

Information for Applicants

Funding Line: CONNECT

Initiative grants under the CONNECT funding line are allocated by the Executive Board for the purpose of planning externally funded research alliances where Freie Universität Berlin would act as the representative institution. The initiative grants are to be used to ensure that the planned alliances are generally feasible and viable, with no set rules as to the format this should take.¹ They are mainly intended to be used for networking opportunities for the participants, to develop the proposed research topic more extensively, to carry out preliminary work in relation to the grant application, and to create a full proposal. The submission of the proposal represents the final milestone of the initiative grant funding period and this funding will then cease. The CONNECT funding line is part of the integrated research funding framework and is thus geared toward meeting the needs of proposals with usually at least five principal investigators (PIs). Through CONNECT, the Executive Board hopes to address both the leaders of early-career research groups and established researchers and encourage them to collaborate by providing this support. Only one application per research project may be submitted under the START funding line. Researchers who have already received an initiative grant under CONNECT and who wish to submit a new application must present the application for third-party funding that was drawn up under the initial funding allocation.² It is not possible for the lead PI to submit applications for multiple initiative grants at the same time.

Scope of Funding and Co-financing Contribution

A maximum one-off payment of 50,000 euros. Participating departments/central institutes must provide a co-financing contribution of one-third of the grant amount applied for from their own budgets and provide confirmation of this, together with the relevant budget line, at the time the CONNECT application is submitted. Staff who are already employed by the department/central institute in question cannot be counted toward the co-financing contribution.

Use of Funds

The following modules can be applied for (see also: supplementary information sheets on the individual modules):

- B – Basis (material resources, contracts for work and services, project-related travel expenses)
- P – Personnel
- W (WiMi) – Research Assistants

Eligibility

All professors and leaders of externally funded early-career research groups (Emmy Noether, ERC, Freigeist, BMBF) at Freie Universität. As a general rule, each application must be submitted by at least two applicants. External researchers can be involved in the project, but they will not receive funding and do not count toward the two applicants. All applicants must have an ongoing employment relationship with Freie Universität Berlin when they submit the application. The lead applicant should be a university professor who is permanently employed at Freie Universität and whose active period of employment will not end before the end of the first funding period of the proposed research alliance.

¹ Examples would be the DFG Research Training Groups.

² If no grant application was submitted during the previous funding period, the applicant must submit a final report that explains why no application was submitted.

Application Process

Applications can be submitted electronically to the Research Information and Academic Promotion Team (foerderung@forschung.fu-berlin.de). Applications must be submitted in the correct format, together with a CV and list of publications for each applicant. The Executive Board assesses the applications quarterly in the course of its scheduled meetings. Selections are made on the basis of a recommendation from the Excellence Council. Applicants may submit only one application per application period.