

## Application guidelines for funding from the programme budget's research component of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg's Presidential Chair – 'Programme Budget for Research' (PH-F; Programmhaushalt Forschung)

**Application deadlines: 15 February, 15 June and 15 October 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 following funding measures.

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### 1. Seed capital for junior research groups

The aim of this initiative is to give early-career postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to apply for funding for their own research projects. Early-career researchers apply for the funding themselves; applications from third parties, e.g. supervising researchers, will not be accepted.

**Aim:** The University of Oldenburg wants to give outstanding early-career postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to prepare for the step in their scientific career. The funding is designed to help them to develop a research project on their own. This is so that they can then submit a project proposal for a junior research group during the funding period, e.g. Helmholtz Junior Research Group Leader, Emmy Noether Programme, ERC Starting Grant, Heisenberg Programme or the BMBF Junior Research Group.

**Eligible applicants:** Early-career researchers at the University of Oldenburg as well as at universities in Germany and abroad in all subject areas, preferably in one of the University of Oldenburg's main research areas, with the following profiles:

- **Profile 1: Recent Postdocs/Starters**  
Generally speaking, the applicant should have been awarded their doctorate within the last two years.
- **Profile 2: Experienced Postdocs**  
Applicants were awarded their doctorate between three and five years ago; providing that appointment is possible in accordance with 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:** Up to € 70,000 per year for staff resources (own position) and up to € 5,000 per year for equipment/materials, for a maximum duration of 36 months. An extension is not possible.

**Funding conditions:** A proposal for establishing a junior research group must be submitted no later than 12 months after receiving University funding. This application must first be submitted to the Vice President for Research and Transfer. In the event that the researcher is not yet eligible to apply for the establishment of a junior research group, a preliminary draft proposal must be submitted to the Vice-President for Research after 12 months of funding.

In order to improve employability, early-career researchers will be assigned regular teaching duties at the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg. They are expected to participate in relevant university teaching courses.

Teaching duties may be reduced from four teaching hours (LVS) 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 Carl von Ossietzky Young Researchers' Fellowship is awarded to applicants who receive funding.

**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 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.

**Required application documents:**

- A brief statement substantiating the application, including, in particular, an outline of the applicant's future professional development and career objectives, as well as a statement regarding the envisaged next step in their career for which the funding is being sought
- Description of the research project: Title and topic of the project, state of current research, own preliminary work, objectives and work programme, integration of the research project into the University of Oldenburg (max. 10 pages)
- Definitive timetable for the funding period
- Academic curriculum vitae including publication list and current contact details
- Two to three selected publications
- Evidence of having obtained a doctorate in Germany or abroad
- Declaration of willingness on the part of the host Faculty or working group of the University of Oldenburg to accept the project
- A teaching/learning concept spanning four teaching hours (LVS)
- Two supporting reference letters, at least one of which is independent

## 2. Funding to secure one's own position

The aim of this initiative is to give early-career postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to apply for funding for their own research projects. Early-career researchers apply for the funding themselves; applications from third parties, e.g. supervising researchers, will not be accepted.

**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 for, for example, 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 as well as at universities in Germany and abroad in all subject areas, preferably in one of the University of Oldenburg's main research areas, with the following profile:

- **Profile: Recent Postdocs/Starters**

Generally speaking, the applicant should have been awarded their doctorate within the last three years. The appointment is subject to the provisions of the Wissenschaftszeitgesetz (WissZeitVG).

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

**Funding amount and funding period:** Up to € 70,000 per year for staff resources (own positions) and up to € 2,500 per year for equipment/materials, for a maximum duration of 24 months. An extension is not possible.

### **Funding conditions:**

**Selection procedure:** The selection procedure for PH-F funding involves just a single stage; an evaluation of the submitted applications by a Selection Committee as well as an external expert.

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

### **Required application documents:**

- A brief statement substantiating the application, including, in particular, an outline of the applicant's future professional development and career objectives, as well as a statement regarding the envisaged next step in their career for which the funding is being sought
- Description of the research project: Title and topic of the project, state of current research, own preliminary work, objectives and work programme, integration of the research project into the University of Oldenburg (max. 10 pages)
- Definitive timetable for the funding period
- Academic curriculum vitae including publication list and current contact details
- Two to three selected publications
- Evidence of having obtained a doctorate in Germany or abroad
- Declaration of willingness on the part of the host Faculty or working group of the University of Oldenburg to accept the project
- A supporting reference letter

### 3. Note on submitting an application

Applications must be submitted electronically by one of the above-mentioned deadlines – stating the subject ‘Forschungsbezogener Teil des Programmhaushalts des Präsidiums der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg – ‘Programmhaushalt Forschung’ (PH-F)’ to the Vice President for Research and Transfer (e-mail: vp.f(at)uni-oldenburg.de) and Ilka Ficken, Research and Transfer Unit (ilka.ficken(at)uni-oldenburg.de).

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 Ficken) 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.