

Guidelines

in the Case of Adverse Effects on Research Projects and Biographies due to the Pandemic



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 General Information

The adverse effects on research activity caused by the coronavirus pandemic have a direct impact on the inception and progress of research projects as well as on academic careers. Although the pandemic affects all projects, the severity of the restrictions can vary greatly between projects and subject areas. In addition, the pandemic has affected research projects at various stages – from project conception through to implementation and completion. Whether or not the restrictions and the resulting problems and delays can be made up for will depend significantly on the stage of the individual project leader's academic career as well as that of their staff. For this reason, the impact of the pandemic should be appropriately taken into account in each individual case when it comes to proposal submission and evaluation (review, assessment and decision).

Possible adverse effects relevant to a specific proposal might include the following:

- limited access to laboratories, libraries, archives and collections or infrastructures for a certain period of time,
- impairment of research involving study participants and patients, also field research,
- bottlenecks in supply chains,
- difficulty in establishing and maintaining academic cooperation and infrastructures due to contact and travel restrictions,
- loss or restriction of broad academic exchange and networking due to the absence or restriction of international and national conferences (including the impact on the quality assurance function relevant to some disciplines through conference contributions),
- delays and complications in project process/design due to hygiene measures,
- administrative hurdles, such as delayed staff recruitment, visa issuance,
- exacerbation of individual family and personal circumstances during lockdown (when submitting a proposal, health information or personal data can be described in the CV (DFG form 53.200) or provided via DFG form 73.01).

These and other adverse circumstances ultimately affect the progress and substance of a project as well as the development of individual expertise, and are subsequently reflected in the evaluation of new and continuing research projects. In order to ensure that this type of problem is appropriately recognised, applicants can refer to the adverse effects of the pandemic and their coping strategies by including a description of them in their research proposal and curriculum vitae. Relevant points include the specific timing of the adverse impact and the timeframe over the course of the project, details of the actual restrictions involved and any alternative

solutions resorted to in continuing the project. Adverse effects do not have to be solely of a substantive nature; it is also possible to mention administrative hurdles. It is important for pandemic-related difficulties not simply to be referred to in a generalised way but outlined in detail so that they can be related specifically to the project, programme and individual researchers concerned. Reviewers and committee members are asked to take account of the restrictions described in the context of both the individual career and overall subject area; they should then be considered at the decision-making stage.

II Information for Applicants

Statements to this effect can be included in the respective *Description of the project* under the heading *State of the art and preliminary work* or at another suitable point in the proposal in accordance with the guidelines specific to the various funding programmes; they can also be included in the curriculum vitae.

If you wish to submit health information or personal data in the CV, please use the DFG template for the curriculum vitae (DFG form 53.200). Please use only DFG form 73.01 if you wish to provide such data to the DFG Head Office in a confidential manner or separately from the CV.

Please underpin your description with concrete details on the duration and extent of the adverse circumstances. If you have any questions, please contact the relevant person at the DFG Head Office.

III Information for Reviewers and Committee Members

As part of the evaluation process, reviewers and committee members are asked to take into account the adverse effects caused by the pandemic as presented in the proposal and CV, both at the subject-specific level and the individual level, and to incorporate this information in their assessment.

IV Further Information

If you have any queries, please contact the relevant person:

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office

DFG template for the curriculum vitae:

www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan

Information relating to special personal circumstances and hardship applications:

www.dfg.de/faq_personal_circumstances

www.dfg.de/formulare/73_01

Regulations and options during the coronavirus pandemic:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/corona_information/information_funding