

Carl von Ossietzky Young Researchers' Fellowship

Guidelines for applying for funding from the Presidential Board's programme budget of the University of Oldenburg (Programmhaushalt Forschung, PH-F)

Application deadlines are 1 February and 1 August of each year.

The University of Oldenburg is committed to increasing the visibility of its research and to boosting its attractiveness as a centre of science in order to improve its national and international competitiveness. Supporting talented early-career researchers is an important step towards achieving this goal. The University aims to do this, among other things, through the funding measures described below.

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1. Seed capital for junior research groups

Aim: The University of Oldenburg wants to give outstanding early-career postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to prepare for the next step in their scientific career. The funding is designed to help these researchers develop a research project on their own, enabling them to submit a project proposal for a junior research group during the funding period (Emmy Noether Programme, BMBF Junior Research Group, ERC Starting Grant, Heisenberg Programme or Helmholtz Junior Research Group Leader, etc.).

Eligible applicants: Early-career researchers at the University of Oldenburg or other universities of all disciplines, preferably in one of the main research areas of the University of Oldenburg.

You are eligible to apply if you have gained at least one year and up to three years' experience as a postdoc (counted from after you completed your doctorate), and if the desired third-party funding can be obtained in the required timeframe. Please make sure the criteria and submission deadlines of the third-party funders can be met. The appointment is subject to the provisions of the German Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act (WissZeitVG).

Parental leave and care activities can be credited in accordance with the WissZeitVG.

Funding amount and funding period: Personnel funds (own position, TVL E13, 100%) and material funds up to EUR 5,000 p.a. for a maximum term of 36 months. An extension is not possible unless there is an entitlement to an extension according to the German Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act (WissZeitVG), e.g. parental leave, leave of absence due to care of relatives.

Funding conditions: Researchers are expected to submit an application for establishing a junior research group no later than 12 months after they start receiving university funding. This application must be submitted to the Vice President for Research. In the event that eligibility for a junior research group proposal has not yet been reached, a preliminary draft proposal must still be submitted to the Vice President for Research after 12 months of funding.

In order to promote employability, researchers should be involved in regular teaching at the University of Oldenburg in early career phases. They are expected to participate in relevant university teaching courses.

Teaching duties may be reduced from four teaching hours to two teaching hours upon submission of a request to that effect to the Presidential Board. Once approval has been granted, the reduction of teaching duties must be arranged with the host institute and the host faculty; written approval from the institute and faculty must be submitted prior to the Presidential Chair's decision.

The Young Researchers' Fellowship is awarded to applicants who receive funding.

Note: Following the approval by the third party funder, the researcher's position and material resources must be transferred immediately from the programme budget to the third-party funded project.

Selection procedure: The selection procedure for PH-F funding is a two-stage process, which starts with an evaluation of the submitted applications by a Selection Committee as well as independent external experts. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their project at the University of Oldenburg.

Selection criteria include: the applicant's scientific achievements during the doctoral phase, outstanding doctoral results, previous research activities, and the scientific quality and innovative character of the proposed research project and its presentation.

Required application documents:

1. Completed and signed application form
2. Short letter of motivation (max. 1 page) justifying the application which describes further professional development and career goals and provides information on the intended next career step and the third-party funding programme to which an application should be submitted for funding (e.g. Emmy Noether, ERC, etc.)
3. Binding work plan and schedule for the three-year PH-F grant (max.1 page)
4. Research proposal: Title and topic of the project, status of research, own preliminary work, objectives and work programme including work plan and time schedule, handling of research data with information on planned research data management, data management plan if applicable, integration of the research project into the University of Oldenburg (max. 8 pages)
5. Scientific curriculum vitae including list of publications (max. 4 pages)
6. Evidence of having obtained a doctorate in Germany or abroad
7. Declaration of willingness on the part of the host Faculty or working group of the University of Oldenburg to accept the project. This should describe how the applicant will be supported by the host department for the project and in their further career development and state that the necessary infrastructure will be provided.
8. A teaching/learning concept spanning four teaching hours (LVS)
9. Two supporting reference letters, at least one of which is independent

2. Funding to secure one's own position

Aim: The University of Oldenburg wants to give outstanding early-career postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to independently develop a research project and submit a project application within the funding period e.g. for a DFG individual research grant, funding from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Culture, or a Marie Skłodowska-Curie individual research grant.

Eligible applicants: Early-career researchers at the University of Oldenburg or other universities of all disciplines, preferably in one of the main research areas of the University of Oldenburg.

Generally speaking, the applicant should have been awarded their doctorate within the last three years. The appointment is subject to the provisions of the German Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act (WissZeitVG).

Parental leave and care activities can be credited in accordance with the WissZeitVG. The doctoral thesis must have been submitted and the disputation date already scheduled.

Funding amount and funding period: Personnel funds (own position, TVL E13, 100%) and material funds up to EUR 2,500 p.a. for a maximum term of 24 months. An extension is not possible unless there is an entitlement to an extension according to the German Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act (WissZeitVG), e.g. parental leave, leave of absence due to care of relatives.

Funding conditions: You are expected to submit an application no later than 12 months after you start receiving university funding. You must submit this application to the Vice President for Research.

In order to provide initial teaching experience, early-career researchers should be involved in teaching at the University of Oldenburg. They are expected to participate in relevant university teaching courses.

Teaching duties may be reduced from four teaching hours to two teaching hours upon submission of a request to that effect to the Presidential Board. Once approval has been granted, the reduction of teaching duties must be arranged with the host institute and the host faculty; written approval from the institute and faculty must be submitted prior to the Presidential Chair's decision.

Note: Following the approval by the third party funder, the researcher's position and material resources must be transferred immediately from the programme budget to the third-party funded project.

Selection procedure: The selection procedure for PH-F funding is a two-stage process, which starts with an evaluation of the submitted applications by a Selection Committee as well as independent external experts. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their project at the University of Oldenburg.

Selection criteria include: the applicant's scientific achievements during the doctoral phase, outstanding doctoral results, previous research activities, and the scientific quality and innovative character of the proposed research project and its presentation.

Required application documents:

1. Completed and signed application form
2. Short letter of motivation (max. 1 page) justifying the application which describes further professional development and career goals and provides information on the intended next career step and the third-party funding program to which an application should be submitted (e.g. DFG individual Research grants)
3. Binding work plan and schedule for the two-year PH-F grant (max. 1 page).

4. Research proposal: Title and topic of the project, status of research, own preliminary work, objectives and work programme including work plan and time schedule, handling of research data with information on planned research data management, data management plan if applicable, integration of the research project into the University of Oldenburg (max. 8 pages)
5. Scientific curriculum vitae including list of publications (max. 4 pages)
6. Evidence of having obtained a doctorate in Germany or abroad; if the doctorate has not yet been completed: proof that the dissertation has been submitted and confirmation of the date of the disputation from the relevant examinations office
7. Declaration of willingness on the part of the host Faculty or working group of the University of Oldenburg to accept the project. This should describe how the applicant will be supported by the host department for the project and in their further career development and state that the necessary infrastructure will be provided.
8. A supporting reference letter

3. Note on submitting an application

Please contact the Research and Transfer Department (Ilka Carstens) in good time before submitting your application, we will be happy to advise you on the preparation of your application!

Applications should be submitted electronically to the Vice President for Research (email: vp.f@uni-oldenburg.de) and Ilka Carstens, Department for Research and Technology Transfer (email: ilka.carstens@uni-oldenburg.de) by one of the above application deadlines using the keyword "Programmhaushalt Forschung (PH-F)".

Only applications that are complete and meet the above criteria will be considered for selection. As such, we recommend that you discuss your application with the Research and Transfer Unit (Ilka Carstens) in good time.

Since there are limited resources available, applications will be subject to competitive conditions. Funds granted must be spent in accordance with the budgetary regulations of Lower Saxony.

The assessment usually takes about 4 months.

For a guide from the Department for Research and Technology Transfer on all data protection aspects please visit: <https://uol.de/forschung/referat-forschung-und-transfer>