

# Module

## Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians

### I Objective

This module can be used to request staff funding to enable doctoral-level clinicians who have patient-care responsibilities to participate in a DFG-funded project. Funding is used to either finance substitute medical personnel who take over the patient-care responsibilities of the clinicians on leave or to directly finance the clinician participating in the DFG project.

Temporary substitute positions can be requested for physicians, dentists and veterinarians.

### II Description

Clinicians in university hospitals and academic medical centres/teaching hospitals typically spend a substantial amount of their time on patient-care responsibilities. To enable clinicians working in patient care to be temporarily released from their clinical obligations to participate in a DFG-funded project, the DFG offers grants for temporary substitute positions.

Such grants are designed to enable clinicians to focus on a DFG-funded research project. This applies to basic-research projects as well as to projects in patient-oriented, clinical-scientific research.

Temporary substitute funding is awarded as an annual flat amount in accordance with the TV-Ä pay scale in the category “Medical Research Assistant”, independent of the actual salary of

the clinician on leave. The amount can be supplemented by university or hospital funds, e.g. through their basic funding. For details, please refer to the following overview

[www.dfg.de/formulare/60\\_12](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12)

A substitute position can be requested within the framework of a funding proposal (as part of a research grant, a workshop for early career investigators, within the Walter Benjamin Programme or within coordinated programmes such as Clinical Research Units, Research Units, Collaborative Research Centres, or Research Training Groups). Partial leave, with partial continuation of clinical duties, as well as full leave from clinical responsibilities may be requested for the duration of the project.

Funding may either be requested by the clinician to cover his/her own leave, or to cover the leave of other clinicians participating in the project who are primarily concerned with patient-care responsibilities.

It is also possible for several individuals to share a temporary substitute position.

If the clinician will be participating in the project full time and assume leadership responsibilities throughout the duration of the project, he/she may instead apply for a “temporary position as principal investigator”.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_02](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_02)

### **III Special Provisions**

If a proposal for a temporary substitute is submitted later than the project proposal (as a supplemental proposal to a DFG-funded project), it can only be considered if it specifies the DFG-funded project on which the clinician to be substituted will work. In addition, it must explain why this personnel requirement could not be predicted at the time the project proposal was submitted and why it cannot be covered by core support. The supplemental proposal is subject to the duration of the original project.

For coordinated programmes such as Collaborative Research Centres, Research Units and Clinical Research Units, this module can either be submitted with individual projects or as part of the network’s central project.

Under the Walter Benjamin Programme, a temporary substitute position can only be requested for the applicant.

The hiring recommendation for the DFG-funded temporary substitute position rests

- with the grant recipient for research grants (this pertains to both the individual grants programme and individual projects in Research Units or Clinical Research Units);
- with the spokesperson of the central project of a Research Unit;
- with the head of the central project of a Clinical Research Unit;
- with the spokesperson of a Research Training Group.
- For Collaborative Research Centres, hiring authority is regulated by the statutes.

Note that for reasons of employment law, the employer must consent to the DFG-funded substitution of a staff clinician. This issue must be settled with the employer(s) and confirmed by the DFG before the position is filled.

#### **IV Proposal Instructions**

State and justify the number of requested substitute positions. If available at the time of proposal submission, please provide the names of the clinicians who will be substituted, the employment term (where applicable) and explain why the temporary substitute position is necessary (extent of clinical duties). Also describe the institution's general staff situation.

If a person will be requesting partial leave from his/her own clinical duties, please explain what criteria were used to define his/her participation in the project.

#### **V Renewal Proposals/Final Reports**

The renewal proposal/final report must describe the clinicians' actual involvement in the project. This includes describing which persons were involved in which projects and when, whether clinical and research activities were combined and, if so, why and for what periods of time, and if participating clinicians were or will be involved in publications resulting from the project or those that are planned.