DFG Funding Opportunities
for Early-Career Researchers

Ina von der Beck | 30.09.2019 | Tübingen
Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources
The DFG e.V.

► 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.
Total budget in 2018: € 3.4 billion

- Individual grants programme: 1180.1 million, 35%
- Collaborative Research Centres: 760.1 million, 22%
- Research Units: 157.5 million, 4%
- Priority Programmes: 229 million, 7%
- Research Training Groups: 214.3 million, 6%
- DFG Research Centres: 33.1 million, 1%
- Excellence Initiative: 566.2 million, 17%
- Prizes, other: 57.3 million, 2%

Amount of research funding awarded by programme for 2018 (in €m and %)
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.
Eligibility

Researchers

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

► who (would like to) work in **Germany**.
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

For individuals:
- Walter Benjamin Programme
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme

For projects:
- Individual Research Grant
  incl. Temporary Position for Principle Investigators

For open positions:
- Postdoc Position
  in DFG-funded projects
Thousands of positions for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in DFG-funded projects:

- a university or research institute in Germany employs you
- position: E13-E14 TvöD/TV-L
- duration depends on project
- apply to the project’s PI

www.gepris.dfg.de

- Individual projects (*Einzelförderung*)
- Research Units (*Forschungsgruppen*)
- Priority Programmes (*Schwerpunktprogramme*)
- Collaborative Research Centres (*Sonderforschungsbereiche*)
- Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*)
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

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

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

- **appointable professorship**

- **for individuals**
  - own proposal
  - Individual Research Grant incl. Temporary Position for Principle Investigators

- **for projects**
  - for open positions
    - Postdoc Position in DFG-funded projects
Individual Research Grant

► **Goal:** promote excellent research projects in Germany

► **Duration:** **up to three years**

► **Flexible funding modules:**
  - staff
  - consumables
  - travel
  - instrumentation
  - publication funding
  - public relations
  - ...
  - module »**Temporary Position for Principle Investigators**«
    (E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L)

► You are employed by your **host institution**
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

- **Early postdocs**
  - Walter Benjamin Programme
- **Advanced postdocs**
  - Emmy Noether Programme
  - Heisenberg Programme
- **Appointable**
  - Professorship

For individuals:
- Own proposal
  - Walter Benjamin Programme
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme

For projects:
- Individual Research Grant
  - incl. Temporary Position for Principle Investigators

For open positions:
- Postdoc Position
  - in DFG-funded projects
Walter Benjamin Programme

- **Goal: independence and mobility** in an early career phase directly after the dissertation

- Run your own **independent research project**

- **Free choice of institution**, either in Germany or abroad – or a combination of stays at different places

- **Research career support** through host researcher, career building measures and introduction to academic networks
Walter Benjamin Programme

- **Duration:** Funding for up to **two years**
- **at a new / different institution** than your doctoral studies
- Allowance for direct project costs: **250 €/month**
  - **host institution** needs to provide add. **project costs**

**In Germany**
**Position:** E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L
(or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)
You are employed by your host institution

**Abroad**
**Fellowship:** 1,750 €/month + X
+ foreign allowance
+ cost of living allowance
+ child allowance (if applicable)
+ possibility of 6-months return grant
→ use the award calculator on the DFG website
Benefits for Parents

Abroad (fellowship):

► Child allowance
  + € 400 per month for the first child
  + € 100 per month for each additional child

► Extension by max. 12 months or reimbursement of costs
  for childcare (must be verified by invoices and payment receipts)
  ● Up to 12 x € 1,750 = max. € 21,000
  ● Extension and reimbursement of childcare costs can be combined

In Germany (position):

► Support through Bundeseltern geld- und Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

**for individuals**
- Walter Benjamin Programme
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme

**for projects**
- Individual Research Grant
  incl. Temporary Position for Principle Investigators

**for open positions**
- Postdoc Position
  in DFG-funded projects

**own proposal**

**professorship**

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers
17  9/27/2019
Emmy Noether Programme

Goal: academic independence and 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, +2 years per child)
- Substantial international research experience
- Excellent research project
Emmy Noether Programme

► **Duration:** Funding for six years

► Employment by host institution in Germany

► Funding includes
  - **your position:** E15 TVöD/TV-L
    (or position for temporary substitutes for clinician scientists)
  - **project funds** (e.g. staff, travel funds…)
  - **family allowance** if applicable
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

For early postdocs:
- Walter Benjamin Programme
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme

For advanced postdocs and appointable positions:
- Individual Research Grant (incl. Temporary Position for Principle Investigators)
- Postdoc Position in DFG-funded projects

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers

22 9/27/2019
Heisenberg Programme

► **Goal:** preparation for a senior academic role

► **Requirement:** eligibility for professorial appointment

► Funding for **up to five years**

► Flexible choice of individual funding after the proposal is approved:
  
  ● Fellowship (€ 4,450) in Germany or abroad
  
  ● Position (E-15 TVöD/TV-L)
  
  ● Professorship W2 or W3 → permanent professorship at host institution

► Flexible research funds: € 1,000 per month

► Fellowship and positions may be combined with Research Grant proposal
Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources
Preparing Your Proposal

► Start with smaller projects
► Carefully review and **follow the guidelines** and proposal instructions
  → topical information on the DFG website
► **Communicate openly** with DFG Head Office staff
► Try to read your proposal from a reviewer’s perspective
► Seek honest criticism from colleagues
► **Plan with enough time**: average time between submission and decision is over six months
Preparing Your CV

- Clear structure
- Include prizes, fellowships and awards
- Mention time away from research relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required
- List up to ten of your most important publications
Grant Budget

- No upper limits
- Needs to be realistic and justified by the project
- Supplemental, project-specific needs vs. existing resources at the higher education institution
- Seek advice from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions
- Information on staff amounts provided on the DFG website
Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers

9/27/2019

Review Process

1. Proposal
   - formal examination
   - reviewer selection

2. Written Reviews
   - Reviewers
   - project quality
   - applicants' qualifications
   - aims and work programme
   - working environment
   - grant budget

3. Assessment
   - Review Board
   - proposal and reviews
   - comparative merit and funding volume

4. Communication of funding recommendation
   - Decision
   - Joint Committee
   - cross-subject comparison

5. Notification
   - decision letter with reviewers' comments

DFG Head Office
Review Boards (Fachkollegien)

Review Board Election coming up!
If Your Proposal Is Not Successful…

► Don’t be discouraged
► Take the reviewers’ comments seriously but not personally
► Consult the DFG Head Office if you need advice or feel that you have been treated unfairly
► Consider the reviewer’s comments – they might give you some pointers for reworking your proposal
DFG funding programmes at a glance: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes

Advice for early-career researchers: www.dfg.de/research_careers

DFG facts and figures: www.dfg.de/facts-figures

GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects: www.gepris.dfg.de/en

GERiT – German research institutions: www.gerit.org/en

General questions about research careers: info-nachwuchs@dfg.de

For questions on eligibility: verfahren-nachwuchs@dfg.de

All DFG Staff: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office
Dr. Ina von der Beck
Tel: 0228 885-2992
Mail: ina.vonderbeck@dfg.de

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