

Information for Applicants

Funding Line: STRUCTURE

Funding under the STRUCTURE line is allocated by the Executive Board for the purpose of preparing grant applications for Collaborative Research Centers, Excellence Clusters, and comparable formats in which Freie Universität Berlin would act as the representative institution. The STRUCTURE initiative grants are intended primarily to support preparatory work for grant applications and the development of a draft project plan along with a complete grant application. The submission of the grant application represents the final milestone of the funding period and the initiative funding will then cease. The STRUCTURE funding line is part of the integrated research funding framework and is thus geared toward meeting the needs of proposals with usually at least ten principal investigators (PIs). Only one application per research project may be submitted under the STRUCTURE funding line. Researchers who have already received an initiative grant under STRUCTURE 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.¹ 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 150,000 euros. The participating departments/central institutes must submit a statement showing how the project will be structurally integrated into the respective units (e.g., potential professorships, ability to provide the necessary infrastructure, how the project will be embedded in the appointment strategy and research profile of the department/central institute).

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
- L (*Lehrvertretung*) – Teaching Cover
- W (*Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter/-innen*) – 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 ten applicants. External researchers can be involved in the project, but they will not receive funding and do not count toward the ten applicants. The lead PI 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.

Application Process

Applications can be submitted electronically to the Research Information and Academic Promotion Team (foerderung@forschung.fu-berlin.de). Applications must be in the required format and must be submitted together with CVs and publications lists for each applicant, together with a statement from the participating departments/central institutes as described above. The lead PI, who must be a university professor, will be invited to present the

¹ 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.

proposed concept at a meeting of the Excellence Council. 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.