DFG Funding Opportunities
for Early-Career Researchers

Dr. Katja Fettelschoß | Karlsruhe | 02/04/2020
1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources
The DFG – About Us

► The DFG is the largest independent and self-governing research funding organisation in Germany.

► It is an association under German private law.

► It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects.
The DFG – Our Mandate

► Promoting the advancement of science and the humanities by **funding** research projects, research centres, networks and infrastructure.

► Facilitating national and international **cooperation** among researchers.

► Providing scientific **policy advice**.

► Promoting **gender equality** in the German scientific and academic communities.

► Encouraging the advancement and training of **early career researchers**.
In 2018,

- the DFG funded around 33,200 projects with a budget that totalled €3.4 billion
- about one third of that budget, almost €1.2 billion, was spent for 17,100 projects of individual grants
- Funding decisions were made on the basis of about 22,500 reviews written by 15,300 researchers
### Research Funding in 2018 by Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Amount (€m)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual grants programme</td>
<td>1180.1</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Units</td>
<td>157.5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Programmes</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Research Centres</td>
<td>760.1</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes, other</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure funding</td>
<td>207.6</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence Initiative</td>
<td>566.2</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFG Research Centres</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Groups</td>
<td>214.3</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In total: **3405.3 €m**
Funding rates* in the individual grants programme by scientific discipline 2015 to 2018 (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 (incl. Individual proposals, research fellowships, the Emmy Noether Programme, the Heisenberg Programme and Reinhart Koselleck projects)
Eligibility

Researchers

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

► who (would like to) work in Germany.
Funding Principles

- Open, bottom-up choice of research topics
- Basic research in any field of science and the humanities
- No age restrictions
- Individual career phases and family-related career breaks are considered in the review process
- No deadlines*

* excl. Priority Programmes, international calls etc.
Topics

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DFG Funding Opportunities for Research Careers

- **Students**
- **Doctoral Researchers**
- **Early Postdocs**
- **Advanced Postdocs**
- **Appointable Professorship**

**Programmes**:
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme
- Walter Benjamin Programme
- Individual Research Grant incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

**Job Positions**:
- Student Assistant
- PhD Position
- Postdoc Position

**Applications**:
- Own proposal for individuals/investigators
- Application for open positions

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02/04/2020
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- Walter Benjamin Programme
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme

- Individual Research Grant
  incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

- For open positions:
  - Student Assistant
  - PhD Position
  - Postdoc Position
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- early postdocs: Walter Benjamin Programme
- advanced postdocs: Emmy Noether Programme
- appoint-able: Heisenberg Programme
- professorship

For individuals/investigators:
- Own proposal
  - Individual Research Grant
    - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

For projects/themes:
- Own proposal

For open positions:
- Job application
  - Postdoc Position
    - in DFG-funded projects
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **early postdocs**
  - Walter Benjamin Programme
  - Emmy Noether Programme
  - Heisenberg Programme
- **advanced postdocs**
- **appointable**
- **professorship**

- **own proposal**
  - for individuals/investigators
    - Individual Research Grant
      - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators
- **for projects/themes**
- **job application**
  - for open positions
    - Postdoc Position
      - in DFG-funded projects
Thousands of positions for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in DFG-funded projects:

► Individual projects (*Einzelförderung*)
► Research Units (*Forschungsgruppen*)
► Priority Programmes (*Schwerpunktprogramme*)
► Collaborative Research Centres (*Sonderforschungsbereiche*)
► Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*)
A university or research institute in **Germany** employs you

**Duration** of funding depends on project

**Position:** E13-E14 TvöD/TV-L

**Application:** to the project’s PI
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **early postdocs**
  - Walter Benjamin Programme
  - Emmy Noether Programme
  - Heisenberg Programme

- **advanced postdocs**
  - Emmy Noether Programme
  - Heisenberg Programme

- **appointable**
  - Professorship

- **individuals/investigators**
  - Own proposal

- **projects/themes**
  - Individual Research Grant
    - incl. Temporary Position for Principal Investigators

- **open positions**
  - Postdoc Position
    - in DFG-funded projects
Individual Grants offer you an opportunity to pursue your research project in Germany

Funding generally for up to three years

Flexible funding modules:

- staff
- consumables
- travel
- instrumentation
- publication funding
- public relations
- …
- module »Temporary Position for Principal Investigators« E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L

Your host institution becomes your employer
Funding Rates in the Individual Grants Programme

Funding rates* in the individual grants programme by scientific discipline 2015 to 2018 (in %)

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- **job application**
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- **DFG Funding Opportunities**
  - early postdocs
  - advanced postdocs
  - appointable
  - professorship

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers
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Walter Benjamin Programme

- For early postdocs starting a research career with an independent research project
- Supporting mobility: applicants should move on to a new host institution, either in Germany or abroad – or combining stays at different places
- At an institution in Germany, a host researcher agrees to advise the grantee on his or her research career and to introduce him or her to academic networks
Walter Benjamin Programme

► Funding for **two years**
  - **Abroad**: fellowship 1,750 €/month
    + foreign allowance + cost of living allowance
    + child allowance (where applicable)
    → award calculator at DFG website
    + possibility of 6-months return grant
  - **In Germany**, your host institution becomes your employer: **position** of E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L
    (or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)

► Allowance for **direct project costs**: 250 €/month
  → Your **host institution** needs to provide additional **project costs**
Benefits for Parents

Position in Germany:
► Support through Bundeseltern geld- und Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)

Fellowship abroad:
► child allowance
  + € 400 per month for the first child
  + € 100 per month for each additional child
► The fellowship can be extended by max. 12 months or costs for childcare can be reimbursed
  • Up to 12 x € 1,750 = max. € 21,000
  • Childcare costs must be verified by presenting invoices and payment receipts
► Extension and reimbursement of childcare costs can be combined
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Emmy Noether Programme

► Path to early academic independence
► Eligibility for professorial appointment by leading one’s own independent junior research group

Requirements:
► For outstanding postdoctoral researchers with 2-4 years of postdoctoral experience
  (medicine: up to 6 years; extensions for parents are possible)
► Substantial international research experience
► Excellent research project
Emmy Noether Programme

► Funding for six years
► Your host institution in Germany becomes your employer

► Funding includes
  ● position: E15 TVöD/TV-L
    (or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)
  ● project funds
  ● family allowance possible
Emmy Noether Annual Meetings
Emmy Noether Programme

Number of new and ongoing Emmy Noether independent junior research groups by scientific discipline 2015 to 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Humanities and Social Sciences</th>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Engineering Sciences</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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- job application

- for open positions
  - Postdoc Position
  in DFG-funded projects
Heisenberg Programme

- Enabling outstanding researchers to prepare for a **senior academic role** while continuing their research work
- For researchers eligible for **professorial appointment**
- Funding for **up to five years**
- In Germany or abroad
Flexible choice of **individual funding** after the proposal is approved:

- Fellowship € 4,450
- Position E-15 TVöD/TV-L
- Position for temporary substitutes for clinicians
- Professorship W2 or W3 → host university must establish permanent professorship

**Flexible research funds**: € 1,000 per month

Fellowship and positions may be combined with **Research Grant proposal**
53 newly funded persons in the Heisenberg Programme by scientific discipline in 2018

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 14 (26%)
- Life Sciences: 20 (38%)
- Natural Sciences: 17 (32%)
- Engineering Sciences: 2 (4%)

394 persons funded in the Heisenberg Programme by scientific discipline in 2018

- Humanities and Social Sciences: 115 (29%)
- Life Sciences: 161 (41%)
- Natural Sciences: 97 (25%)
- Engineering Sciences: 21 (5%)
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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- For advanced postdocs: Emmy Noether Programme, Heisenberg Programme
- For appoint-able: Emmy Noether Programme

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DFG Contacts

For questions on eligibility:
verfahren-nachwuchs@dfg.de
Phone: +49 (0)228 885-3008

For general questions on programmes for research careers:
info-nachwuchs@dfg.de

All DFG contacts:
www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office
Review Boards (Fachkollegien)
Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

- **Proposal**
- **Written Reviews**
  - Reviewers
  - • project quality
  - • applicants’ qualifications
  - • aims and work programme
  - • working environment
  - • grant budget

- **Assessment**
  - Review Board
  - • assessment of reviewer selection
  - • proposal and reviews
  - • comparative merit and funding volume

- **Communication of funding recommendation**
- **Decision**
  - Joint Committee
  - • cross-subject comparison

- **Decision letter with reviewers’ comments**
- **Notification**
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DFG funding programmes at a glance: [www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes)

Advice for early-career researchers: [www.dfg.de/research_careers](http://www.dfg.de/research_careers)

DFG facts and figures: [www.dfg.de/facts-figures](http://www.dfg.de/facts-figures)

GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects: [www.gepris.dfg.de/en](http://www.gepris.dfg.de/en)

GERiT – German research institutions: [www.gerit.org/en](http://www.gerit.org/en)

General questions about research careers: [info-nachwuchs@dfg.de](mailto:info-nachwuchs@dfg.de)

Contacts: [www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office](http://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office)
For more information

- on the DFG: www.dfg.de
- on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris
- on over 25,000 German research institutes: www.gerit.org