





DFG funding opportunities for early career researchers

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Funding portfolio

Applicant	Individuals				Institutions			Prizes	
Funding Focus	Investigators	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Individuals	
Funding Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Walter Benjamin Programme › Research Fellowships › Emmy Noether Programme › Heisenberg Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Individual Research Grants › Reinhart Koselleck Projects › Package Proposals › Initiation of International Collaboration › Research Units › Clinical Research Units › Clinical Trials › Projects in Priority Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences › Scientific Networks › Workshops for Early Career Investigators › Project Academies › International Scientific Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New Instrumentation for Research › Specialised Information Services › Information Infrastructures for Research Data › Infrastructures for Scholarly Publishing › e-Research Technologies › Digitisation and Indexing › Coordinating Roles and Responsibilities in Information Infrastructures › Licences for Digital Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Collaborative Research Centres/ Transregios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › (International) Research Training Groups › DFG Research Centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Major Research Instrumentation › Major Instrumentation in Research Buildings › Major Instrumentation Initiatives › Core Facilities › Open Access Publication Funding › Open Access Publishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Clusters of Excellence › National Research Data Infrastructure › State Major Instrumentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize › Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize › Communicator Award › Copernicus Award › Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience › Bernd Rendel Prize in Geoscience › Ursula M. Händel Animal Welfare Prize › von Kaven Award

Funding portfolio

Career stage	Focus: Investigators	Focus: Themes
Early postdoc phase	 Walter Benjamin Programme Position/temporary substitute clinician position in Germany or fellowship abroad	 Individual Research Grants Programme Your research project with the option of funding for your temporary principal investigator position/temporary substitute clinician position
Advanced postdoc phase	 <small>EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME</small> Emmy Noether Programme Leadership of an independent junior research group to qualify for a professorship	
Professorship eligibility	 <small>EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME</small> Heisenberg Programme Pathway to a professorship	
Professorship		



Walter Benjamin- Programm

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Walter Benjamin Programme

Postdoc programme for researchers shortly after completion of PhD

- Program aims to foster mobility and scientific development
- Applicants should change research institution
- Applicants need to be integrated into German scientific community
- Fellowships for research conducted abroad
- Regular postdoctoral positions for research conducted within Germany
- Funding awarded for 2 years

Walter Benjamin Programme

Quality of the project: originality and contribution to knowledge?

Objectives and work programme: clear working hypotheses?
Strengths and weaknesses of the planned investigations? Suitability of
methods? Appropriate schedule?

Applicant's qualifications: Scientific potential? Qualified for proposed
project? Plans for career advancement? Match of project and career
advancement?

Choice of host institution(s): Convincing? (Programme promotes
geographic mobility; no change needs justification.)

Support by the institution(s): Scientific (and financial) support? Working
conditions? Research environment?

Emmy Noether- Programm

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Emmy Noether programme

Programme for exceptional early career researchers to qualify for a professorship

- Qualification for professorship by leading an independent junior research group
- Attract outstanding early career researchers (back) to Germany from abroad
- Applicants: typically between 2 and up to 4 years of postdoctoral research experience
- Applicants should have substantial international research experience
- Substantial additional funding for postdoctoral and doctoral researchers
- Funding awarded for 3+3 years

Emmy Noether Programme

As WB programme, plus:

Does the applicant have the ability to **independently lead a junior research group**?

How would you assess the applicant's chances of being **appointed to a professorship** after the independent junior research group ends?



Heisenberg- Programm

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Heisenberg programme

Programme for exceptional researchers who are qualified for a professorship

- Enable non-tenured researchers qualified for professorship to continue research
- Prepare for senior academic position while continuing outstanding research
- Applicants need to have a habilitation or an equivalent qualification (e.g. EN group)
- Applicants need to have a track record of outstanding research
- Funding for postdoctoral and doctoral researchers possible
- Funding awarded for 3+3 years

Emmy Noether Programme

As WB programme, plus:

Does the applicant have the ability to **independently lead a junior research group**?

How would you assess the applicant's chances of being **appointed to a professorship** after the independent junior research group ends?

Heisenberg Programme

As EM programme, plus:

The applicant should emphasise how her **academic career to date has prepared her for a professorship** or to take on a comparable academic management function and how she plans to continue along this path.

Temporary positions for principle investigators

This module allows to request funding for a position as project leader for the duration of a research project.

- Quality of the project
- Qualification of the applicant: in general and for the proposed project; is the applicant qualified to independently lead the project?
- Scientific environment
- Objectives, work programme and research methods

Temporary positions for principle investigators

This module allows to request funding for a position as project leader for the duration of a research project.

First-time proposal:

If this is your first proposal, reviewers will consider this fact when assessing your proposal. Previous proposals for publication grants and scientific networks are not considered first proposals, nor are proposals to the Walter Benjamin Programme or Research Fellowship Programme. If you are submitting a “first-time proposal” and it is part of a joint proposal, please note that your independent project share must be distinct from that of the others.

Temporary positions for principle investigators

This module allows to request funding for a position as project leader for the duration of a research project.

First-time proposal:

What has the applicant achieved in his/her academic career to date and in research topics handled so far, in relation to his/her current career stage?

In your overall assessment, please also bear in mind that previous work specific to the project, documented for instance by project-specific publications, is not mandatory for first-time applicants to the DFG.

Funding decisions

Grafik 10: Antragszahlen und Förderquoten¹⁾ in den Programmen zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Karriere 2017 bis 2020

