

# Guidelines

## COVID-19 Focus Funding in the Research Grants Programme



## I. Programme Information

### 1. Objective

COVID-19 Focus Funding enables researchers to carry out at short notice a single research project with a clearly defined topic and duration on topics relating to COVID-19 research. Between June 2020 and June 2021, the Commission for Pandemic Research will issue calls aimed at all relevant disciplines. Funding may also be used in conjunction with ongoing projects (e.g. through renewal or supplemental proposals).

The DFG Head Office staff will be happy to advise you on the submission of your proposal.

### 2. Proposals

#### 2.1 Eligibility

Researchers in Germany, or those working at a German research institution abroad, who have completed their academic training (a doctorate as a rule) are eligible to apply for DFG research grants.

In general you are not eligible to submit a proposal if you work at an institution that is not non-profit or one that does not allow immediate publication of research findings in a generally accessible form.

As an exception, the standard rules regarding the duty to cooperate do not apply to this funding measure, so as to integrate all research disciplines in Germany and facilitate rapid action.

#### 2.2 Format and deadline

Proposals must be submitted within the deadline stipulated in the relevant call; due to the nature of this programme, short deadlines will apply. In justified individual cases, a slight extension of the deadline may be possible upon arrangement with the DFG Head Office. Proposals should be submitted according to the instructions for COVID-19 Focus Funding proposals.

[www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/covid\\_19\\_funding\\_instructions.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/covid_19_funding_instructions.pdf)

### 3. Duration

The maximum funding duration is 12 months. No continuation of funding is provided for within this funding measure. Note, however, that other funding opportunities may follow on from this measure.

## II. Proposal Module: Basic Module

Within this funding measure, you may submit the basic module only.

### Basic Module

Use the basic module to request funding for direct project costs and project-specific staff necessary to carry out the project. **The instrumentation funding that can normally be requested in the basic module is not available for COVID-19 Focus Funding.**

[http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_01](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_01)

## III. Obligations

In submitting a proposal to the DFG, you

1. agree to adhere to the **principles of good scientific practice**.<sup>1</sup>

The principles of good scientific 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.

2. recognise the DFG's **Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** (Verfahrensordnung zum Umgang mit wissenschaftlichem Fehlverhalten - VerfOwF)<sup>2</sup> as legally binding.

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<sup>1</sup> The principles of good scientific practice can be found in detail in the DFG [Code of Conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#) and in the usage guidelines for research grants, DFG forms [2.01](#) and [2.02](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct \(VerfOwF\)](#), DFG form 80.01

Scientific misconduct is defined as the intentional and grossly negligent statement of falsehoods in a scientific context, the violation of intellectual property rights or impeding another person's research work. The circumstances of each case will be considered on an individual basis. In cases where scientific misconduct has been established, the DFG may impose one or more of the following sanctions in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

- issuing a written reprimand to those involved;
- exclusion from the right to apply for DFG funds for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- revoking funding decisions (full or partial termination of the grant contract, demanding repayment of funds spent);
- demanding that those concerned either retract the discredited publications or correct the falsified data (in particular by publishing an erratum), or appropriately indicate the DFG's retraction of funding in the discredited publications;
- exclusion from serving as a reviewer for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- exclusion from membership in DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct.

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to

3. 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.
4. submit progress reports on the research 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.

#### **IV. Publication of Data on Grant Holders and Research Projects**

The data necessary for processing your grant proposal will be stored and processed electronically by the DFG.

By submitting a proposal you agree that, if the proposal is approved, your work address and contact details (name, institution and location, phone, fax, e-mail and website) as well as information about the content of the project (e.g. topic, summary, keywords, subject area, DFG programme, funding period, international connections) will be published in the GEPRIS information system

[gepris.dfg.de/en](https://gepris.dfg.de/en)

and may be published in other, non-commercial publications and databases created in cooperation with the DFG.

You may withdraw your consent to full/partial publication at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of any processing carried out prior to your withdrawal. If you would like to withdraw your consent, please notify the responsible DFG programme contact, preferably in electronic form.