

Guidelines

Research Impulses



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

I Programme Information

1. Objective

The objective of the funding programme Research Impulses is to more effectively mobilise the potential of particularly research-oriented universities of applied sciences (Hochschulen für Angewandte Wissenschaften and Fachhochschulen, hereinafter referred to as HAW/FH) in a diversified research landscape. Therefore, the programme is aimed at further strengthening them in their knowledge-driven research and at supporting them in the development of their academic profile.

By funding an individually conceptualised research programme of high quality, the goal is to increase scientific competitiveness and sustainably advance the establishment of research structures and priority areas of the HAW/FH. The programme aims to further develop on-site research opportunities and attract highly qualified researchers at all qualification levels, as well as strengthening collaborative research of institutions of higher education both nationally and internationally.

2. Duration of funding

The total funding duration is generally eight years. Research Impulses are funded for an initial funding period lasting five years. The decision on funding extension is made based on a renewal proposal. Five rounds of calls are foreseen for new proposals (declarations of interest in 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026; funding starts in 2024 – 2029).

3. Scope of funding

The annual funding amount is a maximum of 1 million euros. The requested funds should take into account the relevant circumstances of the subject and the institution. The appropriateness of the requested funds is assessed as part of the review.

In addition to the project funds, a programme allowance is granted to cover the indirect costs incurred by project implementation.

II Proposals

1. Eligibility

Universities of applied sciences (Hochschulen für Angewandte Wissenschaften and Fachhochschulen) in Germany are eligible to apply.

Research Impulses are applied for by a single applicant HAW/FH; it is not possible to submit a joint proposal involving several institutions as applicants. Nevertheless, if the research topic requires it, individuals from other higher education and research institutions can also be involved as principal investigators. A maximum of one proposal per HAW/FH may be submitted in each round of calls. The submission of a proposal to establish a Research Impulse requires a binding letter of intent as part of the round of calls. The review process is conducted in two stages (draft proposal phase and full proposal phase).

2. Participants/collaborations

Research Impulses are led by a group of principal investigators with a strong record of innovative, knowledge-driven research. The principal investigators must hold a position for at least the duration of the funding period applied for, and this should in principle be at the applicant HAW/FH. If the research topic requires it, individuals from other universities and research institutions can also be involved as principal investigators.

One member of this group acts as a spokesperson and is responsible for the proposal and the scientific coordination of the Research Impulse. He or she must hold a permanent, full-time professorship at the applicant HAW/FH, appointed in accordance with the applicable employment law, and represent the concerns of the Research Impulse on the bodies of the respective HAW/FH.

Collaborations with other higher education institutions and non-university research institutions as well as with industry, museums, libraries, schools, authorities etc. are possible and welcome; the same applies to collaborations with institutions and universities based in other countries. With regard to the financial participation of the partners, please note the "Funding Guidelines – Research Impulses" (DFG form 2.35, available in German only).

www.dfg.de/formulare/2_35

If partners from the private sector or other sectors of society are involved, the DFG model agreements (DFG form 41.026 or 41.026a) must be observed when drafting contracts.

www.dfg.de/formulare/41_026

www.dfg.de/formulare/41_026a

3. Type of funding

Funds for staff, direct project costs and instrumentation can be applied for as part of a DFG Research Impulse. Staff funding serves to finance those directly employed in the Research Impulse. It may also include funds for additional professorships and early new appointments, heads of independent junior research groups and other personnel and ancillary personnel costs. Funding for direct project costs serves to cover costs directly related to the project. This includes small instrumentation, consumables, travel, and funds for scientific events and further education, as well as funds for visiting researchers. Instrumentation funding is intended for investments in instrumentation and other items whose procurement value exceeds €10,000. The long-term support of the new structures created by the funding must also be guaranteed beyond the funding period.

4. Format and deadline

The proposal for a Research Impulse is to be submitted by a deadline and requires a formalised letter of intent. The review process is conducted in two stages, initially based on a draft proposal. If the draft proposal is approved, applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. The letter of intent – and subsequently the draft proposal and, where applicable, the full proposal – must be submitted electronically to the DFG Head Office via the elan portal.

Important deadlines such as those for the submission of letters of intent and draft proposals are published along with the calls for proposals. The DFG Head Office will inform applicants of the outcome of the review of the draft proposals, and in the event of a recommendation to submit a full proposal it will communicate the deadline for submission. Funded consortia will be informed in good time before the end of the first funding phase about the procedure for submitting a renewal proposal.

III Review and Decision Process

Proposals are reviewed by review panels that are appropriate to the structural and scientific circumstances of the proposal. In addition, a member of the Senate is present at the review as a

rapporteur. The DFG's Joint Committee decides on funding based on a recommendation put forward by the Senate.

The basis for the funding decision is the scientific review of the proposals.

The following general eligibility criteria apply to the review:

- Quality and coherence of the research project
- Priority research areas and research environment
- Qualification of the persons involved and composition of the group
- Long-term funding of structures and improvement of research conditions

In addition, the appropriateness of the requested funds is assessed by the review panel.

The funding criteria for proposals are explained in more detail in DFG form 1.314.

www.dfg.de/formulare/1_314

For further details, see the proposal template (DFG form 16.01).

www.dfg.de/formulare/16_01

IV Obligations

In submitting a draft proposal or proposal to the DFG, individuals with a high level of scientific/academic responsibility – i.e. all principal investigators – agree to adhere to the **principles of good research practice**. These principles can be found in detail in the DFG Code of Conduct *Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice*, which came into force on 1 August 2019.

www.dfg.de/good_scientific_practice

The principles of good research practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, maintaining strict honesty with regard to one's own contributions and those of third parties, documenting results and rigorously questioning all findings.

The **DFG Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** apply to individuals with a high level of scientific/academic responsibility.

www.dfg.de/formulare/80_01

Prior to submission of a draft proposal or full proposal, all principal investigators must sign a **Declaration of Obligation of Compliance** (see link to recommended DFG template):

www.dfg.de/formulare/80_02

The applicant institution is responsible for gathering the signatures for the compliance forms. The forms must be kept on file by the institutions (either centralised at the applicant institution(s) or decentralised at the employing institution) for ten years following completion of the last funding period. In the event of a change of employing institution, the compliance forms must be updated. Upon request by the DFG, e.g. in connection with random audit checks and in cases of alleged scientific misconduct, these forms must be handed over to the DFG.

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to

- use the grant exclusively and in a targeted manner to realise the funded project. The use and accounting of funds must conform to the relevant regulations of the DFG.
- agree to submit reports according to the dates specified in the award letter and to present financial accounts to the DFG detailing the use of funds.

The DFG expects that the findings of the projects it funds be made available to the public.

V Further Information

Further information on the funding programme is to be found on the following website:

DFG, German Research Foundation - Research Impulses

If you have any further questions, please contact the DFG Head Office.

VI Data Protection

Please note the DFG's Data Protection Notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

www.dfg.de/privacy_policy