Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

An Introduction

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Research Centres, Research Careers and Research Infrastructures
The DFG
– Who we are and what we do

► Central public funding organization for academic research in Germany
► A self-governing body of science and research
► Member organization (universities, academies, research organizations)
► The budget in 2011: approx. 2.5 billion euros
► DFG serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects at research universities and other publicly funded research institutions in Germany
The DFG
– Who we are and what we do

► Promoting academic excellence on a competitive basis in order to deal with complexity
► Independent multi-tiered peer review
► Special focus on supporting young academics
► Promoting international research co-operation
► DFG fosters scientific quality by funding the best research projects through competition
► Fostering links between science and industry
► Advisory function for politics
What are the DFG’s aims?
The DFG’s scientific aims are to

► ensure the best possible support for outstanding scientists and young researchers
► make research funding open to all disciplines in accordance with scientific standards of quality
► keep Germany future-oriented and internationally competitive as a scientific location
What does the DFG fund?
Projects in all scientific fields

The DFG receives funding proposals for

► individual projects
► coordinated research projects
► research infrastructure
► scientific contacts
What are the DFG's funding criteria?
DFG reviewers evaluate proposals based on

- projects’ scientific merit
- applicants’ qualifications
- goals and work programme
- proposed use of funding
- quality and added value of the cooperation
- programme-specific criteria

in coordinated programmes
The DFG promotes projects by providing

- staff funding
- funding for direct project costs and consumables
- travel allowances
- instrumentation funding
- funding for other items such as
  - publications
  - trial-related expenses
  - PR activities
What types of funding does the DFG award?

The DFG awards

- individual grant funding
- coordinated programme funding
The individual grants programme encompasses

- research grants (with publication funding)
- research fellowships
- temporary positions for principal investigators
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme
- Reinhart Koselleck projects
- Clinical Trials
The DFG offers the following coordinated programmes

► Collaborative Research Centres
► Research Units
► Clinical Research Units
► Priority Programmes
► Research Training Groups
► International Research Training Groups
► DFG Research Centres
► Excellence Initiative

www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/koordinierte_programme
What are the DFG’s objectives in funding top young talent?
To offer researchers appropriate funding options at each career stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studies</th>
<th>Doctorate</th>
<th>Postdoc Period</th>
<th>Achievement of eligibility for tenure</th>
<th>Preparation for scientific position</th>
<th>Professorship or other scientific position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research in a Research Training Group</td>
<td>Research Training Group fellowship</td>
<td>Research fellowship (abroad)</td>
<td>Emmy Noether Programme</td>
<td>Heisenberg professorship</td>
<td>Heisenberg fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research in a Research Training Group position</td>
<td>Research Training Group position</td>
<td>Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
<td>Research fellowship (abroad)</td>
<td>Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
<td>Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student assistant in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
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</tbody>
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Scientific instrumentation and information technology

The DFG’s Scientific Instrumentation and Information Technology Division (WGI) manages programmes that

► **assess and finance**
  - major research instrumentation
  - major instrumentation initiatives
  - DFG project equipment

► **review**
  - state-financed major instrumentation

Further information: www.dfg.de/wgi
Scientific library services and information systems

The DFG’s Scientific Library Services and Information Systems Division (LIS) manages the following programmes:

► **special subject collections** for the provision of research literature

► **national licenses** for electronic journals

► **digitisation** of libraries

► **research data**

► **virtual research environments**

► **open access**

► **international cooperation**

Further information: www.dfg.de/lis
Exzellenzinitiative

- Graduiertenschulen
- Exzellenzcluster
- Zukunftskonzepte
- Ko-Antragsteller

Funding of

- 43 Excellence Clusters
- 45 Graduate Schools
- 11 Institutional Strategies

for five years
### Amount of research funding* awarded by programme for 2011 (in €m and %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Amount (in €m)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual grants</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Centres</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Research Centres</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Programmes</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Units</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence Initiative</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Groups</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes, other</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure funding</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total amount: 2700 €m
International Cooperation

1. Why does the DFG promote international cooperation?
2. How does the DFG support international cooperation?
3. Where is the DFG active internationally?
Why does the DFG promote international cooperation?

The DFG promotes international cooperation

Because:

► research **transcends national boundaries**

► certain topics are best researched within the framework of **international collaborative projects**

► it is important to establish connections **with countries in developing regions**

And in order to:

► **further internationalise** the German research landscape

► **facilitate cooperation** between the world’s top researchers
How does the DFG support international cooperation?
The DFG fosters cooperation in all funding programmes

And through specific measures including

► initial funding for bilateral cooperation
► fellowships abroad for postdoctoral researchers
► joint calls for proposals with partner organisations
► International Research Training Groups
► international scientific events
► Mercator Programme

International modules, such as additional travel expenses, personnel exchanges, etc., may be applied for in all DFG funding programmes.
How does the DFG support international cooperation?

Through joint project funding in all fields

Examples of partner organisations that offer joint funding opportunities with the DFG include:

- French National Research Agency (L'Agence nationale de la recherche, ANR)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK)
- National Science Foundation (NSF, USA)
- National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)
- Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
How does the DFG support international cooperation?
Through International Research Training Groups

These provide a joint framework for

► **international promotion of young researchers** at centres of scientific excellence
► **coordinated research and qualification programmes**
► **Mentoring**

The proposal is submitted *jointly* to the DFG or a foreign partner organisation by a group of researchers at a German university and a partner group at a foreign university.
How does the DFG support international cooperation?
Through initial funding for bilateral cooperation

This programme

► enables initial contacts and enhances cooperation with foreign partners

► offers a flexible framework for cooperation, allowing different elements to be combined (preparatory and cooperative visits, bilateral events such as workshops, etc.)

Different elements within the above framework can be funded over a period of one year. The programme is based on the principle of matching funds provided by the DFG and the Foreign partner.
How does the DFG support international cooperation?
Through the Mercator Programme for foreign researchers

This programme is designed to

- strengthen research and teaching in Germany
- enhance the host university’s profile
- assist young researchers

Upon request by a German university, funding is provided for foreign researchers in any discipline to visit the university for periods of three to twelve months. Shorter periods can be combined over several years for a total of twelve months.
How does the DFG support international cooperation?
Through its representative and liaison offices abroad

► Sino-German Center for Research Promotion in **Beijing** (2000)


The DFG also works with liaison officers in **Chile, Mexico** and **Poland**.
Where is the DFG active internationally?
Across Europe
Where is the DFG active internationally?
All over the world
Thank you for your attention!

For more information:
► on the DFG: www.dfg.de
► on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris
► on over 17,000 German research institutes: www.dfg.de/rex