

Guidelines

Global Minds in DFG Consortia



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 Programme Information

1. Objective of the funding initiative

Through the initiative “Global Minds in DFG Consortia”, the DFG offers consortia funded under the programmes Collaborative Research Centres (CRC, including CRC/Transregio) and Clusters of Excellence (EXC) the opportunity to recruit highly qualified, experienced researchers currently working abroad who are seeking to continue their careers within the German research system, in accordance with the Global Minds Initiative Germany initiated by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR).

2 Duration of funding

The maximum funding period is five years.

3 Type and scope of funding

3.1 Direct project costs

Two funding modules are available:

“Professorships” module

This module enables consortia to appoint an outstanding researcher from abroad to a long-term professorship at the applicant university, providing the individual meets all requirements for such an appointment. Funding of up to €3.5 million in total may be requested and awarded. Staff funding may be requested for the researcher up to the level of a professorship (DFG form 60.12):

www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

It is also possible to apply for additional funding for staff, in particular for doctoral researchers, as well as for funding for direct project costs and instrumentation funding. The funding duration is five years.

“Mercator Fellows Global” module

This module allows consortia to select an outstanding, experienced researcher who is currently working abroad and does not (yet) intend to make a permanent move to the German research system, and integrate this individual as a long-term, closely involved fellow. Integration of the funded person is also expected to give the consortium additional expertise and enhance its international visibility. A core component of this module consists of one or several extended periods

of residence in Germany during which the fellow works actively within the consortium. These stays may be structured flexibly, potentially including several visits of varying duration. Over the total funding period of five years, the fellow must spend no less than fifteen months and no more than thirty-six months on site. Funding may only be requested for the periods in which the fellow is physically present and active within the consortium. The schedule of the stays must be specified in the proposal. Total funding of up to €650,000 may be requested and awarded for the total period of residence.

Staff funding for the remuneration of fellows may be requested up to the level of a professorship (DFG form 60.12).

www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

It is also possible to apply for additional funding for staff, in particular for doctoral researchers, as well as for funding for direct project costs and instrumentation funding, in order to provide on-site support for the fellow.

General provisions applicable to both modules: Funding is intended for the recruitment of researchers who have been working abroad for at least three years at the time of proposal submission. Funds are linked to a specific individual: they are strictly earmarked for the support of the selected person and their research project at the proposed host institution. In particular, they may not be used to cover any other expenses incurred by the host Collaborative Research Centre or Cluster of Excellence. Funds are tied to the fiscal year (corresponding to the calendar year). Carrying forward unspent funds into the following fiscal year is generally not permitted. Funds that are not used by the end of a given fiscal year are forfeited.

The appropriateness of the requested funds is assessed as part of the review.

3.2 Allowance for indirect project costs

In the event of approval, the applicant university will receive an **allowance** to cover indirect project-related costs, in addition to direct project funding. This allowance amounts to 22 per cent of the approved project funds.

II Proposals

1 Eligibility

The following institutions are eligible to apply: universities in Germany that are currently the applicant university of an active Cluster of Excellence or Collaborative Research Centre. They may request funding for the integration of a specifically identified researcher into the respective consortium. If a Cluster of Excellence or CRC is jointly hosted by several applicant universities, the proposal must likewise be submitted jointly.

In addition to the applicant universities, non-university research institutions participating in the consortium may also serve as host institutions for the researcher for whom funding is requested.

A maximum of one proposal per consortium may be submitted in each round of calls.

2 Proposal submission, format and deadlines

Proposals for funding under the “Global Minds in DFG Consortia” initiative must be submitted by the applicant university or universities of the respective consortium in agreement with the researcher for whom funding is requested. Proposals are to be submitted in response to specific calls, each with a fixed deadline.

Proposals must be submitted electronically by the spokesperson of the Cluster of Excellence or Collaborative Research Centre via the DFG’s elan portal. Only the designated proposal submission template may be used:

www.dfg.de/formulare/1_921

III Obligations

The commitment declared in the establishment or renewal proposal of the Cluster of Excellence or Collaborative Research Centre by all individuals with a high level of scientific/academic responsibility to adhere to the principles of good research practice remains fully in effect.

The researcher for whom funding is requested likewise undertakes to comply with these principles. These principles can be found in detail in the DFG Code of Conduct *Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice*, which came into force on 1 August 2019. The DFG’s Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct apply to the researcher:

www.dfg.de/formulare/80_01

Prior to submission of the proposal, the researcher must provide a Declaration of Obligation of Compliance; here the DFG recommends using the following template:

www.dfg.de/formulare/80_02

The applicant university or universities is/are responsible for gathering the signatures for the compliance forms. The forms must be kept on file by the university or universities (either on a centralised basis at the applicant institution(s) or on a decentralised basis at the employing institution) for ten years following completion of the last funding period. Upon request by the DFG, e.g. in connection with random audit checks and in cases of alleged scientific misconduct, these forms must be handed over to the DFG.

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to

- 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;
- submit progress reports on the research by the dates specified in the award letter and present financial accounts to the DFG detailing the use of funds.

The DFG expects the research findings arrived at as a result of this funding to be made publicly accessible.

IV Data Protection

Please note the DFG's Data Protection Notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

www.dfg.de/privacy_policy