

University of Duisburg-Essen

Programme for the promotion of excellent early career researchers

Guideline for application

Aim of the programme

In order to facilitate the development of an independent research profile for early career researchers the Rectorate invites applications for funding measures in this programme for early career researchers seeking an academic career.

The funding should lead directly to the **independent formulation, application and acquisition of the first own third-party funded project.**

Eligibility

Eligible for application are PhD holders from all faculties with the exception of the Faculty of Medicine, who have not yet obtained third-party funding and wish to use the funding to prepare their first own research proposal. Smaller grants, such as travel or publication grants, are not considered relevant in this sense.

The PhD may not have taken place more than four years ago. Special reasons resulting from the curriculum vitae may lead to an extension of this period if an academic career could not be pursued for a period of time due to this. In exceptional cases, the PhD may have taken place up to six years ago. Please also note the information on equal opportunities below.

In exceptional cases, researchers who do not hold a PhD may also participate if the date of the PhD has already been determined and therefore are entitled to apply for DFG projects independently. Eligibility is checked by the Science Support Centre.

Funding

Applicants apply for funding for a project that prepares an application for third-party funding and attach a work programme and a financial plan to their application. The funds may only be used to implement the approved project. In principle, all types of expenditure serving the project can be applied for. This includes staff, equipment and travel expenses up to a total of 30,000 euros. All UDE guidelines and principles must be complied with when the funds are spent. For example, hospitality cannot be financed from the budget funds made available in the programme (see UDE Hospitality Directive). Exemption from teaching duties cannot be combined with this support. In principle, the funds are to be spent within one year of being made available. In justified cases, the duration of the grant may be extended upon informal request. The decision is the responsibility of the Chair of the Research Commission. Please also note the below information on equal opportunities.

To apply for staff funds from the programme, please note the following information. To avoid inappropriate limitations in working contracts, the following applies in this program:

A. Financing of **student or academic assistants**:

- SHK and WHF (with a Bachelor degree) can be financed.
- WHK (with a Master degree) cannot be financed.

B. Financing of **TVL staff**

- A new hiring or contract extension of TVL employees is not possible.
- An increase of ongoing (part time) contracts of TVL employees is possible in general.
- An intermittent, internally coordinated transfer of tasks to existing staff is also possible (consider early application for refinancing, backdated financing is generally not possible).

C. Financing the **own position** of the applicant

- A new hiring or contract extension of the own position is not possible.
- An increase of an ongoing (part time) contract for the own position is possible in general.

The principles mentioned here are to be used as a basis for the application. Please note that the collective agreement and labour law conditions for the employment of staff in this program must be checked in the human resources department on a case-by-case basis. This check can usually only be carried out on an exact person basis. Since various laws apply in particular to the extension of time limits, we recommend that you seek a consultation as soon as you have received an **invitation from the research commission to present your project** and you are already aware of the person(s) to be financed. The programme is financed by household funds (i.e. no third-party funds), which is relevant information for the human resources department.

Date and form of the application

An application can only be submitted on the announced call dates and must be received in due time. The e-mail receipt at the SSC is applicable. Signed originals can be submitted at a later date. The application language is German or English (use the appropriate template).

The application, including all necessary documents, must be sent as **one PDF document** using the provided template by e-mail as well as in the original to:

Science Support Centre (SSC)
Campus Essen
V15 S01 C67
nachwuchsprogramm@uni-due.de

A copy must also be sent to the responsible dean's office by e-mail. Applicants will shortly receive a confirmation of receipt from SSC.

To be submitted:

1. **Application with project information** on a maximum of 4 pages (Arial, 11pt, line spacing 1,15). Please use the template and consider the following points:
 - Subject and objective of the application
 - Work programme (incl. financial planning)
 - Competence of the applicant
 - Promotion of an independent research profile
 - Perspective of subsequent acquisition of third-party funds
 - Positioning of the project in the UDE research landscape
2. **Tabular financial plan**
3. **Statement by the professor** to whom the early career researcher is assigned, about the possibility of independent scientific work and the renunciation of claims to co-authorship in publications and funding applications resulting from the project
4. **Curriculum vitae incl. list of publications**
5. Signed **confirmation of the applicant**

Evaluation

The research commission makes a pre-selection from the applications received and invites suitable applicants to a presentation with discussion. The evaluation is based on the written proposal, the presentation and the subsequent discussion with the research commission. It proposes a list of projects to be funded to the Rectorate. Approval is granted by the Rectorate.

Reporting duty

Applicants are obliged to provide the submitted third-party funding proposal and a short report after the end of the funding period without further request. If for unforeseeable reasons an proposal is not submitted to the DFG or another funding body, the research commission must be informed immediately. It is also necessary to report on how the funds made available have been used.

Equal opportunities / dealing with downtime

In order to meet the requirements of equal opportunities, this programme takes into account the living conditions of the candidates during both the application process and the duration of the project. The time limits for submitting applications and carrying out the project can therefore be extended by up to two years for the following circumstances:

- Pregnancy and birth
- Childcare
- Care of relatives in need of care
- Disability or chronic disease
- Long serious illness

In such cases, please contact the Science Support Centre as early as possible.