DFG Funding Opportunities
for PhD Students

Dr. Astrid Evers | CAU Kiel | 12.09.2018
1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Advice for PhD Students

4 | Links and Resources
The DFG is the largest independent research funding organisation in Germany.

It is an association under German private law.

Its member organisations include German universities, non-university research institutions, academies of sciences and humanities, and scientific associations.

It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects.
The DFG facilitates national and international **cooperation** among researchers.

It provides scientific **policy advice** and fosters relations with the **private sector**.

It promotes **gender equality** in the German scientific and academic communities.

It encourages the advancement and training of **early-career researchers**.
The DFG – About Us
Our budget

Total budget approx. € 3.2 billion in 2017.

67.9 %
German federal government

31.2 %
German states

1.0 %
others
In **2017**, the DFG funded almost **32,500** projects

- Individual research projects
- Research collaborations
- Research infrastructure
- Coordinated programmes
The DFG – About Us
Programmes funded in 2017

Research funding for new and ongoing projects by programme for calendar year 2017 (in €m and %)

- Individual grants programme: 1,095.3
- Research Units: 165.5
- Priority Programmes: 221.0
- Collaborative Research Centres: 716.8
- Research Training Groups: 204.7
- DFG Research Centres: 26.6
- Excellence Initiative: 438.3
- Infrastructure funding: 230.2
- Prizes, other: 54.7

Total: € 3.15 billion
Amount of research funding awarded by scientific discipline for each calendar year (in €m and %)

- **Humanities and Social Sciences**
  - 2014: 408.0 (14.9%)
  - 2015: 604.3 (22.1%)
  - 2016: 647.9 (21.9%)
  - 2017: 232.2 (8.5%)

- **Life Sciences**
  - 2014: 604.3 (22.1%)
  - 2015: 979.6 (34.5%)
  - 2016: 1,052.5 (34.7%)
  - 2017: 1,110.9 (35.2%)

- **Natural Sciences**
  - 2014: 408.0 (14.9%)
  - 2015: 834.0 (31.2%)
  - 2016: 1,052.5 (34.7%)
  - 2017: 1,090.4 (34.6%)

- **Engineering Sciences**
  - 2014: 604.3 (22.1%)
  - 2015: 547.2 (20.0%)
  - 2016: 468.0 (15.4%)
  - 2017: 480.4 (15.2%)

- **Interdisciplinary**
  - 2014: 232.2 (8.5%)
  - 2015: 266.3 (9.4%)
  - 2016: 263.1 (8.7%)
  - 2017: 223.7 (7.1%)
Article 1   Purpose of the Association

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating national and international collaboration among researchers. It devotes particular attention to the advancement and training of early career researchers. The DFG promotes equality between women and men in science and academia. It advises parliaments and public interest institutions on scientific matters and fosters relations between the research community and society and the private sector.
The DFG – About Us
Our mission for early career researchers

► Facilitate cutting edge research projects for PhD students in a stimulating environment

► Pave the road to early scientific independence

► Attract talented early career researchers from Germany and abroad

► Induce fair and supportive structures
Researchers

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

- **PhD students are not eligible** to apply for funding directly, but can benefit from DFG funding through individual grants or coordinated projects
1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Advice for PhD Students

4 | Links and Resources
DFG Funding Opportunities
For early career researchers

- BA/MA
- Doctorate
- Postdoc period
- Achieving eligibility for tenure
- Preparing for a scientific mgmt. position
- Professorship or other scientific mgmt. position

- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme
- Professorship in a (Clinical) Research Unit

- Temp. principal investigator position
- Temp. principal investigator position
- Temp. principal investigator position

- Student assistant in an RTG
- Student assistant in a DFG project
- Position or fellowship in an RTG
- Position in a DFG project
- Research fellowship abroad
- Research fellowship abroad
- Research fellowship abroad

- Position in a DFG project
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*applied for directly at DFG*
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Temp. principal investigator position

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Research fellowship abroad

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Professorship in a (Clinical) Research Unit
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Research Training Groups (RTGs)

- approx. 10 PIs as supervisors
- suitable, mostly interdisciplinary research programme
- Thought-out supervision strategy
- Integration into fitting research environment
- Tailored training programme, often also including soft skills
Research Training Groups (RTGs) Benefits

► positions (or fellowships)
► Team spirit: scientific exchange with other PhD students, scientists and researchers
► constant improvement of the programme through direct feedback
► specific funds for scientific networking:
  ● international Summer Schools & conferences
  ● Invitation of guest scientists
  ● Research stays abroad
► Equal opportunities and dedicated support for PhD students with children
International Research Training Groups (IRTGs)

► Joint research and training programme with a partner institution outside of Germany
► International co-supervision
► Generally six months research stay abroad
International Research Training Groups in cooperating partner countries, 2017

Total of 41 currently funded International Research Training Groups
Research Training Groups (RTGs)
How to apply

► Look for posted positions (or fellowships)
► Apply with the Research Training Group directly
► PhD students with external funding can be associated
Research Training Groups (RTGs)

Funding

► guaranteed three years of funding in Research Training Groups
► positions: 65%-100% TV-L/TVöD E13
► (rarely) fellowships: 1.000-1.365 €
► Specific measures for PhD students with children
  • extension of funding duration after parental leave
  • childcare support
Number of Research Training Groups by scientific discipline 2017

* New and ongoing Research Training Groups per year: 241
Research Training Groups (RTGs)
In Kiel

https://www.genes-environment-inflammation.de/
Research Training Groups (RTGs)  
In Kiel

https://www.grk2154.uni-kiel.de
Research Training Groups (RTGs)
In Lübeck

http://www.irtg1911.uni-luebeck.de
DFG Funding Opportunities
For early career researchers

BA/MA -> Doctorate -> Postdoc period -> Achieving eligibility for tenure -> Preparing for a scientific mgmt. position -> Professorship or other scientific mgmt. position

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DFG Funding Opportunities
Working in a DFG-funded project

More than 1,000 positions for early career researchers:

► Individual projects (*Einzelförderung*)
► Research Units (*Forschungsgruppen*)
► Priority Programmes (*Schwerpunktprogramme*)
► Collaborative Research Centres (*Sonderforschungsbereiche*)
► Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*)
DFG Funding Opportunities
Working in a DFG-funded project

► Positions for **doctoral researchers** and **postdocs**
► At a German university or research institute
► **Duration** of funding depends on project
► **Position** (65%-100% TV-L/TVöD E13)
► **Apply with the project’s PI**
DFG Funding Opportunities
Working in a DFG-funded project

Jobs@dfg

Welcome to the DFG!

The Head Office of the DFG employs 750 members of staff and is based in Bonn. It has an office in Berlin plus foreign offices in India, Japan, Latin America, North America and Russia. The Head Office supports the work of the bodies and administers the DFG funding programmes.

Career Opportunities

Positions at the DFG Head Office (in German only). more >

Positions in DFG-Funded Projects

The following DFG-funded projects are currently open. more >

RSS - Feed

Subscribe to our various RSS feed ... more >

http://www.dfg.de/service/jobs
1 | The DFG – About Us

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Advice for PhD students
Research career

► Develop your own and independent research profile
► Publish independently (if possible)
► Be flexible – find the best environment for your research
► Build networks of collaboration partners
► Consider alternative career paths
► Take advantage of advice and information services
Advice for future applicants
From a reviewer’s perspective

► Is the project important?

► Is the project idea current and original?

► Will the project result in significant findings? What new knowledge will be generated – what gaps in current knowledge would be filled?

► Is the applicant (or team of applicants) suitably qualified to carry out the project successfully?

► Are the proposed methods up to date and suitable for addressing the research question?

► Can the work programme be completed within the proposed timeframe?
Advice for future applicants
10 golden rules for submitting a proposal

1. The proposal follows the guidelines and instructions and does not exceed the maximum allowable length.

2. The proposal is clear, precise, well structured and understandable to a non-expert audience.

3. The project idea is original and contributes considerably to our understanding of scientific (and social) questions.

4. The scientific aims are focused on central questions, theses and hypotheses.

5. The descriptions of the current state of research are up to date and relate directly to the project’s objectives.
6. The preliminary work and personal track record reflect the qualifications and academic/scientific independence of the applicant.

7. The work programme is clear and follows a realistic timeline.

8. The methods are tailored to address the issues at hand.

9. The proposed budget is consistent with the work programme.

10. Information relevant to the proposal, such as unpublished manuscripts and written agreements with significant cooperation partners, are included.
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Links and Resources
DFG

► Early career grant programmes at a glance: www.dfg.de/research_careers

► FAQs for potential and enrolled doctoral researchers: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq

► DFG German Project Information System (GEPRIS): www.gepris.dfg.de/en


► General questions: info-nachwuchs@dfg.de
Thank you for your attention

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