

Guidelines

on the Duty to Cooperate

The duty to cooperate applies to members of the following organisations with **permanent** positions:

- Institutes or member organisations of the Max Planck Society, the Fraunhofer Society and the Helmholtz Association
- Member organisations of the Leibniz Association, if, as an exception, these do not make a standard payment to the DFG
- Publicly funded research institutes associated with these organisations
- German locations of internationally funded research institutions

Members with a duty to cooperate can only submit a proposal for a project together with a member of a German university.

This jointly proposed project can only be funded if at least 50% of the total approved funds is intended for the member of the university. Please bear this requirement in mind when compiling the requested funds.

This cooperation requirement can also be fulfilled if the scientific planning and implementation of the joint project is lead-managed by the cooperation partner at the German university. This must be justified in the proposal.

The cooperation requirement, which also applies to proposals submitted within international programmes and calls (such as DACH or for DFG-ANR calls), can generally only be met if the proposal is submitted jointly with an applicant from a German university.

The duty to cooperate does not apply if you are submitting a proposal as part of a Research Unit, Clinical Research Unit or Priority Programme, in the funding area of Scientific Library Services and Information Systems, or for funding for an international conference, a workshop for early career investigators or project academy. Special rules apply to Reinhart Koselleck projects.

This requirement also does not apply if you have a **temporary** contract at your research institution. Prior to granting an award, the DFG Head Office will once again verify your eligibility. If your employment contract will become permanent before a decision is reached on your proposal, your eligibility will expire and we will no longer process your proposal.

If you are submitting a proposal for a **temporary principal investigator position** that is to be based at one of the above-named research institutions, the following applies: You can submit an independent proposal within a period of six years after completing your doctorate¹ provided your institution covers 45% of the project costs including the costs of the temporary position. In this case, please submit a statement by your institution confirming that it will cover the costs. If your institution will not assume the costs, the duty to cooperate applies and you can only apply for the temporary position as part of a joint project with an applicant from a German university.

For proposals for a **Walter Benjamin position** within the Walter Benjamin Programme, note that in addition to providing the support required under the programme, the entity required to cooperate must also confirm that it will assume 45% of the costs of the position.

¹ In justified individual cases, particularly in the case of parental leave, the 6-year limit can be extended. In this case, please contact the DFG Head Office for advice prior to submitting a proposal, as otherwise your proposal cannot be processed.