

DFG Funding Opportunities

for Early Career Researchers

Dr. Astrid Evers | CAU Kiel | 12.09.2018



Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

- 2 | DFG Funding Opportunities
- 3 | Proposal and Review Process
- 4 | Advice for Applicants



The DFG – About Us Our organisation

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 – About Us Our mandate

The DFG facilitates national and international **COOPERATION** among researchers.

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

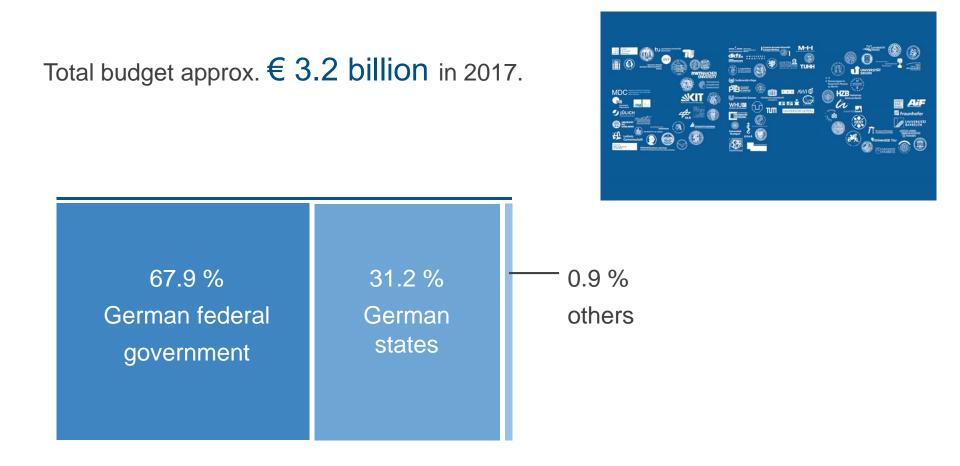
It promotes gender equality in the German scientific and

academic communities.

It encourages the advancement and training of early-career researchers.



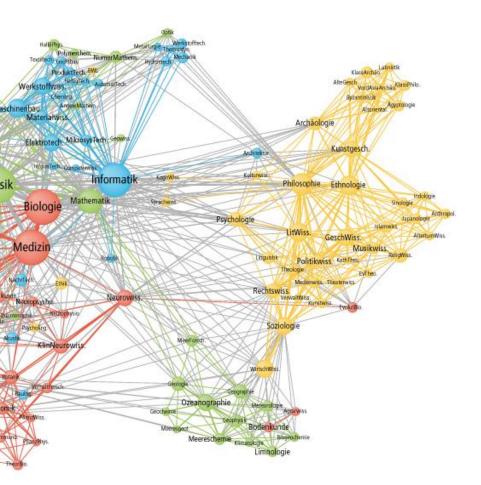
The DFG – About Us Our budget



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The DFG – About Us Funded projects

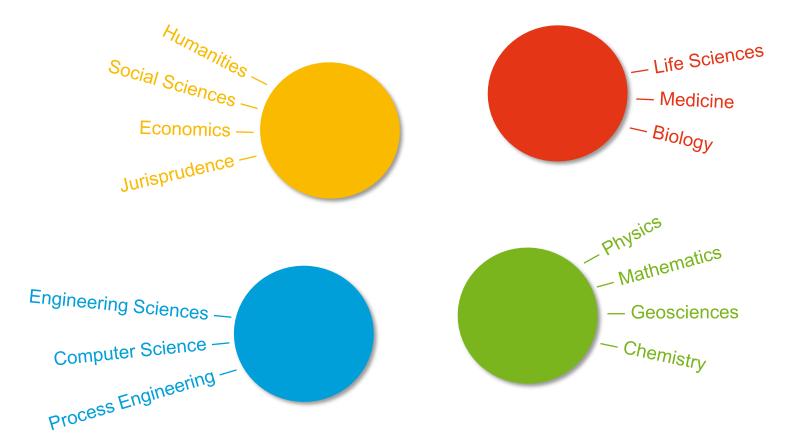


In 2017, the DFG funded over 32,000 projects

- Individual research projects
- Research collaborations
- Research infrastructure
- Coordinated programmes



The DFG – About Us Subject areas

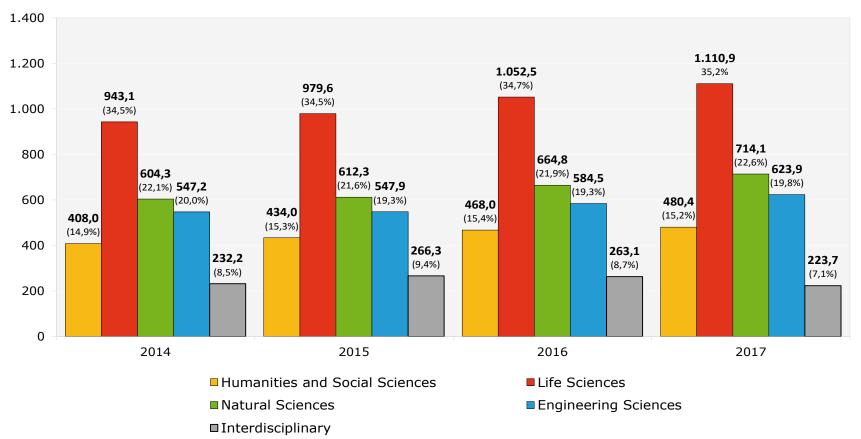


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The DFG – About Us Funding by discipline 2014-2017

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



DEG

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The DFG – About Us Funding principles

Research topic:

open, bottom-up

- ► Type of research:
- Evaluation:
- Deadlines:
- Note:

- basic research in any field of science and the humanities
- multi-level peer-review

none*

- individual career phases and family-related career breaks are considered
- * Exceptions: Priority Programmes, international activities



The DFG – About Us Eligibility



Researchers

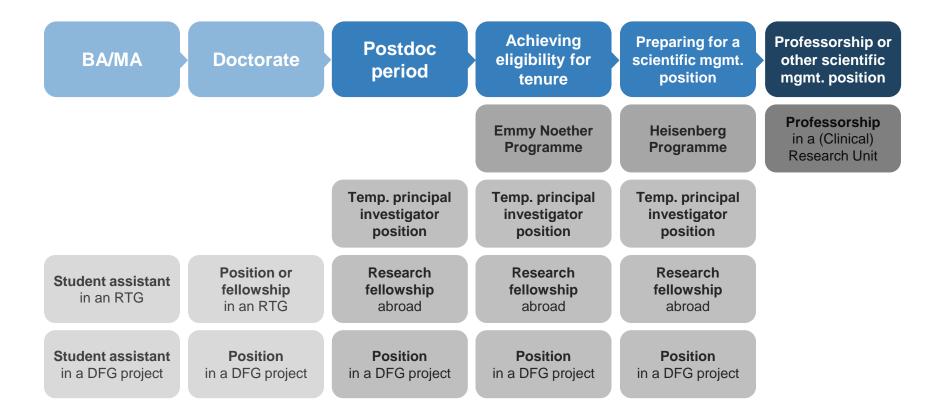
- who have completed their scientific training, i.e. who hold a doctorate and
- who would like to work in Germany
- of any age



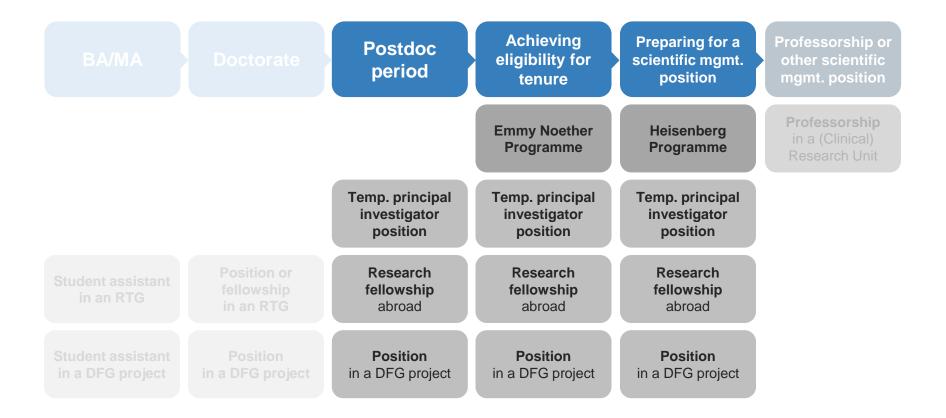
Topics

- 1 | The DFG About Us
- 2 | DFG Funding Opportunities
- **3 | Proposal and Review Process**
- 4 | Useful Advice for Applicants

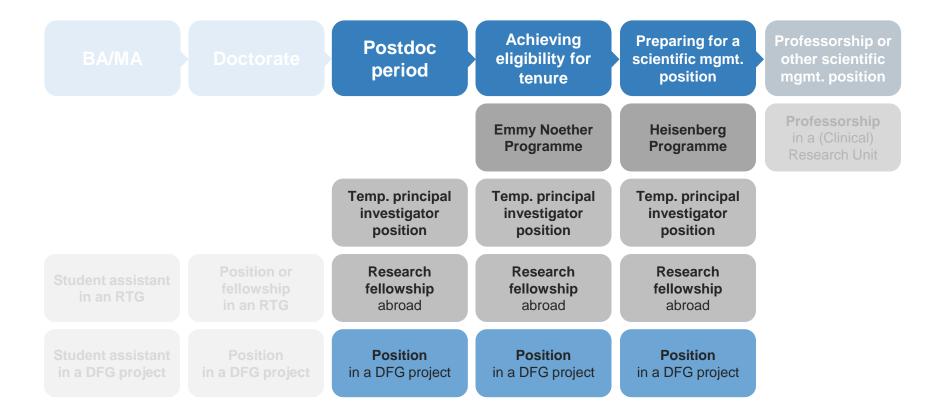














DFG Funding Opportunities Working in a DFG-funded project

More than 1,000 positions for early career researchers:

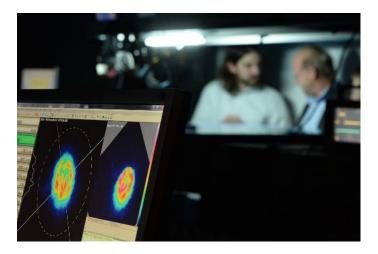
- Individual projects (*Einzelförderung*)
- Research Units (*Forschungsgruppen*)
- Priority Programmes (Schwerpunktprogramme)
- Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche)
- Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs)



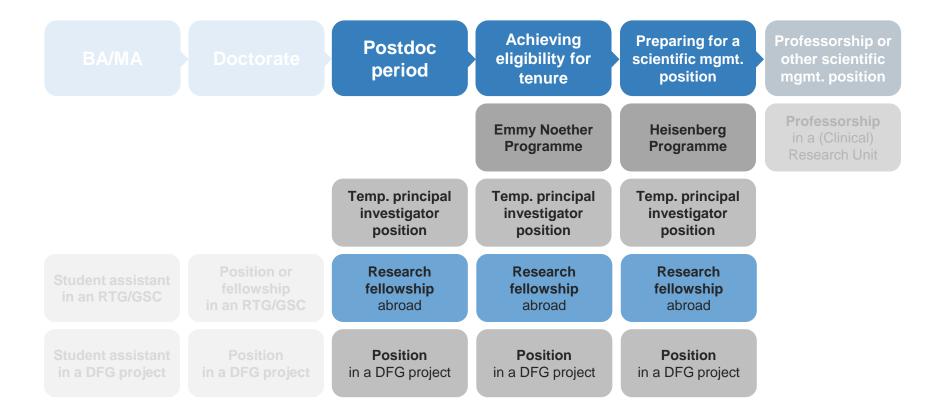


DFG Funding Opportunities Working in a DFG-funded project

- Positions for doctoral researchers and postdocs
- At a German university or research institute
- **Duration** of funding depends on project
- Position (E13-E14 TvöD/TV-L)
- ► Apply with the project's Pl









- Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers for a research project abroad
- Duration of max. 2 years
- Possibility of max. 6-months return grant
- ► Basic fellowship allowance = €1,750
 - + allowance for direct project costs
 - + foreign allowance
 - + cost of living allowance
 - + child allowance (where applicable)
 - + travel allowance
 - \rightarrow award calculator at DFG website

Proposal to the DFG

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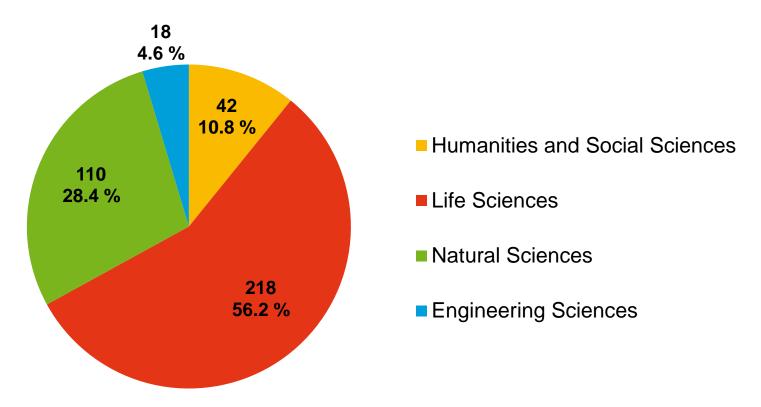


Benefits for fellows with children:

- ► €400 child allowance for the first child
 + €100 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



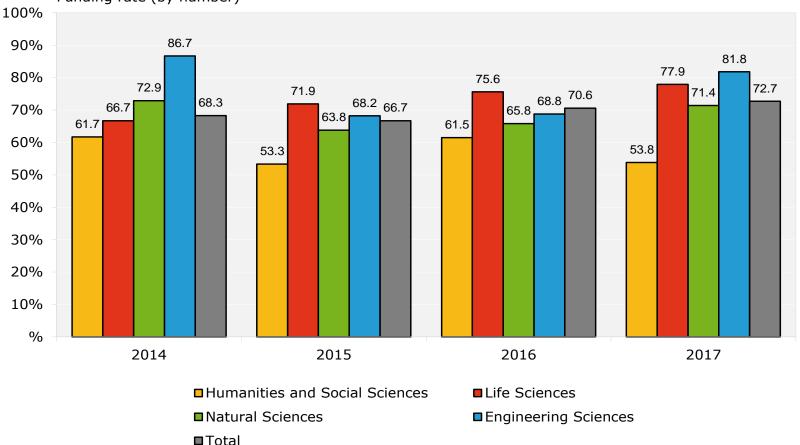
Number of new research fellowships awarded by scientific discipline 2017



388 new research fellowships (not including return grants)

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Funding rates for research fellowships (not including return grants)

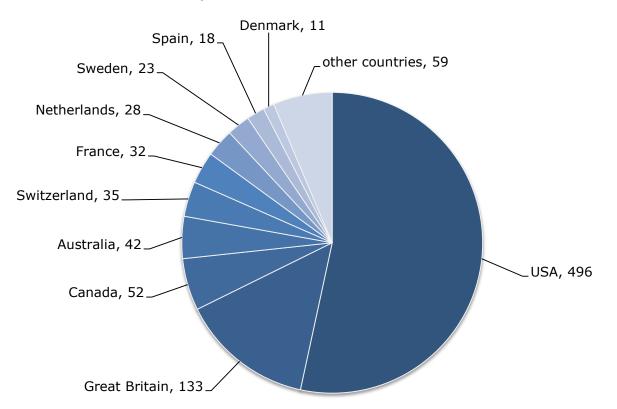


Funding rate (by number)

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early Career Researchers

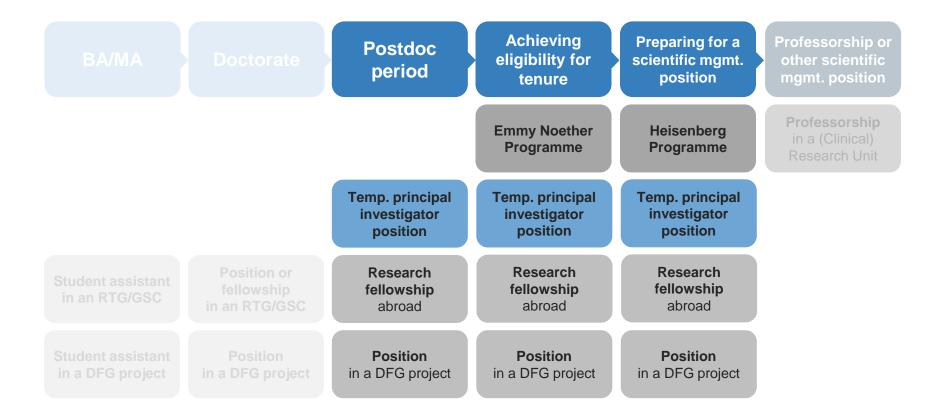
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Research fellowships – destinations for research visits 2017



Based on ongoing research fellowships in 2017, not including return grants. Recipients of research fellowships can undertake more than one research visit.

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DFG Funding Opportunities Individual Grants Programme (*Sachbeihilfe*)

- Individual Grants offer an opportunity to pursue your own research project in Germany
- Duration for up to 3 years
- Allows flexibility: Funding for staff, consumables, travel, instrumentation, publication funding etc.
- Additional module: Temporary position for principal investigator (Eigene Stelle)





DFG Funding Opportunities Temporary position for principal investigators (*Eigene Stelle*)

For postdoctoral researchers

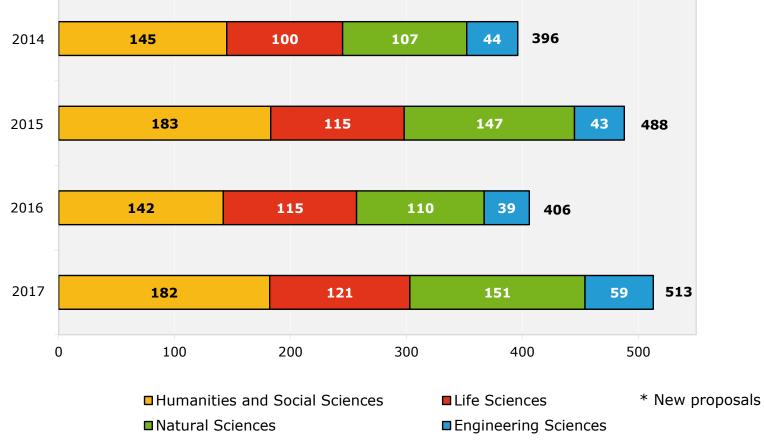
- Duration of generally up to 3 years
- Position (E13 to E14 TVöD/TV-L) + project funds
- ► Proposal to the DFG



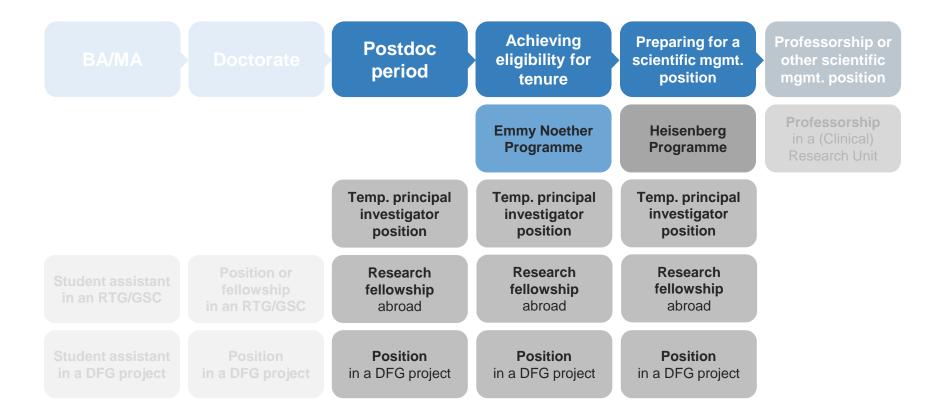


DFG Funding Opportunities Temporary position for principal investigators (*Eigene Stelle*)

New awards in temporary positions for principal investigators* scheme by scientific discipline 2014 to 2017



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DFG Funding Opportunities Emmy Noether Programme

Aims

- Path to early academic independence by leading own independent junior research group
- Eligibility for professorial appointment

Requirements

- For excellently qualified postdocs with an outstanding research project
- Postdoctoral research experience of at least 2 and max. 4 years (medicine: up to 6 years), +2 years per child
- Substantial international research experience



DFG Funding Opportunities Emmy Noether Programme



- ► Research in Germany → host institution becomes the employer
- Duration of generally 6 years



- Group leader **position** (E15 TVöD/TV-L), positions for staff, consumables, travel, instrumentation, publication funding etc.
- Position for temporary substitutes for clinicians

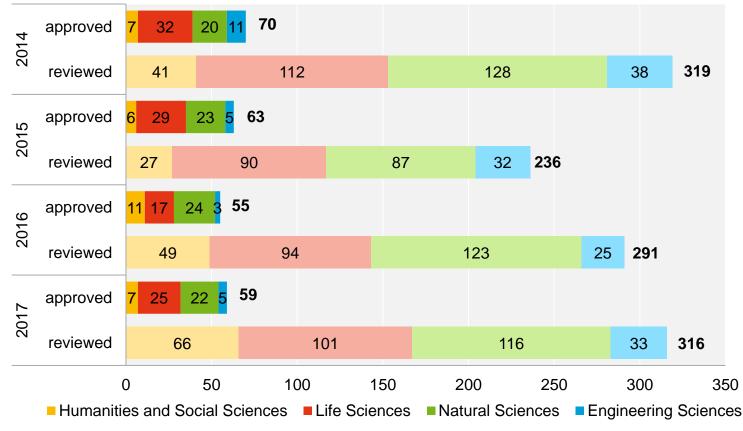


► Proposal to the DFG



DFG Funding Opportunities Emmy Noether Programme

Number of newly approved and reviewed Emmy Noether independent junior research groups by scientific discipline 2014 to 2017



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DFG Funding Opportunities Study Forschungsförderung und Karrierewege (2017)



Study about DFG funding instruments and career paths

- Compares the career paths of more than one thousand applicants in 2007 and 2008 in funding programmes relevant to early-career researchers
- Short version ("DFG infobrief") available in English

DFG in

Career Paths in the Emmy Noether Programme and the Heisenberg Fellowship

The Emmy Noether Programme and the Heisenberg Fellowship - one of the components of the His change required requirements and one reactivery reporting of the components of the Heisenberg Programme, along with the Heisenberg Professorship – are both designed to boost their funding recipients' academic careers. The Emmy Noether Programme is aimed at an early career phase and at paths to professorship beyond habilitation and junior professorship. The Heisenberg fellowship, in contrast, is geared at established researchers who are eligible to be professors but for whom no appropriate vacancies are currently available. To examine the career effects of these and other programmes, a study was launched. This infobrief documents selected initial findings on more than 500 applicants to the two programmes from the years 2007 and 2008. The results show that both grant formats are highly effective in helping the funded researchers

have successful academic careers.

1 Background and Methodology

Facts and Figures

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) has made it one of its main statutory objectives to promote early career researchers. DFG funding instruments are particularly designed to facilitate early independence. The research community's appreciation for the role of the DFG in early career support was evident in a survey conducted a few years ago by the Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance (IFQ, today DZHW). Respondents ranked early career support the DFG's most important mission from a list of five (cf. Böhmer et al. 2011, p. 161).

With the Emmy Noether Programme and the Heisenberg Fellowship, the DFG has established two funding formats whose explicit objective is to support the research careers of their recipients. They are geared at different target groups. The Emmy Noether Programme was introduced in 1999 to promote researchers' early

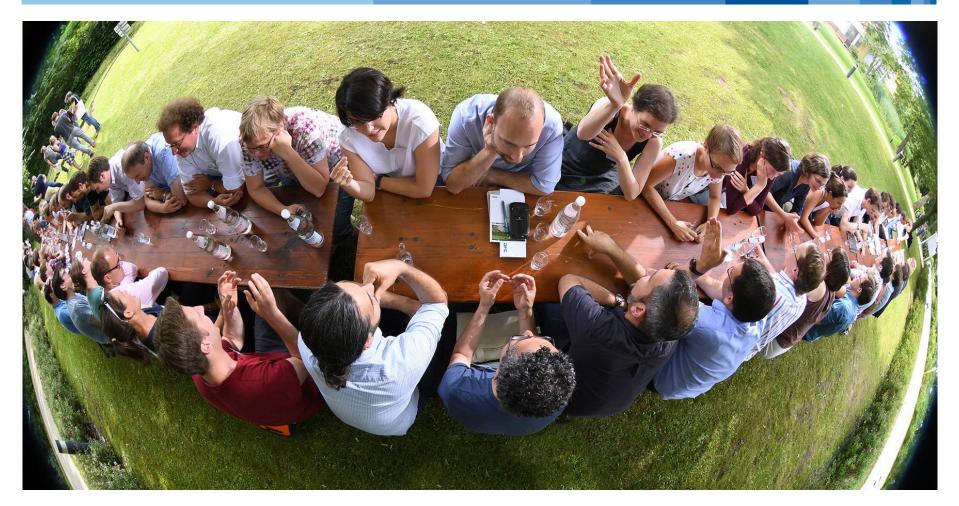
independence and to create alternative paths to professorship that do not involve habilitation. The Emmy Noether Programme is focused on the potentials of individuals and projects at an early career stage. Researchers who were awarded their doctorates two to four years prior to proposal submission but who have not yet obtained habilitation are eligible to apply. A key feature of the programme is that by providing comprehensive funding for staff and direct project costs, it enables grantees to head their own independent junior research group, usually for five years, and thereby qualify to be a full professor. The Heisenberg Programme, in contrast, is mainly designed for academics who already fulfil all the requirements for tenured profes-

2.16

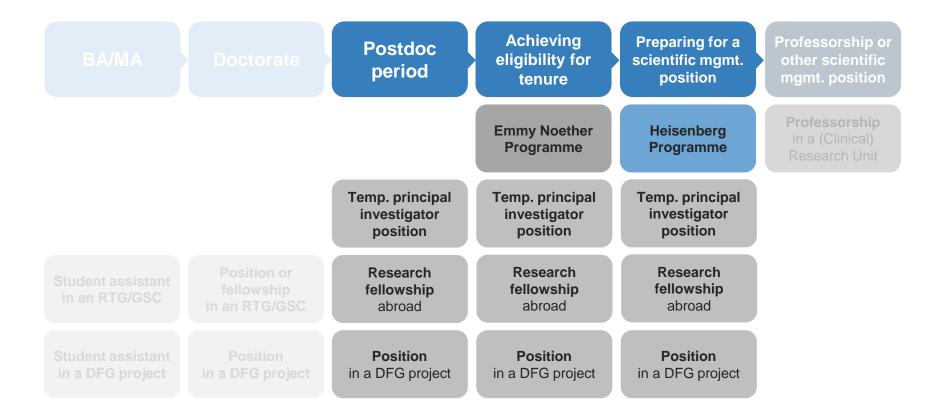
This infobrief focuses on the long-term casorships reer prospects of applicants in these two formats. The study examines the career data of more than 500 researchers whose proposals were decided upon in 2007 and 2008. For this



DFG Funding Opportunities Emmy Noether annual meeting









DFG Funding Opportunities Heisenberg Programme

- For researchers eligible for professorial appointment
- **Duration** of max. 5 years
- Flexible type of funding
 - Fellowship € 4,450
 - Position E-15 TVöD/TV-L
 - Position for temporary substitutes for clinicians

new

• Professorship W2 or W3 \rightarrow host university must establish permanent professorship

new

- Flexible research funds: € 12,000 ____
- Projects in Germany may be combined with research grant proposal
- ► Proposal to the DFG



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Proposal and Review Process

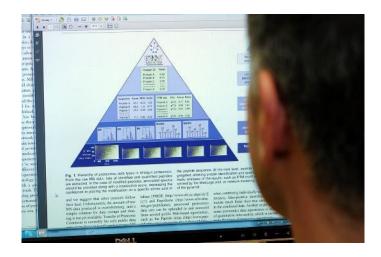
Electronic proposals and reviews via elan

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DFG Deuts Forsch	ungsgemeinschaft			
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	\rightarrow	Register		
Locia				
Login				
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	and would like to log in, please	enter the following information:		
E-Mail address:	and would like to log in, please	enter the following information:		

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early Career Researchers Kiel | 12/09/2018 **DFG**

A proposal consists of three parts:

- **1. General information** \rightarrow Applicant data, obligations, rules of good scientific practice
- Project description → Current state of research, preliminary work, objectives, schedule
- Appendices → CV that includes a limited number of publications



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- Carefully review and follow the guidelines and proposal instructions
 - → Relevant information can be found on the DFG website
- Contact us if you have any questions
- Put yourself in the reviewers' shoes
- Seek honest criticism from colleagues
- Plan a feasible timeline: On average, the time to decision is over six months





- Decide on the proposal language: English or German
- Inform DFG Head Office in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists
- Communicate openly with DFG Head Office staff



Preparing Your Proposal Grant budget

- No upper limits
- Needs to be realistic and justified by the project
- Start with smaller projects
- Supplemental, project-specific needs vs. existing resources at the higher education institution (*Grundausstattung*)
- Helpful to talk with others or seek advice from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions/organisations
- Information on staff amounts provided on the DFG website



Preparing Your Proposal Your CV

- Structure it clearly
- Include prizes, fellowships and awards
- Include time away from research (relating to family or illness, dependent care, etc.)
- List up to 10 of your most important publications





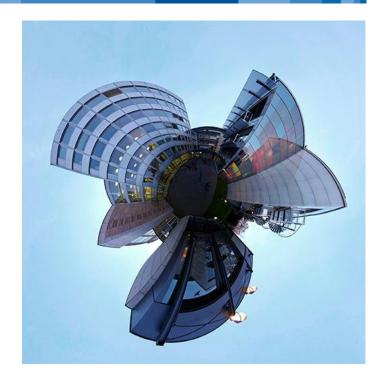
Proposal and Review Process DFG contacts

For questions on eligibility:

verfahren-nachwuchs@dfg.de Phone: +49 (0)228 885-3008 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to noon

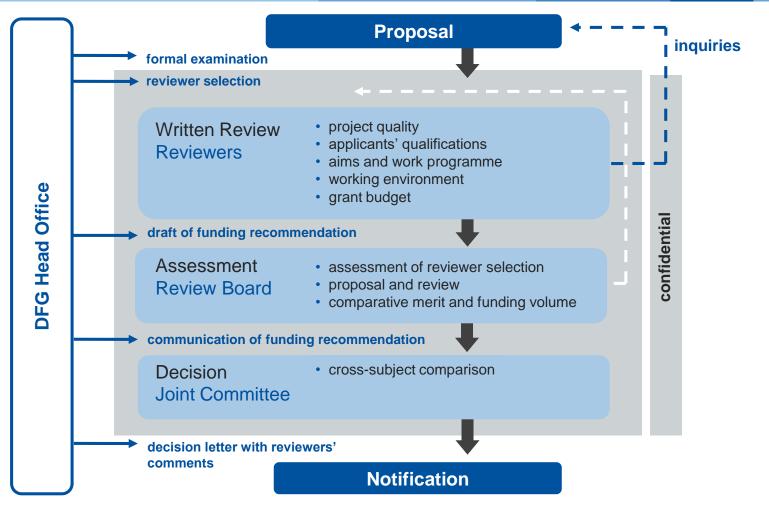
DFG contacts:

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office





Proposal and Review Process In the individual grants programme



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Proposal and Review Process Review boards (*Fachkollegien*)



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Advice for Applicants If at first you don't succeed...

- Don't be discouraged
- Take reviewer comments seriously but not personally
- Consult the DFG Head Office if you need advice or feel that you have been treated unfairly
- Read through reviewer comments carefully they might give you some pointers for reworking your proposal



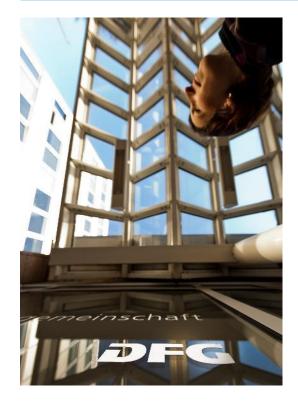
Advice for Applicants Research career

- 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
- Take advantage of advice and information services





Links and Resources DFG



Dr. Astrid Evers DFG Research Careers astrid.evers@dfg.de +49-228-885-2894

For more information

- Early career grant programmes at a glance: www.dfg.de/research_careers
- Funding Programmes in detail: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
- DFG contacts: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office
- DFG German Project Information System (GEPRIS): gepris.dfg.de/en
- Research Explorer The German Research Directory: www.dfg.de/en/rex
- General questions: info-nachwuchs@dfg.de

Thank you for your attention



Advice for 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 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.



Advice for Applicants 10 golden rules for submitting a proposal

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

