



DFG



Funding Programmes for Early Career Scientists

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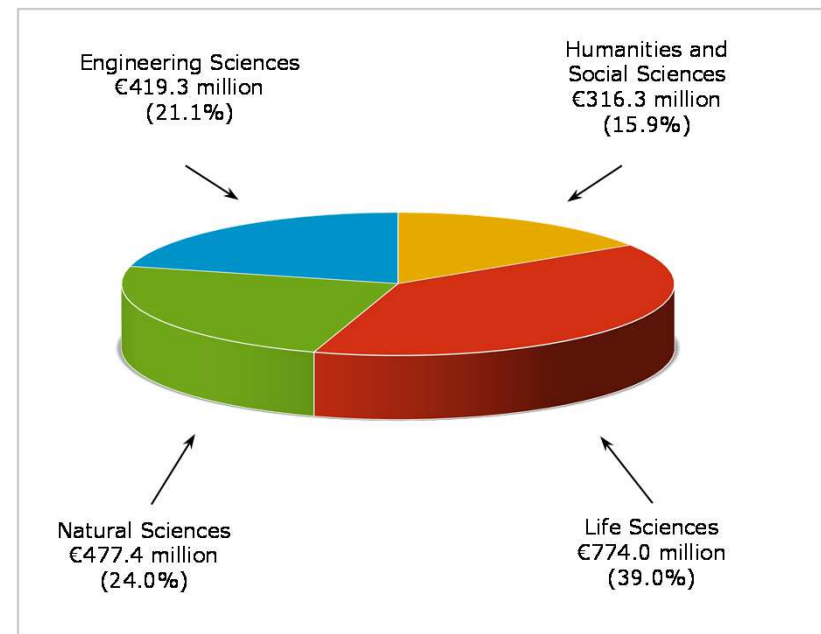
What is the DFG?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

The DFG

- Is a **self-governing organisation** for science and research in Germany (not a government agency)
- DFG members are the **German universities** and Germany's **large research organizations**
- serves **all branches of science and the humanities**

Funding in 2013, by scientific discipline



What are the DFG's aims?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

DFG aims

- ensure the best possible support for outstanding scientists and **young researchers**
- Funds knowledge-oriented research without stipulation of topics and utilises competition to select the best projects in terms of **scientific quality**
- keep **Germany future-oriented** and **internationally competitive** as a scientific location



How are Early Career scientists promoted?

Across the board through

- ▶ Individual Grants
- ▶ Research Units
- ▶ Priority Programmes
- ▶ Collaborative Research Centres
- ▶ Research Training Groups
- ▶ International Research Training Groups
- ▶ Graduate Schools
- ▶ Clusters of Excellence



How are Early Career scientist promoted?

Through numerous custom-tailored funding programmes

These include

- ▶ **Workshops for Early Career Investigators** („Nachwuchsakademie“)
- ▶ **research fellowships**, which provide postdoctoral researchers with funding for a maximum two-year research period abroad
- ▶ **Grand proposal** (“Sachbeihilfe”), which includes **temporary positions for principal investigators**,
- ▶ Excellence programme: **Emmy Noether programme**



Workshops for Early Career Investigators

Overview

- ▶ is a strategic funding instrument for established researchers
- ▶ to address a perceived lack of early career researchers in their field

Purpose

- ▶ to prepare early career researchers for carrying out their own research projects independently
- ▶ to encourage them to lead their first projects and raise third-party funding



Workshops for Early Career Investigators

Process

Phase 1: Workshop organised by the coordination team:
- National and international experts give advice to the participants on how to design a grant proposal



Mentored by experienced researches

Phase 2: DFG proposal of limited duration (1 year) and volume (75.000 €)
Deadline: 1.september 2015
Review panel: november 2015
Joint committee: Funding decision, presumably in December 2015/January 2016



Apply for DFG or other third party Funding Programmes

Workshops for Early Career Investigators

Phase 2: DFG project proposal of limited duration and volume

Purpose of such a project

- ▶ to give early career researchers the opportunity to start investigating a topic
- ▶ to conduct pilot studies or preliminary work
- ▶ young researchers should be enabled to submit grant proposals that build on their previous work

Type and Extent of Funding

- ▶ Your own position („Eigene Stelle“)
- ▶ Temporary substitutes for Clinicians („Rotationsstelle“)
- ▶ Direct project costs e.g. consumables, animal costs (purchase, breeding, keeping), travel costs, publication costs

Workshops for Early Career Investigators

What are the DFG's selection criteria?

DFG reviewers judge proposals according to

- ▶ scientific quality of the project (innovative, originality, soundness of preliminary work)
- ▶ applicants' qualifications
- ▶ aims and work programme (clear working hypothesis, reasonable limitation of the topic, appropriateness of the methods, feasibility)
- ▶ employment opportunities (staff, institutional, room and instrument requirements and resources)
- ▶ planned allocation of funding
- ▶ quality and added value of cooperation



Workshops for Early Career Investigators

Preparing a grant proposal

- ▶ Consider your proposal from the reviewers' perspective
- ▶ Prepare and plan your project well
- ▶ Start with smaller projects
- ▶ Read the guidelines carefully
 - All relevant information can be found on **www.dfg.de**
 - If you have questions, ask for advice (call us!)
- ▶ Ask a colleague to read your proposal before submission



Workshops for Early Career Investigators

Proposal Preparation instructions

A proposal consists of three parts:

A - Proposal Data and Obligations

Information on the project, participating individuals, summary of the project, funds overview

B – Project Description

1. State of the art and preliminary work
2. Objectives and work programme
3. List of literature, only the work you cite in your presentation
4. Requested modules/funds
5. Project requirements (composition of project group, cooperation partners, equipment)
6. Additional information (mention, if you submit the proposal to another third party)

C- Appendices

CV, statement from the host institutions, commitment of cooperation partners

Proposals can only submitted via elan

**Proposal
Preparation
Instructions**

DFG-form 54.01

A successful DFG proposal....

- ▶ is well prepared and refers to preliminary data or existing publications
- ▶ is specific and concise (20 pages max!)
- ▶ is hypothesis driven
- ▶ is not overloaded
- ▶ presents a comprehensible experimental strategy with alternative options!
- ▶ marks milestones for the funding period and relates to „bigger“ questions in the field or long-term goals
- ▶ refers in the budget plan to the existing infrastructure
- ▶ provides conclusive justification for requested funds



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Research Fellowship

Overview

Purpose

- to carry out a defined research project abroad in order to learn new scientific methods or to complete a larger project

Who can apply?

- Postdoctoral graduates
-“integrated” in the German system

Duration

- Usually up to two years

Deadline for application

- No deadline

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Gießen, 07.05.2015



Research Fellowship Review Criteria

▶ **Qualification of the applicant**

- What has the applicant accomplished in his/her career and area of research, one first authorship
- Is the applicant qualified to pursue the project based on his/her track record?

▶ **Qualification of the host institution**

- Are the host institution and the research environment suitable?

▶ **Quality of the project**

- How do you assess the scientific originality and feasibility of the project?

Research Fellowship

Type and Extent of Funding

▶ e.g. USA – New York (applicant single, 31 years)

basic fellowshsip	1.750, -
direct project costs	250, -
foreign allowance	1.216, -
cost of living allowance	177,96
	<hr/>
	3.393,96 €

+ travel allowance

+ publication costs

+ child allowance

+ support for costs associated with supplemental childcare

+ travel support for establishing scientific contacts in Germany

+ moving allowance

+ return grants

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Research Grant („Sachbeihilfe“)

Overview

Purpose

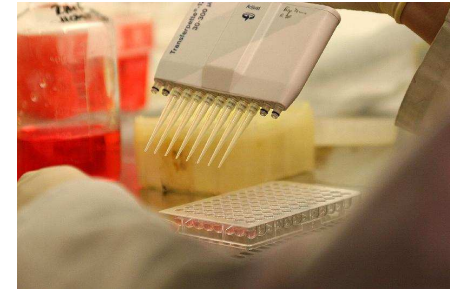
- to carry out a thematically defined research project within a specific time frame

Who can apply?

- Researchers of all disciplines
 - who hold a doctorate degree and
 - who want to work independently at a German research institution

Duration

- Project-specific, max. for three years, renewal proposal possible
- No deadlines



Research Grant

Type and Extent of Funding

➤ Basic Module

- funding for staff
- consumables
- lab equipment
- travel costs
- experimental animals (purchase, breeding, keeping)
- publication costs



➤ Temporary Position for Principle Investigators (Eigene Stelle)

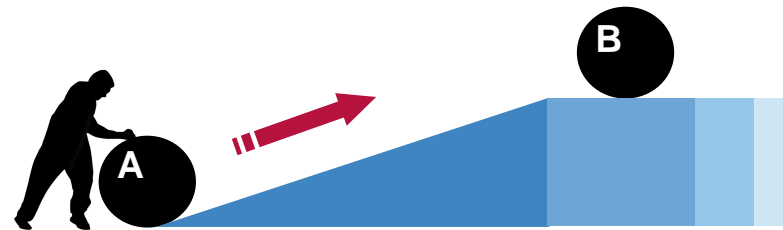
➤ Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians („Rotationsstelle“)

Research Grant

First-time application – “DFG-Erstantrag”

First-time application

- Label research grant application as “First time application” if you have never applied at DFG and are at the beginning of your research career
- Major evaluation criteria:
 - ➔ Quality of the proposed project
 - ➔ Applicant’s scientific potential
- Applicant’s scientific achievements need not necessarily be project-specific



Emmy Noether Programme: Excellence Programm

Starting an independent research group

Purpose

- to provide highly qualified early career researchers the opportunity to rapidly qualify for a leading position in science and research

Who can apply?

- highly qualified postdoctoral researchers
- as a rule two years of postdoctoral experience
- generally up to 4 years after obtaining a doctorate (6 years for a medical doctor)
- substantial international research experience, (at least 12 month abroad)



Emmy Noether Programme

Starting an independent research group

Where?

- at a German university or research institute (host becomes employer)

How long?

- 5 years
- evaluation after 3 years

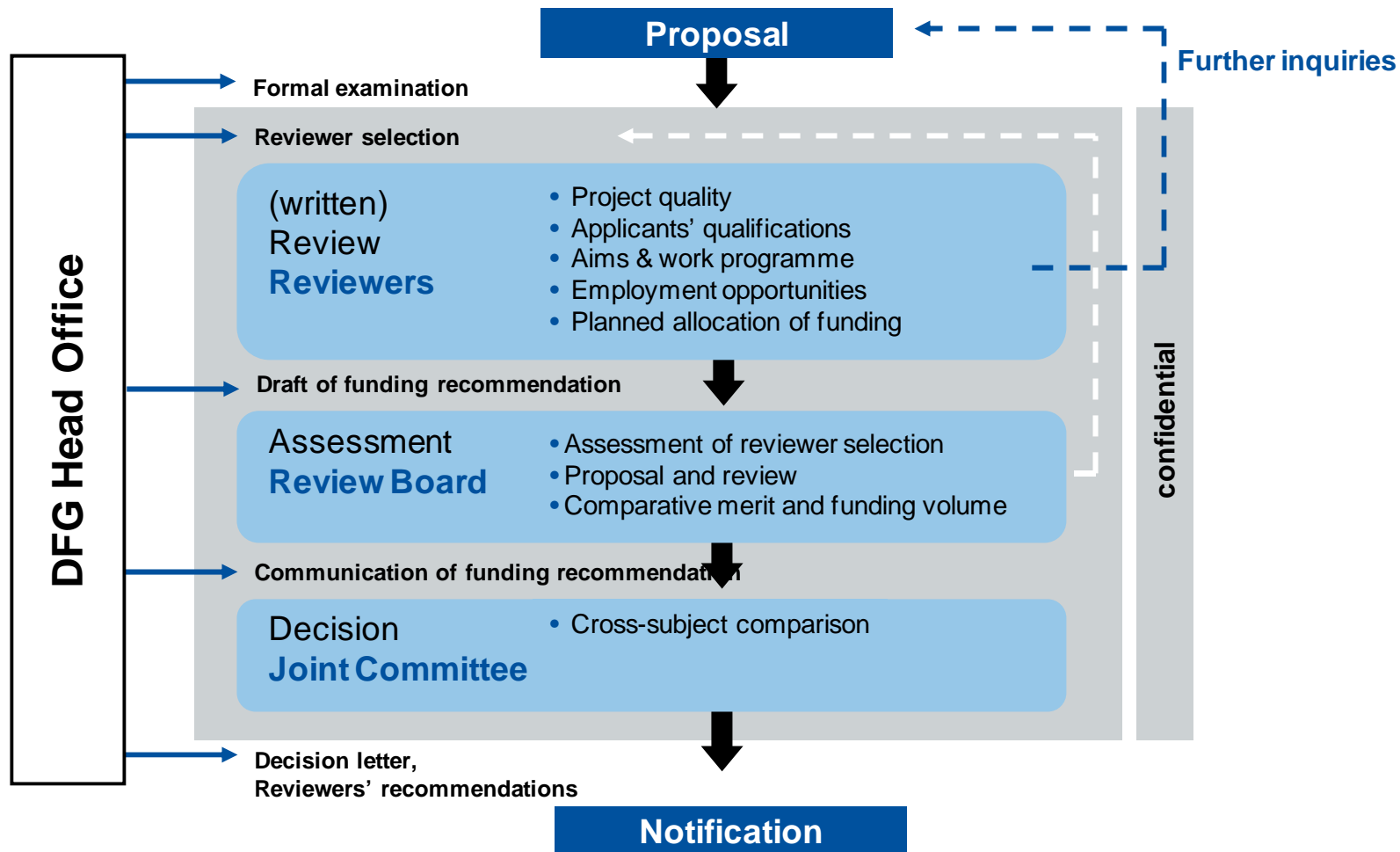
How much?

- own position as research group leader (TV-L E15)
- additional personnel, consumables, lab equipment, travel costs; publication costs etc.



How does the decision-making process work?

Individual grants involve reviewers, a review board & the Joint Committee





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Thank you for your attention

For more information

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- ▶ on the DFG: www.dfg.de/en/
- ▶ on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/

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What does the DFG fund?

The DFG funds projects in all fields of science and the humanities. It receives funding proposals for

- ▶ individual projects
- ▶ coordinated research projects
- ▶ research infrastructure
- ▶ scientific contacts



www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes

What does the DFG fund?

The DFG offers funding for individual researchers through

- ▶ Research Grants (with publication funding)
- ▶ Scientific Networks
- ▶ Research Fellowships
- ▶ Emmy-Noether-Programme
- ▶ Heisenberg-Programme
- ▶ Reinhart Koselleck Projects
- ▶ Clinical Trials
- ▶ Workshops for Early Career Investigators



Researchers who have completed their academic training are eligible to submit project proposals with a defined thematic focus and project duration.

Within the Individual Grants Programme the DFG pays particular attention to ensuring its statutory mandate of supporting the education and advancement of young scientific researchers.

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes

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The DFG's scientific aims are to

- ▶ Funds knowledge-oriented research without stipulation of topics and utilises competition to select the best projects in terms of scientific quality
- ▶ make research funding **open to all disciplines** in accordance with **scientific standards of quality**
- ▶ keep **Germany future-oriented** and **internationally competitive** as a scientific location

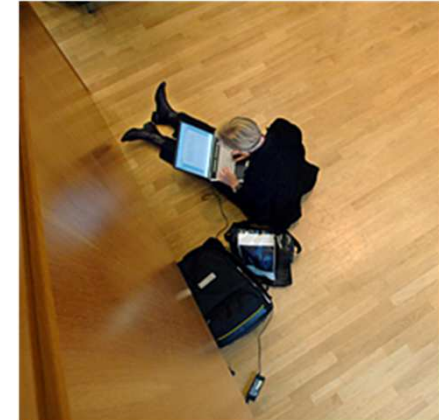


www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/mission

Who is eligible for funding?

The main selection criteria include

- ▶ **applicants' scientific qualifications**
- ▶ **project quality** (originality, expected knowledge gain, etc.)
- ▶ **research objectives** and **work programme**
- ▶ **employment opportunities** and **scientific environment**
- ▶ **feasibility of the proposal with regard to funding and staffing resources**



What is the DFG?

Germany's central, self-governing research funding organisation

Member institutions include

- ▶ German universities (69)
- ▶ non-university research institutions (16)
- ▶ German academies of sciences and humanities (8)
- ▶ scientific associations (3)



www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/general_assembly

Who ensures scientific merit?

The DFG's review boards

These review boards

- ▶ are elected by **scientists and academics from their respective communities**
- ▶ are involved in **panel reviews for coordinated programmes**
- ▶ monitor the selection of reviewers, make recommendations and **comparatively assess all proposals and reviews in the individual grants programme**
- ▶ ensure that comparable high-quality standards and criteria are applied equally in **all DFG programmes**

There are **48 DFG review boards** with **606 members**.
Review board members act in an honorary capacity.

What is the DFG? What are the DFG's aims?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

The DFG

- ▶ Is the self-governing organisation for science and research in Germany
- ▶ serves **all branches of science and the humanities** by funding research projects and facilitating cooperation among researchers
- ▶ supports the **education and advancement** of young scientific researchers
- ▶ promotes **equality** between men and women
- ▶ **advises parliaments and public authorities** on scientific matters
- ▶ fosters **relations between research and the private sector** and between **scientists and academics at home and abroad**



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