



DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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**Your grant.
Your research.
Your career.**

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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.

**Germany's largest
independent research
funding organisation**
3.9 € billion annual budget

DFG members
99 leading universities,
non-university research
institutions, scientific
associations, academies

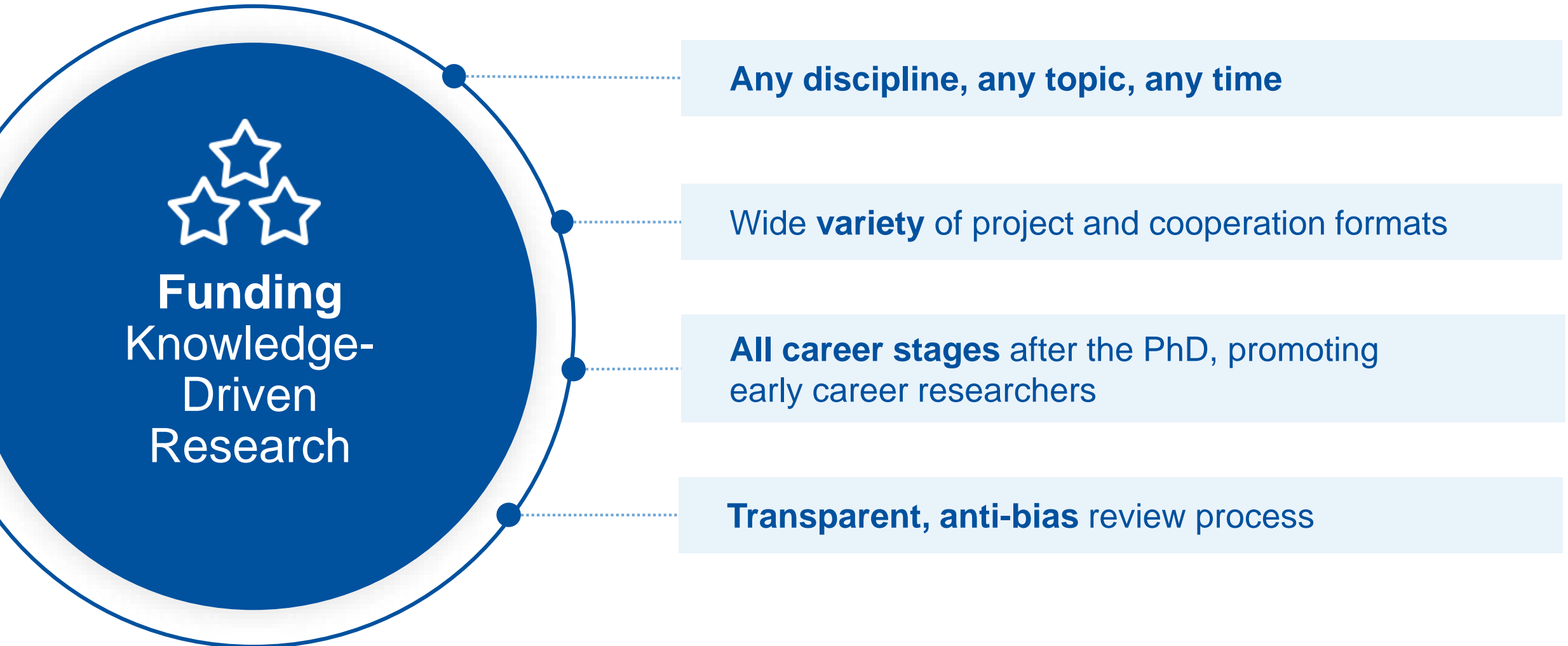
Independent association
under private law



Funding
knowledge-driven
research

**Researchers have
the majority**
in decision-making
committees

DFG's Independence
guarantees academic
freedom



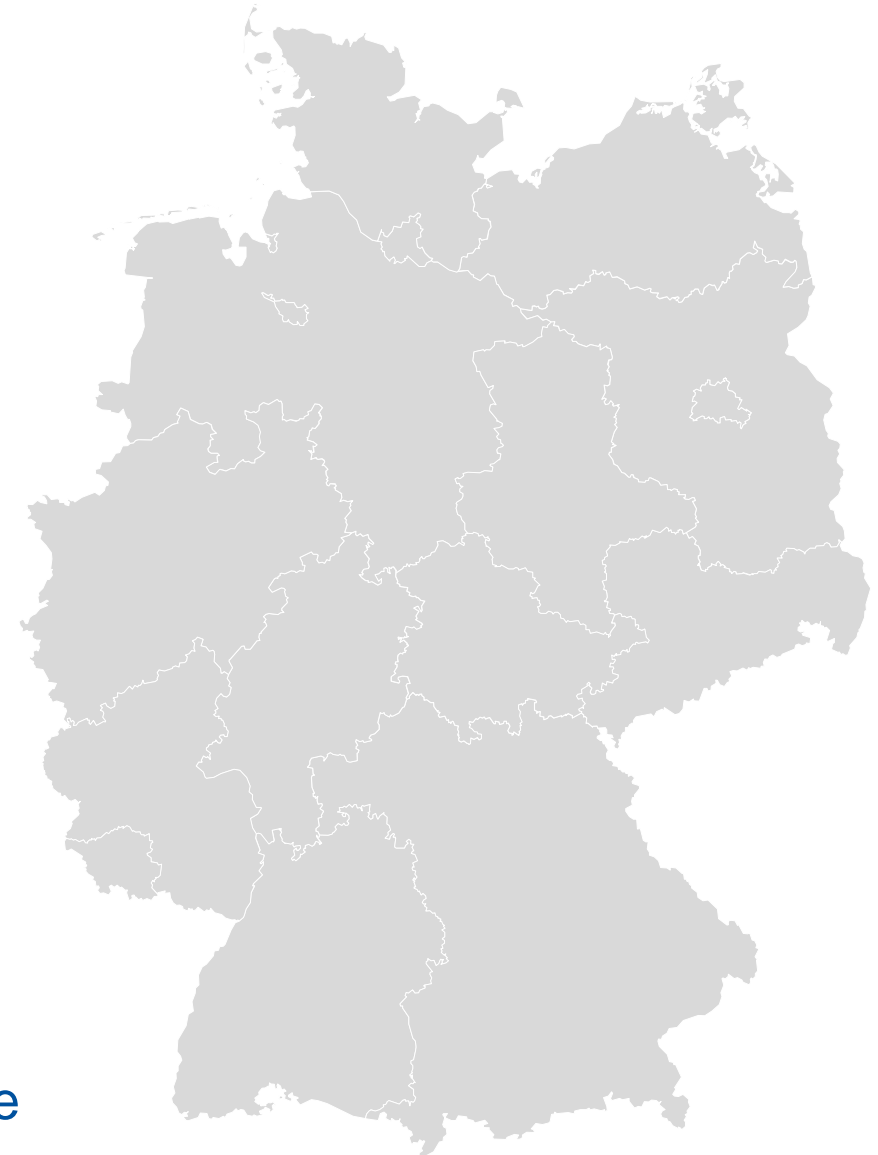
Who is eligible to apply for DFG funding?

Researchers

...who have completed their scientific training,
i.e. **who hold a doctorate***

...who (would like to) work
in Germany

*earliest date: upon submission to the examination office



DFG Funding 2024



30.500
Individual Projects



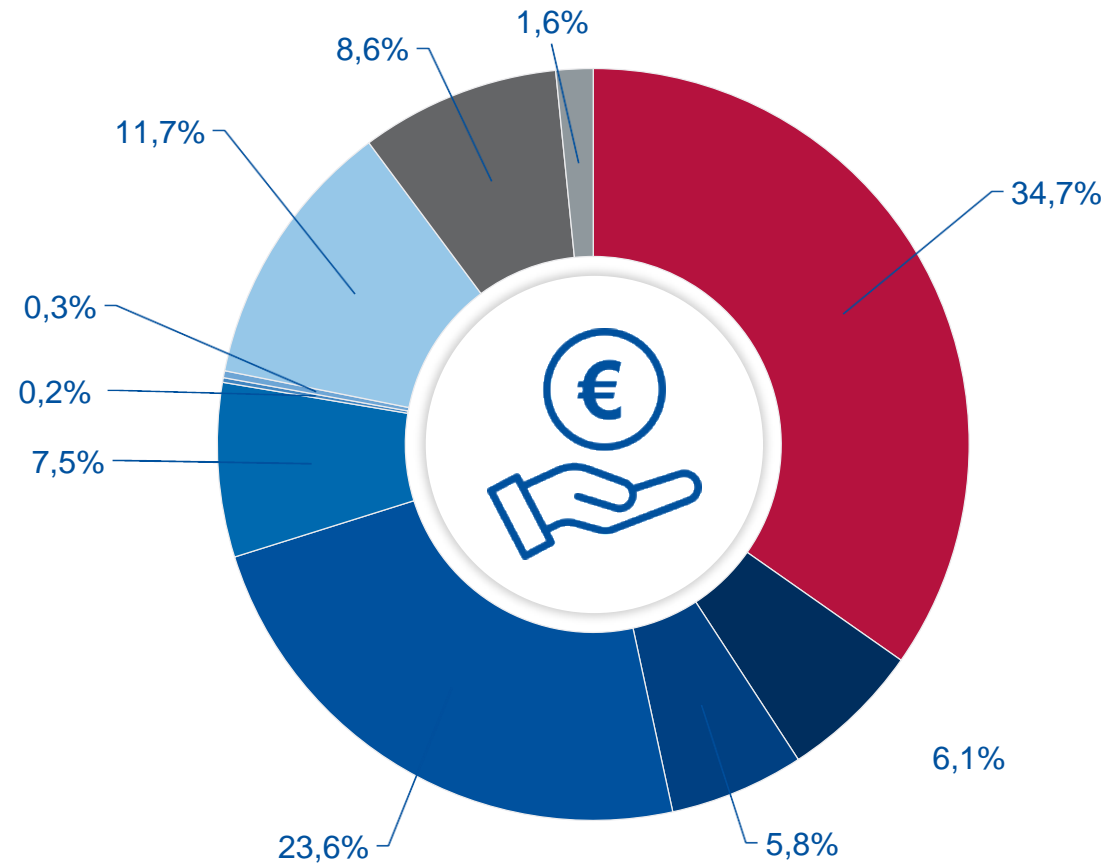
993
Coordinated projects



3,9 Billion €
Budget for research projects

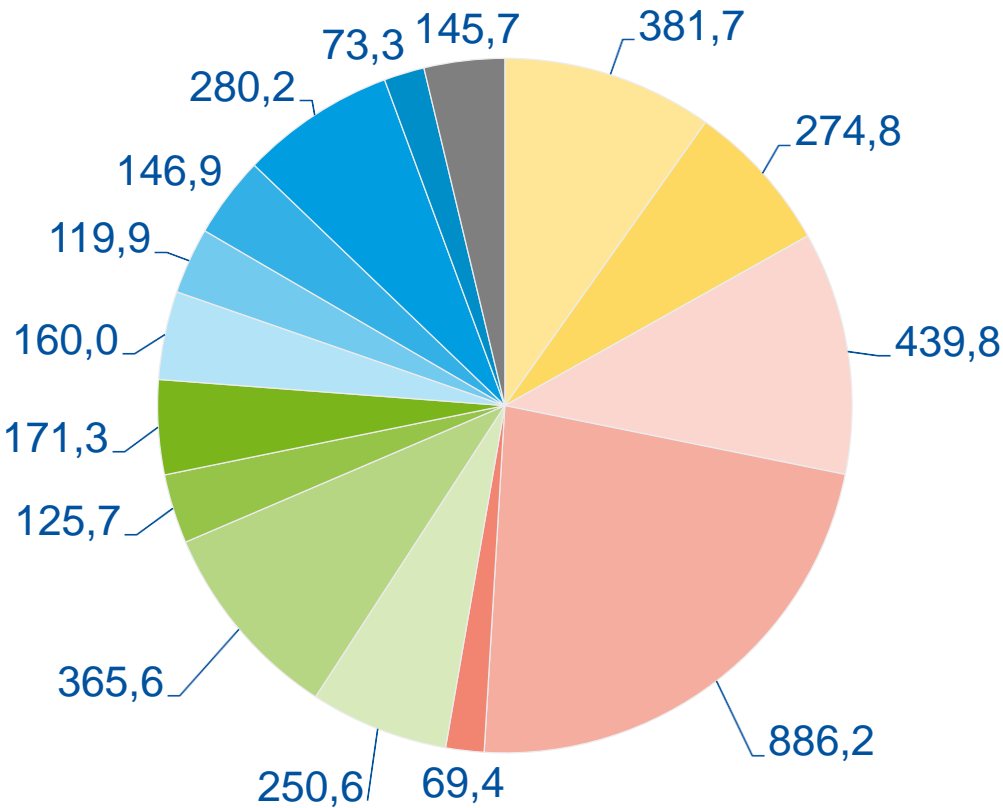
Research funding by programme

for 2024 (in Mio. € und %)



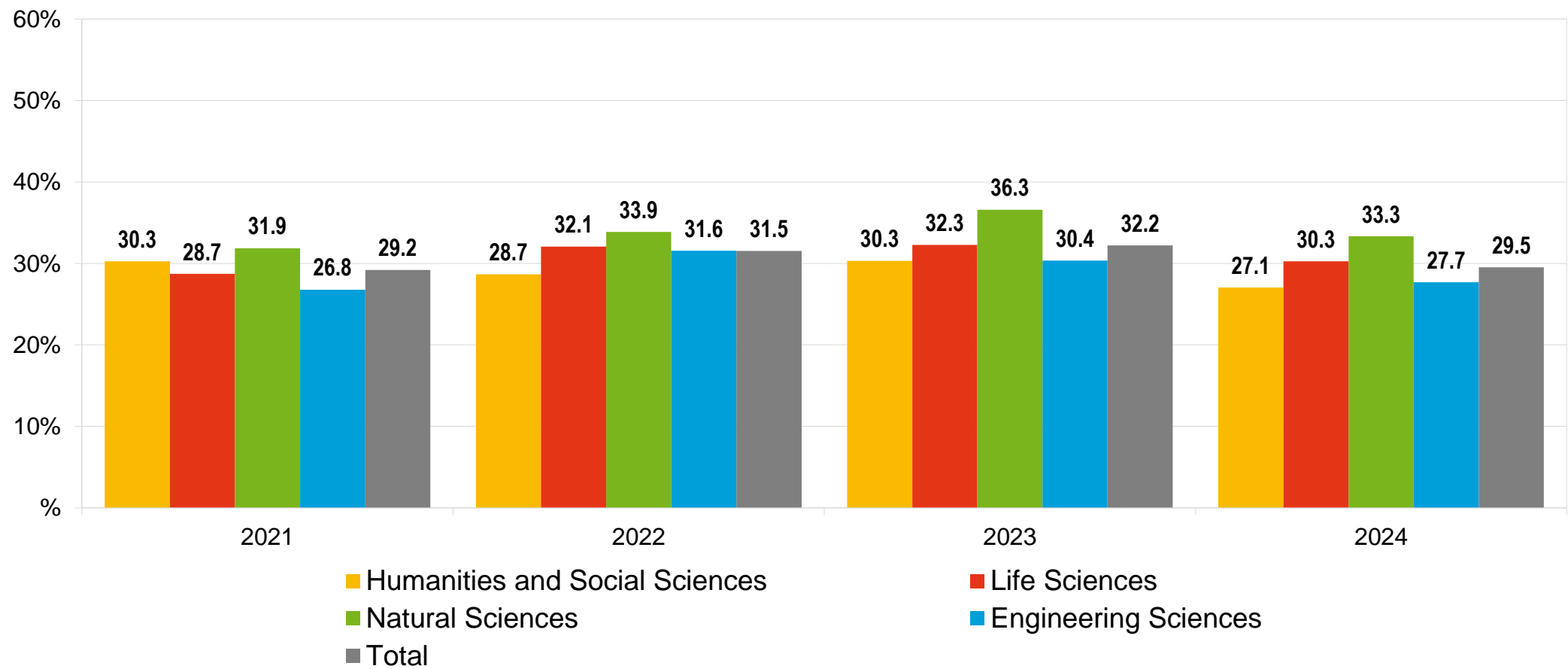
- Individual grants programme: 1352,3 Mio. €
- Research Units: 238,0 Mio. €
- Priority Programmes: 224,2 Mio. €
- Collaborative Research Centres: 917,2 Mio. €
- Research Training Groups: 291,3 Mio. €
- Research Impulses: 7,5 Mio. €
- Research Centres: 12,6 Mio. €
- Exzellenzstrategie: 453,4 Mio. €
- Infrastructure funding: 334,2 Mio. €
- Prizes, other: 60,5 Mio. €

DFG Funding 2024
by Subject Area (in €m)

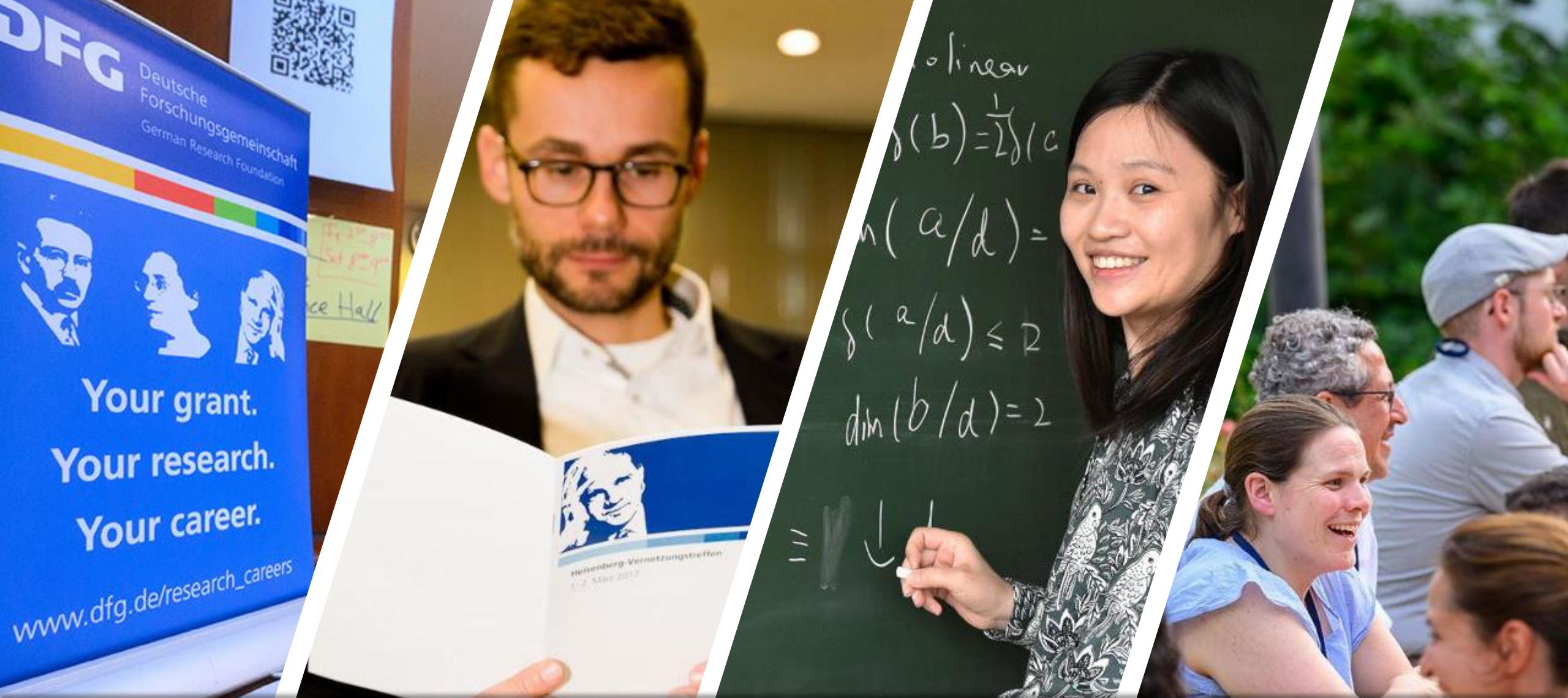


- Humanities
- Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Biology
- Medicine
- Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Geosciences
- Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Thermal Engineering/Process Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Computer Science, Systems & Electrical Engineering
- Construction Engineering and Architecture
- Interdisciplinary

Funding rates* in the individual grants programmes by scientific discipline
2021 to 2024 (in %)



* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.
Source: New individual grants



DFG Funding for Early Career Researchers

Position in a DFG-funded project



What?

Position for (post-)doctoral researchers at universities and research institutes in Germany



How long?

Depends on the scope of the project, typically three years



Where to apply?

Directly to the project's PI
(person who receives funding through DFG)



Where to search?

<https://gepris.dfg.de>

Tailored funding programmes for every career phase



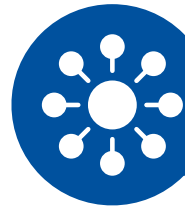
Walter Benjamin
Programme



Emmy Noether
Programme



Heisenberg
Programme



Individual Research Grant
with Temporary Position for PI

R1



R2

R3

R4

first-stage,
PhD researcher

recognised, not yet
independent postdoc

established,
independent researcher

leading researcher,
professor

Individual Research Grant

To conduct a **thematically and time-limited** research project...

... of **high scientific quality** and **originality**.

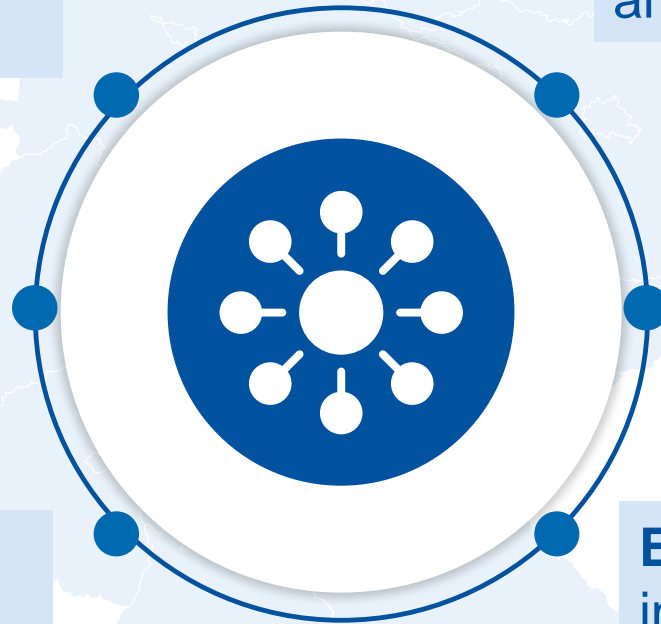
Funding for **up to three years**

Funds: everything needed for the project. If necessary:
Temporary Position for Principal Investigator = „Eigene Stelle“

Host institution of your choice
in Germany

Employment through host institution

Joint proposal with **two PI** possible





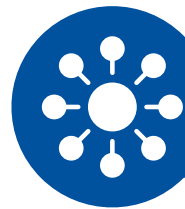
Walter Benjamin
Programme



Emmy Noether
Programme



Heisenberg
Programme



Individual Research Grant
with Temporary Position for PI

R1



first-stage,
PhD researcher

R2

recognised, not yet
independent postdoc

R3

established,
independent researcher

R4

leading researcher,
professor



Walter Benjamin Programme

Mobility

Move to a new
research institution

Experience
career support

Autonomy

Conduct your own
research project

Come to/stay in **Germany**
or **go abroad** – or both



Funding scope

Funding for **up to two years**

Abroad or in Germany
– or combining stays at different places



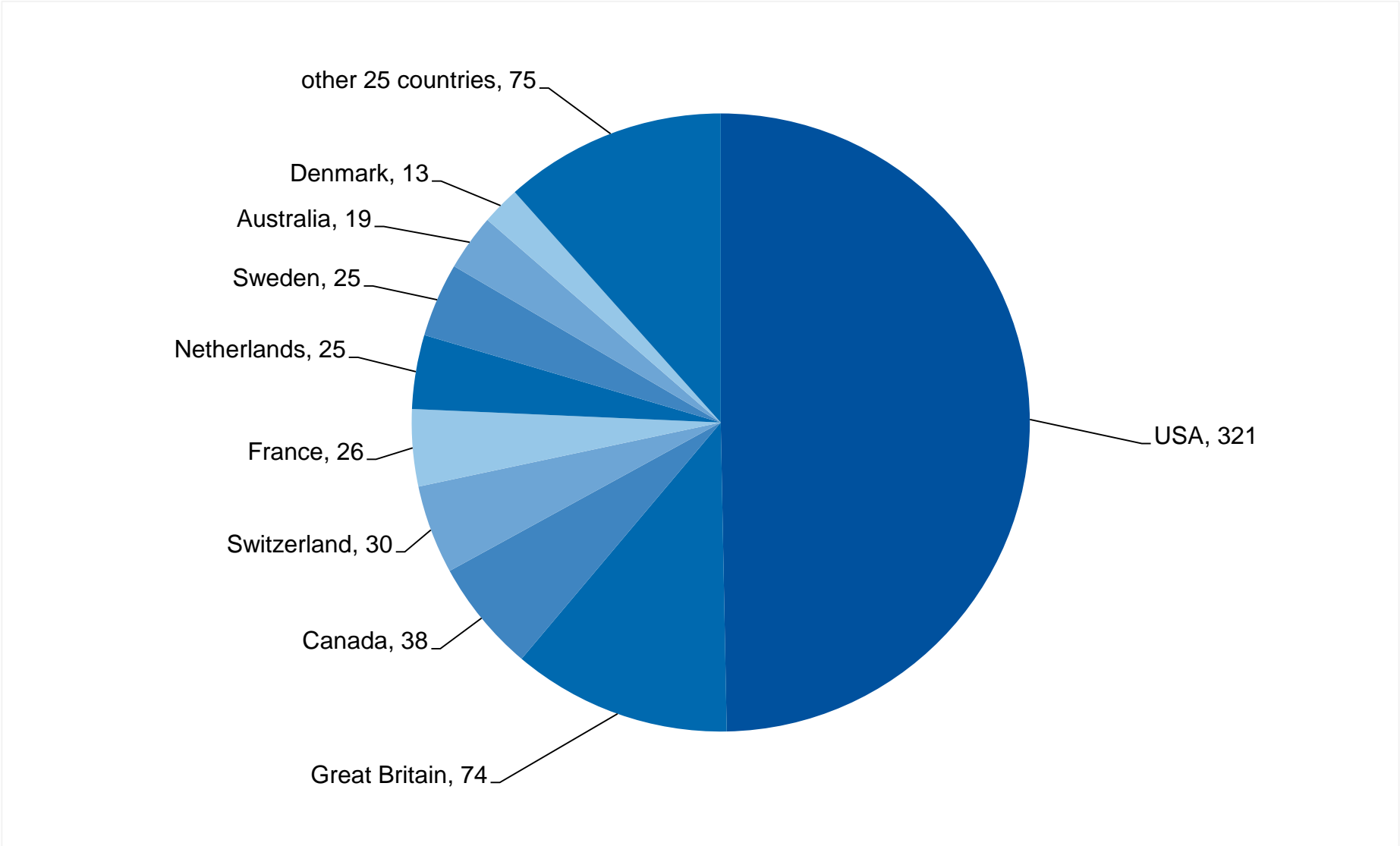
→ Your **host institution** needs to provide additional **project costs**

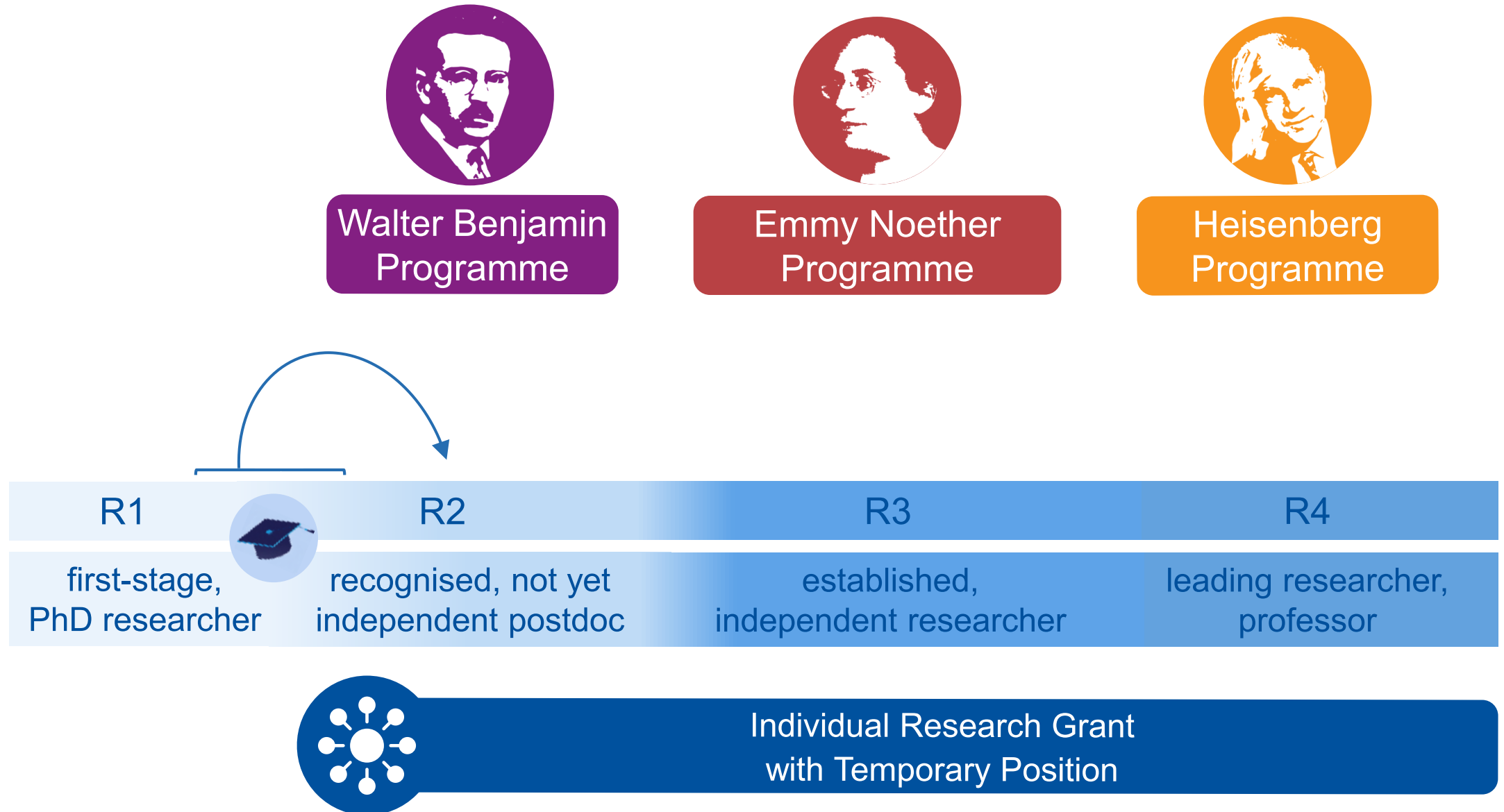
In Germany: Position at host institution
+ allowance for direct project costs (250€/month)

Abroad: Fellowship (2.187€/month)
+ allowance for direct project costs (312€/month)
+ further allowances for cost of living, purchase power equalisation, children (if applicable)

→ Use the [award calculator](#)

Destinations for Research Visits Abroad 2024





Emmy Noether Programme



Funding aims

- Path to **early academic independence** and...
- ... qualification **for professorial appointment**

By **leading** an independent Emmy Noether group



Requirements

- Outstanding **research profile**
- Excellent **research project**
- 2-4 years of **postdoctoral experience after PhD**
(extension of the 4-year deadline in exceptional cases, e.g. for parents)
- Substantial international research experience

Funding scope

Funding for your own
Junior Research Group

Funding for **six years**

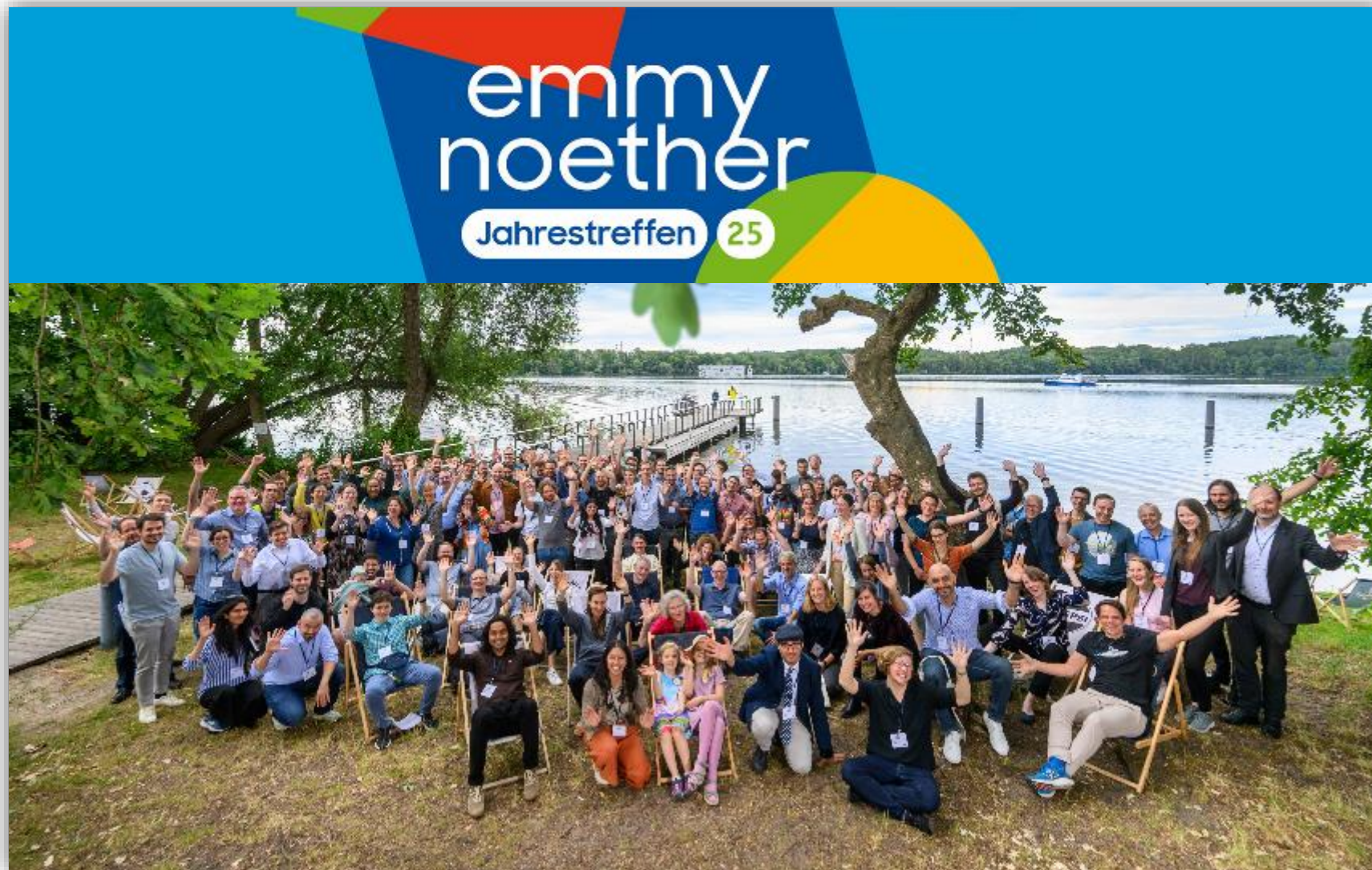
Host institution in Germany
→ name more than one in your
proposal → **negotiate**



Employment in junior group
leader position at host institution
(E15 TV-L scheme, junior or
tenure track professorship)

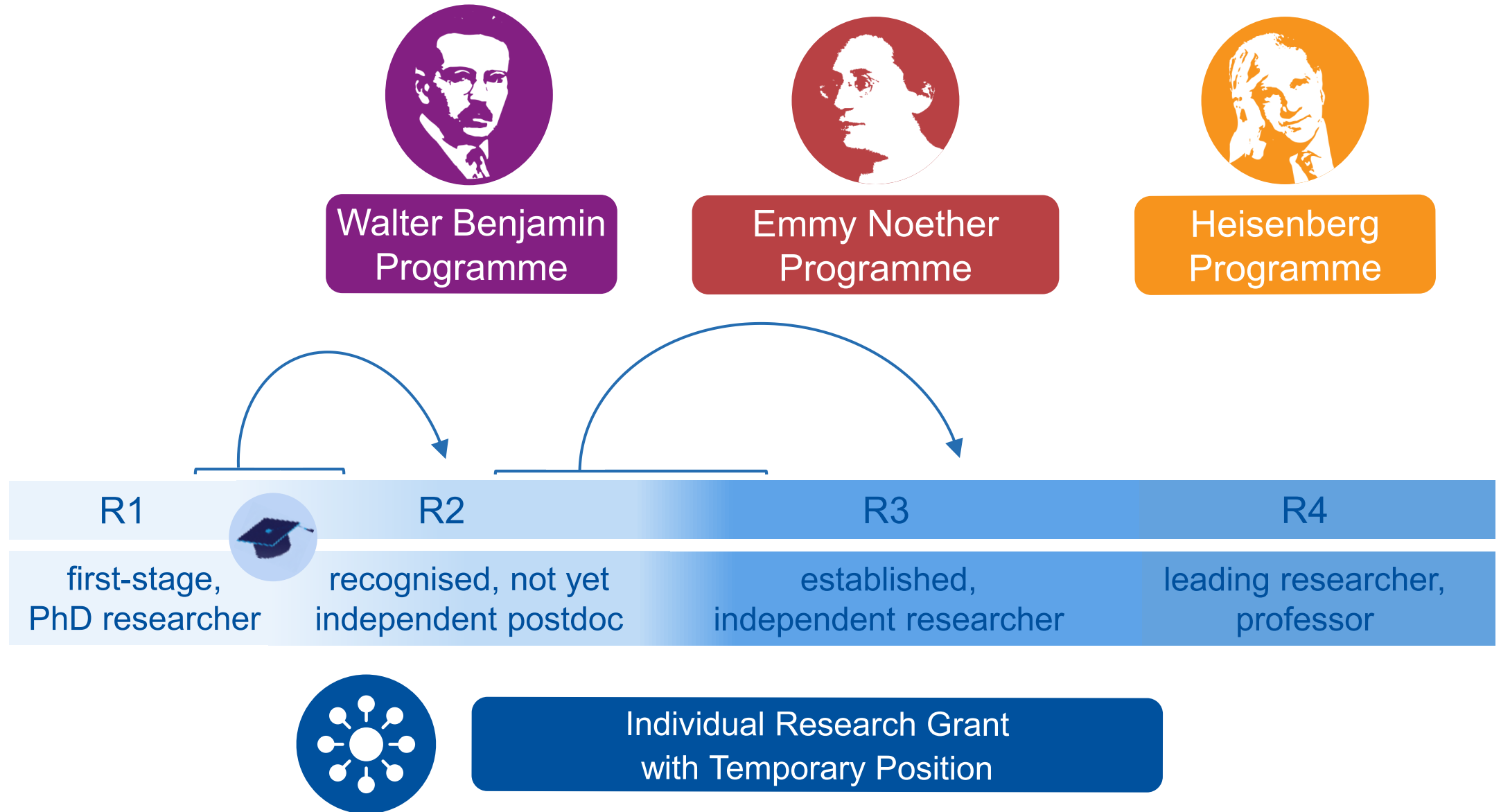
Flexible funds for staff,
consumables, travel, public
relations, allowance for equity and
diversity...

Family allowance possible



Emmy Noether Jahrestreffen

Yearly Meeting of
Grantees & Alumni
in Potsdam





Heisenberg Programme

Funding aims

- enable researchers to **prepare for a senior academic role...**
- ...and further enhance their scientific reputation...
- ...while **continuing their research.**



Requirements

- **Outstanding researchers...**
- ... who are **eligible for professorial appointment**

Funding scope

Funding for **up to five years**

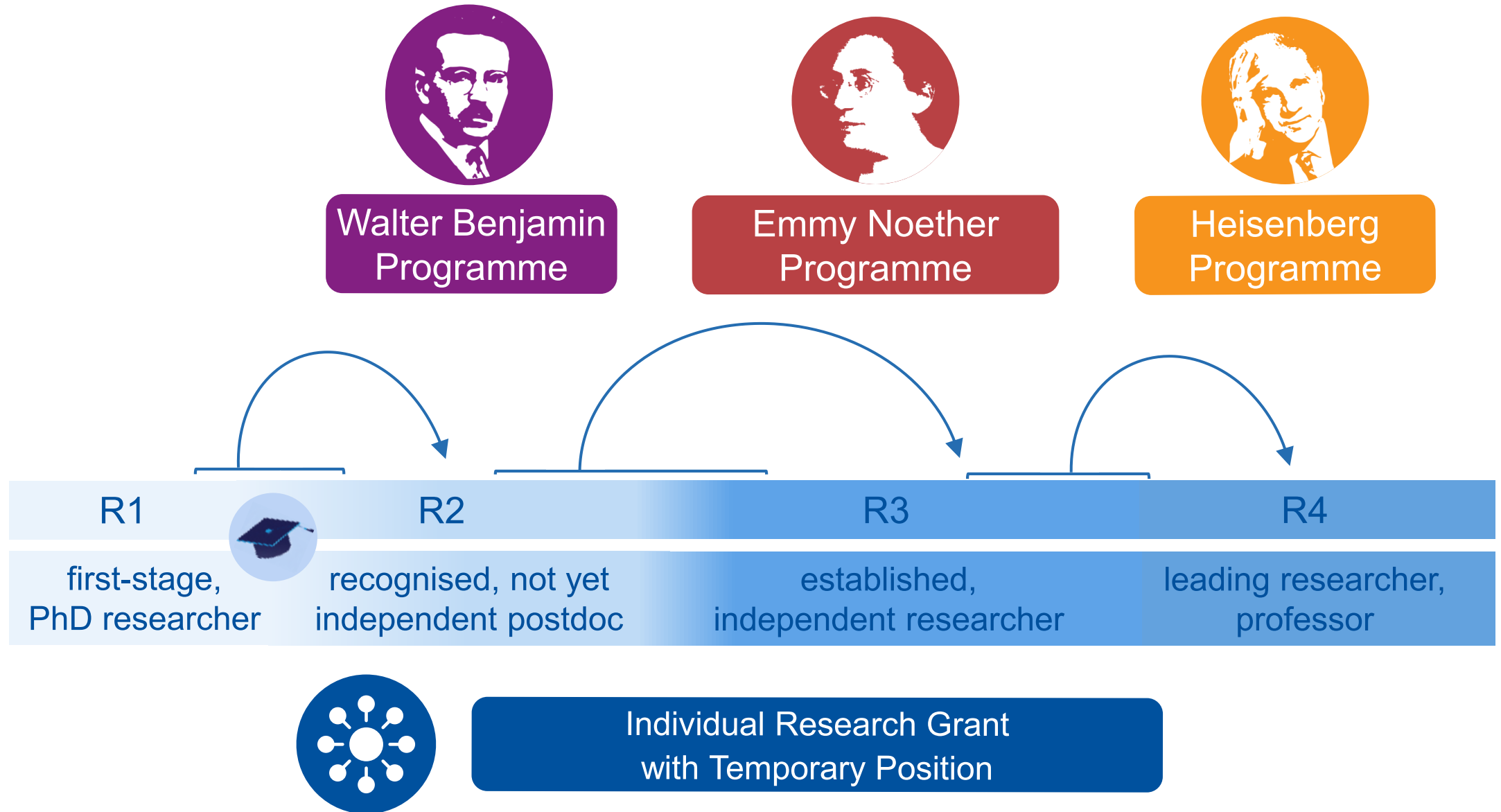
At the location of your choice – also possible abroad

Additional flexible funding
€250 (fellowship) or
€1,000 (position/
professorship) per month

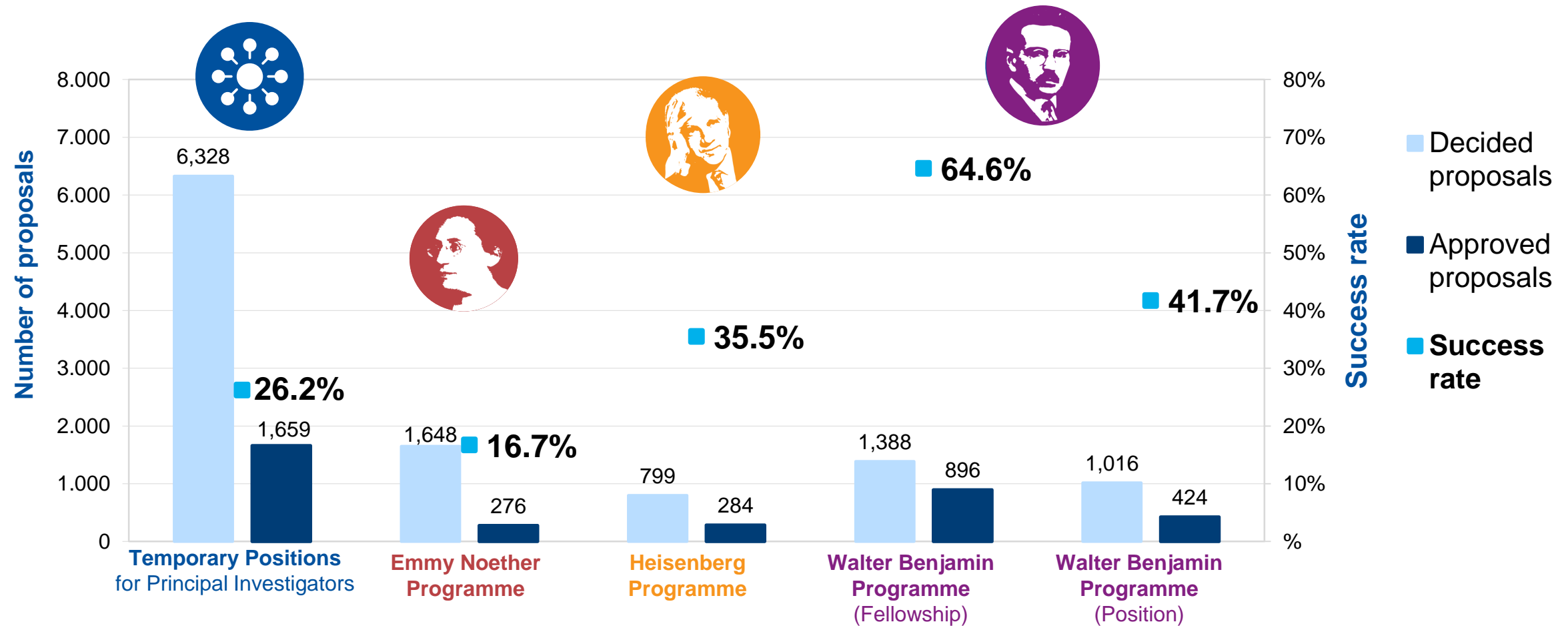
Funding options:
**fellowship | position |
professorship**

Can be **combined** with a
research grant proposal





Numbers of Proposals and Success Rates* in Programmes for Early Career Researchers (mean values; 2021 to 2024)



* Base: New proposals.



➤ Global Minds Initiative
Germany @ BMFTR



Aims

Offering research talents career prospects in Germany as a safe haven of **freedom for scientific research**



Additional Budget

for DFG + Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) + German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

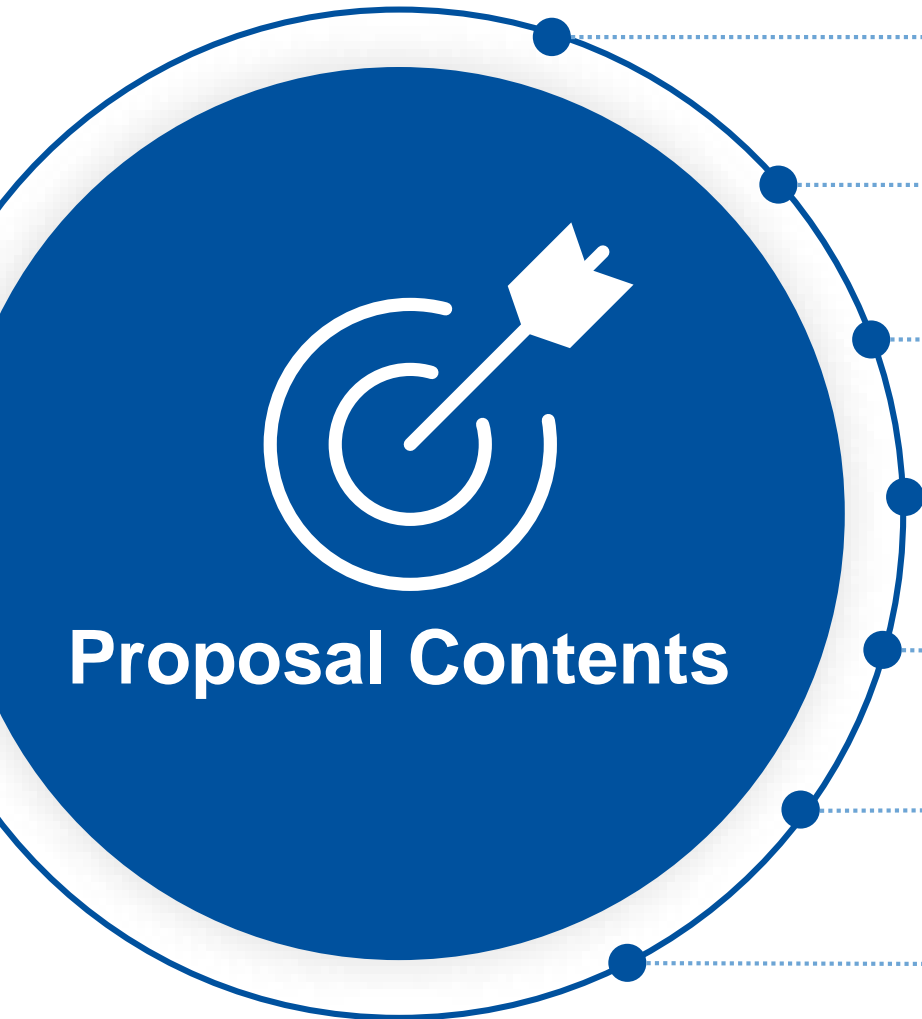


Eligibility

Individuals **working** at a research institution **abroad**



From Submission to Decision



What is the **knowledge gap** you would like to fill?

Why are the expected results **novel and relevant**?

Who is going to do what? Why?

What's your **concrete, realistic and feasible plan** to answer your research question?

How are you going to manage setbacks? What's your **plan b**?

Why are you the right person to successfully manage this project?

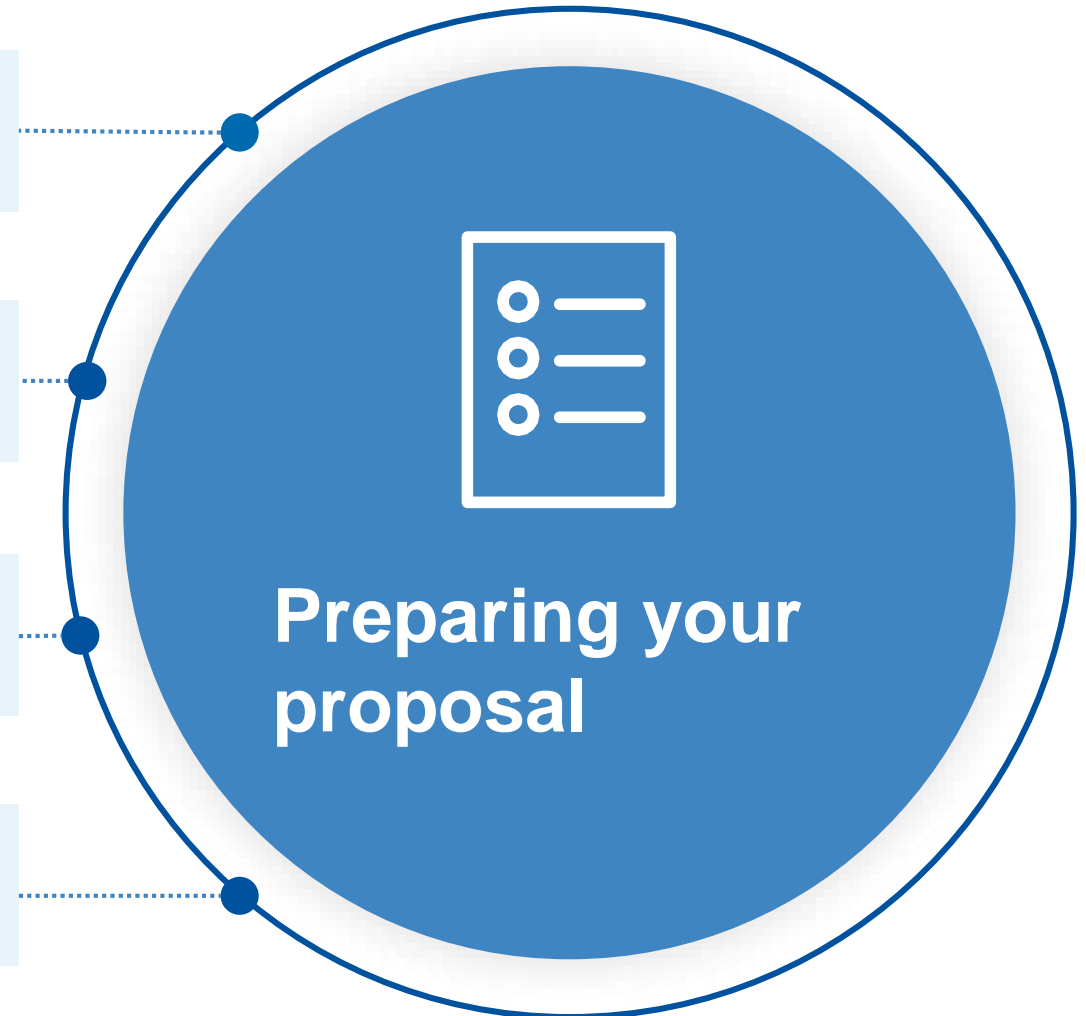
Why is the **host institution** ideal for your project?

Carefully read and follow the **guidelines and proposal instructions**

Decide on the proposal **language**:
English or German

Necessary information can be found
on the **DFG website**

Questions? Ask for help



Questions? Ask for help



On Eligibility

procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de

On General Topics

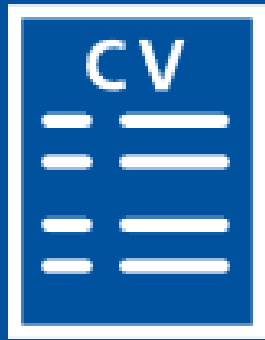
info-researchcareers@dfg.de

On Equity & Diversity

chancengleichheit@dfg.de

With a Subject-Specific Focus

<https://www.dfg.de/en/about-us/head-office/programme-contacts>



Preparing your CV



Follow the [DFG CV Template](#)



Include qualifications, engagement & awards

also: organization of scientific meetings, review activities etc.



Mention time away from research

Relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required



List your most important scientific contributions

Comment on your own contribution to a publication / study / database / software



No **upper limits**

Needs to be **realistic and justified** by the project

DFG funds **only supplemental, project-specific needs** (vs. existing resources at your host institution)

Seek **advice** from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions

Average **personnel rates** on DFG website



Before submission



Put yourself in the reviewers shoes

Consult the [“General Guidelines for the Written Review”](#) for reviewers



Seek honest criticism from colleagues



Plan on a feasible timeline

on average, the time to decision is approx. six months



Inform DFG Head Office

in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists

Care obligations and DFG funding

→ various possibilities for **family-related part-time work**, periods of absence due to **parental leave** or **caring** for children or other relatives. The same applies for long-term **illness or disability**.

Emmy Noether Programme

Family Allowance
Standard Allowance for Equity
and Diversity



All Positions funded through DFG in Germany

Bundeselterngeld- und
Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)

Walter Benjamin Fellowships

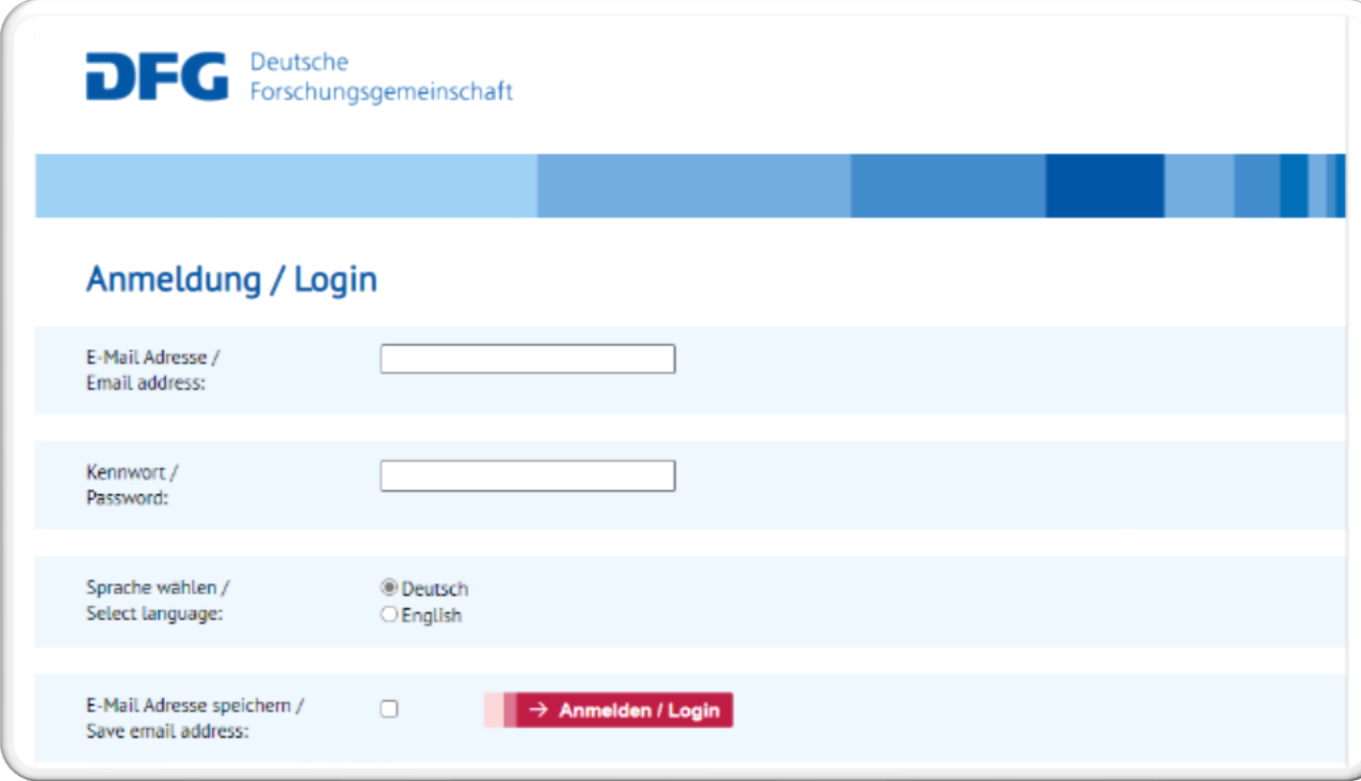
Child allowance
Fellowship extension
Reimbursement of childcare costs
Combination of measures



Individual solutions

Possibility to temporarily suspend
funding up to 6 months
Cost-neutral extension
Support staff...

Submitting your proposal via *elan*



The image shows a screenshot of the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) login page. The page has a white background with a blue header bar. The DFG logo is in the top left, followed by the text "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft". Below the header is a blue decorative bar. The main heading is "Anmeldung / Login". There are three input fields: "E-Mail Adresse / Email address:", "Kennwort / Password:", and "Sprache wählen / Select language:". The language selection has two radio buttons: "Deutsch" (selected) and "English". At the bottom, there is a checkbox for "E-Mail Adresse speichern / Save email address:" and a red button labeled "→ Anmelden / Login". The entire form is reflected below it.

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

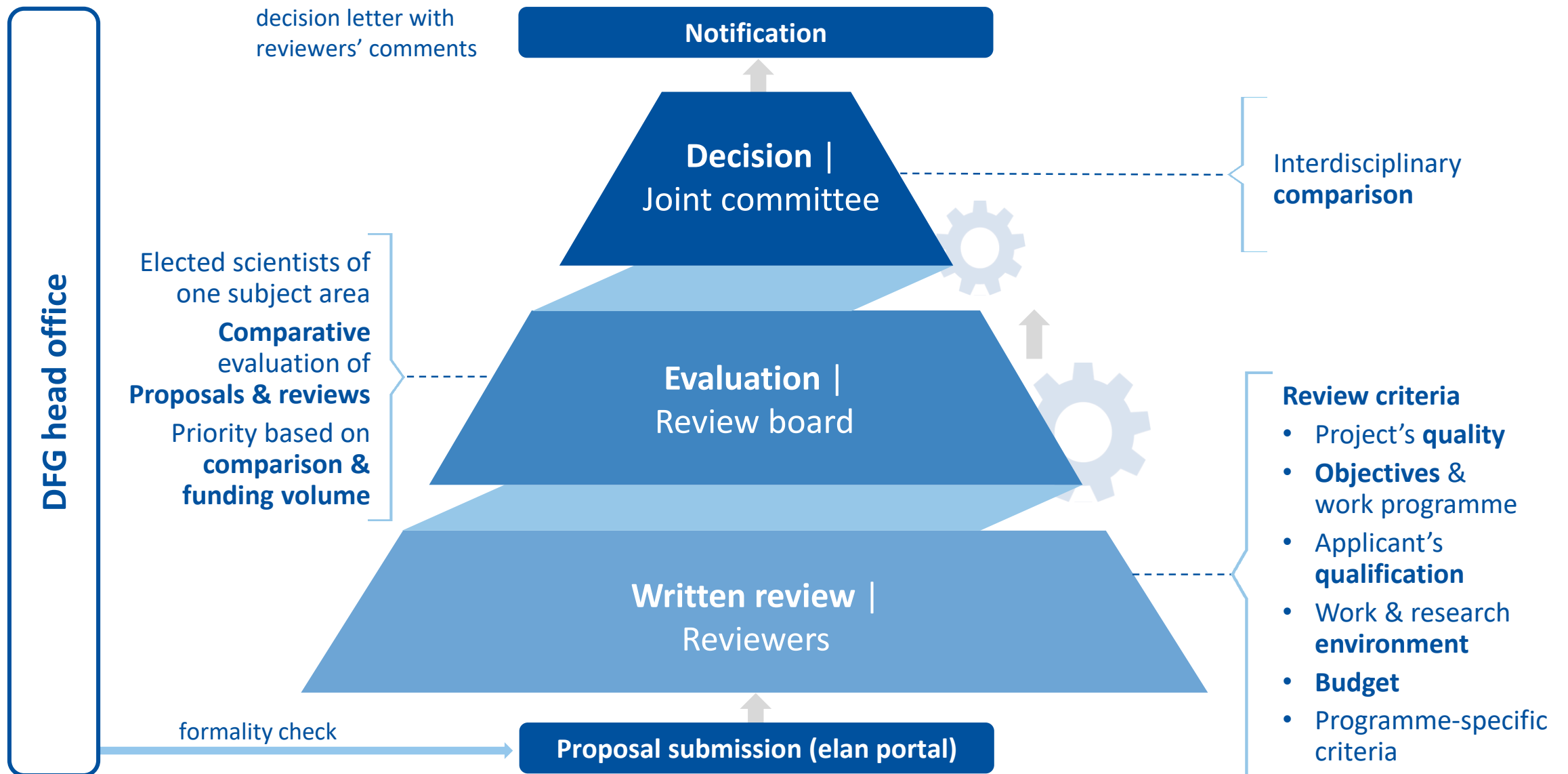
Anmeldung / Login

E-Mail Adresse /
Email address:

Kennwort /
Password:

Sprache wählen /
Select language: ☒ Deutsch
☐ English

E-Mail Adresse speichern /
Save email address: ☐

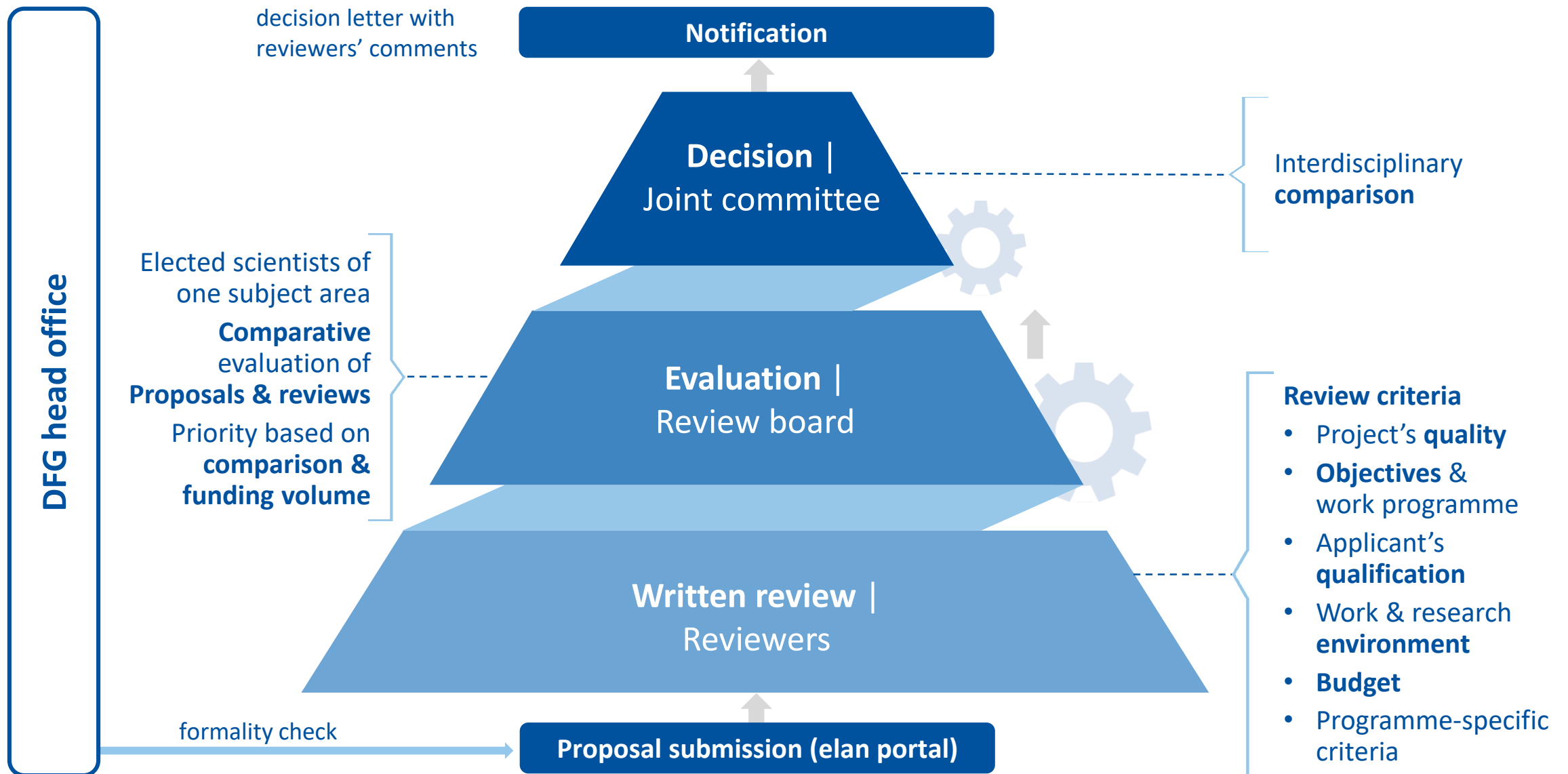




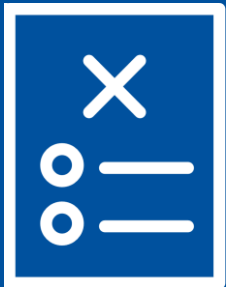
49 Review Boards

Elections every four years
by the community of
~ 150,000 researchers in
Germany





**In case your proposal
is not successful...**



Don't be discouraged

Unfortunately, the majority of proposals cannot be funded.



Take the reviewers's comments seriously, but not personally



Consider the reviewers's comments

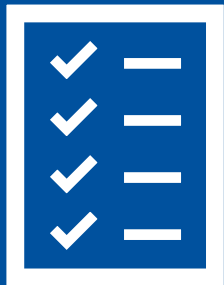
They might give you some pointers for reworking and resubmitting your proposal



Consult the DFG Head Office

If you need advice or feel treated unfairly

**In case your proposal
is successful...**



Congratulations!

Download the decision letter; project starts with first request for funds (within 12 months after decision)



Contact us at an early stage

For setting the start date, relocation, part time work, etc.



Final report

Due three months after project ends. Obligation to submit a report.



More questions?

info-researchcareers@dfg.de

Orientation for early-career researchers:

www.dfg.de/research_careers

Proposal Submission – A How-To Guide:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes

GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects:

gepris.dfg.de/en

Profiles of 25,000 German research institutes:

www.gerit.org

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



www.dfg.de



Bluesky | @dfg.de



Instagram | dfg__public



LinkedIn | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG) – German Research Foundation



Mastodon | @dfg_public



Youtube | @DFGbewegt