ possibility of 6-months return grant
→ use the award calculator on the DFG website

▶ Allowance for direct project costs: 250 €/month
→ host institution needs to provide all additional project costs
Benefits for Parents

Position in Germany:

► Support through *Bundeseltern geld- und Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)*

Fellowship abroad:

► **child allowance**
  + € 400 per month for the first child
  + € 100 per month for each additional child

► The fellowship can be **extended** by max. 12 months or costs for **childcare** can be reimbursed
  ● Up to 12 x € 1,750 = max. € 21,000
  ● Childcare costs must be verified by presenting invoices and payment receipts

► Extension and reimbursement of childcare costs can be **combined**

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/walter_benjamin
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_walter_benjamin

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs
21/09/2023
International Destinations of Walter Benjamin Fellows in 2021

USA 171
UK 58
Canada 19
France 19
Switzerland 17
Sweden 11
Australia 11
Netherlands 11
Israel 11
other 63
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes

early postdocs | advanced postdocs | appoint-able | professorship

own proposal
for individuals/investigators
Walter Benjamin Programme
Emmy Noether Programme
Heisenberg Programme

for projects/themes
Individual Research Grant
incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

job application
for open positions
Postdoc Position
in a DFG-funded project
Emmy Noether Programme

- Path to early **academic independence**
- **Eligibility for professorial appointment** by leading one’s own **independent junior research group**

**Requirements:**
- For **outstanding** postdoctoral researchers with **2-4 years** of postdoctoral experience
  (medicine: up to 6 years; possible extensions for parents)
- **Substantial international** research experience
- **Excellent research project**

[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/emmy_noether](www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/emmy_noether)
[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_emmy_noether](www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_emmy_noether)
Emmy Noether Programme

► Funding for **six years**

► Your host institution **in Germany** becomes your employer

► **Funding** includes
  - **position**: E15 TVöD/TV-L
    (or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)
  - **project funds**
  - **family allowance** possible
Number of New Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Groups by Scientific Discipline 2019 to 2022

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Engineering Sciences</th>
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<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

21/09/2023
New Proposals Approved within the Emmy Noether Programme in 2022, by Scientific Discipline and Gender

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics
Annual Emmy Noether Meetings

https://youtu.be/rMw8FHwKcTs

www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/emmy_noether/jahrestreffen/2023 (in German)
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **Emmy Noether Programme**
- **Heisenberg Programme**
- **Walter Benjamin Programme**

For individuals/investigators:
- **Early postdocs**
- **Advanced postdocs**
- **Appointable**

For projects/themes:
- Individual Research Grant
  - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

For open positions:
- Postdoc Position
  - in a DFG-funded project

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes
Heisenberg Programme

Enabling outstanding researchers to prepare for a **senior academic role** while continuing their research work

For researchers eligible for **professorial appointment**

Funding for **up to five years**

In Germany or abroad

[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/heisenberg](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/heisenberg)

[www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_heisenberg](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_heisenberg)
Flexible choice of **individual funding** after the proposal is approved:

- Fellowship € 4,450
- Position E-15 TVöD/TV-L
- Position for temporary substitutes for clinicians
- Professorship W2 or W3 → host university must establish permanent professorship

*Flexible research funds*: € 1,000 per month

Fellowship and positions may be combined with **Research Grant proposal**
Number of Heisenberg Grantees by Scientific Discipline in 2022

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 134
- Life Sciences: 132
- Natural Sciences: 104
- Engineering Sciences: 25

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics
Biannual Heisenberg Network Meetings

www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/heisenberg/jahrestreffen/2022 (in German)
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **own proposal**
  - for individuals/investigators
    - Walter Benjamin Programme
  - for projects/themes
    - Individual Research Grant
      - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

- **job application**
  - for open positions
    - Postdoc Position

- early postdocs
- advanced postdocs
- appoint-able
- professorship

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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- **own proposal**
  - for individuals/investigators
    - Walter Benjamin Programme
    - Emmy Noether Programme
    - Heisenberg Programme
  - for projects/themes
    - Individual Research Grant
      - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators
    - Scientific Networks

- **job application**
  - for open positions
    - Postdoc Position
      - in a DFG-funded project

- **Participation**
  - Workshop for Early Career Investigators

For more information, visit:
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers)
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes)
- [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/announcements_proposals](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/announcements_proposals)
Topics

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Preparing Your Proposal

► Start with smaller projects
► Carefully read and follow the guidelines and proposal instructions
► → Necessary information can be found on the DFG website
► Questions? Ask for help

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information
For questions on **eligibility**:

procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de

For **general questions** on programmes for **research careers**:

info-researchcareers@dfg.de

**All DFG contacts:**

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office
Preparing Your Proposal

► Put yourself in the reviewers’ shoes
► Seek honest criticism from colleagues
► Plan on a feasible timeline: on average, the time to decision is over six months

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information
Preparing Your Proposal

► Decide on the proposal language: English or German

► Inform DFG Head Office in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists

► Communicate openly with DFG Head Office staff

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information
Preparing Your CV

► DFG CV template

● Include prizes, fellowships and awards

● Mention time away from research relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required

► List up to ten of your most important publications
Submitting Your Proposal via elan

https://elan.dfg.de

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information
Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/arriving_decision

- *Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme*
- *DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs*
- *21/09/2023*
- *DFG Head Office*
- *confidential*
- *inquiries*

- **draft of funding recommendation**
- **written reviews**
  - **reviewers**
    - project quality
    - applicants' qualifications
    - aims and work programme
    - working environment
    - grant budget
  - **assessment**
    - review board
    - assessment of reviewer selection
    - proposal and reviews
    - comparative merit and funding volume

- **formal examination**
- **proposal**
- **inquiries**
Review Boards (Fachkollegien)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/review_boards
Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

21/09/2023

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/arriving_decision
In Case Your Proposal Is not Successful...

► Don’t be discouraged

► Take the reviewers’ comments seriously but not personally

► Consult the DFG Head Office if you need advice or feel that you have been treated unfairly

► Consider the reviewer’s comments – they might give you some pointers for reworking your proposal

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/approval_rejection
Advice for Research Careers

► Develop your own and independent research profile
► Publish independently (or with various researchers)
► Be mobile and find the best environment for your research
► Build networks of collaboration partners
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Orientation for early-career researchers:  
www.dfg.de/research_careers

Individual Grants Programmes – A How-To Guide:  
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes

GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects: gepris.dfg.de/en

Profiles of 25,000 German research institutes: www.gerit.org

General questions about research careers:  
info-researchcareers@dfg.de

Questions on eligibility: procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de

Contacts: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office