

Guidelines for awarding research grant support to junior researchers at Justus Liebig University Giessen

Latest version: May 12th, 2016

§ 1 Goal

Research grant support (*Forschungsbeihilfe*) helps junior researchers at Justus Liebig University Giessen during their first application for external funding projects. It is intended to support applications to the German Research Foundation (DFG) as part of their Research Grant program or for similar programs from other external donors. Research grant support should increase an applicant's chance to receive external funding and thereby promote his or her independent academic career.

The university's research grant support does not constitute project funding; it merely helps applicants complete, within a manageable timeframe, the necessary *preparations* (e.g. data collection, experiments, research) for an innovative external funding application. This grant support could also fund a publication intended to improve the applicant's prospects of receiving external funding for their planned project. Twelve months after research grant support is awarded, the junior researcher ought to be able to complete and submit his or her external funding application to the intended donor.

§ 2 Award requirements

The allocation is designed to give junior post-doctoral researchers at Justus Liebig University Giessen start-up financing for exceptionally promising research projects. Post-docs in state-funded positions or in currently running external funding projects may apply. Researchers funded by a scholarship working at the university may also apply, provided the proposed external funding project will be carried out at Justus Liebig University Giessen.

During research grant support and the envisaged external funding project, the applicant's position at the university must be secure; alternately, the external funding project can also include funding for one's own position. Employees of Faculties 1-10 and the academic centers may apply; there is a special application process for members of the medical faculty.

On the date of the application, the applicant should be younger than 35 years old and should have received his or her doctorate no more than two years ago. Time taken for maternity or paternity leave, however, will be taken into account (up to two years per child).

§ 3 Funding

Funding via research grant support is normally a one-time grant for individuals; the executive board will set the amount on a case-by-case basis, contingent upon available budgetary funds. No matter how urgent the application is or which research field the applicant represents, the amount of funding will not exceed €10,000. In a few well-justified cases, the executive board might grant the applicant a larger amount.

§ 4 Application process

Applications for research grant support can be sent to the president of Justus Liebig University Giessen at any time. The application should contain the following elements summarized below:

- Information on the conception, goals, and innovativeness of the planned external funding application, taking into consideration the work to be done during the research grant support
- Detailed information on methodological work already accomplished
- An easily understood presentation of the work program from start to finish along with a proposed budget for the research grant support
- Information on the applicant's personal academic career plans tied to the external funding application and how research grant support and/or external funding will improve any existing integration with the academic environment of the applicant's institute.
- A résumé in table format and list of publications that follows DFG guidelines

The application for research grant support should be no longer than five DIN A4 pages and can be sent via e-mail to the research office (forschung@uni-giessen.de).

In addition to the application documents, the managing director of the institute, or the professor for which the applicant works, will confirm with a detailed opinion statement that the workgroup or institute will support the project to be carried out and make its facilities available for use. This statement will include an estimate of the academic quality of the application for research grant support and the proposed external funding application's chance of success.

§ 5 Assessment

In a few cases, the executive board might gather opinions from independent experts outside the applicant's faculty department.

§ 6 Procedure

The executive board of Justus Liebig University Giessen will determine the yearly budget of this funding instrument and decide on which applications to fund.

Signed in Giessen on May 12, 2016,

Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee
President of Justus Liebig University Giessen