



Call for Proposals 2025

Exploration Funds are provided for the identification and elaboration of new fields of research and are primarily aimed at disciplines within the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Tübingen. The focus should be on research questions that have the potential to significantly shape current or foreseeable social debates. Possible thematic collaborations with other disciplines and research areas of the University (interdisciplinarity!) are welcome.

The call for proposals for the *Exploration Funds 2025* is open to all topics. An orientation towards current social challenges - e.g. under the keyword upheavals - is welcome, but not a requirement for an application.

Requirements for funding:

- Innovative research project with the potential to be expanded into a third-party-funded collaborative project (CRC, Research Unit etc.).
- Own previous work has already been done
- Interdisciplinary research approach, at least within the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Proven expertise on the proposed topic must be located in Tübingen
- An institutional connection is expected

Scope of funding:

- Start-up funding for a project up to a maximum duration of 3 years, in the form of:
 - Personnel resources (1 postdoc position E13, 100%, teaching obligation 4 weekly hours per semester)
 - Consumables (e.g. student assistants, workshops, retreats, seminar series etc.)
- The actual amount of funding depends on the needs as presented and justified in the proposal
- Doctoral positions cannot be funded within the framework of the *Exploration Funds*

Proposal requirements and structure:

Please use the provided [template](#) for the application. The preferred language is English. The application must contain the following information:

- Cover sheet showing the following information: Details of the applicant, co-applicants, period applied for (earliest start approx. July 2025), total amount applied for, information on whether the application has been submitted earlier in the same or a similar form, and an abstract (max. 100 words)
- Description of the project (field of research and research questions as well as theoretical and methodological approach), if applicable divided into sub-projects or work packages (max. 8 pages)
- Bibliography (literature cited in the application)
- Schematic description of the project process
- Detailed financial plan in tabular form with justification of the requested funds
- List of associated scientists
- Short CVs of the (co-)applicants with a list of publications. At least 5 publications relevant to the project should be highlighted.

The standard formatting (Arial, 11 pt., line spacing 1.15) must be adhered to, margins must not be changed.

The proposal should answer the following questions (also decision criteria):

- 1) What is the added value of the project and a possible follow-up project for the Humanities and Social Sciences profile of the University of Tübingen?
- 2) What is the relevance and topicality of the project for society?
- 3) In which way does the project relate to current scientific debates?
- 4) Explain the applicant's suitability to successfully implement the project (e.g. through preliminary work, publications, etc.) and to develop it into a (larger) third-party funded project application (e.g. consortium project)?
- 5) Networking potential: which structures are already in place, which are planned (within the University, nationally, internationally)?
- 6) How should the medium- and long-term perspective of the project be secured? Which applications for (third-party) funding are specifically planned? Justify the potential of your project for third-party funding.

Review process:

First, the project proposals are checked for completeness and formal criteria by the Excellence Strategy team. All applications that meet the formal requirements will be reviewed by external experts/peer researchers. Based on the reviews, the *Advisory Board for the Humanities* provides a funding recommendation; the final funding decision is made by the Rectorate.

Deadlines:

Application deadline: January 31, 2025
Project start: approx. July 2025

Application:

Applications must be submitted via the [University's Online Application Tool](#).

The application must be submitted in **one PDF-Document**. The preferred language of applications is **English**. Incomplete applications cannot be approved for review.

Contact:

For further information, please contact Jan Middendorf (76456) from the Excellence Strategy Team or send an email to exu@uni-tuebingen.de