

Information for Applicants

1 Funding Line: START

Freie Universität Berlin grants through the START funding line to support researchers in procuring third-party funding for their research projects. Its objective is to assist researchers as they plan, prepare, and develop funding applications. The START funding line is part of the integrated research funding framework and is thus geared toward meeting the needs of proposals with one principal investigator (PI). In particular, the funding scheme provides grants to junior researchers who intend to independently procure project resources.

Scope of Funding

Up to 15,000 euros, one-time payment.

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 (extending/amending existing employment contracts)
- E – ERC (workshops/courses on grant writing, interview training, reduction in teaching workload)

Eligibility

Any researcher with a doctorate who is planning on submitting an application for third-party funding for a research project of which they themselves are the project lead is eligible. The applicant must have an ongoing employment relationship with Freie Universität Berlin when they submit the application. The remaining term of the employment contract may not be significantly shorter than the length of the externally funded project they are planning to undertake. In the event that there is a significant gap between the end of the employment relationship and the end of the project, the department must guarantee that it will provide office space and infrastructure during the period in question. This provision may be deviated from if the externally funded project will cover personnel costs to fund the researcher's own position. However, we strongly recommend that you apply in good time for the initiative grant before the employment contract ends in order to avoid inopportune interruptions to your employment status with the university. Applicants who have already received initiative grants are required to supply proof that they have previously submitted an application for third-party funding before making a new application.

Application Process

Applications can be submitted **electronically** to the Office of the Research Committee (foerderung@forschung.fu-berlin.de). The application deadlines are stated on the homepage. Applications must be submitted in the correct format, together with the applicant's CV and list of publications. The Research Committee of Freie Universität Berlin will deliberate over the applications during its regular meetings. Applicants may submit only one application per meeting of the Research Committee. Any additional applications that are submitted will not be considered.

Cofinancing from Departments/Co-payments

Cofinancing is not required.