

A blurred, 3D-style logo of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in white, set against a blue background with light rays.

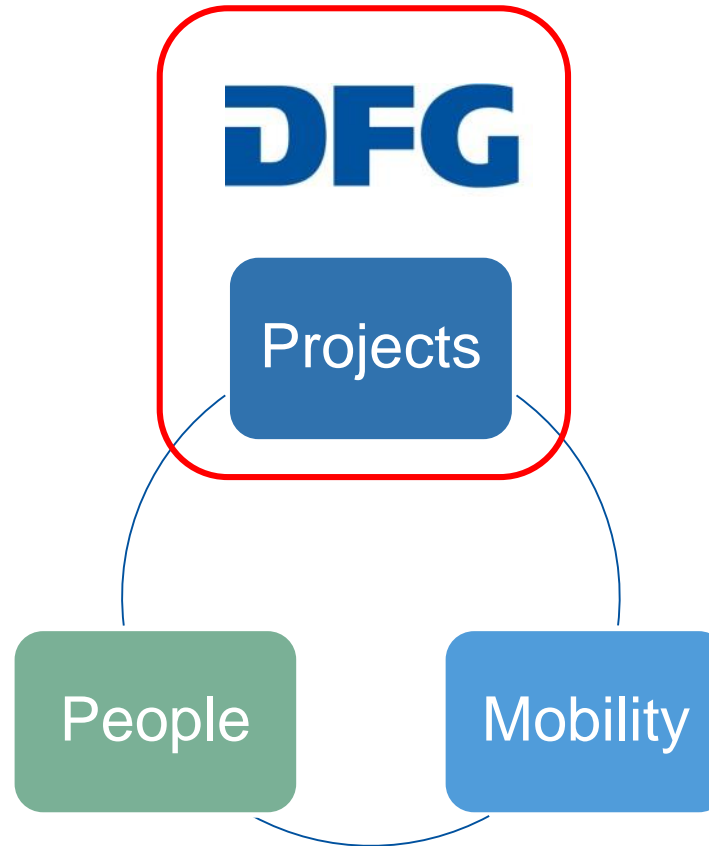
# The German Research Foundation

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG

**International Research Training Groups for Indo-German collaboration**

Dr. Franziska Langer, International Affairs  
Dr. Martin Roatsch, Research Careers

# The German Research landscape

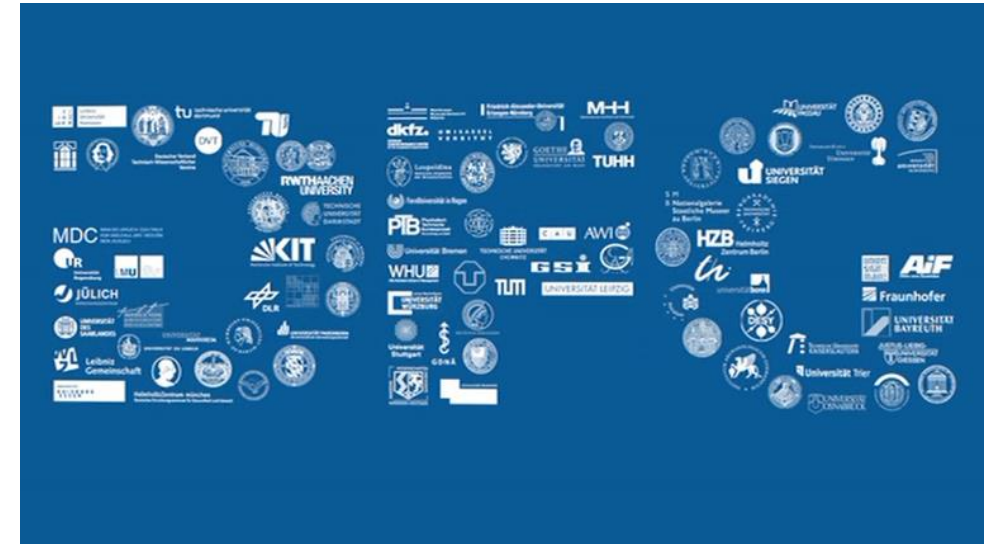


**DAAD**

**DFG**

# The DFG – About Us

- ▶ The DFG is the largest **independent** and self-governing research **funding organisation** in Germany.
- ▶ It is an **association** under German private law and its member organisations include German universities, non-university research institutions, academies of sciences and humanities, and scientific associations.
- ▶ It serves **all branches** of science and the humanities by **funding research projects**.

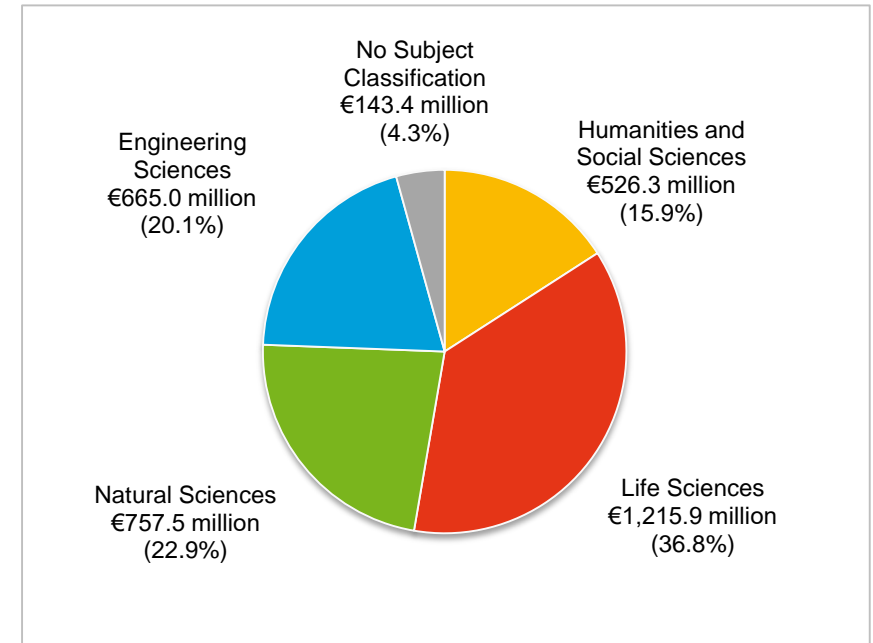


# The DFG's mission Statement

## The DFG

- ▶ fosters **scientific excellence** through competition
- ▶ supports **international cooperation in research**
- ▶ **advises** political and social decision-makers
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge** between science and industry

## Funding in 2020, by scientific discipline



# The Division of International Affairs

- International strategy
- Improvement of framework conditions for international cooperation
- Representation of the DFG internationally



The Sino-German Center



DFG Office India



DFG Office Japan



DFG Office in Latin America



DFG Office North America



DFG Office in Russia/CIS  
(2003-2022)

# DFG Funding Opportunities for Research Careers

The DFG fosters international cooperation in **all funding programmes**.

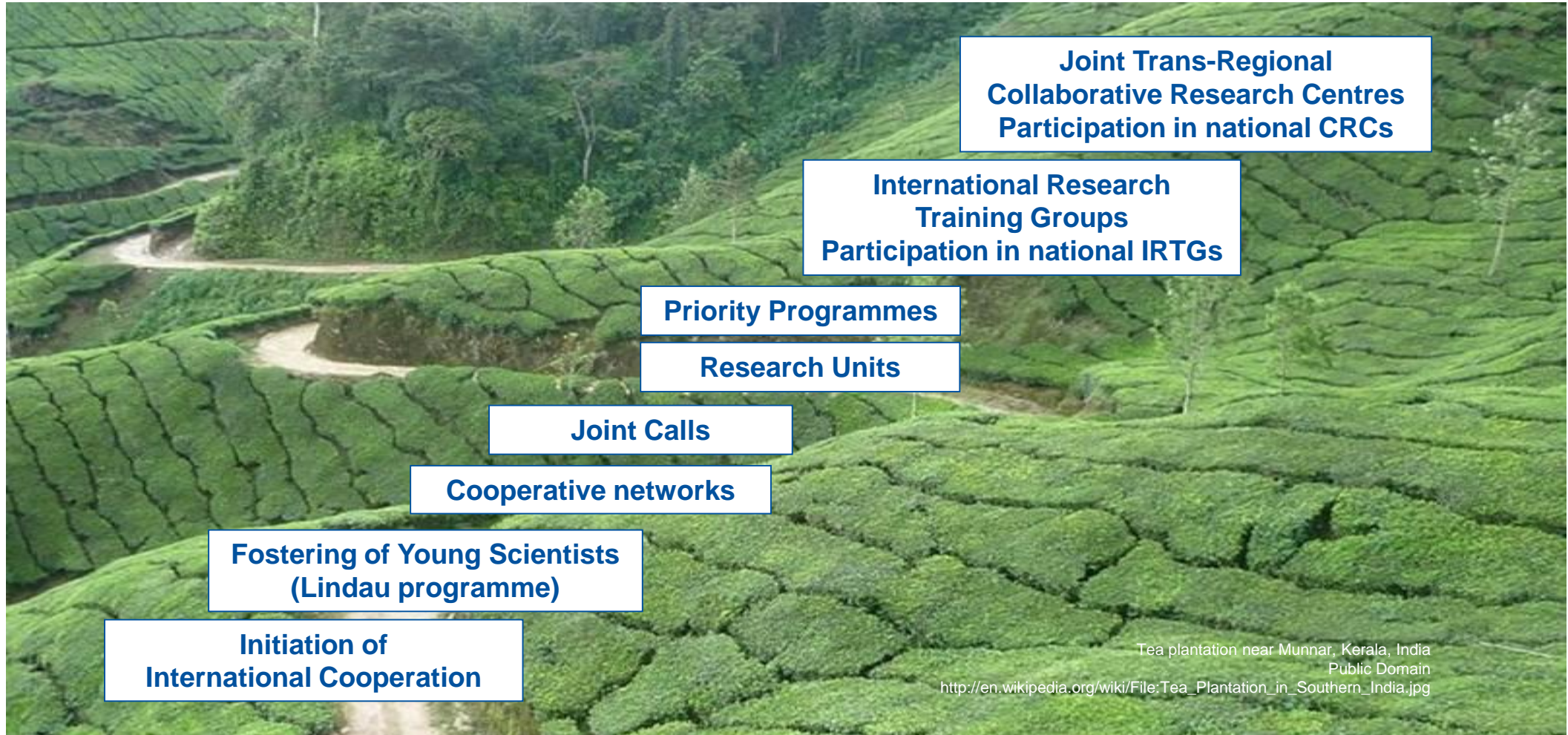
Additionally, the following programs specifically aim at supporting international cooperation:

- ▶ initial funding for bilateral cooperation
- ▶ **International Research Training Groups**
- ▶ joint calls for proposals with partner organisations
- ▶ fellowships abroad for postdoctoral researchers
- ▶ international scientific events
- ▶ Mercator Fellows

**International modules**, such as additional travel expenses, personnel exchanges, etc., may be applied in all DFG funding programmes.

# DFG's Funding Programmes for International Cooperation

from initiation to larger-scale coordinated programmes



The image shows the letters 'DFG' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a blue gradient background that is slightly blurred and has a light flare effect on the left side.

# International Research Training Groups for Indo-German collaboration

Dr. Franziska Langer, International Affairs  
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# Research Training Groups (RTGs, “Graduiertenkollegs”)

## ► Structured doctoral research and training programs

- established at German universities for a total duration of 9 years
- Promote early-career researchers (30 – 45 doctoral researchers, postdocs)
- Qualification of doctoral researchers within the framework of a focused research programme and a structured training strategy
  - Scientific excellence
  - Internationalization
  - Early scientific independence
- Program exists for >30 years

## ► Team of 5-12 experienced researchers (professor/junior group leader)

- **Research Component:** innovative, focused, and coherent research program for doctoral researchers, added value of collaboration within the RTG
- **Qualification Component:** training program, double or team supervision

# What is an International Research Training Group (IRTG)?

## ▶ **Bilateral doctoral research and training program**

of a German university and a partner university/institution abroad

- **Team** of 5-12 experienced researchers on each side (professor/junior group leader)
- **Research Component:** innovative, focused, and coherent research program for doctoral researchers, added value of collaboration within IRTG and across borders
- **Qualification Component:** Joint training program, joint supervision and reciprocal research stays of doctoral researchers at partner site (6-12 months)

## **Benefits:**

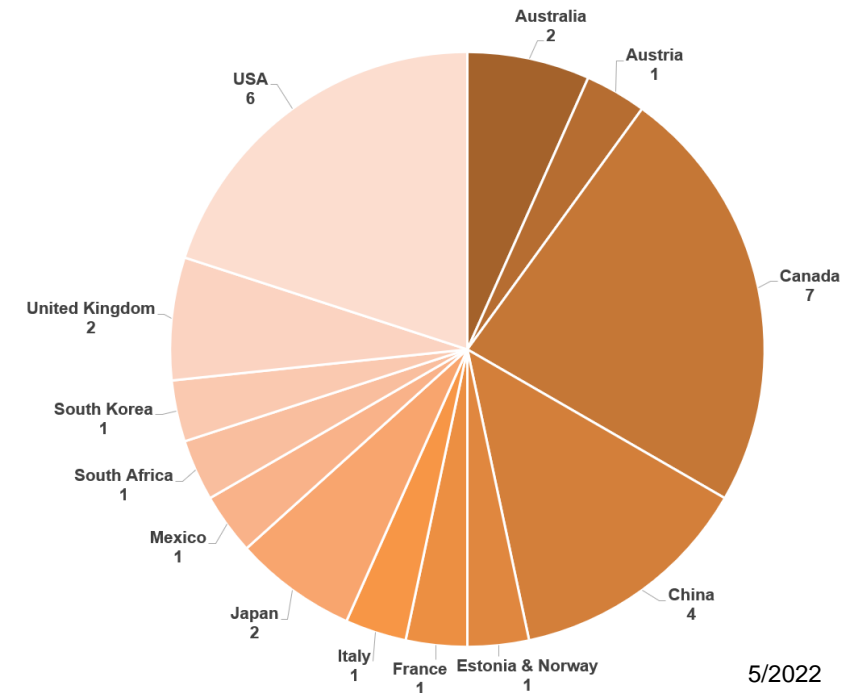
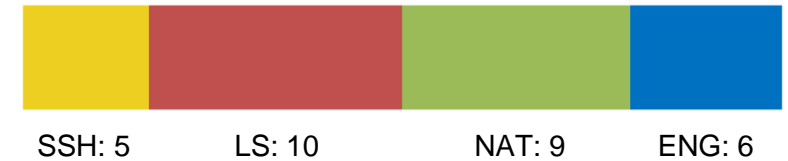
- ▶ Research synergies through complementary resources
- ▶ Early integration of doctoral researchers into the international research community
- ▶ Better qualification for careers in- and outside of academia
- ▶ Building block for sustainable individual and institutional cooperation

# International Research Training Groups

World-wide program for next generation researchers

- ▶ Total budget for IRTGs and RTGs: ~220 M€ (2019)
- ▶ Open to all fields of science & humanities
- ▶ Bottom-up: no IRTG quota, no priorities for topics or countries!
- ▶ 30 IRTGs = 13% of 228 RTGs, partners in 14 countries worldwide
- ▶ In total to date: 136 IRTGs granted with partners in 30 countries worldwide
- ▶ **Currently, no IRTG with India**
  - ▶ **New cooperation agreement with DST exists and enables parallel application and funding**

IRTGs by subject area and by partner country



5/2022

# What is an International Research Training Group (IRTG)?

DFG Funding is available for...

- ▶ Up to 9 years (two funding periods: 5 + 4 years)
  - ▶ People
    - 3 consecutive/overlapping generations of 10-15 PhD students each (funding for up to 48 months)
    - Postdocs (1-2)
    - Participating undergraduates
  - ▶ Resources
    - Direct research cost: consumables, literature, documentation etc.
    - Qualification and mobility: research stays, curricular activities, joint workshops, guests....
    - Support funds: e.g. for coordination, recruitment, gender equality measures...
- ➔ Indian partner needs complementary funding! ➔ **Cooperation Agreement with DST**

# What is an International Research Training Group (IRTG)?

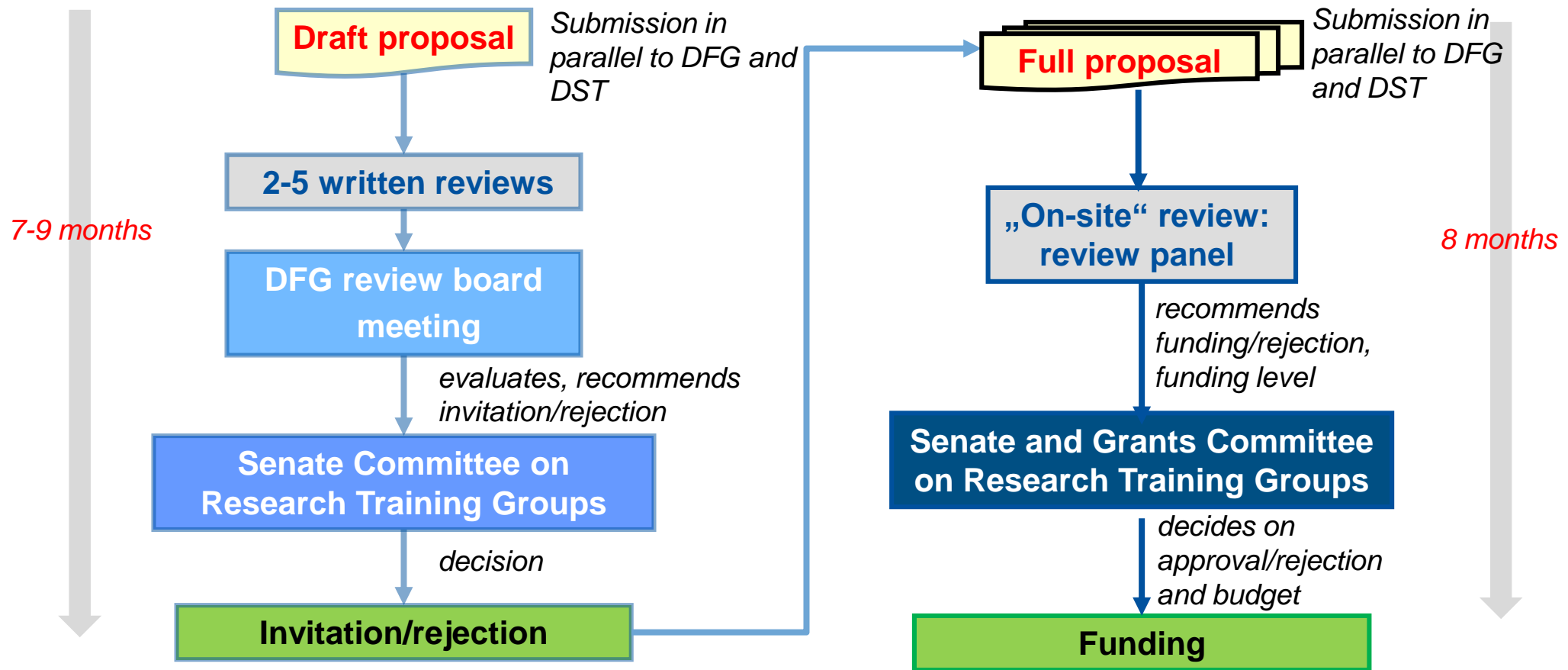
Complementary funding has to...

- ▶ Support the (+/-) same number of doctoral candidates as on German side (fellowships/positions)
- ▶ Cover the research cost of doctoral candidates (e.g. consumables)
- ▶ Provide travel funds for doctoral mobility and allowances for the research stay in Germany
- ▶ Include means for all joint training activities
- ▶ Be available throughout the whole funding period
- ▶ Can be provided by a DFG partner institution (DST) or university's own funds



# International Research Training Groups

## 2-stage application and decision process



# International Research Training Groups

## Review Criteria

- ▶ Transparent on the DFG website: [www.dfg.de/gk/en](http://www.dfg.de/gk/en)
- ▶ Participating Researchers and Institutions
  - Individual academic qualification, supervisory experience, excellence
  - Group composition, internal collaboration
  - Quality and suitability of host institutions and equipment
- ▶ Research Programme
  - Quality, Originality, Coherence, Focus
  - Disciplinary and interdisciplinary added value
  - Appropriateness regarding the aims of the IRTG program
  - For International RTGs: complementarity
- ▶ Supervision and Training Strategy
  - Recruiting strategy, supervision strategy, gender equality & equal opportunities
  - Training and Qualification programme
- ▶ University Integration & Environment

# International Research Training Groups

## Tips & Tricks

### ► Consultation & advice

- All relevant documents, templates are online: [www.dfg.de/gk/en](http://www.dfg.de/gk/en)
- Advice from the DFG Head Office
- Advice from the DST Head Office
- Advice from central entities within university: research support centre
- Advice from previously successful applicants
  
- Consultation Meetings based on a concept paper / draft proposal
  
- Preparatory Workshops



# Thank you!

## For more information

- ▶ About the DFG: <https://www.dfg.de/en>
- ▶ About RTG/IRTG: <https://www.dfg.de/gk/en>
- ▶ About German research institutions: <https://research-explorer.de>
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