



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN



Application for funding by the Junior Researcher Fund



I. Purpose of the funding

LMU Munich aims to provide ideal research and training conditions for outstanding early-career researchers with its Institutional Strategy LMUexcellent that was successful in the third funding line of the Excellence Initiative. In particular, the Junior Researcher Fund seeks to improve the career development prospects of early-career researchers and to promote independent applications for third-party funding. Until further notice, LMU will provide seed funding as part of the Junior Researcher Fund for applications for externally funded and evaluated research projects.

The call is directed at all postdoctoral researchers, junior professors and professors of LMU who have gained no more than six years of professional academic experience since having completed their doctorate. LMU fosters a culture of internationality, diversity and equality of opportunity and therefore strongly encourages all academics to apply.

II. Funding scope

Early-career researchers may apply for seed funding for a planned third-party funding project (with LMU acting as host institution) of up to **€ 50.000** plus a reduction of the teaching load of up to **5 semester teaching hours per week** (including funding for a stand-in).

Funding may be provided for the procurement of:

- ERC Starting Grants
- DFG Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Groups
- BMBF Junior Research Groups
- Sofja Kovalevskaja Awards of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation
- Volkswagen "Freigeist" Fellowships

or comparable projects

The funds applied for can be used to cover personnel and material expenses as well as investments. In addition, the funding may include a reduction of the applicant's teaching load as outlined above.

Funding will be provided for one year once the applicant and the University Governing Board have agreed on a starting date. The funds may be used flexibly during the funding period (in exceptional cases they may also be used to finance the applicant's position in order to bridge short-term employment gaps).

The University Governing Board will review the Junior Researcher Fund on a regular basis and decide on its long-term continuation as well as any necessary modifications.

III. Selection criteria

The University Governing Board will select projects on the basis of the following criteria, which must be persuasively addressed in the applications:

- Sufficiently elaborated project plan with respect to the submission of a grant application to an external funding institution
- Academic excellence of the applicant relative to her or his career stage. Postdoctoral researchers must submit an internal and an external letter of reference.

IV. Application

Applications may be submitted on a continuous basis. All applications must be submitted in German or English to the President via the Dean of the respective faculty (postdoctoral researchers are additionally required to submit the application via their respective chair/research group). Simultaneously, applications must be submitted electronically to excellent@lmu.de.

Please address the following points in your application:

- Summary of the project to be submitted to an external funding institution
- Status of the grant application and preliminary work
- Timeline until the planned submission of the grant application
- Short description of the planned use of the funds applied for in the Junior Researcher Fund and, if relevant, how the requested reduction of the teaching load will be employed
- CV of the applicant

Only for postdoctoral researchers: Please enclose an internal and an external letter of reference.

V. Selection procedure

The University Governing Board will decide on the approval of the submitted applications. In rendering its decision, the Board may draw on external expertise and invite applicants to discuss their applications. The University Governing Board expects applicants to submit a grant application to an external funding institution.

VI. Contact Us

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Support for Research Grant Applications at LMU

Division VIII Strategy, Research, Junior Academics offers researchers at LMU individual advice on external funding opportunities. It provides detailed information on the aims and evaluation criteria of national and international funding programs and guides researchers through all stages of the application process. It is recommended that applicants in the Junior Researcher Fund consult with the Division regarding their grant applications in good time. More information and contact details of the respective research services advisors are available on LMU's [Serviceportal](#) (only available in German) and LMU's [website](#).