

Research Pool

1. General principles and objectives

The research pool is an incentive and support tool designed to promote and encourage the submission of new project proposals to national public funding agencies (cf. Circular Letters [D5/1/2008](#) and [D5/2/11](#) – in German). Primarily proposals for DFG and BMBF projects are favored and encouraged. The planned projects should be of overarching significance and bring structural benefits to TU Dresden. Usually, these are coordinated programs of the DFG or large collaborative projects. Individual projects (especially DFG Individual Research Grants) and requests for support when drafting proposals for submission to funding institutions other than the DFG or the BMBF require detailed justification and a decision on a case-by-case basis by the Vice-Rectorate Research. Proposal drafts for projects without program or project allowances are not eligible for funding from the research pool.

2. Funding options

You can apply for different types of funding depending on whether you are drafting a proposal for an individual project (e.g. DFG Individual Research Grant), a collaborative project (e.g. BMBF project) or applying for a DFG coordinated program.

Individual and collaborative projects (DFG, BMBF)

To draft third-party funding proposals for submission to the DFG and the BMBF, you can request funding for staff and/or funding for direct project costs.

Funding for staff: You can apply for both funding for assistants and funding to increase the working hours of existing positions. As a rule, the requested funds should not exceed the amount of a 50% TV-L E13 position for a period of three months. In exceptional cases, you may extend funding, e.g. in the form of 25% TV-L E13 over a period of six months, if this is conducive to the proposal. Personnel funds can only be used for personnel who can be employed according to § 2 section 1 WissZeitVG.

Funding for direct project costs: In justified cases, you may also request a limited amount of funding for direct project and travel expenses that are necessary for drafting the proposal.

Applying for a DFG coordinated program

Under the condition that you adhere to the TUD schedule, we support the drafting of proposals for DFG coordinated programs with the following lump sums ([MPrF 1/2011](#)):

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| • for Collaborative Research Centers: | EUR 50,000 |
| • for Transregios where TUD has the role of spokesperson: | EUR 50,000 |
| • for Transregios where TUD does not have the role of spokesperson: | EUR 20,000 |
| • for Research Training Groups where TUD has the role of spokesperson: | EUR 20,000 |
| • for Priority Programs/Research Units under TUD coordination: | EUR 15,000 |

The lump sums will be provided in two equal installments¹: a) for the preparation of the draft proposal and b) for the preparation of the full proposal and the organization of the on-site inspection (the second installment of the funds will only be released after the request for the full proposal is issued). The lump sums can be used flexibly for the expenses incurred in connection with the preparation of the proposal and the on-site inspection. **Personnel funds can only be used for personnel who can be employed according to § 2 section 1 WissZeitVG.**

3. Funding conditions

All TU Dresden members with a doctorate in the academic field are eligible to apply, with the exception of those from the Faculty of Medicine Carl Gustav Carus. A research pool application can only be submitted by one person. Priority is given to the preparation of projects that have overarching significance and bring structural benefits to TU Dresden and/or have a strong interdisciplinary orientation. Moreover, we are particularly interested in supporting early-career researchers who prepare a proposal for third-party funding on their own.²

The following must be considered:

- By accepting funding from the research pool, you agree to submit the third-party proposal presented in the research pool application according to the submitted timeline. Deviations from the timeline require consultation with and approval from Unit 5.1. If you do not submit the third-party funding proposal, you must repay the approved funds.
- If you are drafting a third-party funding proposal, you must consult with the Unit Research Promotion.
- The applicant for funds from the research pool must be the same person who is submitting the proposal for the third-party funding. Changes are only possible after consultation with and approval from Unit 5.1 or the Vice-Rectorate Research.
- The application for staff without indicating a specific name can only be made in exceptional and justified cases (this does not apply to assistants or administrative or technical staff).
- The submission of the funded third-party proposal and the decision of the funding organization must be communicated to forschungsfoerderung@tu-dresden.de without delay and without being requested.
- The period for spending the research pool funds is tied to the submission date of the third-party funding proposal. Funds requested for submitting the proposal can only be spent up to the submission date.
- If you want to use residual funds from the research pool for further or other third-party funding proposals, you must consult with Unit 5.1 and obtain their approval (forschungsfoerderung@tu-dresden.de). As a general rule, any unused funds must be returned.
- If you would like the research pool to fund the resubmission of a rejected proposal, you need to submit the reviews from the initial proposal submission (if available) with the research pool application. The reviews form an essential basis for decisions on funding from the research pool.

¹ If the funds for the draft proposal are not spent in full in the first installment, the remaining funds can then be used to prepare the full proposal. As the review process for Priority Programs is a one-stage process, the funds from the research pool are not divided, but can be applied for in full straight away.

² See: [Notification by the Vice-Rector Research 1/2020 – Support measures for the preparation of proposals for third-party funded projects \(in German\)](#)

- As a rule, no more than one application per chair/working group can be submitted per calendar year; all previous proposals supported by research pool funds must have been submitted.

Excluded from funding are:

- **Bridge funding** or interim funding, where the funds from the research pool would be used to finance a short-term gap in employment between two employment contracts at TU Dresden without the third-party funding proposal being prepared during this time.³
- Projects where individuals are to be hired who are not yet employed⁴ at TU Dresden. The same applies to projects aimed at attracting **researchers** to TU Dresden **from outside**, for example by applying for their own position.
- **Freelance or service contracts** from research pool funds.
- **Projects that can raise funds from elsewhere** (if external funding programs are available for the planned activities, these should be used first, such as the DFG program to support the establishment of international collaborations).
- Projects that are managed by SG 5.2 European Project Center (**EPC**) (cf. the [incentive scheme of the EPC](#)) or are located at the **Carl Gustav Carus Faculty of Medicine**.
- Proposals for third-party funded projects **without overhead**.

4. Application and procedure

Applications for funding from the research pool must be submitted via Directorate 5, Unit 5.1 – Research Promotion to the Vice-Rector Research. Applications can be submitted at any time. The processing time until a decision is made is 4 weeks.

Please use the relevant form:

- **Individual and collaborative projects (DFG, BMBF):**
Application for the allocation of funds from the “research pool” of the DFG overhead funding (*Programmpauschale*) / BMBF project allowance (*Projektpauschale*) (individual projects)
https://www.verw.tu-dresden.de/verwricht/formulare/download.asp?file=Antrag_Mittelzuweisung_DFG_US.pdf
- **DFG coordinated programs:**
Application for the allocation of funds from the “research pool” for project applications as part of DFG coordinated programs
https://www.verw.tu-dresden.de/verwricht/formulare/download.asp?file=Antrag_Mittelzuweisung_KoordiniertePr_US.pdf

Please submit the **completed** and **fully signed** documents to forschungsfoerderung@tu-dresden.de. Applications that are not filled in completely or have signatures missing cannot be processed.

³ The sought-out funding should result in a project that will be carried out at TU Dresden. If the project is not carried out at TU Dresden, the funding from the research pool must be returned.

⁴ Fellowships are not considered to be an employment.

If you would like your application to be checked in advance, please contact the relevant [Project Scout](#). A preliminary check can be done prior to obtaining the signatures.

In multi-stage procedures, funding for the preparation of the full proposal (stage 2) can be requested even before the decision on the draft proposal has been made (stage 1). However, if the research pool application is approved, you can only spend funds after submitting proof that the draft proposal has been approved (stage 1).

For DFG coordinated programs and other large-scale research projects, there are predefined internal university procedures, which are detailed in the [Circular Letter MPrF1/2011 of March 1, 2011](#) (in German) and which you must follow.

5. More information

- Support measures for the preparation of proposals for third-party funded projects: [Notification by the Vice-Rectorate Research 1/2020](#)
- Information on internal university procedures for coordinated programs: [Circular Letter MPrF1/2011 of March 1, 2011](#)
- Information on the DFG overhead funding: [Circular Letter D1/2/2023 of February 2, 2023](#)
- Information on the BMBF program allowance: [Circular Letter D5/2/2011 of July 27, 2011](#)

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact your School's [Project Scout](#) or send an email to: forschungsfoerderung@tu-dresden.de.