

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation



Building Links to Academic Research in Germany

Funding Opportunities for
International Cooperation

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About Us

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the largest self-governing funding organisation for basic research in Germany and in Europe.

With an annual budget of just over 2.5 billion euros, provided primarily by the German federal and state governments, the DFG promotes the advancement of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating cooperation among researchers. The DFG supports approximately 21,000 individual and coordinated research projects that have been selected through a rigorous peer-review process.

The DFG's mandate also includes encouraging the advancement of young researchers, promoting equality between men and women in the German scientific and academic communities, providing scientific policy advice, and fostering relations with the private sector and between scientists and academics in Germany and abroad. The DFG's member organisations include research universities, major non-university research institutions, such as the Max Planck Society, the Fraunhofer Society, and the Leibniz Association, the Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and a number of scientific associations.

International Representation of the DFG



Funding International Research

The DFG enables cross-border cooperation between researchers and supports collaboration with international partners in all of its funding programmes. The DFG also has many joint calls for cooperative research projects with partner organisations in Europe and beyond. [▶ www.dfg.de/en/announcements_proposals/](http://www.dfg.de/en/announcements_proposals/)

DFG support for projects with international partners is generally based on the principle of mutual responsibility. Researchers working in Germany apply to the DFG, while their partners abroad apply for funding at their respective partner organisations.

The programmes outlined in this brochure are just a few of the DFG's many funding opportunities.

[▶ www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/)



Special Programmes



Initiation of International Cooperation

In order to initiate and foster international cooperative projects or joint proposals, the DFG provides funding for preparatory trips and/or workshops through this programme.

Support

- Funding for incoming or outgoing short research visits
- Funding for costs related to a workshop
- Cost categories may be co-financed by a foreign partner organisation if an appropriate agreement exists

Duration

- Max. 3 months for research visits; all activities, such as joint workshops, must take place within a 12-month period

More information

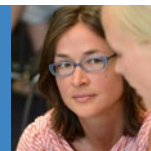
- Application is submitted by the German partner
- www.dfg.de/en/international_collaboration/



Additional funding to enable cooperative research projects with scientists in **developing countries** can be applied for in all DFG programmes.

- www.dfg.de/international/developing_countries/

Individual Grants Programmes



The DFG offers funding for both individual and collaborative research projects. Approximately 35 percent of all DFG funds are allocated to the individual grants programme. Under this programme, any researcher holding a doctorate is eligible to apply for funding for a proposed research project to be carried out at a German university.

Research Grants Programme

The research grant enables scientists and academics to carry out a research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited time period. It is the most flexible grant programme and it has no deadline. In many cases, this programme can be used to fund the German side of an international collaborative project.

Support

- Funding may include staff, consumables, lab equipment, publication costs and travel expenses
- Special conditions apply for researchers at non-university institutions

Duration

- Up to 6 years (e.g. 2 x 3 years)

More information

- www.dfg.de/research_grants/

Two funding modules relevant for researchers abroad

These modules can be integrated into the application of most funding programmes.

The module **Mercator Fellow** for senior or junior researchers facilitates long-term project-based collaboration between German and international researchers.

- www.dfg.de/en/mercator/

The module **Temporary Position for Principal Investigators** allows you to request funding for your position as project leader for the duration of your project.

- www.dfg.de/en/research-grants



Emmy Noether Programme

The Emmy Noether Programme enables outstanding early career researchers to rapidly qualify for leading positions in science and research or for a university teaching career by heading an independent junior research group and assuming relevant teaching duties.

Target group

- ▶ Excellent early career researchers from all disciplines with postdoctoral experience of at least 2 years and up to 4 years (medical researchers: up to 6 years) and with substantial international research experience
- ▶ Foreign applicants are eligible if they intend to continue their scientific career in Germany

Support

- ▶ Funding for an independent junior research group including expenses for personnel and consumables

Duration

- ▶ Generally 5 years (max. 6 years)

More information

- ▶ www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en

Heisenberg Programme – Fellowship or Professorship

The **Heisenberg Fellowship** provides excellent researchers with the opportunity to prepare for a leading position in science and research and to spend time working on an advanced research topic.

The **Heisenberg Professorship** offers excellent researchers the reliable prospect of a professorship. To be eligible, candidates must find a German university which intends to establish a new professorship and agrees to continue funding the position after DFG funding expires.

Target group

- ▶ Outstanding researchers who qualify for a professorship by holding a habilitation or equivalent qualification
- ▶ Tenured faculty members are not eligible to apply

Support

- ▶ Fellowship: Fellowship, travel allowances and, where applicable, allowances for accommodation abroad, publication funding
- ▶ Professorship: Salary equivalent to the assistant professor level in Germany

Duration

- ▶ Max. 5 years

More information

- ▶ www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en

Participants of the Emmy Noether Annual Meeting in Potsdam, Germany



Consulting session at the Heisenberg Meeting in Bad Honnef, Germany



Coordinated Programmes

The DFG's coordinated programmes involve more than one PI and promote cooperation through national and international collaboration by concentrating resources and integrating partners from outside the university.

International Research Training Groups (IRTG)

IRTGs provide opportunities for joint doctoral training programmes between German universities and universities abroad.

Who can apply

- ▶ To establish an IRTG, 5-10 faculty members are needed per side (Germany, abroad) who want to collaborate on an interdisciplinary research focus with a joint programme

Target group once the IRTG is established

- ▶ Doctoral researchers, postdocs, applicants who have received a bachelor's degree

Support

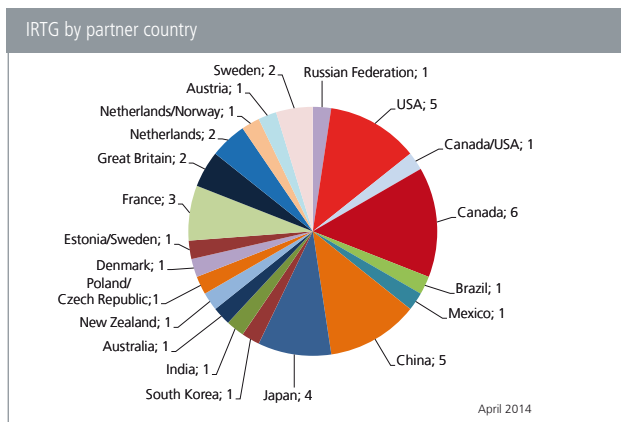
- ▶ IRTGs offer funding to doctoral researchers, postdocs, visiting researchers, and research students and cover expenses for travel, workshops, small equipment, consumables, coordination, etc.

Duration

- ▶ Two 4.5-year cycles (max. 9 years) for Research Training Groups
- ▶ 3-year terms for doctoral positions, including 6 months stay at partner institutions

More information

- ▶ www.dfg.de/gk/en/



Collaborative Research Centres (CRC)

CRCs are established at universities for a period of up to 12 years and enable researchers to pursue an outstanding research programme, crossing the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments and faculties.

Target group

- ▶ Doctoral researchers, postdocs and senior scientists

Support

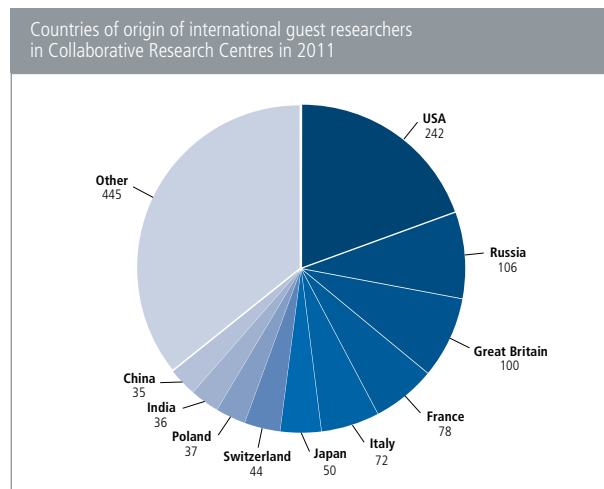
- ▶ Travel, colloquia and Mercator fellowships for the purposes of maintaining international contacts and presenting findings to an international audience
- ▶ Additional funding to develop project-like collaborative structures, including long-term cooperation projects with comparable centres abroad
- ▶ Scientists and academics can also lead projects within the CRC abroad; funding is usually provided by an international partner organisation

Duration

- ▶ Max. 12 years (three 4-year funding periods) for Collaborative Research Centres
- ▶ 3-year terms for doctoral positions

More information

- ▶ www.dfg.de/sfb/en/



FAQ

Looking for general information and guidelines for DFG funding programmes?

► www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/

Interested in finding out more about our peer review and selection process?

► www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/proposal_process/

Looking to find current DFG-funded projects in your field of interest?

► www.dfg.de/en/gepris

GEPRIS (German Project Information System) is an online database made available by the DFG to provide information on current DFG-funded research projects.

Looking for partners to cooperate with in Germany?

► www.dfg.de/en/research-explorer/

The Research Explorer contains information on more than 19,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions.



www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/index.html

Programmes by Career Stage

The DFG offers researchers appropriate funding options at each career stage

	BA/M.A	Doctorate	Postdoc	Early Career Scientist	Senior Scientist
Heisenberg					Heisenberg fellow Heisenberg professor
Emmy Noether				Junior group leader	
Research Grant	Student assistant in project	Position in project	Principal investigator	Principal investigator	Principal investigator/ Mercator Fellow
Initiation of International Cooperation	Student assistant in project	Position in project	Position in project	Position in project	Mercator Fellow
International Research Training Groups	Student assistant in project	Research Training Group fellowship	Position in project	Position in project	Mercator Fellow
Collaborative Research Centres	Student assistant in project	Position in project	Position in project	Position in project	Mercator Fellow

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Announcements and Proposals

www.dfg.de/en/announcements_proposals/

Photos: DFG/David Ausserhofer, DFG/Daniela Schmitter, J. Büttner, shutterstock.com; April 2014

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Design: Tim Wübgen, DFG

The logo of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.