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University of Basel Research Fund: Application Guidelines

Questions about eligibility and applications to the University's Research Fund can be addressed by email to the Vice President's Office for Research forschungsfonds@unibas.ch.

General Regulations

Principles

The University of Basel Research Fund supports research projects and scientific network activities conducted by members of the University of Basel. Details are published in **the relevant calls for proposals**. Support by the Research Fund is complementary and subsidiary to established instruments of research funding and career advancement (e.g. by the SNSF).

The Research Fund aims to support outstanding academic quality. The main focus is on promoting excellent early career researchers and strengthening the strategic profile of the University of Basel.

A. Funding Opportunities

a) Projects to strengthen strategic research profiles

Funding is provided for preparatory or pilot projects that are required for the submission of larger project proposals to institutions that provide competitive research funding. In general, the Research Fund covers expenses for a temporary position or the (partial) exemption of the main applicant from current duties as well as project-related material or consumables.

All members of Group I and II of the University of Basel are eligible to apply. Usually, support from the Research Fund is granted for the preparation of the following project types:

- collaborative and joint projects (NCCR);
- funding applications for larger projects (e.g. SNF Starting, Advanced & Consolidator Grant);
- funding applications for interdisciplinary projects (e.g. ERC Synergy).

Projects can be funded for a maximum of 24 months. Consecutive funding for the same project is not possible.

b) Activities of scientific research networks of the University of Basel

Funding will be provided for individual, specific activities of the scientific research networks, provided that they fulfil the aims of the network, connect disciplines and foster international visibility. Examples for such activities include:

- organization of conferences and symposia,
- guest lectures or lecture series,
- visiting scientist programs,
- workshops and scientific retreats,
- scientific outreach activities.

The boards of all official university research networks are eligible for application.



c) Promotion of excellent early career researchers

The funding allocated by the Research Fund for early career researchers are used exclusively for scientific qualification, i.e. the successful completion of their own research work. The aim is to support early career researchers as they move toward academic independence.

PhD students (from the Faculty of Theology, Law, Economics and the Faculty of Humanities as well as PhD students from the Educational Sciences and from Social and Economic Psychology):

PhD students from selected faculties (see above) who wish to apply for final funding for their doctorate (usually for the 4th year; in justified exceptions up to the end of the 5th year) are eligible to apply. They must be matriculated at the University of Basel as their home institution. PhD students in structural research associate positions cannot apply to the Research Fund.

Postdoctoral researchers (all faculties):

Postdocs who are employed at the University of Basel, at one of the university hospitals or at an associated institute at the time of the submission deadline are eligible to apply. At the time the submission deadline, the defense of the doctorate must not have taken place more than 8 years ago, so that an application for further SNSF career funding schemes is still possible during the funding period. For this, the calculation of the [net academic age](#) according to the SNSF is relevant. If this is the case, early career researchers who have completed a doctorate (excluding assistant professors and habilitated researchers) can be supported by the Research Fund provided that applications to other funding options - such as the Swiss National Science Foundation - cannot or cannot yet be submitted. This applies in particular to the preparation of larger-scale initial applications by postdocs. In addition, funding can be requested for pilot projects to acquire initial data vital for a project application to a funding institution with peer review.

Any involvement in institution activities (teaching, administration, committee work) with regard to further academic qualification should not be disproportionate.

Projects can be funded for a maximum of 24 months. Consecutive funding is not possible.

Clinicians (Faculty of Medicine)

For clinicians (resident and attending physicians), the state examination must not have been completed more than 14 years ago at the time of application (in the case of maternity leave or similar, the rules of the SNSF apply). Once the habilitation procedure at the Faculty of Medicine has begun, it is no longer possible to apply to the Research Fund.

The following funding options are available for clinicians (max. CHF 80,000/max. 24 months):

1. Leave of absence for clinical research at a University of Basel hospital, start-up funding

- Residents or young attending physicians
- At least 2 years of full-time employment (100%) at a university hospital, with at least one year in Basel
- Completed dissertation
- Submission of an independent research project (possibly as part of a larger study)

2. Year abroad

- As a rule, if an SNSF Postdoc.Mobility fellowship cannot be applied for, or with justification also as a parallel application to an SNSF Postdoc.Mobility fellowship
- In the case of a second year abroad with a copy of the grant award of the first year
- Employment lasting at least 2 years (total workload 100%) at a University of Basel hospital before the year abroad



- At least 6 months of research activity before the stay abroad at a 50% workload (or a lower part-time workload for a longer period)
- As a rule, applicants must return to a university hospital in Basel or Switzerland after the year abroad

3. Setup of a clinical research project in Basel following a stay abroad

- Evidence of successful research activity abroad in the form of at least one publication (submitted after 12 months, in press after 24 months)
- Setup of an independent research project or participation (with primary responsibility) in a multicentric project at a University of Basel hospital

4. Leave of absence for clinical research at a University of Basel hospital, support for advanced clinicians

- Following 100% employment lasting a total of at least 2 years at a University of Basel hospital
- Evidence of clinical research
- Publications

B. Application Submissions

Calls for proposals are generally announced once a year or according to the financial possibilities. Generally, there are two application deadlines per year, which are published in the call for proposals.

Applications that are not submitted on time will not be considered. A confirmation of receipt will be sent by email within two weeks.

The modalities for submitting applications for a) projects to strengthen strategic research profiles, b) activities of scientific research networks and c) funding for excellent early career researchers are described in separate information sheets.

Rejected projects cannot be resubmitted. Resubmission is only possible if recommended by the evaluating committee and upon fulfillment of the conditions communicated.

C. Funding Grants

The principles upon which funding is granted are outlined in the Research Fund guidelines. Applicants will be informed in writing as to whether their submission has been successful. There is no legal entitlement to a funding contribution.

If funding is not used for the stated purpose, it must be returned. Funding that has not been used upon completion of the project cannot be used for any other purpose and shall be returned to the research fund.

D. Reporting

As a rule, supported projects and their results (any publications) are to be published in the University of Basel research portal.

Researchers in receipt of funding are obligated to provide academic and financial reports and accounts. The modalities and deadlines specified in the funding letter/declaration of acceptance are binding.