

Funding Initiative

Symposia and Summer Schools

Contact

VolkswagenStiftung

Kastanienallee 35

D-30519 Hannover

Telefon + 49 (0) 511 8381 0

Telefax + 49 (0) 511 8381 344

www.volkswagenstiftung.de

I. Objectives

Within the framework of the program “Symposia and Summer Schools”, the Foundation supports events which provide the opportunity to develop new ideas and to promote the discussion of topics and approaches in an innovative way. Generally, these meetings have to have an interdisciplinary and international orientation. The Foundation is particularly interested in the active participation of young researchers. In addition, the Foundation expects a significant representation of women as speakers as well as participants.

II. Funding Possibilities

Support is available for events concerning any topic and is not restricted to a particular discipline. It is therefore not necessary to address a topic of a current funding initiative of the Foundation’s funding portfolio. Funding can be provided for symposia, workshops, small conferences and summer schools, insofar as they fulfil the criteria listed in this information leaflet. The Foundation particularly wants to encourage to develop and test new formats to promote the interaction among the participants.

Symposia, Workshops and Small Conferences

The Foundation provides support for scholarly meetings which stand out due to their focus on forward-looking issues and innovative research perspectives. The selection of the participants should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the topic, should allow an active individual participation and an intensive interaction between the entire group. The number of participants should therefore be restricted to max. 80 persons (including guests) with a significant proportion of German scientists or scholars. In all cases the organizers must provide adequate justification for the number of persons to be invited. The event should take place in Germany. In exceptional well-founded cases, the event can also be held elsewhere in Europe. A series of symposia comprising up to three consecutive measures which build on each other may also be eligible for support.

In 2013, with the reconstruction of Schloss Herrenhausen in Hannover, a modern and attractive convention centre will be available as venue for scientific meetings and symposia. Subsequently the Foundation will focus the funding of symposia on this location. Information for applications under this framework will be available in fall 2011.

The Foundation limits its support on the following items:

- Expenses for travel, accommodation and lodging. It is expected that costs of travel will be kept to a minimum, especially with regard to air travel.
- Up to € 500 can be made available for non-personnel costs (e.g. printing costs for programs)
- Limited funds for support staff during the preparation and running of the event
- Funds for child care within the scope of the event
- Publication and uploading of papers in the Internet. The Foundation generally expects that the results of the meeting will be published open access.

No funds can be provided for the following items:

- Flat rate amount to cover general organizational expenses
- Cost of honoraria, assistants and similar items
- Accompanying family members
- Any supplementary programs or entertainment expenses
- Costs for participants from industry

Funding will not be available for the following kind of events

- Meetings which are organized within the framework of established disciplines and research areas, which are mainly limited to a discussion of the status quo, or which serve to elucidate the current situation in a given discipline.
- Commemorative and tribute colloquia
- Large congresses, annual meetings of scientific associations and similar large-scale events or parts thereof, as well as for follow-up events.
- Regularly occurring meetings between largely closed groups of specific experts
- Conferences which primarily bring together colleagues from partner institutions within the framework of university partnerships.
- Activities connected with third party funded graduate schools, excellenzclusters or similar events

- For symposia taking place before or after a large-scale event, funding will only be considered for the actual additional costs occurring. Prerequisite for funding is the convincing delineation from the main event

Summer Schools

Funding is available for events where new knowledge important for the further development of a particular research area will be taught to selected young academics (doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers and those working towards qualifications as university lecturers) from Germany and abroad. The general idea is not only to extend their knowledge, but also to enable them - at an early stage of their career - to develop and establish contacts beyond national borders and individual disciplines. Experts from other countries should also be invited to participate as speakers. The event should take place in Germany; only in exceptional well-founded cases, the event can also be held elsewhere in Europe.

An exception are **international summerschools** which have to take place in another country due to the specific teaching framework or topic (e.g. field-work). In these cases, it is mandatory to cooperate with local scientific institutions and to include young scientists from the target region. This cooperation has to be convincingly documented at the time of application.

In order to ensure efficient working conditions, the number of participants should not exceed 60 persons, including the speakers; depending on the theme, a smaller number may sometimes be advisable. A series of summer schools comprising up to three consecutive measures which build on each other may also be eligible for support.

The Foundation limits its support on the following items:

- Expenses for travel, accommodation and lodging. It is expected that costs of travel will be kept to a minimum, especially with regard to air travel.
- Cost of preparation and running of the measure, including the costs of compiling working materials, uploading in the Internet, or photocopying.
- Funds for child care within the scope of the event

Funding will not be available for the following kind of events

- Summer schools dealing with themes which belong either to regular or specialty teaching programs at universities
- Events where the work program does not clearly integrate the latest research results
- Gatherings which mainly involve meetings between members of partner universities

- Activities connected with third party funded graduate schools, excellenzclusters or similar events

Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's application system portal.volkswagenstiftung.de for the electronic submission of your application. Please do not forget to send us the printed and signed cover sheet provided there.

III. Submission of Applications and Exclusion Criteria

Proposals should describe the event in such a way that adequate information is available for the scientific review. The language of the application must be similar to the language spoken at the meeting. Applications have to be submitted via the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation. The following information and data (.pdf) are required:

- Details of applicant, co-applicants and grant recipient
- Budget
- Scientific curriculum vitae of the main applicants (with publication list of max. 10 of the most important and relevant publications)
- German and English summary of the project (in each case max. 300 words)
- The proposal itself (detailed description and reasoning, max. 6 pages)
- List of speakers and participants (if available, please mark acceptances)
- Program of the event (tentative)

If the event is organized by both German and foreign colleagues, the person in charge should be an academic from a German university or research institute. According to the statutes, the Foundation can only grant funding to scientific institutions. Applications from individuals for the financing of travel and accommodation will not be processed. Furthermore, the Foundation does not provide funding merely to supplement existing support granted by another funding organization; nor can it accept applications for funding which have already been submitted or will be submitted to another funding organization. The Foundation shall not be held liable for any commitments entered into before the grant letter has been received.

IV. Deadlines for Application

Applications containing all necessary information should be submitted early enough to allow the Foundation sufficient time for their processing. The Foundation will not, therefore, accept applications which arrive **less than six months** prior to the starting date of the measure concerned.