



The Heisenberg Programme

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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.

Germany's largest independent research funding organisation

3.9 € billion annual budget

DFG members

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

Independent association

under private law



Funding

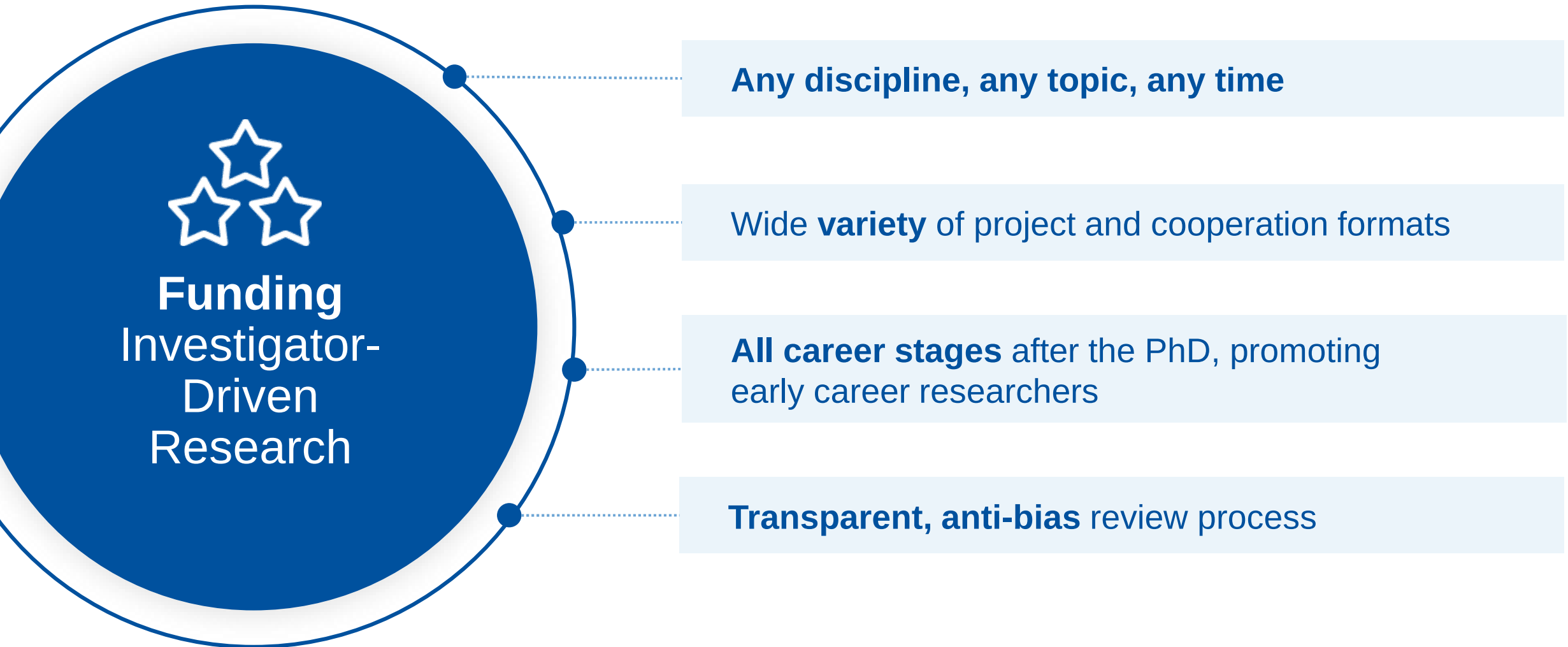
knowledge-driven research

Researchers have the majority

in decision-making committees

DFG's Independence

guarantees academic freedom



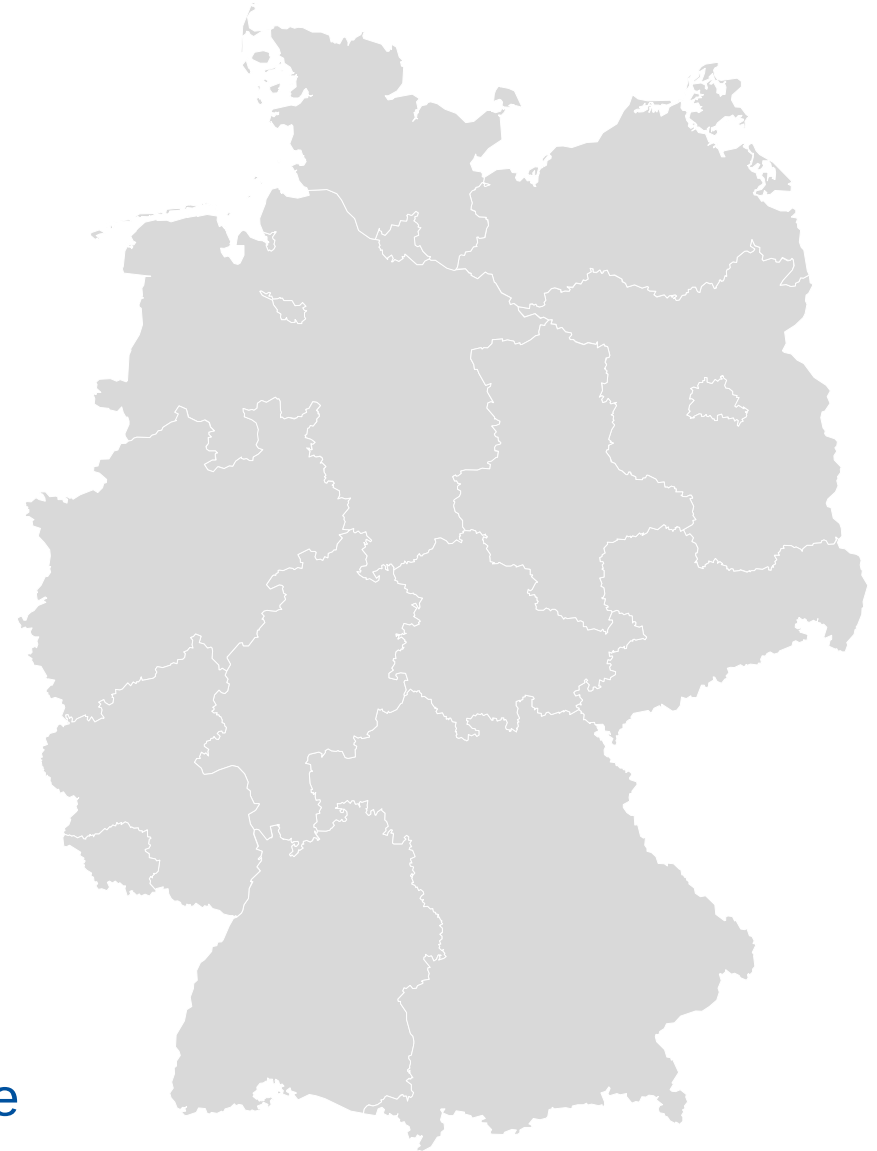
Who is eligible to apply for DFG funding?

Researchers

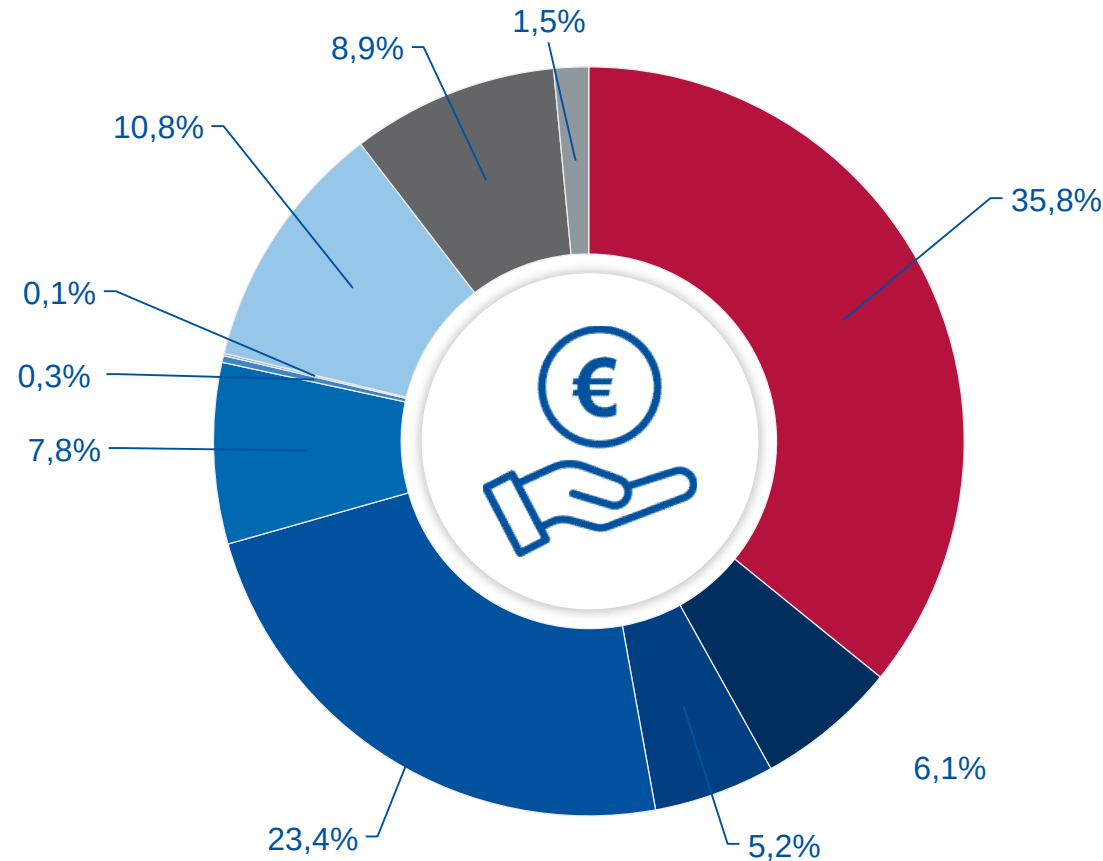
...who have completed their scientific training,
i.e. **who hold a doctorate***

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

*earliest date: upon submission to the examination office



2025 (in Mio. € und %)



- Individual Grants: 1.373,0 Mio. €
- Research Units: 235,0 Mio. €
- Priority Programmes: 200,9 Mio. €
- Collaborative Research Centers: 897,1 Mio. €
- Research Training Groups: 298,2 Mio. €
- Research Impulses: 12,9 Mio. €
- DFG Research Centers: 5,0 Mio. €
- Excellence Strategy: 413,3 Mio. €
- Infrastructure funds: 342,9 Mio. €
- Prizes, Other: 57,7 Mio. €



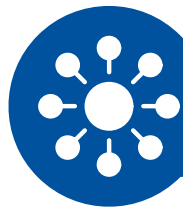
Walter Benjamin
Programme



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



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
€313 (fellowship) or
€1,000 (position/
professorship) per month

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

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





Heisenberg fellowship



Heisenberg professorship



Heisenberg position



Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

+ flexible research funding or a general allowance (fellowship)



Heisenberg fellowship

- Research at an academic institution in Germany or another country
- Fellowship (currently €4.450 per month) + general allowance (€313 per month) + childcare allowance + foreign allowance
- Required documents: A declaration issued by the host institution confirming the position and the core support specific to the project



Heisenberg position

- Position (E 14 Stufe 5 to E 15 Stufe 4) und flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Research at an academic institution in Germany or a German academic institution in another country (e.g. Max Planck Institute in Italy)
- Research stay(s) at foreign academic institutions outside of Germany possible for a maximum of 1/3 of the funding duration (usually 20 months)
- Required documents: Arbeitgebererklärung (DFG form 41.04; only available in German)



Heisenberg professorship

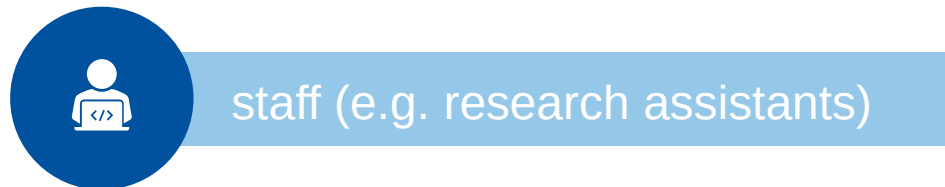
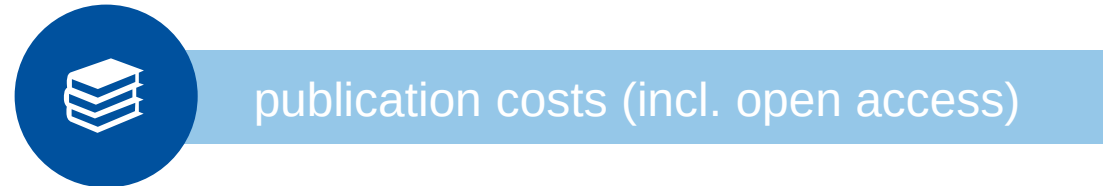
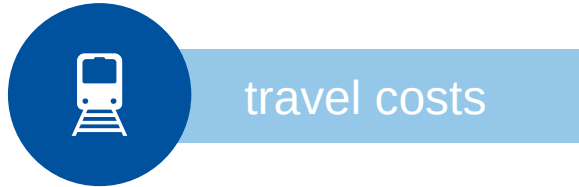
- Temporary professorship (W2 or W3) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- The university provides a binding statement that after the DFG funding period it will transfer the Heisenberg professorship permanently to its own budget (in case of positive DFG and an optional university mid-term evaluation)
- Required documents: proof of appointment (e.g. a declaration issued by the employing institution or a certificate of appointment); declaration regarding the continuation of the professorship; declaration regarding the core support specific to the project



Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

- Funds for temporary substitute (Ä 1 Stufe 2 to Ä 2 Stufe 1) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Substitute staff takes over the patient-care responsibilities for the Heisenberg position holder; Heisenberg position holder may work full-time or part-time (at least 49%) on the Heisenberg project
- Required documents: informal letter from current institution (confirming the existing employment relationship and release from patient care); the academic institution must confirm the specific core support required for the project

Flexible research funding – Examples



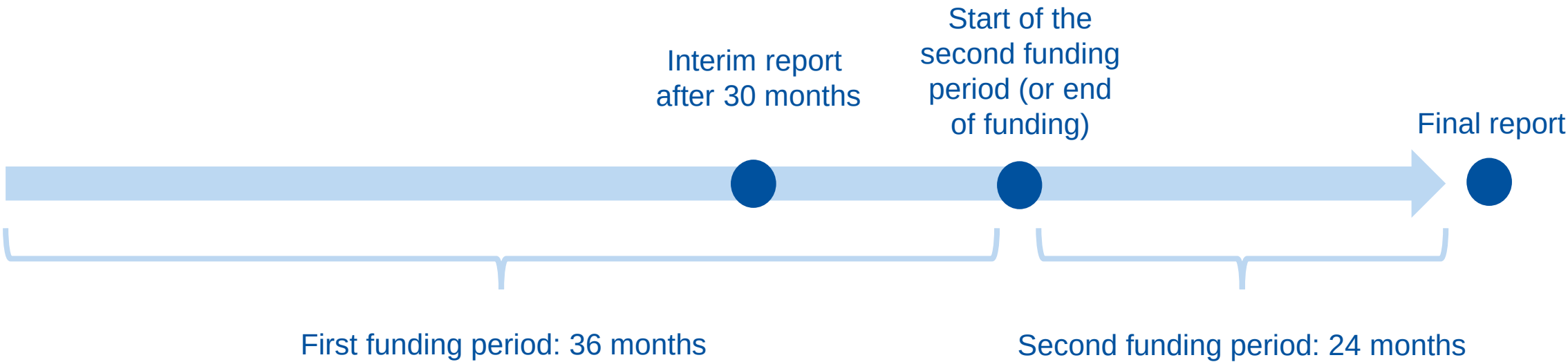
Additional funding for publication costs



Should the appropriate publication of your research findings made within the context of the Heisenberg grant call for a book format with high production costs, you may apply for additional funding of up to €5,000 per year. The request must be justified accordingly.

→ Cannot be used for open access publishing fees!

Total duration: 5 years (60 months)



Emmy Noether Programme
(or other group leaders)

Junior professors
(with positive
evaluations)

Foreign researchers

**Researchers who meet
all the requirements for
appointment to a long-
term professorship**

Completed habilitation

Qualifications equivalent to a
habilitation
(z.B. publication record, list
placement for a professorship
etc.)

(DFG financed-) post doc positions



Not eligible

- Tenure track professors (in Germany)
- Those with positions equivalent to W2/W3 (positions in Germany)



Other permanent positions (e.g. Akademische Rätin or Akademischer Rat) do not impede the eligibility

Permanent professors (e.g. associate professors) from abroad are eligible as long as they have not achieved a full professorship yet

**Guidelines Heisenberg
Programme**
(form 50.03)

**Proposal Preparation
Instructions**
(form 54.02)

Project Description
(form 53.19)



Project description

Academic profile

What have you worked on so far?

What qualifies you for a long-term professorship?

Research project(s)

Which projects would you like to work on during the Heisenberg funding period?



Interruptions

- You may pause for a maximum of one year



Part-time

- Reduction possible (up to 50% of a full-time position)
- In cases of illness, childcare or other family care duties

→ Important: The DFG must approve your interruption/part-time plans in advance



Extensions

- The Heisenberg funding cannot be extended
- Exception: cost-neutral extension if cases of interruption/part-time



- You may submit your application any time
- In German or English
- Via the DFG's [elan-Portal](#)
- Processing your application takes around 8 months



► Which Heisenberg funding type are you aiming for?



► At which university/research institution would you like to work?

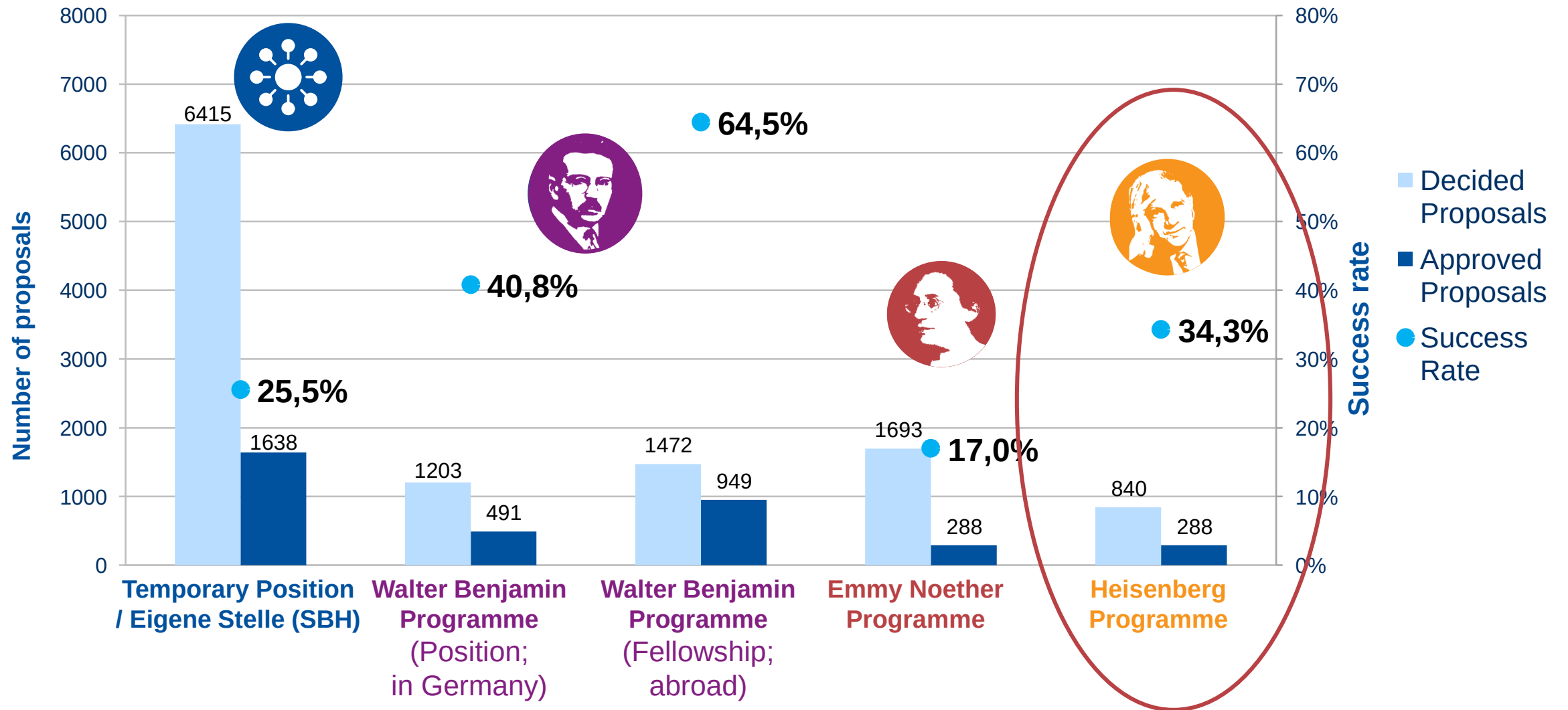


- Submission of your application
- Are you applying for an Individual Research Grant as well?



- Choosing your Heisenberg funding type (max. 6 months after receiving the congratulations letter)
- Starting your grant (max. 12 months after receiving the congratulations letter)

Numbers of Proposals and Success Rates* in Programmes for ECR (aggregated; 2022 to 2025)



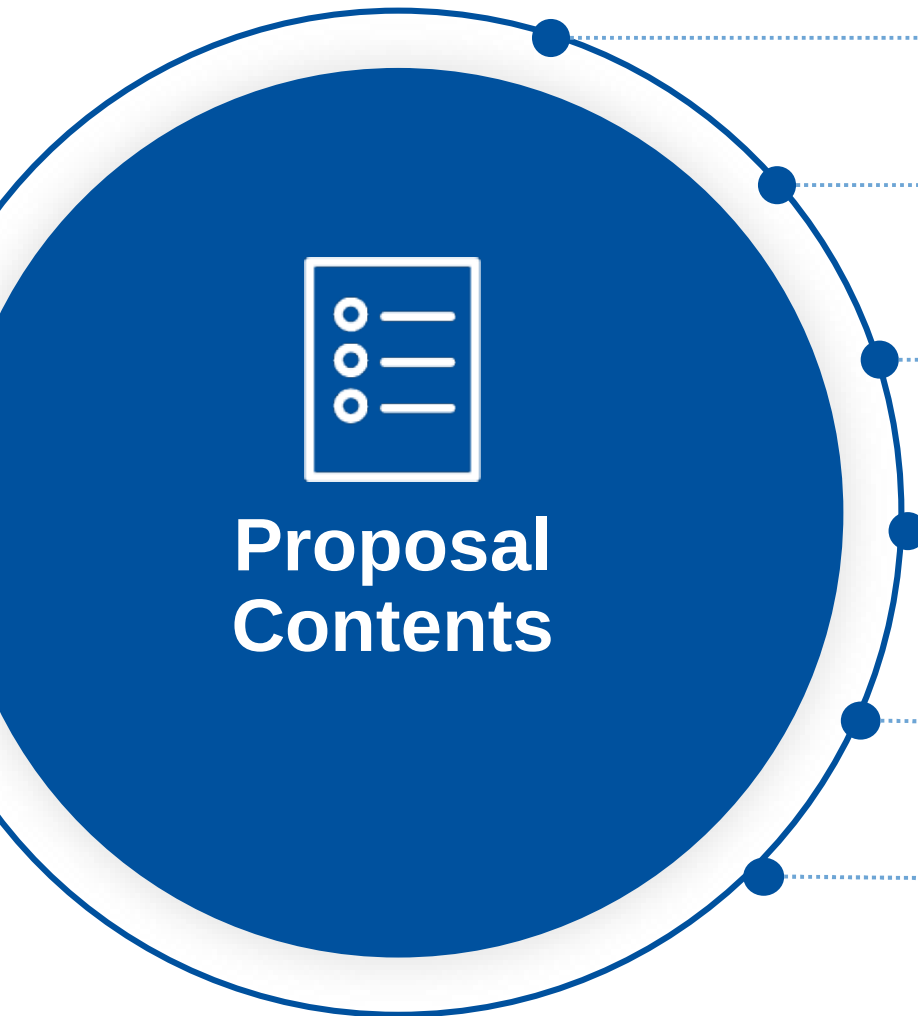


From Submission to Decision



Tips

- Necessary info can be found on the DFG website
- Carefully read and follow the guidelines and proposal instructions
- Decide on the proposal **language**: English or German
- Seek **honest criticism** from colleagues
- Put yourself in the **reviewers' shoes**
 - Consult the "General Guidelines for the Written Review" for reviewers
 - Write the proposal in a self-explanatory manner
- Plan on a **feasible timeline**
- **Communicate openly with the DFG Head Office**, i.e. if a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists



What is the knowledge gap you would like to fill?

Why are the expected results novel and relevant?

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

How are you going to manage setbacks / what's your plan b?

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

Why is the host institution ideal for your project?



Preparing your CV



Use the [DFG CV Template](#)



Include qualifications, activities, engagement & awards

also: organization of scientific meetings, review activities, supervision experience...



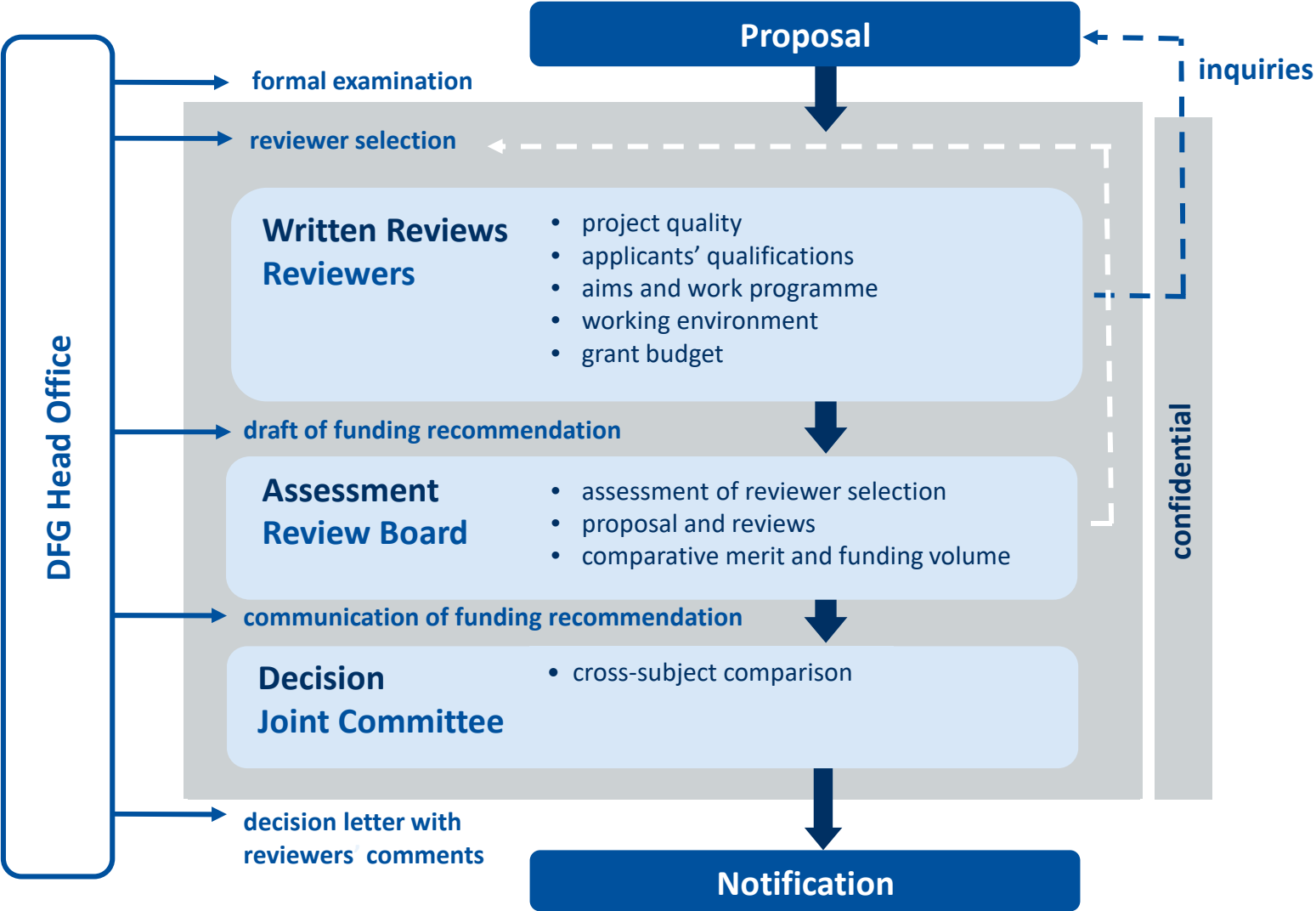
Mention time away from research

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



List your scientific contributions

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



Questions? Ask for support



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>



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



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