University of Basel

Vice Rectorate
for Research

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# University of Basel Research Fund Junior Researchers: 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.

## 1. General Regulations

The University of Basel Research Fund supports the academic careers of outstanding early-career researchers who have already distinguished themselves through exceptional achievements. The Research Fund supports excellent early-career researchers on their path towards academic independence. The funding is intended exclusively to support academic qualification, i.e., the successful completion of an independent research project. It complements existing research funding and early-career researcher support schemes (e.g., through the SNSF).

Applicants who have previously received funding from the University of Basel Research Fund are not eligible to apply again.

If an application is rejected, applicants may reapply a maximum of one additional time with a new project (i.e., involving new data, a new methodology, a new research question, or similar substantial changes).

## 2. Eligibility Requirements and Funding Opportunities

Eligible applicants are early-career researchers affiliated with the University of Basel, an associated institute, or one of the Basel University Hospitals (USB, UKBB, UPK), who are pursuing an academic career and have already demonstrated outstanding achievements.

Applicants must belong to one of the following target groups:

### a) Doctoral Students in the Final Stage of Their Doctorate

Doctoral students from the Faculties of Theology, Law, Business and Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as those in Educational Sciences, and Social and Economic Psychology may apply for funding to complete their doctorate.

This funding generally covers the fourth year of doctoral studies (calculated from the date of enrollment). In justified exceptional cases, funding may be granted until the end of the fifth year.

Applicants may request funding for their own salary (at an 87% employment rate) for a maximum duration of 12 months.

The applicant must remain enrolled at the University of Basel throughout the funding period.

Doctoral students in structural research associate positions (strukturelle Assistenzstellen) are not eligible to apply.

### b) Postdoctoral Researchers

Postdoctoral researchers employed at the University of Basel or its associated institutes may apply with their own independent research project, provided that, by the application deadline, they can demonstrate at least two years of postdoctoral research experience at the University of Basel or its associated institutes. At the application deadline, no more than eight years may have elapsed since the defense of their doctoral thesis. The calculation of the academic net age according to the SNSF applies.

Assistant professors and researchers who have completed their habilitation are excluded from funding.

Applicants may request a maximum funding contribution of CHF 80,000, which may be used for their own salary, salaries of research support staff (scientific assistants) and consumables (up to a maximum of 10% of the funding). The funding period may not exceed 24 months. Consecutive funding periods are not permitted.

### c) Assistant Physicians and Senior Physicians

Assistant physicians and senior physicians may apply with an independent research project if, by the application deadline, they can demonstrate at least two years of employment at the University Hospital Basel / University Children's Hospital Basel (or one of the university clinics Basel), which may be accumulated through part-time employment periods equivalent to 100% full-time employment. At the application deadline, no more than 14 years may have elapsed since completion of the state medical examination (or equivalent qualification). The relevant SNSF provisions apply to eligible extensions of this period.

Once the habilitation procedure at the Faculty of Medicine has begun, applicants are no longer eligible to apply to the Research Fund.

Applicants may request a maximum funding contribution of CHF 80,000, which may be used for their own salary, salaries of research support staff (scientific assistants) and consumables (up to a maximum of 10% of the funding). The funding period may not exceed 24 months. Consecutive funding periods are not permitted.

**The following funding opportunities are available:**

#### 1. Protected Time for Clinical Research at a University of Basel Hospital: Start-Up Funding

This funding is intended for resident physicians and early-career senior physicians who wish to conduct an independent clinical research project, potentially as part of a larger study.

In addition to the eligibility criteria listed above, applicants must have completed a doctoral dissertation to qualify for start-up funding.

#### 2. Protected Time for Clinical Research at a Basel University Hospital: Advanced Assistant Physicians and Senior Physicians

This funding is intended for advanced assistant physicians and senior physicians with demonstrated experience in clinical research.

In addition to the eligibility criteria listed above, applicants must demonstrate substantial experience in clinical research, supported by relevant scientific publications.

### 3. Research Year Abroad

Funding for a research year abroad may generally be granted if the applicant is not eligible to apply for an SNSF Postdoc.Mobility fellowship. With appropriate justification, applicants may also apply simultaneously for an SNSF Postdoc.Mobility fellowship. When applying for funding for a second year abroad, applicants must submit a copy of the grant award for the first year.

In addition to the eligibility criteria listed above, applicants must have undertaken research activities before their stay abroad for at least six months at a 50% employment rate (or for a longer period at a lower part-time employment rate).

Funded researchers are expected to return to the University Hospital Basel or to Switzerland after their research year abroad.

### 4. Establishment of a Clinical Research Project in Basel Following a Research Stay Abroad

Funding is provided to establish an independent clinical research project or to undertake a leading role in a multicentric research project at the University Hospital Basel.

Applicants must provide evidence of successful research activity abroad in the form of at least one scientific publication (submitted after 12 months, in press after 24 months).

## 3. Submission of Applications

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 must be submitted online, in full, and before the specified deadline. Applications that are not submitted on time will not be considered. A confirmation of receipt will be sent by email within two weeks.

Further details regarding the application submission process are provided in a separate information sheet.

## 4. Awarding of Funding

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.

Awarded funds may only be used for the approved purpose. 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.

## 5. Reporting Requirements

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.