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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](mailto: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, Horizon 2020 collaboration, etc.);
- funding applications for larger projects (e.g. ERC grants);
- funding applications for interdisciplinary projects (e.g. SNSF Sinergia).

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

Applications may be submitted by postdocs employed at the University of Basel, a University of Basel hospital, or an associated institute. Doctoral students must be matriculated at the University of Basel (as their home institution) and declare the doctoral program in which they are enrolled.

Early career researchers are doctoral students, early career researchers with a doctorate, and members of the Faculty of Medicine pursuing an academic career. The funding is aimed at those who demonstrate a high degree of academic interest through their previous academic achievements, whose particular achievements qualify them for an academic career, and those who have made a promising, demonstrable contribution to both research and teaching in equal measure.



Funding granted to early career researchers is designated solely for academic qualifications, i.e. the successful completion of an applicant's own research work. The aim of this funding is to support early career researchers as they move toward academic independence.

Projects by early career researchers with a doctorate (with the exception of assistant professors) may be supported by the Research Fund provided that applications for other funding options – such as the Swiss National Science Foundation – have not (yet) been submitted. This applies in particular to the development of larger-scale initial applications by postdocs. Funding applications can also be submitted for pilot projects to acquire initial data vital for a project application at a funding institution with peer review.

Applicants should not be disproportionately involved in institution activities (teaching, administration, committee work) related to their further academic qualification.

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

The Faculty of Medicine provides annual funding specifically aimed at supporting the academic independence of early career researchers. The following funding opportunities are available for clinicians (residents and attending physicians):

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**
  - With explanation as to why the applicant cannot apply for an SNSF grant or, in the case of a second year abroad, with a copy of the funding grant for the first year abroad
  - 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 database.

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 and obligation are binding.