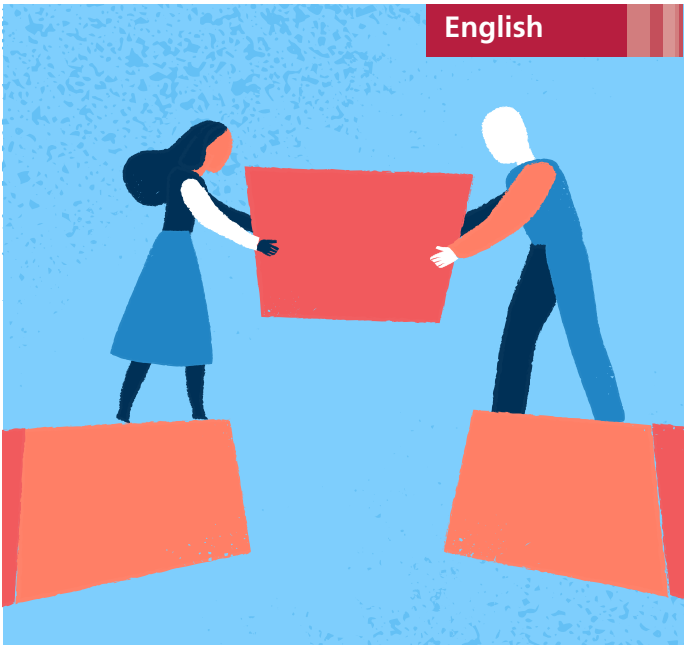
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

English



# Building Links to Academic Research in Germany

## Funding Opportunities for International Cooperation

DFG

# About Us

**The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the largest self-governing funding organisation for basic research in Germany and in Europe.**

With an annual budget of roughly 3.6 billion euros, provided primarily by the German federal and state governments, the DFG promotes the advancement of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating cooperation among researchers. The DFG supports approximately 32,000 individual and coordinated research projects that have been selected through a rigorous peer-review process.

The DFG's mandate also includes encouraging the advancement of early career researchers, promoting gender equality in the German scientific and academic communities, providing scientific policy advice, and fostering relations with the private sector and between scientists and academics in Germany and abroad. The DFG's member organisations include research universities, major non-university research institutions, such as the Max Planck Society, the Fraunhofer Society, and the Leibniz Association, the Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and a number of scientific associations.



*"International cooperation in science-led research is crucial for a peaceful, knowledge-driven world."*

**DFG-President Prof. Katja Becker** in front of the UN Headquaters, New York City

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## International Representation of the DFG




The DFG is a member of German Centres for Research and Innovation (DWIH) board of trustees. The DWIH increase the visibility of German innovation leaders around the world, raise awareness of the German science, research and innovation landscape, advise scientists in Germany and the host countries, and connect actors at the local level. DFG is highly engaged in all six DWIH, i.e. in New York, San Francisco, São Paulo, New Delhi, Tokyo and Moscow (even though the DFG office is no longer in operation).

German Centres for Research and Innovation

# Funding International Research

**The DFG enables cross-border cooperation between researchers and supports collaboration with international partners throughout the complete DFG funding portfolio. The DFG also has many joint calls for cooperative research projects with partner organizations in Europe and beyond.**

▶ www.dfg.de/announcements_proposals

DFG support for projects with international partners is generally based on the principle of mutual responsibility. Researchers working in Germany apply to the DFG, while their partners abroad apply for funding at their respective partner organisations.

The DFG offers funding for both individual and collaborative research projects. Approximately 36 percent of all DFG funds are allocated to the Individual Research Grants Programme. Under this programme, any researcher holding a doctorate is eligible to apply for funding for a proposed research project to be carried out at a German university.

The DFG´s coordinated programmes involve more than one principal investigator and promote cooperation through national and international collaboration by concentrating resources and integrating partners from outside the university.

*The programmes outlined in this brochure are just a few of the DFG´s many funding opportunities.*

▶ www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes

# International Research Funding Options at a Glance

## Special Programmes

- Initiation of International Collaboration
- Scientific Networks

## Project Proposals by Individuals

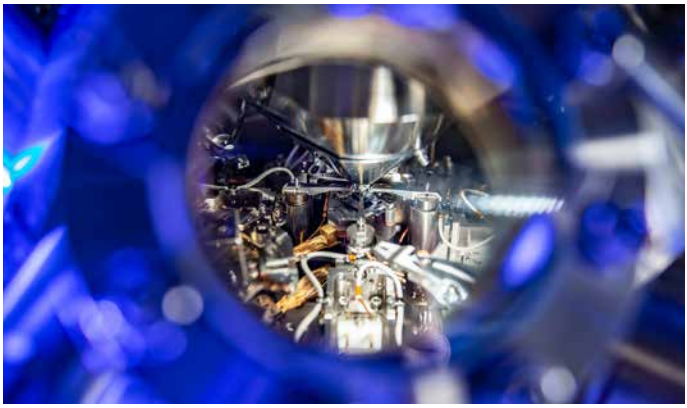
- Research Grants Programme/ Temporary Position Module
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme

## Collaborative Institutional Proposals

- International Research Training Groups (IRTG)
- Collaborative Research Centres (CRC)
- Clusters of Excellence (EXC)

## Finding Cooperation Possibilities in Germany

- GEPRIS
- GERiT
- Research in Germany



# Special Programmes

## Initiation of International Collaboration

In order to initiate international cooperative projects or joint proposals, the DFG provides funding for preparatory trips and/or workshops through this programme. Applications are submitted by the German partner.

**Support**

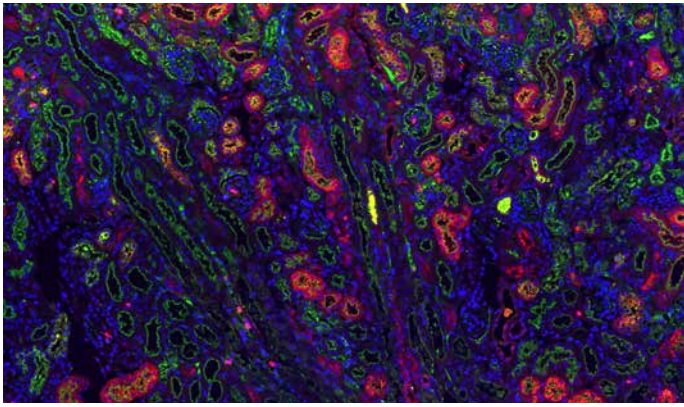
- Funding for incoming and/or outgoing short research visits
- Funding for costs related to a workshop
- Cost categories may be co-financed by a foreign partner organisation if an appropriate agreement exists

**Duration**

- Max. 3 months for research visits; all activities, such as joint workshops, must take place within a 12-month period

**More information**

- Proposals may be submitted at any time. We recommend to apply for funds no later than six months before the planned start of the project.
- www.dfg.de/international



Additional funding to enable cooperative research projects with scientists in **developing countries** can be applied for in all DFG programmes.
► www.dfg.de/coop_developing_countries

## Scientific Networks

Scientific Networks generally consist of 10 to 20 researchers who seek to engage in multi-year scientific exchange and cooperation on a research topic of their choice across locations with a specific objective. The programme is open to researchers at all career stages and promotes national and international networking.

Members of the network must not all belong to the same research institution. Up to half of the members may be based in research systems outside Germany.

**Who can apply**

- Researchers in Germany, or those working at a German research institution abroad

**Support**

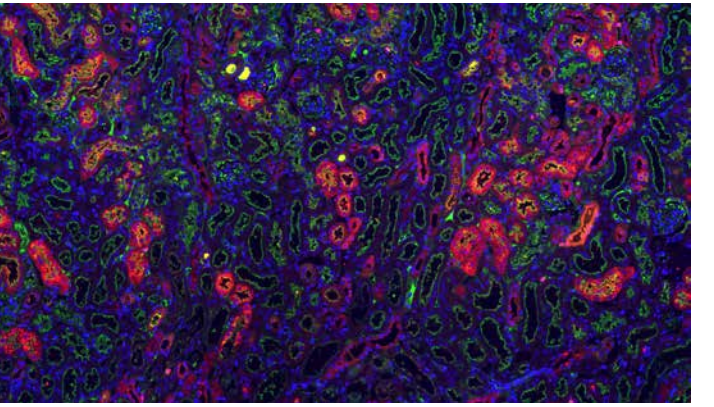
- Funding may include travel costs, publication expenses, support for meetings and coordination

**Duration**

- 3 years

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/scientific_networks



# Project Proposals by Individuals

**The DFG offers funding for both individual and collaborative research projects. Approximately 35 percent of all DFG funds are allocated to the Individual Research Grants Programme. Under this programme, any researcher holding a doctorate is eligible to apply for funding for a proposed research project to be carried out at a German university.**

## Research Grants Programme

The research grant enables scientists and academics to carry out a research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited time period. It is the most flexible grant programme and it has no submission deadline. In many cases, this programme can be used to fund the German side of an international collaborative project.

**Support**

- Funding may include staff, consumables, lab equipment, publication costs, travel expenses and allowance for visiting researchers from abroad

**Duration**

- Up to 3 years with the possibility of a renewal for up to 3 years

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/research_grants
  Additional funding to enable cooperative research projects with scientists in developing countries can be applied for in the Research Grants Programme.
- www.dfg.de/coop_developing_countries

**Temporary Position Module**

Special case: Research Grants with Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

This module includes funding for a position (i.e. a salary) for foreign researchers to come to Germany for a self-structured research project. It offers a special option for researchers as they can apply for this programme from inside or outside Germany. Projects funded within this programme line must be located at German (host) institutions. The support and commitment of these institutions is mandatory for a proposal.

## Mercator Fellows

Fellowships enable intensive, long-term, project-based collaboration between researchers from both domestic and foreign institutions. German researchers apply for the Mercator Module to include their foreign partners. Although Mercator Fellows are on-site for only part of the project, they remain in contact with the project team members once their research stay is over. Foreign Mercator Fellowship holders are awarded the title of Mercator Fellows in recognition of their dedication.

**Mercator Fellowships can be applied for within the following programmes:**

- Research Grants Programme
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Research Training Groups
- Collaborative Research Centres
- Further programmes – see www.dfg.de/en

**Support**

- In addition to an allowance to cover travel expenses, fellows may receive a salary for their work. The amount depends on the fellows' qualifications; it may not exceed the level of the personnel cost category for professors.

**Duration**

- Usually between 6 to 12 months



## Emmy Noether Programme

The Emmy Noether Programme enables outstanding early career researchers to rapidly qualify for leading positions in science and research or for a university teaching career by heading an Emmy Noether Group and assuming relevant teaching duties.

**Who can apply**

- Excellent researchers in early career phases from all disciplines with postdoctoral experience of at least 2 years and normally up to 4 years (medical researchers: up to 6 years) and with substantial international research experience
- Foreign applicants are eligible if they intend to continue their scientific career in Germany

**Support**

- Funding for an Emmy Noether Group including expenses for personnel and consumables

**Duration**

- 6 years

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en



## Heisenberg Programme

The Heisenberg Programme enables advanced researchers to carry on with high-quality research at an institution of choice to prepare for a future senior academic role and continue building an academic reputation. Under the Heisenberg Programme, applicants can select between the following four funding types or combine them during a five-year funding period:

- Heisenberg Professorship
- Heisenberg Position
- Heisenberg Temporary Substitute for Clinicians
- Heisenberg Fellowship

**Who can apply**

- Outstanding researchers who qualify for a professorship by holding a habilitation or equivalent qualification
- Tenured faculty members are not eligible to apply

**Support**

- Professorship: Salary equivalent to the professor level in Germany, flexible research funding
- Position: Salary equivalent to a junior research group leader position, flexible research funding
- Temporary Substitute for Clinicians: Funding for a replacement, flexible research funding
- Fellowship: Fellowship grant, allowance for direct project costs

**Duration**

- Max. 5 years

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en



## Walter Benjamin Programme

The Walter Benjamin Programme enables researchers in the postdoctoral training phase to independently conduct their own research project for the purpose of fostering their scientific mobility and thematic development.

The project can be carried out at a research institution in Germany (Walter Benjamin Position) and/or abroad (Walter Benjamin Fellowship); scientifically guided by an experienced colleague who provides the applicant with academic support.

**Who can apply**

- Postdoctoral researchers in the early stages of their career. The guideline is the EU definition of "recognised researcher" (R2), to be developed according to the specific subject area.
- Application is possible once the doctoral thesis has been submitted to the examination office.

**Support**

- The position amount is made up of the remuneration for the applicant and a standard monthly allowance for direct project costs.
- The fellowship amount is made up of the basic allowance, a standard monthly allowance for direct project costs and a foreign allowance (depending on the chosen country). The host institution is expected to provide you with a workplace and the additional funds necessary to carry out the project.

**Duration**

- Max. 2 years

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin/en


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↳C84
277.76
↳C85
278.90
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281
282

# Collaborative Institutional Proposals

**The DFG's coordinated programmes involve more than one PI and promote cooperation through national and international collaboration by concentrating resources and integrating partners from outside the university.**

## International Research Training Groups (IRTGs)

IRTGs provide opportunities for joint doctoral training programmes between German universities and universities abroad.

**Who can apply**

- To establish an IRTG, 5–10 faculty members are needed on each side (Germany, abroad) who want to collaborate on an interdisciplinary research focus with a joint programme
- Once the IRTG is established, doctoral researchers and postdocs apply directly to the programme

**Support**

- IRTGs offer funding to doctoral researchers, postdocs, visiting researchers, and research students, and cover expenses for travel, workshops, small equipment, consumables, coordination, etc.

**Duration**

- Max. 9 years with two funding periods (5 and 4 years)
- 4-year terms for doctoral positions, including stays between 6 and 12 months at partner institutions

**Preparatory Workshops**

- Prior consultation with DFG Head Office recommended
- Funding for a preparatory workshop can be applied for

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/gk/en



## Collaborative Research Centres (CRC)

CRC are established at universities for a period of up to 12 years and enable researchers to pursue an outstanding research programme, crossing the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments and faculties.

**Who can apply**

- Up to three German universities submit a proposal to establish a long-term university-based research institution
- Once the CRC is established, doctoral researchers, postdocs and senior researchers can apply directly to the programme

**Support**

- Travel, colloquia and Mercator Fellowships for the purposes of maintaining international contacts and presenting findings to an international audience
- Additional funding to develop project-like collaborative structures, including long-term cooperation projects with comparable centres abroad
- Scientists and academics can also lead projects within the CRC abroad; funding is usually provided by an international partner organisation

**Duration**

- Max. 12 years (three 4-year funding periods) for Collaborative Research Centres

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/sfb/en



## Clusters of Excellence (EXC)

Clusters of Excellence is a funding line by the German federal and state governments within the Excellence Strategy programme to further strengthen the international competitiveness of research at German universities through project-based funding for a period of up to 14 years.

**Who can apply**

- Clusters of Excellence are applied for by universities or university consortia by submitting a proposal and are formed by up to 25 principle investigators with the aim of collaborating in a specific research field
- International individual and/or institutions such as external researchers, non-university research institutions, other higher education institutions and also institutions from the private sector or other sectors of society can be involved as cooperation partners
- Once the EXC is established, researchers can apply directly to the programme

**Support**

- Staff directly employed in the project such as new professorships, heads of independent junior research groups, doctoral researchers, postdocs and research students, as well as consumables, publication expenses, small instrumentation etc.
- Travel, colloquia and visiting researchers for the purposes of creating and maintaining international contacts, attract international staff and presenting findings to an international audience

**Duration**

- Max. 14 years (two 7-year funding periods) for Clusters of Excellence

**More information**

- www.dfg.de/excellence_strategy

## Programmes by Career Stage

The DFG offers researchers appropriate funding options at each career stage

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/index.html

| | BA/MA | Doctorate | Postdoc | Early Career Researcher | Senior Researcher |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heisenberg | | | | | Heisenberg Fellow |
| | | | | | Heisenberg Professor |
| Emmy Noether | Student assistant in project | Position in project | Position in project | Junior research group leader | Mercator Fellow |
| Research Grant | Student assistant in project | Position in project | Principal investigator | Principal investigator | Principal investigator/ Mercator Fellow |
| Initiation of International Cooperation | Student assistant in project | Position in project | Position in project | Position in project | Mercator Fellow |
| International Research Training Groups | Student assistant in project | Research Training Group fellowship | Position in project | Position in project | Mercator Fellow |
| Collaborative Research Centres | Student assistant in project | Position in project | Position in project | Position in project | Mercator Fellow |

# Finding Cooperation Possibilities in Germany

**Looking for general information and guidelines for DFG funding programmes?**

- ▶ www.dfg.de/en/research_funding
- ▶ www.dfg.de/en/funded_projects

**Interested in finding out more about our peer review and selection process?**

- ▶ www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/proposal-funding-process

**Looking to find current DFG-funded projects within your field of interest?**

- ▶ www.dfg.de/en/gepris

*GEPRIS (German Project Information System) is an online database made available by the DFG to provide information on current DFG-funded research projects.*

**Looking for partners to cooperate with in Germany?**

- ▶ www.gerit.org/en

*GERiT is an information portal on German research institutions provided by the DFG in partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).*

GERiT
German Research Institutions

**Interested in further information about the German Research Landscape?**

- ▶ www.research-in-germany.org

*The initiative "Research in Germany – Land of Ideas" was launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in 2006 to promote Germany worldwide as an outstanding research location. It presents Germany as a country of research and innovation and creates a forum for international cooperation. The "Research in Germany" website provides detailed information on PhD, research, funding and collaboration opportunities in Germany.*

AN INITIATIVE OF THE

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Research in Germany
Land of Ideas

www.research-in-germany.org

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